



## **Ohio-Meadville District Congregational Conversation Results**

This fact sheet includes basic information and some of the issues, problems and solutions, which **Ohio-Meadville District** congregations discussed in their congregational conversations.

***Do these results match what you would expect from other congregations in your district? What would you expect to be different?***

### **The Basics**

- Six (6) congregations in the **Ohio-Meadville District** returned report forms.
- One (1) was a **small** congregation; two (2) were **mid-size** congregations; two (2) were **large** congregations; one (1) conversation was held for a **cluster** of congregations.
- Almost all the congregations who participated in these conversations are **Welcoming Congregations**.

### **Intergenerational Community Relations**

- One congregation said they have “committed adults and youth that maintain and support our program.”
- One congregation said youth experienced “**isolation** from larger church community.”

### **Mission, Vision and Priorities**

- One congregation said they had “**commitment of youth**” and a “current **intergenerational focus**”.
- One congregation said the “**prioritization of time**” was a restraining force of their youth ministry.

### **Curriculum, Resources and Transitional Age Youth**

- One congregation said youth have a “**safe place** to experience challenging programming, try new things, lead and follow.”
- Two (2) congregations had **paid youth advisors** who work **15 hours/week**.
- One congregation said they had a “**variety of options** available to youth to participate (Sunday school, youth group, district cons).”



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### Leadership Development and Opportunities for Practice

- One congregation has a position for youth on the **Board of Trustees**.
- Three congregations mentioned that social justice work in their congregation gave youth an **opportunity to lead**.

### What strategies did Ohio-Meadville District congregations come up with to address their challenges?

- Four congregations decided to create opportunities for youth to participate in worship services. One of these congregations decided to have youth "**participate in worship to 'educate' congregation**" as a result of their congregation.
- Five (5) congregations decided to improve **communication** and the **scheduling** process to include youth and adults.
- One congregation decided to increase their **outreach to youth** by providing mentors, reaching out to parents, and encouraging youth membership.
- Three congregations decided to create positions for **youth on committees**. One of these congregations wants to erase assumptions about what youth can do and are interested in doing by opening more opportunities for youth to be in visible leadership positions.
- **Raise money** for youth group **activities** and to increase the quality of the **youth space**
- Learn from other youth groups and organize **cluster** events
- Submit a proposal to create a **paid staff position** for youth ministry
- Reconstitute congregational **Youth-Adult Committee**
- Encourage the **development of denominational materials** for good youth ministry
- Define **purpose, roles, responsibilities** for their youth ministry; help youth and advisors identify their **shared focus**
- Provide a **variety of entry points** into youth ministry at the congregational level
- Strengthen programs for youth at **transitional** ages
- Address **diversity** and issues of being **welcoming and open**
- Try to make church more of a time **priority** in youth's lives