



# The Role of Youth in 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 and revitalize the UUA's youth ministry. 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.

## **Why are youth important in the Consultation?**

Youth are an essential part of the Consultation, because it's all about youth! This is an opportunity to have your true needs listened to and acted on. Conversations in your congregations, districts, and UU organizations you're involved in are an important opportunity for you to dialogue with ministers, religious educators, youth advisors, congregational leadership, district leadership and organizational leadership about what *you* need. The result of the Consultation will be stronger support of and focus on youth ministry throughout Unitarian Universalism.

## **Youth can get involved in a few different ways:**

### **✓ Survey**

In January and February 2006 all youth, no matter what their level of involvement, are encouraged to participate in a youth ministry survey. This is an initial opportunity for you to express what youth ministry is and should be, which will shape the rest of the process. This survey will be available to print from the website, and will also be sent to youth whose names are provided by their religious educators or youth advisors. Bring the survey to your youth group and to district youth conferences!

### **✓ Congregations**

Your congregation will receive a process guide in January 2006 advising you on how to organize a congregational conversation about your youth ministry during April or May 2006. Advocate for these conversations in your congregation, and actively participate in them as well!

### **✓ Districts**

The outcome of the survey and congregational conversations will guide and focus the district conversations, which will happen during the 2006-2007 church year. This is an opportunity for youth to dialogue with district leadership (youth and adult) about youth ministry on the congregational, district, and continental levels with a focus on supporting congregational programs. These gatherings will be facilitated by youth and adult members of the Taskforce on Ministry to and with Youth.

### **✓ Stakeholder Organizations**

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) has been identified as a core stakeholder in youth ministry. During the 06-07 year, district and continental YRUU leadership will have the opportunity to participate in a discussion of how YRUU can strengthen its youth ministry. A youth-adult pair from the Taskforce will work with YRUU leaders to design and facilitate this process.

**Questions or Feedback?** – Contact Beth Dana, UUA Youth Ministry Associate at (617) 948-4352 or Jesse Jaeger, UUA Youth Programs Director at (617) 948-4359. For more information to go: <http://www.uua.org/trus/youth>.