

Congregational History Project

A sample project for youth to do with their entire congregation. We have included which areas of the Six Pillars of Balanced Youth Ministry and the Web of Youth Ministry this project touches upon, as well as different directions the project could take.

Pillars: Learning, Leadership, Congregational Involvement

Web of Youth Ministry: Beloved Community, Covenantal Leadership, Multigenerational Relationship, Faith Exploration



Project Synopsis

Youth interview members of the congregation to create an oral history of the church. While a great project for an anniversary or other milestone in your congregation's life, this project can be done at any time. At its most basic, youth will have conversations with adults in the congregation, both individually and as groups. Interviewers may ask for stories about experiences in the congregation, beliefs, what drew someone to Unitarian Universalism or the particular congregation. You may also choose to present your results in some way.

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Possible topics:

Founding members recount the stories of the congregation's founding
Families involved in the Religious Education program
Conversations with elders about how things (and they) have changed
New members and what drew them to the congregation and Unitarian
Universalism
Or combine multiple topics above for an overarching history of the
congregation



Presentation options:

Create a photo display with pictures of the interviewees and their answers
Videotape the interviews and put together a video
Collect documents and artifacts from the church's history to enrich photo
and video displays
Create a book of stories (get permission to print/use from those
interviewed). You can bind it at a print/copy center and sell it later as a
youth group fundraiser

*Variation: Ask the adults being interviewed to then interview the
youth!*

Adapted from Youth Ministry Advising: A Complete Guide, 2012.