

Accountability on the Task Force on Ministry to and with Youth

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UU principle:

the 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,
the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations
and in society at large, and
the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Specific Problems:

The lack of institutional support and representation for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, and Intersex youth, Adults and Youth of Color, and Canadian Youth.

Hopes to Achieve:

Assure institutional representation and support of GLBPTQQI youth, Adults and Youth of Color, and Canadian Youth on the Taskforce on Ministry to and with Youth. Such representation must be interested, qualified, and dedicated to Youth Ministries and their other constituencies.

How this will further the principles and vision of YRUU:

This Revolution statement promotes a goal of YRUU in fostering tolerance, understanding, and acceptance of diversity within YRUU.

How this will further the greater denomination and the world:

This Revolution promotes the Task Force’s desired outcome of “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 identity.” We feel that if the recommendations of this Revolution are not incorporated into the Consultation’s Process, the stated desired outcome of the Consultation cannot be achieved. “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” (from the brochure entitled “The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth”). The future of the denomination is based on this Revolution statement. Because the youth are the future members and leaders of our congregations this is important in sustaining and growing our Unitarian Universalist movement with accountability to all its people. Every year less than 1,000 new adults join UUA congregations (UUA congregations grow by 1 % every year). 2,000 - 3,000 youth bridge out of UU youth programs and a large amount of those youth do not stay involved after bridging. Forty percent of people who identify as UU in the USA are youth and sixty percent are adults. The total membership of all CUC congregations is 5,000 people [Stats from a 2004 UUA Growth Survey--source pending].

Short Term Goals and Steps to Achieve:

Change the structure of the body of the Taskforce as follows:

Add one Canadian Youth accountable to the CUC and Canadian youth

Add one GLBPTQQI youth accountable to GLBPTQQI UU youth and Interweave

Add an additional youth of color who is a member of and accountable to DRUUMM

Specify one of the adult positions to be a member of and accountable to DRUUMM

The aforementioned people must be interested, qualified and dedicated to Youth Ministries and their other constituencies.

Steps to Achieve:

Contact other stakeholder organizations for support. Request that those organizations send letters to the co-conveners of the Taskforce in our support.

Local and district/regional resources: None.

Long-term goals and steps to achieve:

Strive to create an accountability structure that holds its accountability to the core stakeholders, which in turn will help ensure that the Consultation Process upholds the anti-oppressive, antiracist, and multicultural visions of the UUA.

Local and district people: None.

Resources YRUU has that will be used: None.

Changes that will be needed in our policies and procedures or bylaws: None.

Organization or books that can be used: None.

Financial impact to the Taskforce: The cost of adding three positions.

Evaluation: None.