

DRUUMM Youth & Young Adults Consultation on Youth Ministry

May 11, 2007

Participants: DRUUMM Youth & Young Adult East Coast Summit Attendees

Facilitators: Sean Capaloff-Jones, Jesse Jaeger

Welcome and Introductions

Overview of the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth

Jesse and Sean reviewed the Consultation process and where this conversation fits in. They also shared relevant data gathered so far in the process.

Ideal Youth Ministry

From your perspective, what would the ideal youth ministry look like (in general, and for Youth of Color specifically)?

- Can walk on water
- Everybody would be spiritually fulfilled in some way
- Safe space to grow
- Youth of Color enjoy community
- Identity development for Youth of Color, more training for DREs and other Religious Professionals
- More professional ministry directed specifically to youth
- Parish ministers have greater understanding of lifespan development
- Help support youth with life
- Ministry helps people transition in their lives
- Support young parents
- Focus on people's specific identities
- District community safer for youth of color, which would translate to continental

What is working well?

What is working well or what are those things that are pushing us toward our ideal?

- DRUUMM YaYA – other caucuses
- DRUUMM in general
- Put forward that race is an issue to be dealt with
- Groundwork Collective
- Collection of history of People of Color and Women of Color (Sankofa)
- Commitment – institutional leadership to help
- Keep youth UU
- Youth commitment and passion
- Family community – aspect of the work
- UUA creates good leaders, putting them in leadership roles
- Some have had contact with ministers of color, ministers of color are really supportive mentors

What is holding us back?

What are the things that are holding us back or pushing us away from the ideal?

- Hard to commit if you are not already connected
- Funds
- DRUUMM is mostly continental
- Coming from difficult/different(?) family backgrounds
- Poor training for youth advisors
- Accessibility for continental programming
- More outreach to men, young adults and youth
- Lack of support for congregations
- AR/AO-challenged adult leadership
- White folks think they are so progressive that they are beyond race – reluctance to buy into anti-racism work
- White Allies who have not done the work themselves
- More campus ministries
- Lack of info about UUism
- Reluctance to work on racism in the whole UUA
- Churches have not heard of DRUUMM and anti-racism
- Congregation not passing on information about DRUUMM, congregants don't understand what it is
- Find more people who are passionate about working with youth – inability to communicate
- Congregations don't get beyond what they are already doing
- DRE and ministers do more anti-racism work
- More youth and young adult discussion of boundaries
- Not enough of a direct charge from the Association to do anti-racism work
- Dealing with racism in the world
- FUUSE website
- Racism in general

Strategies for Change

What can the UUA, districts, congregations, and DRUUMM do to build on the successes and to eliminate the challenges?

- More “places” (internet, phone, etc.) for People of Color to get together
- Create a documentary
- Paid staff positions at all levels (starting with continental)
- DRUUMM chapters at district level
- More funds for DRUUMM chapters at district Levels
- Leaders of Color and White Ally leaders introducing themselves to youth
- Fundraising
- Make sure youth leaders of color have representation in GA, that there's a way for them to get there
- More youth leaders of color funded to GA

- Start anti-racism at very young age, focus on embracing diversity and doing anti-racism; get congregations everywhere to buy-in. Hold congregations accountable.
- Have more ministers for youth in congregations
- Get cluster and district support
- Have someone coordinate the strategies

Elections/Nominations for DRUUMM Reps to the Summit on Youth Ministry

Closing