

Consultation and Summit on Ministry To and With Youth: Overview

Consultation History

October 2004: Board Resolution

To convene a Consultation for the purpose of reviewing the Association's vision of its ministry for and with youth

February 2005: Convocation on Youth Ministry (Essex, MA)

Created Desired outcomes and empowered Design Team to create Consultation process

April 2005: Consultation Design Team Meets

Recommended process and members of the Taskforce on Ministry to and with Youth

October 2005: Task Force first meets and begins to carry-out Consultation process

The Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth



January to May 2006

May 2006 to May 2007

May 2007 Forward

Survey
January-February 2006

Stakeholder Organizations
June 2006-May 2007

Task Force on Youth Ministry

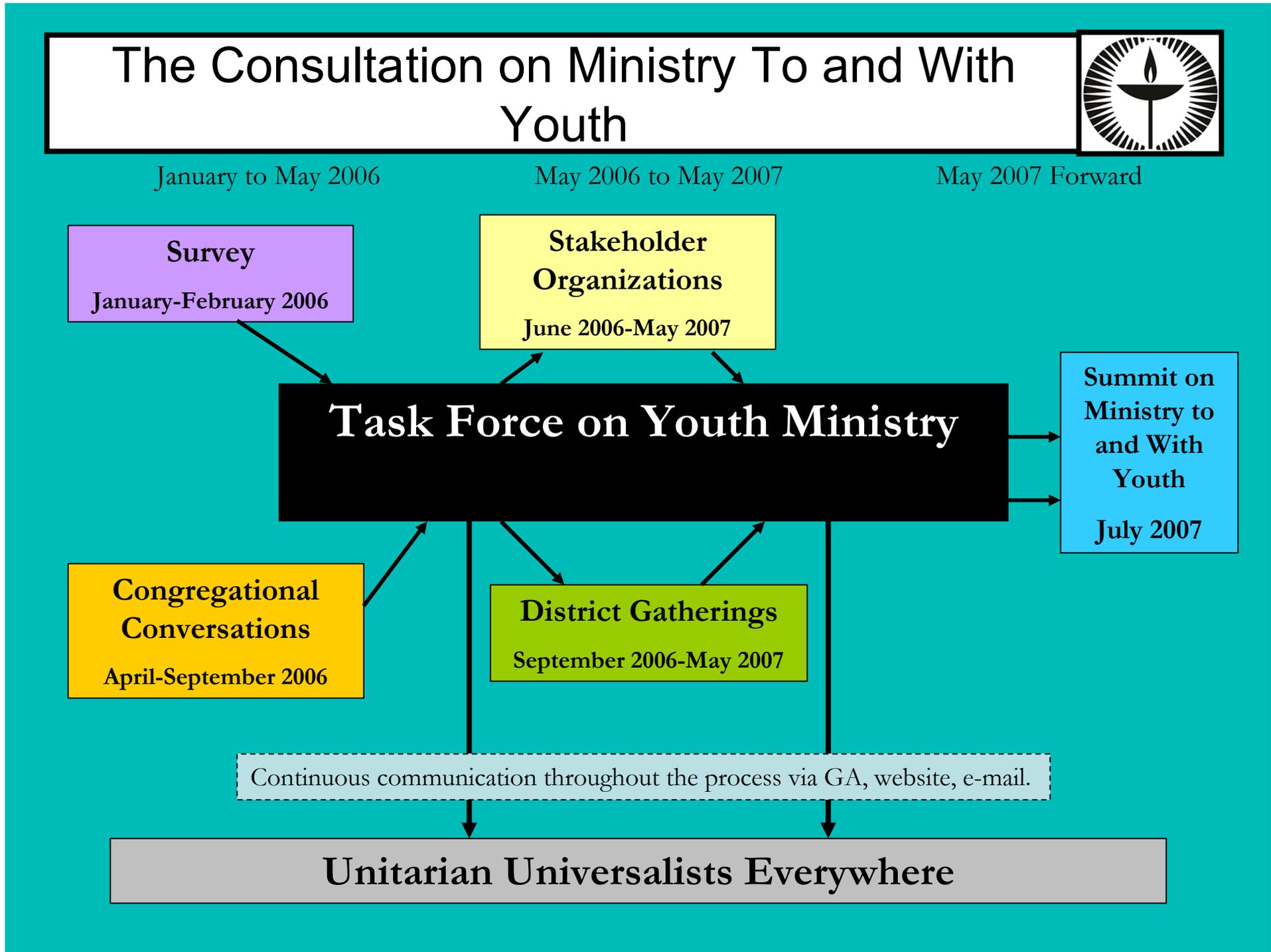
Summit on Ministry to and With Youth
July 2007

Congregational Conversations
April-September 2006

District Gatherings
September 2006-May 2007

Continuous communication throughout the process via GA, website, e-mail.

Unitarian Universalists Everywhere



Consultation Key Findings

(Summit Working Groups)

Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Youth

Welcoming All Youth in a Multicultural World

Building an Intergenerational Faith

Organizing Youth Ministry for Success (Structure)

Moving Beyond a One-Size-Fits-All Ministry

Preparing and Supporting Adults for Ministry With Youth

The Summit on Ministry to and with Youth

On July 16-20 fifty-four youth and adults (approximately half and half) gathered in Boston for the Summit on Ministry to and with Youth to imagine and shape a youth ministry that serves *all* Unitarian Universalist youth.

The past two years of studying Youth Ministry in the Consultation process brought forth particular areas to work on. Participants were grouped into these six working groups, charged with developing visions, objectives, and activities relating to the theme areas:

- Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Youth

- Welcoming All Youth in a Multicultural World

- Building a Multigenerational Faith

- Organizing Youth Ministry for Success (Structure)

- Moving Beyond a One-Size-Fits-All Ministry

- Preparing and Supporting Adults for Youth Ministry

Summit Global Vision

We envision a youth ministry that is central to the articulated mission of Unitarian Universalism, offers multiple pathways for involvement in our faith communities, and is

- congregationally based;

- multigenerational;

- spirit-centered;

- counter-oppressive, multicultural, and radically inclusive.

Youth Ministry Working Group

One of the first steps in the implementation process was the formation of the Youth Ministry Working Group.

The **charge** of the Youth Ministry Working Group is to recommend to the UUA Administration and UUA Board of Trustees a framework and strategic imagination for Unitarian Universalist youth ministry based on the findings of the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth and the recommendations of the Summit on Youth Ministry.

Youth Ministry Working Group

Over this past year the Youth Ministry Working Group: clarified the tasks they see needing to be accomplished, prioritized the objectives and activities from the Summit on Youth Ministry and started to imagine what a new framework for Unitarian Universalist Youth Ministry might look like. To do this they laid out three organizing principles for what this new youth ministry framework. These organizing principles (in draft form) are:

- **Service Delivery:** Strengthen youth ministry in congregations by placing service delivery as close to the congregational level as possible. Focus the financial resources and staff of the UUA on developing structures at district and regional service delivery levels. These structures might include a full-time staff person in each region with relationships with congregations, district staff, youth and young adults, identity based groups, social justice groups, UUA “affiliate” groups, etc.
- **Community:** A key component of our ministry to and with youth includes building intentional and authentic relationships within multicultural and multigenerational communities of youth and between youth and the wider Unitarian Universalist population at all levels. Resources of staff, volunteer time, and money will be directed at building intentional community at the congregational, district, regional, and national levels, giving priority to community at the congregational level. Examples include congregational youth leadership training and support, district and regional gatherings, and focused national gatherings in partnership with UUA staff groups and denominational organizations such as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Allies for Racial Equity (ARE), and Interweave.
- **Voice:** Strengthen youth ministry through systemic change in Unitarian Universalist structures and culture by creating broader and more multicultural youth access to, and participation in, national, regional, district, and congregational levels of power and by providing opportunities for youth to develop and express a collective youth voice on issues that concern them. Embedding a youth voice in existing Associational structures of decision making is an intentional change from the current isolation of a youth voice in a separate organization.

Implementation

As for implementation of this new vision for youth ministry, objectives and activities, the Summit on Youth Ministry report offers some helpful insight:

“The Summit visions and recommendations call for broad cultural change at all levels of our Association. This type of change takes time and requires the involvement of numerous stakeholders. For this new imagination of Unitarian Universalist youth ministry to become a reality, professional and lay leaders from across the Association will need to carefully review this report and the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth Summary Report and act on the recommendations they have the most power to enact.

One of the most radical assertions of the Consultation process has been that youth ministry is the responsibility of all Unitarian Universalists. We can begin now by offering our time and talent to the creation of this new youth ministry.”