

December 16, 2005

**Report to the UUA Board of Trustees – The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth
Submitted by: Beth Dana, Youth Ministry Associate**

The Consultation on Ministry to and With Youth is progressing very well. There is a good deal of enthusiasm throughout the Association about the possibilities and opportunities that this process presents for our ministry with youth.

Outreach

One priority currently and for the next couple months is outreach – to youth, ministers, religious educators, congregations, and stakeholder groups. All of these groups of people will ensure the success of the survey, congregational conversations, and the process the following year. Members of the taskforce met with the LREDA Board and presented at the LREDA Fall Conference to dozens of religious educators. We have also spent time with the District Presidents' Association and district staff at the Big Complex Meeting. There has been frequent communication through e-mail and mailings to spread word of the survey and congregational conversations.

In early 2006 taskforce members will be traveling around to LREDA chapters, UUMA chapters, youth conferences, district youth committee meetings, district/organization annual meetings, and other gatherings of youth and adults. Several districts will also be hosting trainings of congregational conversation facilitators – some of which will be facilitated by district staff, and others by members of the taskforce.

Youth Ministry Survey

The UU Youth Ministry Survey is included in this packet. It was designed by Amy Davidoff of Market Voice Consulting, in consultation with the taskforce at their October meeting. We conducted two survey field tests – one with Boston-area youth, and one with the YRUU Steering Committee. The survey was sent out in the January UUA congregational mailing, will be mailed directly to youth in the Youth Office database who are identified as 12-20, and will be distributed at events and through stakeholder organizations that work with youth.

Congregational Conversations

More than 160 congregations have signed up to hold a Youth Ministry Congregational Conversation in April or May. For a complete list as of December 16, see the enclosed document. The congregational conversations will build on the findings of the youth survey, and will be an opportunity for congregations to envision their ideal congregational youth ministry and strategies/resources needed to achieve that. Parts of the process were field tested at the LREDA Fall Conference, where we received much helpful feedback. The Congregational Process Guide will be available online in mid-January, and will be mailed around the same time to congregations who have signed up.

Work with Districts

The taskforce is beginning its work with districts and stakeholders. Core stakeholder groups have been contacted to let them know that we hope to work with them. I will be coordinating a series of conference calls for January and February to bring together district staff/leaders (youth

and adult) with the youth and adult facilitators working with their district. In order to cover all of the districts, we have solicited the help of district staff adults and youth Chrysalis trainers to work with some of them.

Grant Funding

The UU Funding Program awarded the Consultation a \$10,000 grant. This will help considerably with the costs of the 05-06 fiscal year. Thanks to the UU Funding Program for their commitment to the growth of Unitarian Universalism through youth ministry.

If you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact me via phone (617-948-4352) or e-mail (bdana@uua.org).

Enclosed in this packet:

- Consultation Timeline
- UU Youth Ministry Survey
- List of congregations that have signed-up
- “The Role of Congregational Leaders...” flyer