



The Role of Youth Council Members in the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth



What is the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth?

The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth will revision and revitalize the youth ministry of YRUU, congregations, and the UUA. It will solicit the input and commitment of the widest possible spectrum of stakeholders in Unitarian Universalist youth ministry. Conversations within congregations, districts, and stakeholder organizations will focus on what they can do to support youth ministry at their level, and what the Association can do to support youth ministry as a whole. In this way, the process will build from the ideas and needs of youth and adults at the grassroots level.

Why are YCMs important in the Consultation?

YCMs and all youth are an essential part of the Consultation, because it's all about youth! This is an opportunity to have your true needs listened to and acted on. Conversations in your congregations, districts, and UU organizations you're involved in (such as YRUU) are an important opportunity for you to dialogue with ministers, religious educators, youth advisors, congregational leadership, district leadership, organizational leadership, and other youth about what *you* need. The result of the Consultation will be stronger support of and focus on youth ministry throughout Unitarian Universalism.

YCMs can get involved in a few different ways:

✓ Survey

In January and February 2006 all youth, no matter what their level of involvement, are encouraged to participate in a youth ministry survey. This is an initial opportunity for you to express what youth ministry is and should be, which will shape the rest of the process. This survey will be available to print from the website, and will also be sent to youth whose names are provided by their religious educators or youth advisors. When you receive this survey, please pass it on to the youth you serve as well as other folks you know in your district and/or congregation.

✓ Congregations

All congregations will receive a process guide in January 2006 advising them on how to organize a congregational conversation about youth ministry during April or May 2006. If you are involved in a congregation, advocate for these conversations, and actively participate in them as well!

✓ Districts

The outcome of the survey and congregational conversations will guide and focus the district conversations, which will happen during the 2006-2007 church year. Many of our district youth programs are struggling, and this is an opportunity for youth to dialogue with district leadership (youth and adult) about how to strengthen district youth ministry, as well as how to better support congregational youth ministry. These gatherings will be facilitated by youth and adult pairs from the Taskforce on Ministry to and with Youth. As a youth leader and liaison between continental YRUU and district/congregational youth, you can be an integral part of the planning of this event.

✓ Stakeholder Organizations

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) has been identified as a core stakeholder in youth ministry because it provides community and spiritual fulfillment for many youth. Between May 2006 and May 2007 every core stakeholder group will have a meeting about how they can best support and fulfill the needs of youth and people doing youth ministry. This will also be facilitated by a youth-adult pair from the Taskforce. One of the goals for the Consultation is to create an authority structure that respects the rightful role of institutional youth and adult leadership at the same that it supports the growth and empowerment of all UU youth. How can YRUU create such a structure? This question will be answered by sharing your ideas in the Consultation process.

Questions or Feedback? – Contact Beth Dana, UUA Youth Ministry Associate at (617) 948-4352 or Jesse Jaeger, UUA Youth Programs Director at (617) 948-4359. For more information to go: <http://www.uua.org/trus/youth>.