



Pacific Southwest District Congregational Conversation Results

This fact sheet includes basic information and some of the issues, problems and solutions, which **Pacific Southwest 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 **Pacific Southwest District** returned report forms.
- One is a **small** congregation; four (4) are **mid-size** congregations; and one is a **large** congregation.
- All but one of the congregations who participated in these conversations are **Welcoming Congregations**.

Intergenerational Community Relations

One congregation said it had a "**strong functioning youth group**" and another mentioned that it had "**youthful**" leaders.

Three (3) congregations mentioned that youth were **not integrated** in the congregation:

- "no connection with other adults in congregation"
- "**separate** programming"
- "**inadequate community building** that reduces integration of full lifespan participation and increases apathy of congregation"

Three (3) congregations decided to hold additional **forums** for the whole congregation to discuss youth ministry.

Three (3) congregations decided to increase their **intergenerational activities**:

- "intergenerational **social action** projects"
- "create a culture of more opportunities for youth to connect and interact in all aspects of [congregation] and for non-parent adults to interact with youth"



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Curriculum, Resources and Transitional Age Youth

All six (6) congregations have a **youth group**; two (2) have a **Youth Adult Committee**. Five (5) congregations have **advisors** and one advisor is **paid**.

One congregation celebrated a "**strong, seamless lifespan RE program** – no gaps in program from childhood through adulthood."

Two (2) congregations mentioned that **OWL** was a strong part of their youth programming.

One congregation mentioned that they did not have "programs for **college and high school**." Another congregation decided to create "different groupings for youth classes" to solve the problem of "**too wide range of maturity**" in their youth community.

Another congregation decided to "allow youth to decide on future activities within their group" and "**defined leadership for middle school**."

Leadership Development and Opportunities for Practice

- One congregation has a position for a **youth on their Board of Trustees**. As a result of their discussion, another congregation decided to **create a youth representative position** on their Board.
- One congregation said they have "**no institutionalized youth voice**" and youth experience "**isolation** from the rest of the congregation."
- Three (3) congregations decided to invite **youth to join committees**. Two (2) decided to create an **advisory committee** for their youth ministry.
- One congregation decided to get a "**paid youth director**" in order to offer "**youth access to governance structure**."

Serving the Spiritual Needs of Youth

- One congregation says the "**UU principles**" promote the success of their youth ministry.
- One congregation said they have "**little or no youth participation** in adult services." As a result of their conversation, two (2) congregations decided to **encourage youth attendance** at worship services and two (2) congregations decided to have "**youth and adults plan worship together**."