

March 2006

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

A Reminder: The Consultation Timeline

January-February 2006	Survey
April-May 2006	Congregational Conversations
July 2006-May 2007	Stakeholder Gatherings
September 2006-May 2007	District Gatherings
July 2007	Summit on Ministry To and With Youth

Outreach

See the attached chart for a complete list of outreach efforts made by the Taskforce on Ministry To and With Youth.

Youth Ministry Survey

We received a total of 1,429 completed surveys from youth ages 12-20 across the continent. While we will review additional surveys as they trickle in, the surveys received before March 3 are the ones that will inform subsequent conversations in congregations and districts. Survey data will be broken down in many different ways including by age group, level/type of involvement, UUA district, identity, and organizational affiliation (e.g. involvement with DRUUMM, Interweave, and others). A complete report of the survey findings will be available around the time of General Assembly.

Congregational Conversations

As of March 14, 269 congregations have signed-up to hold congregational conversations on youth ministry. The Process Guide for Congregational Conversations on Ministry To and With Youth was printed in late January, and is available online as well. Supplemental materials pertaining to the survey data will be available to congregations in mid- to late-March.

In addition to outreach by taskforce members and UUA staff, youth and adult volunteer leaders at the district level have been instrumental in getting the word out to congregations. We have also identified contacts in almost every UUMA chapter in order to encourage greater support by parish ministers. Each of these contacts received a packet of print and electronic materials, including a discussion guide to help initiate conversation and reflection in their chapter meetings.

Awards

There are two awards being offered, which we hope will generate enthusiasm and awareness about youth ministry's importance in our movement. The UU Youth Ministry Sermon Award is for lay and professional adult leaders, and the Youth Voices Award is for youth ages 14-20. The deadline for submissions is May 15. Each award winner will receive \$500 and the opportunity to present during a workshop at General Assembly. Those submissions that don't win the award could be included in an anthology along with the winner, which would be available in the fall of 2006.

Work with Districts

One youth and one adult have been assigned to each district, and will be responsible for working with the district leaders to design and facilitate a youth ministry conversation that meets the district's needs. Jesse Jaeger and Beth Dana have arranged conference calls with each facilitator pair to talk with the district staff and youth leaders.

We are asking each district to pay a travel equalization fee for the facilitators, but there is scholarship money available for districts that are having trouble paying the fee or whose geographic challenges necessitate more funding for their gathering.

We are aware of the complicated relationship between potentially-consolidating districts such as New Hampshire/Vermont and Northeast. We have worked with the staff and youth leaders of the districts separately by supporting their individual survey and congregational outreach efforts. For the district stage, however, the district staff along with the taskforce members assigned to their districts decided that a joint gathering would help facilitate greater connection between youth ministry in New Hampshire/Vermont and youth ministry in Maine, in anticipation of a possible consolidation of the districts. We are sensitive to the fact that this is not a "done deal," and are open to tailoring the process to the very unique needs of these two UUA districts.

Work with Stakeholders

The taskforce has initiated conversations with stakeholder organizations, particularly the ones we identified as "core stakeholders" at our October 2005 meeting.

- Hannah Stampe attended and led a workshop at the 2005 **Interweave** Convocation. She also met with the Interweave Board to ask for their commitment to participating and engaging their membership in a conversation about youth ministry.
- Beth Dana met with the **Family Matters Task Force** of the UUA to discuss the intersections of family ministry and youth ministry, and how we might work together throughout the consultation process. The FMTF agreed to have another conversation at their meeting next year.
- At the January 2006 meeting of the **YRUU** Steering Committee, Jova Vargas and Ian Moore (YRUU representatives on the taskforce) led a discussion about how YRUU will participate in the consultation process as a stakeholder. Plans have begun to hold a stakeholder conversation at Youth Council this summer.
- Rev. Shana Goodwin, **UUMA** representative on the taskforce, has talked with the UUMA Executive Committee and secured their support of the process. They will work to identify chapters who will hold focused youth ministry conversations next year.
- Jesse Jaeger, Tera Little, and Judith Frediani have all talked with the **LREDA** Board, and have secured their support of this process. They will identify a contact in each LREDA chapter, who will initiate focused youth ministry conversations next year.
- **DRUUMM** youth learned about the survey and the consultation process at their fall conference as well as the March 2006 DRUUMM Youth & Young Adult Summit. Conversations will continue with the DRUUMM youth and adult leadership about the best way for them to engage in dialogue as part of the consultation process.
- Jesse Jaeger and Tom Rylett have had conversations with both the **CUC** Board and the CUC Youth Advisory Group, and have a plan for engaging their membership in this process at the regional and national level.

- A survey of **youth advisors** will happen next year, in order to gather their unique input into the consultation process.
- **District staff** members remain essential to outreach efforts in our UUA districts. Plans are being made for them to engage in this process at the 2006 Big Complex Meeting.

Taskforce on Ministry To and With Youth

The Taskforce on Ministry To and With Youth will have a meeting on July 25-29, 2006. The second half of the meeting will involve training and preparation for the upcoming district gatherings, and will include additional youth and adults who have volunteered to work with the districts.

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

Additional Information: Consultation Outreach chart

Late Packet: I understand that the Board no longer has a late packet. However, because the deadline for the youth survey was February 28th we will not have data in time to be included in this packet. You will receive a report with preliminary results closer to the date of your April meeting.