

Updates and Communication

Check our website for progress updates, reports and resources.

<http://www.uua.org/trus/youth>

You can subscribe to an announcements listserv to receive regular progress updates via e-mail.

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/>

The listserv is called “Youth Consultation.”

The Consultation will also use General Assembly as a venue for communicating with the members of the Association. At GA 2006, the Taskforce will present a report based on data from the survey and the congregational conversations, and in 2007 they will report data from the district and stakeholder gatherings.

Unitarian Universalist Association

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THE CONSULTATION ON MINISTRY TO AND WITH YOUTH



What is the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth?

The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth will revision, revitalize and support our Association’s ministry to and with youth. It will solicit the input and commitment of the widest possible spectrum of stakeholders in Unitarian Universalist youth ministry. Conversations within congregations, districts, and stakeholder organizations will focus on what they can do to support youth ministry at their level, and what the Association can do to support youth ministry as a whole. In this way, the process will build from the ideas and needs of youth and adults at the grassroots level.

Background

Members of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) Youth Council introduced a resolution in 2003 to review YRUU and renew youth ministry. In October 2004, after a year-long dialogue between YRUU and the UUA leadership, the UUA Board of Trustees directed UUA President Bill Sinkford and Youth Trustee Megan Dowdell to co-convene a Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth. In February 2005, thirty youth and adults from across the Association gathered to discuss the Association’s ministry to and with youth. They identified five focus areas (desired outcomes), listed the stakeholders, and made suggestions for moving forward in each of the five areas. A representative subcommittee, the Consultation Design Team, was empowered to design an overall process for a denominational consultation on our ministry to and with youth. In June 2005 the co-conveners approved this process.

Desired Outcomes

- A youth ministry that is **robust, flexible,** and **diverse.**
- Denominational youth work that focuses on **servicing local congregations.**
- An **authority structure** that respects the rightful role of institutional youth and adult leadership at the same time that it supports the **growth and empowerment of all UU youth.**
- **Anti-racism and anti-oppression** work infused within every part of youth ministry, while recognizing that there is not necessarily one way of doing it, and the “right” way **depends on individual identities.**
- **Effective communication** within, between and among continental, district, local, congregational and organizational levels.

Process Goals

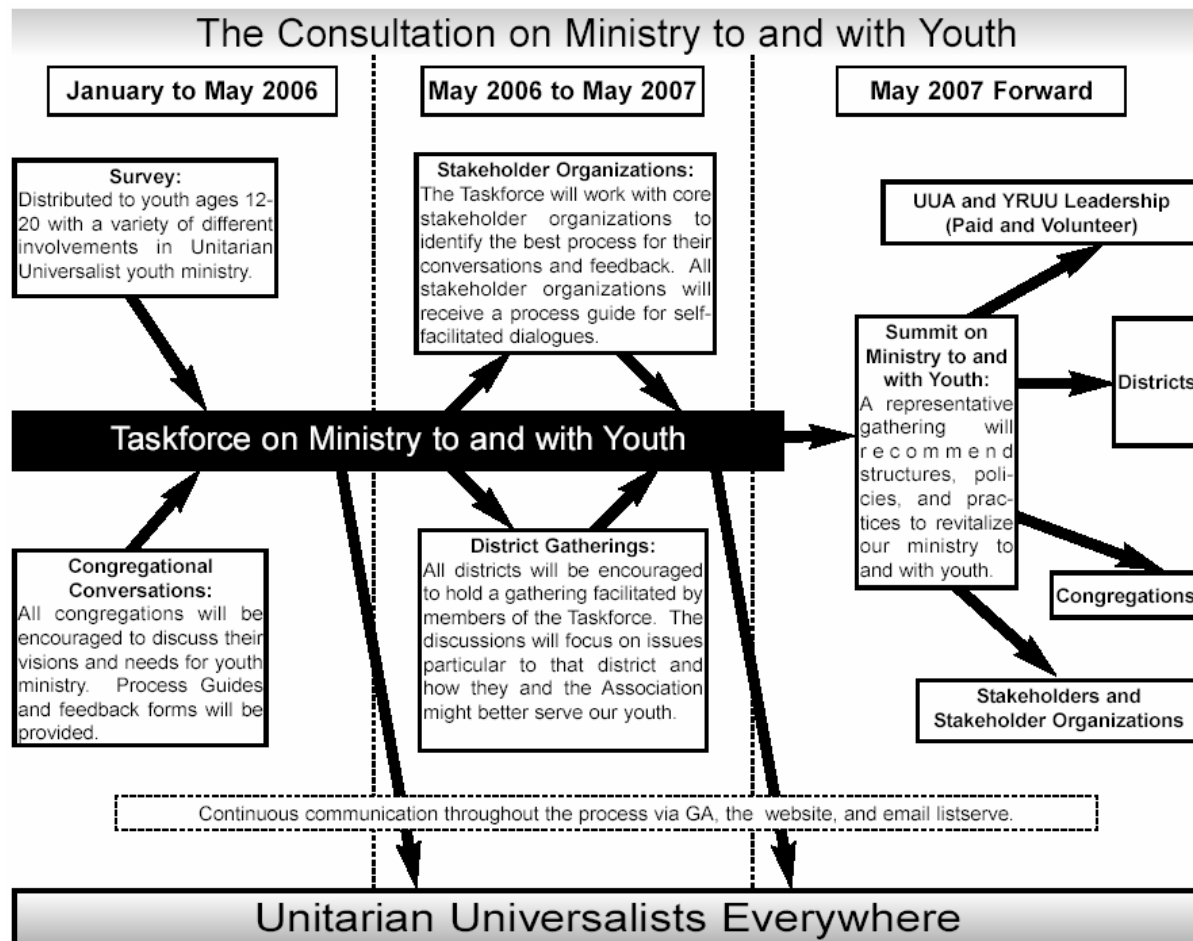
For the Consultation to be successful it must be measured against and meet the goals of timeliness, youth empowerment, financial viability, anti-racism/anti-oppression, transparency, collaboration and inclusiveness. The Consultation will take wisdom from the Common Ground gatherings of the early 1980s (which founded YRUU), as well as the visions of YRUU youth in recent years. It will effectively use the skills and knowledge of UUA staff, and will use General Assembly as a resource. There will be an ongoing evaluation of the process.

Taskforce on Ministry to and with Youth

- Co-Conveners: **Bill Sinkford** (UUA President) and **Megan Dowdell** (UUA Board Youth Trustee At-Large 2003-2005)
- **Jesse Jaeger** (Youth Programs Director, UUA)
- **Beth Dana** (Youth Ministry Associate, UUA)
- **Judith Frediani** (Director of Lifespan Faith Development, UUA)
- **Julian Sharp** (UUA Board Youth Trustee At-Large 2005-2007)
- **Sara Eskrich** (non-YRUU youth)
- **Jova Vargas and Ian Moore** (YRUU youth)
- **Tom Rylett** (CUC youth)
- **Hannah Stampe** (GLBPTQQI youth)
- **Rachel Davis and Homer Karvonides** (DRUUMM youth)
- **Tera Little** (District Staff and LREDA) and **Rev. Shana Goodwin** (Minister)

The Charge of the Taskforce:

- Implement and evaluate the process.
- Review the process guides created by staff.
- Select and work with additional consultants.
- Facilitate the process in districts and core stakeholder organizations, and be consultants for congregations.
- Prepare and publish reports from the congregational, district and stakeholder gatherings.
- Work to create buy-in from all stakeholders.



How to Get Involved

The Consultation will engage the widest possible spectrum of stakeholders – youth and youth organizations, congregational professional leadership, congregational lay leadership, parents, UUA staff, UUA affiliate organizations, UUA volunteer leadership, and the Canadian Unitarian Council. In January and February 2006 youth with many levels and types of involvement will have the opportunity to complete a survey about UU youth ministry, the results of which will be posted on the UUA.org

website, included in reports at General Assembly, and will inform the rest of the process. In April and May 2006 congregations are being asked to hold intergenerational congregational conversations about their youth ministry. These gatherings are a space for visioning, strategizing, and reflection on the current state and the possibilities for youth ministry. Taskforce members will also begin contacting districts and stakeholder organizations to engage their leadership in this exciting process.

TIMELINE

January and February 2006: Survey

The Consultation will begin with a survey administered to youth ages 12-20, asking them about their involvement and experiences with UU youth ministry. All results from the survey will be shared in reports available to all Unitarian Universalists, and will inform the subsequent conversations. If you would like a copy of the survey to complete or distribute, please send your name and address to Beth Dana at bdana@uua.org.

April and May 2006: Congregational Conversations

If your congregation's youth and adult leadership are interested in holding a congregational conversation, please let us know! Contact Beth Dana at bdana@uua.org.

June 2006-May 2007: Stakeholder Organizations

A stakeholder is one who should have a voice in the creation of a new ministry to and with youth because they are or will be affected by the outcome, they should be invested in the outcome, and we need their buy-in.

Core stakeholder organizations include:

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, Youth Advisors Network, Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Liberal Religious Educators Association, Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries, Interweave, Canadian Unitarian Council, and District Staff.

September 2006-May 2007: District Gatherings

July 2007:

Summit on Ministry to and with Youth