

What is the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth?

The Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth will revitalize, and increase support our Association's ministry to and with youth. 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.

Background

Members of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) Youth Council introduced a resolution in 2003 to review YRUU and renew youth ministry. In October 2004, after a year-long dialogue between YRUU and the UUA leadership, the UUA Board of Trustees directed UUA President Bill Sinkford and Youth Trustee Megan Dowdell to co-convene a Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth. In February 2005, thirty youth and adults from across the Association gathered to discuss the Association's ministry to and with youth. They identified five focus areas (desired outcomes), listed the stakeholders, and made suggestions for moving forward in each of the five areas. A representative subcommittee, the Consultation Design Team, was empowered to design an overall process for a denominational consultation on our ministry to and with youth. In June 2005 the co-conveners approved this process.

Updates and Communication

Check our web site for progress updates, reports and resources.

<http://www.uua.org/trus/youth>

You can subscribe to an announcements listserve to receive regular progress updates via e-mail.

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/>

The listserve is called "Youth Consultation."

The Consultation will also use General Assembly as a venue for communicating with the members of the Association. At GA 2006, the Task Force will present a report based on data from the survey and the congregational conversations, and in 2007 they will report data from the district and stakeholder gatherings.

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Version: Process Guide



THE CONSULTATION ON MINISTRY TO AND WITH YOUTH



Desired Outcomes

- A youth ministry that is **robust, flexible, and diverse**.
- Denominational youth work that focuses on **servicing local congregations**.
- An **authority structure** that respects the rightful role of institutional youth and adult leadership at the same time that it supports the **growth and empowerment of all UU youth**.
- **Anti-racism and anti-oppression** work infused within every part of youth ministry, while recognizing that there is not necessarily one way of doing it, and the “right” way **depends on individual identities**.
- **Effective communication** within, between, and among continental, district, local, congregational, and organizational levels.

Process Goals

For the Consultation to be successful it must be measured against and meet the goals of timeliness, youth empowerment, financial viability, anti-racism/anti-oppression, transparency, collaboration, and inclusiveness. The Consultation will take wisdom from the Common Ground gatherings of the early 1980s (which founded YRUU), as well as the visions of YRUU youth in recent years. It will effectively use the skills and knowledge of UUA staff and will use the General Assembly as a resource. There will be an ongoing evaluation of the process.

January and February 2006: Survey

The consultation begins with a survey administered to youth ages 12-20, asking them about their involvement and experiences with UU youth ministry. All results from the survey will be shared in reports available to all Unitarian Universalists and will inform the subsequent conversations.

April-September 2006:

Congregational Conversations

All congregations, regardless of the number of youth, are encouraged to hold a congregational conversation on youth ministry. A process guide is available at www.uua.org/trus/youth.

June 2006-May 2007:

Stakeholder Organizations

A stakeholder is one who should have a voice in the creation of a new youth ministry because they are or will be affected by the outcome, they should be invested in the outcome, and we need their buy-in.

Core stakeholder organizations, which the taskforce will work closely with, include:

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, Youth Advisors Network, Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Liberal Religious Educators Association, Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries, Interweave, Canadian Unitarian Council, and District Staff.

Other stakeholders can access a process guide for self-facilitated conversations at the web site.

September 2006-May 2007:

District Gatherings

Contact your district leadership to find out how to participate in your district’s youth ministry gathering.

July 2007: Summit on Ministry To and With Youth

Task Force on Ministry To and With Youth

- Co-Conveners: **Bill Sinkford** (UUA President) and **Megan Dowdell** (UUA Board Youth Trustee At-Large 2003-2005)
- **Jesse Jaeger** (Youth Programs Director, UUA)
- **Beth Dana** (Youth Ministry Associate, UUA)
- **Judith Frediani** (Director of Lifespan Faith Development, UUA)
- **Julian Sharp** (UUA Board Youth Trustee At-Large 2005-2007)
- **Sara Eskrich** (non-YRUU youth)
- **Jova Vargas** and **Ian Moore** (YRUU youth)
- **Tom Rylett** (CUC youth)
- **Hannah Stampe** (GLBPTQQI youth)
- **Rachel Davis** and **Homer Karvonides** (DRUUMM youth)
- **Tera Little** (District Staff and LREDA) and **Rev. Shana Goodwin** (Minister)

The Charge of the Task Force:

- Implement and evaluate the process.
- Review the process guides created by staff.
- Select and work with additional consultants.
- Facilitate the process in districts and core stakeholder organizations, and be consultants for congregations.
- Prepare and publish reports from the congregational, district and stakeholder gatherings.
- Work to create buy-in from all stakeholders.