



Youth Ministry Discussion Guide for Chapter Meetings of Religious Professionals

This is a resource for dialoguing with your colleagues about ministry with youth in our Unitarian Universalist congregations. The questions below are meant to spark reflection and discussion.

Opening

Open with a chalice lighting and reading or song.

Provide an opportunity for reflection with a silent meditation. Ask your colleagues to think about: What was it like to be a youth? What place did you or could you have had in a spiritual community?

Presentation

Use the resources and Power Point presentations available online to share some data from the youth survey and congregational conversations held in 2006.

Discussion

Depending on the size of the group, this conversation can take place as a whole group or in small groups. Refer to the Stakeholder Process Guide (www.uua.org/trus/youth/processguides.html) for process suggestions.

Reflect on and discuss the following questions:

1. Why do we do youth ministry?
2. What is the theological grounding for our youth ministry (historical and current)?
3. How does your congregation do ministry with youth?
4. What would a vibrant and nurturing ministry with ALL of our youth look like?
5. How would your congregation look different if it had a stronger ministry with youth?
 - a. What would Sunday morning be like?
 - b. How would worship services be different?
 - c. What would faith development and religious education be like?
 - d. What would be the connection to the community around you?
6. How can we engage younger youth so that they remain Unitarian Universalists as older youth?
7. How can we engage youth so that they remain Unitarian Universalists as adults?

Closing

Thank your colleagues for having this discussion. These are the types of things that the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth encourages discussion of and action on.

Go around, asking each person to share one thing they will do differently in their congregation as a result of this conversation.

For more information and resources about the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth, visit <http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth>.