

April 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.

Survey Results Are In!

The taskforce received 1,399 completed surveys from UU youth ages 12–20 in every UUA district and Canadian region. What did they have to say?

- * The majority (91%) say they feel welcome at worship services.
- * Only 53% feel that their congregation is their spiritual home.
- * The congregational activity that youth are most likely to participate in is social justice.

Want to know more? The **supplement to the Process Guide** for Congregational Conversations on Ministry To and With Youth, which includes preliminary results of the youth survey, is now available online. It was also mailed to every congregation who signed-up before April to do a conversation. A full report will be available in June 2006.

Congratulations to the winners of the **survey prize drawing!** Maria Shinabery (iPod Nano), Hilary Hunt and Paige Goodman Wolven (UUA Bookstore Gift Certificates)

New Consultation Outreach Resource

The website now includes a **Power Point presentation** on the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth! You are welcome to tailor it to your needs and use it as an outreach and awareness-raising tool.

Youth Ministry Awards

Are you eager to voice the transformative experience of youth ministry in your life? There are now two awards – one for youth and one for adults – that create space for you to do just that. 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.

Congregational Conversations

Congregational conversations on youth ministry have begun to happen across the continent! As of April 6th, 285 congregations have signed-up. For a complete list of these congregations, visit

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

It's not too late! If your congregation is interested in receiving the process guide, please contact Beth Dana at bdana@uua.org.

You can also find information, tools and ideas for promoting the conversation in your congregation at www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/outreach.html.

A Tip for Congregational Conversations

Smaller congregations may not have a large number of youth or may have youth who are just ageing into Senior/High School youth programs. Congregational conversations are an opportunity to **develop the leadership of youth** in your congregation by giving them a chance to co-facilitate this intergenerational gathering. If youth are not comfortable being facilitators, there *are* meaningful ways for them to be involved in planning and leading the conversation! Here are some ideas:

- * Youth can lead smaller sections of the gathering such as the introductions, icebreaker, opening/closing words, or process check.
- * Youth can serve as small group facilitators, recorders, or timekeepers for the force field analysis.

Most importantly, *ask* youth how they would like to be involved! There are many places where youth can be leaders in this process.

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

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