

Text of Specific Recommendations from Youth Council 2006

(1) YRUU Curricula Development with Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression and Identity Work Focus – YC 2006

Sponsor: Eliza Hens-Greco, Chris Michell, Nick Allen, Helia Daigeau, Braeden Lentz

Point Person: Nick Allen

Primary Aid: Eliza Hens-Greco

UU Principle: Inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Specific issue or problem being addressed: There is little to no support for youth who only participate in Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) only at a congregational level. These youth are often unaware of the principles and structure of YRUU, and there is especially a lack of resources regarding anti-racism/anti-oppression and identity work that are available to these youth.

Hope to achieve:

- ❖ A congregational-level program devoted to educating youth about YRUU principles, structure, resources, and how to be involved at all levels: congregational, district, and continental. The program should have a strong focus on anti-racism/anti-oppression and identity work for youth.
- ❖ Anti-racism/anti-oppression and identity work incorporated into the Coming of Age (COA) and Our Whole Lives (OWL) programs.

Short-Term Goal: Youth Office should bring proposal to the Taskforce on Ministry to and With Youth and Lifespan Development to discuss the creation of this program and the modifications to COA and OWL.

Local and district people: None.

Long-term goals:

- ❖ To have a strong, well-developed curricula in every UU congregation that is dedicated to teaching UU youth about anti-racism and anti-oppression, fostering personal identity work, and the purposes of YRUU.
- ❖ To have OWL and COA include content on anti-racism/anti-oppression and identity work.

Local and district people: DREs, Youth Group Advisors and Lifespan Development Directors.

Resources YRUU has that will be used: The current COA and OWL curriculums, and resources created by Groundwork as a basis for the new anti-racism, anti-oppression, and identity work curricula, youth office staff time.

How this will further the vision and purposes of YRUU: Three of the goals of YRUU are to develop educational resources, foster tolerance, understanding and acceptance of diversity, and develop personal growth and leadership skills. This curricula would further those goals.

Changes that are needed in YRUU Policies or Bylaws: None.

Fiscal impact: Costs will be associated with the development of the curricula.

Evaluation: Once the curricula exists, evaluation of the effectiveness and success of it would be important.

(2) Making GA Planning Committee and Nominations Committee Accountable to Youth – YC 2006

Sponsors: Charlie Burke, Amelia Harati, Carolina Holt, Elisabeth Moore, Mary Roffers

Point People: Charlie Burke, Elisabeth Moore

Primary Aide: Mary Roffers

UU Principles: The right to the democratic process and the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Specific Problem being addressed: There are no youth on the Nominating Committee or the General Assembly Planning Committee, both of which, have a deep effect on the youth community and denomination.

Hopes to Achieve: To get a youth on the GAPC and NomCom so that specific issues relating to youth in our denomination and the youth at GA can be more accountably addressed.

How Will This Further The Principles And Vision of YRUU: This resolution will empower youth in YRUU to take leadership on a large scale and it will also provide youth on a local and district level to become more involved in continental YRUU and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

How Will This Further The Greater Denomination And The World: This will further the denomination because youth could be seen in leadership positions and can be seen as productive leaders if not more productive than adults.

Short Term Goals: Write a letter to the Board of Trustees of the UUA charging them to create an institutionalized position on the GAPC and NomCom as part of the consultation on ministry to and with youth. The next step will be once the positions are created that years youth council will elect youth to each of these positions.

Local and District Resources: We will use members of congregations and districts to encourage their trustees to approve this recommendation.

Long Term Goals: To have a stable youth position on NomCom and GAC. So that large scale UUA events and issues to be accountable to youth.

Resources: Resources about youth empowerment could be sent to each trustee to reinforce the importance of youth in our religion and their role in its leadership.

Bylaws: No changes to Bylaws or procedures would be needed.

Organization: No specific outside organization will be needed as of this time.

Financial Impact: No major financial impact will come out of this resolution.

Evaluation: This resolution will be evaluated after the Board has responded to this charge by either creating the position or denying our request.

(3) Get Out the Youth – YC 2006

Sponsors: Jessy Hennesy and Paul Hunt

Point Person: Laura Manning

UU Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

Issue or Problem being addressed: Young peoples' involvement in politics is at a low point.

Hope to Achieve: Creation of a resource allowing young UUs to get involved in the political process, especially election campaigns.

Short Term Goals:

1. Pass this resolution.
2. Connect UUA staff from Youth, Young Adult and other offices to begin working.

Long Term Goals:

1. Accumulate resources and compile them in a concise on and offline document that would offer information about the political process as well as about ways to participate. This resource should reflect the continental nature of our organization. This resource would have to be mindful of the legal issues concerning separation of church and state.
2. Change the World.

Evaluation: This resource should be ready by YC 07.

Local and District People: None

YRUU Resources: Youth Office Staff should cooperate with other UUA staff.

How this furthers the purpose and vision: Political involvement is an empowering activity. It is a good way for young people to live their UU values and promote their UU values in the world. YRUU's leaders are well suited to share their organizational skills with the world.

Impact for Greater Denomination: If used properly, this resource should allow young people to shape the future.

Other Resources: YA Office and Adult UUA staff.

Fiscal Impact: None

Bylaws: No changes

(4) It's a Holiday, Lets Celebrate – YC 2006

Sponsor: Paul Hunt

UU Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Specific Problem:

- ❖ Lack of Spirituality,
- ❖ Need for denominational growth,
- ❖ Need for greater awareness in general public.

Goals: Create a report on the steps needed to establish an official religious holiday. Create a report about the possible UU holidays that could be established.

How resolution promotes YRUU principles: Establish a continental community of youth; Provide for worship, celebration, and rites of passage; Build the Unitarian Universalist movement: its traditions, membership, and heritage; Foster tolerance, understanding, and acceptance of diversity.

How resolution helps greater denomination and world: A UU holiday that is a youth initiative could also be enjoyed by adults. Having it mentioned on multifaith calendars would increase awareness about our religion.

Short term goals: Empower the Youth Office to create a report on the steps needed to establish an official religious holiday and create a report about the possible UU holidays that could be established. Connect with people who have proposed UU holidays, like Chalica and Religious Freedom Day. Research the background of these proposals and the history they celebrate.

Long term goals: Choose a holiday at Youth Council 07 that YRUU wants to promote and then follow through the steps identified in the first report.

Local/ Regional Resources: Adults with historical knowledge of UUism.

Resources that YRUU has and will use: The YO. The administration.

Changes to policy procedure/bylaws: None

Financial Impact: For the initial step, only that YO staff would spend their time on it.

Evaluation Process: The two reports should be ready in time to be in next years YC prepacket. The report on specific holidays should be brief, but already have some of the pro/cons of having each holiday as a tradition.

(5) Bring Religion (Unitarian Universalism) and Spirituality into YRUU Lifestyle Beyond Worship – YC 2006

At Continental Youth Council 2006, we separated into groups to talk about the branches of YRUU we felt could stand some improvement. Victoria Woodard, Kasey Neiss, Ethan Taylor, Katrina Thralls, and Rev. Elwood Sturtevant were in the spirituality group, and we felt we need to put the 'R' back into the YRUU community. We feel we could achieve this by having each district host an annual Spirituality Development Conference. This would help the youth develop the skills and amass the resources needed to bring spirituality back to share with their communities. Another thing that would help us achieve this goal is having chalice lightings before business meetings. This would bring us back to our spiritual roots as a group, which we seem to have strayed from due to our love of governance. Also on our list is having workshops on UUism at conferences include spirituality. We feel that if more youth are informed of our spiritual history as UUs, they will feel moved to reach into their own minds and find what they believe in. Another important aspect of this is learning about our own faith in conjunction with all the other faiths out there would help build respect for other belief systems and structures, which is exceedingly important for right relations in today's multicultural society.

This recommendation is largely affected by the UU principles "affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person" and "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." Therefore, by bringing back our lost spirituality into the youth community, we will keep our religion alive.

(6) Resolution to Facilitate Greater Communication Among Youth Council Representatives and Continentally About District Policy and Procedure – YC 2006

Sponsor: Sam Cory

It has come to attention that breaking the community formed at Young Religious Unitarian Universalists conferences across the continent is a problem. The breaking of community stems from a variety of actions but the effect on the community is the same. Some of the breaking of community at conferences has been due to exclusiveness and disregard for the policy on sexual behavior. Many districts have experimented with various policies and procedures to address this issue. Youth Council is a place of sharing among Youth Council Representatives from each district and region. The seventh principle that we as Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm and promote is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." By providing a means to have inter-district and region communications throughout the year creates an environment in which Youth Council Representatives are better prepared to make policy and direction for Young Religious Unitarian Universalists if they understand what is happening in each district.

Article I.

To facilitate better communication between districts and to create continental discussion about breaking community at Young Religious Unitarian Universalists conferences and policy and procedure in general

Section 1. The Youth Council Representatives of each district in the United States of America and each region in Canada shall mail to the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office their district or region's current by-laws, conference codes, safety policy, smoking policy, and any other applicable policy or procedure.

Section 2. Accompanying the policies and procedures laid out in Article I, Section 1 the Youth Council Representative shall write a brief yet informative report summarizing what policies and procedures are working and what policies and procedures are ineffective.

Section 3. Upon receiving the packet of information from each Youth Council Representative, the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth office will put together a packet of current by-laws, conference codes, safety policy, smoking policy, other policies, and the report.

Section 4. This report shall be sent to the current Youth Council Representative of each district or region by mail in print form.

Article II.

In the event that a change in Youth Council Representative or an incompetent Youth Council Representative

Section 1. If the packet has not been received by the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office two weeks after the deadline the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office will contact the Youth Programming Coordinator for the respective district or the Director of Lifespan Learning for the Canadian Regions. It then becomes the responsibility of the Youth Programming Coordinator or the Director of Lifespan Learning to supply the required materials to the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office.

Article III. Timing

Section 1. The reports to the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office shall be postmarked no later than the first Friday in May.

Section 2. If the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office has not received the packet by the third Friday in May the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office will contact the Youth Programming Coordinator or Director of Lifespan Learning for the respective area.

Section 3. The Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office has until the first Friday of June to mail the compiled packets to the Youth Council Representatives.

Article IV.

For future Youth Council Representatives to the look back on previous policy, so they may learn from past policy and procedure and need not make the same mistakes

Section 1. The will be an achieve of all packets produced by this resolution.

Section 2. Any Youth Council Representative, Youth Programming Coordinator, or Director of Lifespan Learning may request a copy of a past packet of policy and procedure.

Article V. Implementation

Section 1. This measure shall become effective immediately after it is passed.

Section 2. The first round of reports will be September of 2006 instead of May 2007 with the Youth Council Representative reports postmarked by the first Friday of September 2006, Youth Programming Coordinators and Director of Lifespan Learning contacted if the materials are not received at the Youth Office by the second Friday of September 2006, and the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office postmarking the packets to Youth Council Representatives by the fourth Saturday of September 2006.

Section 3. Youth Council will have the resolution as an agenda item for Youth Council 2007.

Section 4. Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Youth Council Steering Committee will discuss this issue at least once during the Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Section 5. The monies for creating, printing, and mailing will come from the Unitarian Universalist Association Youth Office.