



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF  
CONGREGATIONS



**Youth:** Please complete this survey about your experiences with UU youth ministry and programs.

**Adults:** Please copy and distribute this survey to youth you know.

### **Greetings Unitarian Universalist Youth,**

Here it is, the Consultation on Ministry to and With Youth's "Unitarian Universalist Youth Ministry Survey"! You are receiving a copy of this survey because either: 1) you requested one, 2) your Youth Advisor or Director of Religious Education gave us your name, or 3) you are or have been involved in Unitarian Universalist youth programs.

#### **What is the Consultation on Ministry to and With Youth?**

The Consultation on Ministry to and With Youth is a two-year process to dialogue and strategize about what UU youth ministry and programs are currently, and how they can be strengthened. The process involves individuals and communities throughout the UUA. This process came out of a multiple-year dialogue between youth leadership in Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and the UUA Board of Trustees' decision in October 2004 to convene the Consultation. The Board chose UUA President Rev. William Sinkford and Former Youth Trustee Megan Dowdell as the co-conveners. This process is also being implemented and supported by a 15-member taskforce of youth and adults (see the photo above) and Beth Dana, Youth Ministry Associate in the UUA's Youth Office.

#### **Why should you take this survey?**

This survey is the first step in this process, and we're hoping to get as a large of a response as possible. The voice of youth like you – YRUU youth, local congregational youth not involved in youth programs, and youth who have left the denomination – is critical to the success of this process. We want to hear from all of you about what draws you in to Unitarian Universalism, what keeps you here, and why some of you haven't found what you need so that we can strengthen ministry and programs for future generations of youth. Please return your completed surveys to the address or fax number printed on the survey.

For more information about the Consultation you can visit the website: <http://www.uua.org/TRUS/youth>.

In Faith,

The Taskforce on Ministry to and With Youth

# UU Youth Ministry Survey

We ask that you spend around fifteen minutes answering our questions. There is no need to tell us your name. When you have completed the survey, please fax to Veronica Newman at 317-635-9641 or mail it to the address on the last page. Thanks very much for your time and input.

For each question, please mark the circle that comes closest to how you *personally* feel about what the item says. We need *your own* opinions. For example, if you strongly agree that the Indiana Pacers are having a great year, you would mark the circle under “Strongly Agree.” If you are not sure how you feel about a statement, mark the circle under “Don’t Know.” You may use X’s, /’s, or color in the circle that best shows your answer.

EXAMPLE:	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neutral	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don’t Know
The Indiana Pacers are having a great year.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**The first section of this survey is about you and your family association with the UU denomination.**

**1. How long have you considered yourself a Unitarian Universalist?**

Less than a year

1 – 3 years

4 – 6 years

7 – 10 years

More than 10 years

Don’t consider myself a Unitarian Universalist any more

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**2. Besides a congregation, with what Unitarian Universalist organizations are you affiliated? Please check all that apply.**

Canadian Unitarian Council

DRUUMM

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)

Continental UU Young Adult Network

Interweave

Latino/a UU Networking Association

UU Camp and Conference Centers (e.g. Ferry Beach, Star Island, Unistar, Unirondack)

UU Women’s Federation

White Allies

Other

I don’t know what these organizations are.

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**3. Do you currently attend religious education or worship services at a Unitarian Universalist congregation?**

Yes

No

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**4. Do other members of your family go to a Unitarian Universalist congregation?**

Yes

No

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**5. Does your congregation allow youth your age to join the membership?**

Yes

No – **SKIP TO Q7**

Don’t Know – **SKIP TO Q7**

**6. If eligible, have you joined the congregation?**

Yes

Yes, but no longer consider myself a member

No

No, I have not met other requirements.

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**7. Which of the following best describes your experience with religious education (RE) and youth groups for 12 – 18-year-olds at your Unitarian Universalist congregation?**

I stopped going to RE even though I am still the right age to attend – **CONTINUE TO Q8**

I stopped going to a youth group even though I’m still the right age to attend. – **CONTINUE TO Q8**

I am in the RE program for 12 – 18-year-olds at my congregation (This includes Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives (OWL)) – **SKIP TO Q9**

I used to be in RE for 12 – 18-year-olds but I am too old for the program now – **SKIP TO Q9**

Our congregation doesn’t offer an RE program – **SKIP TO Q9**

I go to youth group AND to RE – **SKIP TO Q9**

I go to a youth group INSTEAD of RE. – **SKIP TO Q9**

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**8. Which of the following describes why you no longer go to an RE program or youth group for 12 – 18-year-olds, even though you are the right age to attend? Please mark all that apply.**

I didn’t like other youth in the RE program/ youth group

I got too busy with other activities to attend RE/ youth group

The program didn’t answer my interest in social action

The program didn’t address my interest in spirituality

I started attending worship services instead of RE/ youth group

Other reasons:





**20. Do you participate in your district/regional youth programs?**

- Yes
- No – **SKIP TO Q26**

**21. How much are you involved in district/regional youth programming?**

- Attend one event each year
- Attend two or more events per year

**22. Are you, or have you been, an officer, leader, or representative in the district/regional program?**

- Yes
- No

**23. Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your district/regional youth programming.**

Strongly Agree    Somewhat Agree    Not Sure    Somewhat Disagree    Strongly Disagree    Not Applicable

The programming places a priority on the issues that are important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel like I belong when I am with other group participants.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming gives me opportunities to learn new things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming gives me opportunities to address significant social issues like racism and oppression.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants are welcoming and friendly.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants respect and value my opinions/ experiences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming helps me explore options and suggestions on how to deal with life situations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants value my opinions and experiences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants place a lot of pressure on people to have the same attitudes and beliefs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming helps meet my spiritual needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My experiences in this program make me a better person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming provides opportunities for me to develop and practice leadership skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should be separate district/regional programming for youth ages 12-13 and youth ages 14-20.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**24. How do you usually find out about district/regional youth events or activities? Please mark all that apply.**

**25. Which of these communications methods is the best way to keep you informed about district/regional youth events and activities? Please mark only one.**

District/regional newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
District/regional mailing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
District/regional website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information posted on bulletin board at my congregation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Email announcements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Listserv postings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
RE director	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minister	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth group advisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
District youth leaders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends in your own or other congregations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Congregation bulletin or newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**26. Do you participate in continental youth programs?**

- Yes
- No – **SKIP TO Q32**

**27. How much are you involved in continental youth programming?**

- Attend one continental event each year
- Attend two or more continental events per year

**28. Are you an officer, leader, or representative in the continental program?**

- Yes
- No

<b>29. Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about continental youth programming.</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
The programming places a priority on the issues that are important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel like I belong when I am with other program participants.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming gives me opportunities to learn new things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming gives me opportunities to address significant social issues like racism and oppression.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants are welcoming and friendly.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants respect my opinions and experiences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming helps me explore options and suggestions on how to deal with life situations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants value my opinions and experiences.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program participants place a lot of pressure on people to have the same attitudes and beliefs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming helps meet my spiritual needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My experiences in the program make me a better person.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The programming provides opportunities for me to develop and practice leadership skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There should be separate continental programming for youth ages 12-13 and youth ages 14-20.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It costs too much for me to regularly attend continental youth programs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<b>30. How do you usually find out about continental youth events or activities? Please mark all that apply.</b>	<b>31. Which of these communications methods is the best way to keep you informed about continental youth events and activities? Please mark only one.</b>
District/regional newsletter	<input type="radio"/>
District/regional mailing	<input type="radio"/>
District/regional website	<input type="radio"/>
Information posted on bulletin board at my congregation	<input type="radio"/>
Email announcements	<input type="radio"/>
Listserv postings	<input type="radio"/>
RE director	<input type="radio"/>
Minister	<input type="radio"/>
Youth group advisor	<input type="radio"/>
District youth leaders	<input type="radio"/>
Friends in your own or other congregations	<input type="radio"/>
Congregation bulletin or newsletter	<input type="radio"/>
YRUU website	<input type="radio"/>
Synapse, YRUU's quarterly information and energy exchange publication	<input type="radio"/>
YRUU district /regional youth representative	<input type="radio"/>

**32. For you, what would a "good" youth ministry program be like? Some things to think about in answering this question: Who would belong? How would it be organized to effectively connect youth in congregations, districts, and continentally? What would be the priorities of its members? Feel free to attach an additional page to the survey if you need more space.**

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These last few questions are to help us group your answers in a meaningful way with those of other youth who answer the survey. Since many of us have developed our own ways of describing ourselves, this survey may not exactly capture your self-descriptions. However, on each question, please mark the answer that best or most closely represents your background. Your own answers will be kept private.

**33. How old are you?**

Years Old (record actual years):

**34. Do you consider yourself Latino/a or Hispanic?**

*We ask this question separately because Latino/a and Hispanic people can be of any race. Race is different from origin. For example, the baseball player Sammy Sosa is a Black person of Latino origin and the late musician Jerry Garcia was a White person of Latino origin.*

Yes   
 No

**35. How do you describe yourself?**

American Indian or Alaska Native   
 Asian   
 Black or African American   
 Biracial or multiracial   
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander   
 White or Caucasian   
 Other

**36. Were you adopted?**

Yes   
 No – **SKIP Q38**

**37. Are you of a different race than your adoptive parents?**

Yes   
 No

**38. What is your sexual or affectional orientation? Do you consider yourself...**

Bisexual   
 Gay   
 Heterosexual   
 Lesbian   
 Pansexual   
 Queer   
 Transgender   
 Questioning

**39. What is your gender?**

Female   
 Genderqueer   
 Male   
 Transgender   
 Other – Please Specify:

**40. Which of the following best describes the family you live with?**

I live with two parents   
 I live with my mother   
 I live with my father   
 Sometimes I live with my mother and sometimes with my father   
 I live with another relative   
 I live away from home at a boarding school, college, or university   
 I live by myself but am not currently attending school   
 I live in other circumstances

**41. Please write down the city and state/ province in which you live. We will use this to identify the district or region in which you live.**

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our survey. For a chance to win the following prizes feel free to complete the information on the following page. Your survey responses will remain confidential and your contact information will be used for the prize drawing only.

- One of 100 T-shirts that will be given to the first 100 respondents who complete the survey.
- One of two \$100 gift certificates to the UUA bookstore
- A chance to win a 2GB iPod Nano (Retail Value: \$US 199)

On behalf of the Taskforce on Ministry to and with Youth, we appreciate your time and opinions.