

September 2006

THE CONSULTATION ON MINISTRY TO AND WITH YOUTH



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

Greetings! We hope you had a wonderful summer! 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 Conversations in UU Organizations

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)

In early August, YRUU's **Youth Council** gathered for the governing body's annual meeting. Youth Council members contributed to a shared vision for YRUU's youth ministry by holding visioning sessions and formulating a group of proposals and recommendations to bring to the Task Force on Ministry To and With Youth and other groups. The proposed changes regarding outreach, youth-adult relations, governance, structure, anti-racism/anti-oppression, social justice, and spirituality will be a key source of information and vision considered by the Summit on Youth Ministry.

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)

Over Labor Day Weekend, a group of youth and adults representing every Canadian region, the national Youth Advisory Group, the CUC Board, and CUC and UUA staff gathered for the **Terre Commune-Winds of Change Conference**. Beth Dana, UUA Youth Ministry Associate, joined four Canadian youth/bridgers/adults in facilitating the weekend. The conference was charged with "re-evaluating the structures and systems that impact ministry to and with UU youth in Canada, with the goal of increasing youth empowerment." Participants discussed a group of proposals related to changes in Canadian youth ministry, some of which will serve as input to the UUA's Summit on Youth Ministry. Visit www.cuc.ca for more information.

Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA)

Religious educators, join your colleagues at the **LREDA Fall Conference, October 20-23, in Orlando, FL!** The conference will include a series of opportunities to address youth ministry. Religious educators have been instrumental to the consultation process so far, and this year's conference is an opportunity to continue the dialogue about the role of religious educators and the role of LREDA and the UUA in supporting religious educators to do youth ministry. Visit www.uua.org/lreda for more information and registration.

Task Force Meeting Update

The Task Force on Ministry To and With Youth met in Boston in late July to evaluate the past year and to plan for the next. A group of skilled youth and adults joined us for the last two days of the meeting to receive training and practice in order to facilitate district gatherings on youth ministry. The Task Force addressed topics such as: youth ministry/youth empowerment, desired outcomes of the process, Youth Ministry Survey results, congregational conversations, district gatherings, stakeholder engagement and roles, and the Summit on Youth Ministry. To read the meeting minutes, visit: www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/taskforce.html

Congregational Conversation Reminder

September 30, 2006 is the deadline for congregational conversation report forms to be included in the Task Force's data. Reports received by the deadline will be analyzed by the Task Force and discussed at district gatherings over the next year. If you can't meet the deadline, we would still love to receive your forms!

Additional Resources Online

Youth Ministry Survey Results

<http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/ymsurvey.html>

Process Guides (August updates)

<http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/processguides.html>

Outreach Resources (August updates)

<http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth/outreach.html>

District Gatherings – Plan to Attend!

District gatherings are an opportunity to discuss how to better serve youth and congregations in your district! Please plan to attend. Visit the website for a list (it's not yet finalized, so keep checking back!).

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

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