

March 2006

THE CONSULTATION ON MINISTRY TO AND WITH YOUTH



Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

Greetings! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information and updates about the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth. This newsletter is part of an effort to make the consultation process transparent and accessible to all Unitarian Universalists.

Youth Ministry Survey Completed

The survey is over, and **1,429 youth have completed it!** Thank you to everyone who filled it out and made sure it was available to youth in your community. This survey will be a rich source of input into this process and for youth ministry in our movement. Preliminary results will be available for congregational conversations in April and May, and a full report of the survey results will be available in June. We look forward to sharing with you the hopes articulated by youth and the lessons learned.

A Tip for Congregational Conversations

One frequently asked question is “Who should come to the congregational conversation?” It is best to include all people in the congregation who are active in or have decision-making power about youth ministry programs and budget. Consider the following questions:

- * Which youth are involved or have the potential to be involved in youth ministry?
- * Who are the adults who provide support to and advocacy for youth in the congregation?
- * Who are other leaders within the congregation who could be valuable resources to your planning?
- * What areas of the work of the congregation would be most affected by the outcomes of this conversation?

New Resource from the UUA

The newly revised “**Youth Group Handbook**” is now available from the UUA Bookstore. This resource, originally published in the mid-1980s, is a guide to youth ministry in the form of youth groups. Whether you’re building a youth group from scratch or keeping one healthy and vibrant, this handbook is for you! This edition includes “Deep Fun,” a list of community and trust building activities for youth.

Congregational Conversations

268 (and rising!)

A complete list is available at:

www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/congregations.html

Keep your eyes out for a **supplement** to the process guide, which will be available online and mailed to congregations who sign-up in mid- to late-March. This supplement will include preliminary **results of the youth survey**, which are a key piece of the congregational conversation.

What can your congregational conversation do for you?

As a result of their conversation, one congregation in Upstate NY decided to re-configure their Associate Minister’s position to focus on youth ministry, in order to increase support for youth ministry and faith development. According to the religious educator, “We would not have had the ability or the confidence to make such a big change...without having had our congregational conversation.”

Awards for Youth and Adults

There are now TWO awards – one for youth and one for adults. The winners of these awards will have the opportunity to present their sermons/creative pieces together at the 2006 UUA General Assembly in St. Louis. The deadline is May 15. Visit www.uua.org/TRUS/youth for more information.

Youth Ministry Featured in *UU World*

Check out the Spring 2006 issue of the *UU World* magazine for an article about the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth. It includes diverse voices and opinions of youth and adults who do youth ministry in our Association. www.uuworld.org

For more information visit <http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth> or contact:

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