



Inaugural Edition

December 3, 2008

Youth Ministries Updates

www.uua.org/youth

This newsletter seeks to provide the latest information on the ongoing Youth Ministry Implementation Process as well as other important updates and opportunities for youth. This combines the previous Implementation Updates with other UU youth-related news. It will be published by the Youth Ministry Office at the UUA on a monthly basis during this interim year.

Youth Ministry Working Group

As Winter approaches, there is much to update regarding Unitarian Universalist Youth Ministry. Updates from the summer and fall can be found on page two of this newsletter.

The Youth Ministry Working Group met October 3rd through 5th in Waltham, MA to welcome new members (see next page) and continue conversations about the future of Unitarian Universalist Youth Ministry. The Youth Ministry Working Group is charged with making recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Administration based on the Youth Ministry Consultation and Summit. The Working Group will meet twice more in order to finalize those recommendations in time for the April 2009 Board Meeting. These recommendations will also be shared at the 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

One topic of conversation was the strides already made in response to the Summit recommendations, including the hire of a Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color (see Staff Additions, next page).

A substantial discussion was also had about the age range for youth ministry. More detailed information about this and the rest of the content of the meeting will be made available at uua.org/youth in the near future.

The next meeting of the Youth Ministry Working Group will be held January 9-10, 2009 in Boston, MA.

Youth Office Seeking Intern

If you're a youth age 14-18 in the Boston area, the Youth Ministry Office is looking for you! The Office is currently searching for a youth intern for 5-15 hours per week. The intern will receive a stipend of \$400-\$700 depending on the number of hours worked as well as up to \$200 toward the registration fee for one UU-conference in 2009. The intern will choose a project of personal interest to complete as well as take on a variety of office tasks. Applications are due December 15th. For more information, please contact youth@uua.org or see www.uua.org/youth for an application.

Website Updates

The Youth Ministry Office is currently restructuring Youth Ministry content on uua.org. Please visit us at www.uua.org/youth for resources, events, and the latest updates on our office as well as the ongoing transitions in Youth Ministry.

UUSC Human Rights Youth Photo Contest

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is sponsoring a Human Rights photo contest for youth ages 12-18. Participants are asked to choose an article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that relates to one of UUSC's four main focus areas: Civil Liberties, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice and Rights in Humanitarian Crises. Photos submitted should explore the participants chosen article. A "best overall" photo and two honorable mentions will be chosen for each of the four categories. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2009. For more information, please visit: www.uusc.org/content/uusc_udhr_60th_anniversary_youth_photo_contest



Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color

The Youth Ministry Office, along with the Office of Young Adult Ministries, is excited to announce and welcome the Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings as our new Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color. She will be in this position part-time until early February when she will begin full-time hours offsite. Her position is housed within Lifespan Faith Development and the Youth Ministry Office, but she will also work with the Young Adult Ministries Office. Rev. Dr. Cummings is currently serving our congregation at First Church Unitarian in Los Angeles and received her Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling and her Master of Divinity degree from the Claremont School of Theology.

You can learn more about Monica and the rest of the Youth Ministry staff at www.uua.org/youth.

From the Advocacy and Witness Staff Group:

December Action of the Month: Pictures of Peace

Throughout the month of December and into 2009, Unitarian Universalist congregations across the United States are invited create pictures of peace in intergenerational arts and crafts time. Congregations are encouraged to hand-deliver the pictures to their elected official's local office. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is currently exploring what UU peacemaking looks like. Congregations are urged to read and discuss the rough draft for the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking.

This year, the Commission on Social Witness requires at least 25% of UU congregations approve of the Statement of Conscience being voted upon by the General Assembly. Your congregational feedback helps us reach that crucial goal.

For more information on the project along with resources on how to organize an in-district lobby visit and UU peacemaking, please visit:
<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/actioncenter/121437.shtml>

Recap: Summer and Fall 2008

As you may know, this past June, the General Assembly passed the Youth and Young Adult Empowerment Resolution, which urged the Unitarian Universalist Association, its congregations and district structures to:

- invite ministerial support to youth and young adults through inclusive worship and intentional presence;
- invest financial support in youth and young adult leadership bodies and programs when viable;
- provide support for youth and young adult staff and volunteers to receive suitable training and resources, including self-directed anti-racism and anti-oppression trainings; and
- attend to the needs of youth and young adult constituents with marginalized identities by providing resources and opportunities within the congregation and at the district and Association levels.

A related responsive resolution was also passed requesting annual reporting from congregations, districts and the Unitarian Universalist Association's Administration on "their planning, implementation, results and recommendations on each of the four points."

Please stay tuned for information on the reporting mechanism for congregations.

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In September, President Sinkford issued an open letter about the ongoing transitions in Youth Ministry, noting in particular the addition of members to the Working Group:

"Based on feedback from the UU youth community and other key stakeholders last spring, we have worked over the summer to enhance the voice of youth on the Youth Ministry Working Group (YMWG). I am delighted to announce that six youth and two youth advisor positions have been added to the group, bringing the total representation to ten youth, two youth advisors, and eight other adults (including young adults)."

The letter also addressed questions regarding YRUU, and confirmed that key Youth Ministry Office services such as Chrysalis and GA Youth Caucus were continuing during this interim year. President Sinkford also noted that YRUU's 25 year history would be celebrated at the 2009 General Assembly.

The full text of President Sinkford's letter can be found at www.uua.org/youth.