

## The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth January 2006 Newsletter



Art by Joe Young Choi

The Taskforce on Ministry To and With Youth announces the

### UU Youth Ministry Survey

All UU youth ages 12-20 are invited to participate!

Download and print it at:

[www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/ymsurvey.html](http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/ymsurvey.html)

All surveys must be received by February 28.

Questions?

Contact Beth Dana at 617-948-4352 or [bdana@uua.org](mailto:bdana@uua.org).

### Want to help spread the word?

Download color and grayscale versions of this flyer:

Color: [www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/news/0601flyer\\_color.pdf](http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/news/0601flyer_color.pdf)

Grayscale: [www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/news/0601flyer\\_gray.pdf](http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/news/0601flyer_gray.pdf)

### Frequently Asked Questions About the Survey

*Why isn't this an online survey?*

The online vs. paper question is one that the Taskforce considered carefully and discussed with our survey consultant. We came to the conclusion that the best way to reach the most diverse group of youth is to distribute it through YRUU, district youth and adult leaders, stakeholder organizations, religious educators, and youth advisors, which would pretty much cover youth with various involvements in the Association. Therefore, an online survey would be redundant.

We also had some concerns with just posting a survey link on the web or distributing it through e-mail. Online surveys seeking statistical reliability are almost always done by sending out e-mail invitations to a pre-recruited panel of participants. Our UU population numbers are not big enough to find sufficient panel participants, and our list of e-mail addresses for youth is not very complete. In addition:

- ❖ Typical response rate on an online survey that does not have a credible invitation with a direct link is less than 1 - 2%. Online survey response for programs where the link is embedded in a personalized e-mail is around 20%.
- ❖ We have very little idea about who is completing the survey if the link is not sent out in a personalized invitation. If the survey link is only posted on listservs and websites, youth who do not access those sites would not have a voice in the process, possibly biasing the results.

With our goal of hearing from a large and diverse body of youth in mind, we chose to offer the survey in paper format only.

For your convenience, the survey can be returned by fax or pre-paid mail. The back page of the survey doubles as a mailer. All you have to do is fold, tape/staple, and drop in your nearest mailbox!

*Why is the survey only for youth?*

The Taskforce on Ministry to and With Youth decided to offer the survey only to youth ages 12-20. This decision was made, in part, in response to a request from the YRUU Youth Council that we include as many youth as possible in the survey process. We felt this was most appropriate because it is the voice and experience of youth that should inform our intergenerational dialogues about youth ministry. We should be asking youth, “What do you think?” before dialoguing about how to better minister with youth. Adults and youth will have a chance to share and work together in the setting of the congregational conversation, but we wanted to offer a space exclusively for youth to participate in the process.

*Questions 38 and 39 ask demographic information such as gender and sexual or affectional orientation, but they use language that I’m not familiar with and/or is not a part of the Our Whole Lives curriculum. Can you explain?*

When designing the survey we had to decide between creating a survey that makes sense to all who see it and making a survey in which the most people will see their identity reflected. Our youth (and adults) identify with a variety of gender and affectional orientations, so we felt it was important to reflect that in this survey. The terminology may confuse some youth, but it also presents them with an opportunity to learn something new.

Here are some brief definitions from Wikipedia (link: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)), for words that may be new to some people. We encourage you to research this further.

*Pansexual* – “Pansexuality is a sexual orientation, distinct from bisexuality and characterized by potential aesthetic attraction, romantic love and sexual desire for anybody, including those people who don't fit into the gender binary of male/female implied by bisexual attraction.”

*Queer* – “A term [used by] people whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity or gender expression does not conform to heteronormative societal norms.”

*Genderqueer* – “A genderqueer person is part of a group of people who do not fit into the traditional two-gender or gender-binary system. As with any other groups that may be aligned with transgender identities, the reasons for identifying as genderqueer vary.”