Youth Leadership Overview

Board of Trustees Meeting – April 10, 2014

Carey McDonald, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director
What is youth leadership?

- Youth is defined as high school aged, or the equivalent for other school settings.
- Focus of 2.13.8 policy – “The President shall not… operate without ensuring that youth leadership is integrated within our Association at all levels.”
- Leadership is a core aspect of youth ministry.
- Leadership is shared between youth and adults, and this understanding has evolved over time.
Spectrum of Shared Leadership

Youth / Adult Shared Leadership

Level or Amount of Leadership

Adult Leadership

Youth Leadership

Growth in Maturity, Development, Leadership Capacity
Background of UUA youth leadership

• 2005-07 – Consultation on Youth Ministry
  – Taskforce convenes (2005)
  – Surveys, local conversations (2006)
  – Summit (2007)
• 2008 – YRUU Steering Committee ends
• 2008 – Youth and Young Adult Empowerment Resolution
• 2008-09 – Youth Ministry Working Group
• 2009 – Mosaic Project for youth and young adults of color
• 2009-now – New, networked approach to youth leadership
UUA youth leadership today

- Reflects the 2005-09 re-envisioning process which called for dynamic, multicultural, multigenerational and inclusive youth ministry
- Emphasis on congregational youth ministry

- New youth leadership opportunities
  - Enhanced Youth Caucus staff
  - Multicultural Leadership School
  - Expanded Goldmine summer leadership schools
  - Youth Justice Trainings (UUCSJ)
  - Summer Seminary
- Luminary Leaders youth leadership recognition program
Youth Leadership - pre-2008

YRUU Continental

- District YAC
  - Congregations
- District YAC
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  - Congregations
Youth Leadership - today

In 2013, estimated 800 UU youth participated in leadership experiences.
Generational trends

Millennials: Unmoored from Institutions

Percent who consider themselves political independents

Percent of adults in each generation who are religiously unaffiliated

- Millennial (ages 18-33*)
- Gen X (34-49)
- Boomer (50-68)
- Silent (69-86)
Generational trends

Recent Trends in Affiliation, by Generation

% of each age cohort that is unaffiliated

- Younger Millennials (born 1990-1994)
- Older Millennials (born 1981-1989)
- Gen Xers (born 1965-1980)
- Boomers (born 1946-1964)
- Silent (born 1928-1945)
- Greatest (born 1913-1927)

2007 - 2012
Mission: Develop leaders that create transformational Unitarian Universalist faith homes for younger generations

Key strategies

• Communicate our vision
• Build networks of leaders
• Help accelerate new approaches

Carey, Jeremie, Annie, Ted and Deborah
Communicating our vision

- Blue Boat blog
- Social media
- Learning experiences
  - Workshops
  - Presentations
  - Webinars
- Direct consultations with congregations (field staff collaboration)
Building networks of leaders

- Youth leadership
  - Luminary Leaders
  - Summer Seminary
  - GA Youth Caucus
  - Chrysalis Trainings
  - UUA Boards and Committees

- Youth ministry professionals network
  - Also, partner with LREDA and UUMA

- Young adult and campus ministry groups contacts
  - 100 campus groups, 50 congregational young adult groups
  - Self-assessment for congregations
Help accelerate new approaches

- **Future of Faith** series of blog posts
  blueboat.blogs.uua.org/future-of-faith

- **21st Century Youth Groups** exploration project

- **Faith Architects** – Scaffold Series of conferences will build pathways to leadership for young adults (formerly C*UUYAN)

- **NextGen Ministries**
  - in program development

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The Sunday Morning Decision

*Then*: 🕍 vs. 🕍

*Now*: 🕍 vs. 🌳 🍂 🍃 🛒 🍽️ 🛏️