Inclusive Youth Group Dynamics

UUA Webinar / February 2017
Presenters

Natalie Briscoe, Congregational Life Consultant, Southern Region

Eric Bliss, Youth Ministry Specialist, Pacific Western Region

Larissa Hunt, Summer Seminary Graduate, former Youth Adult Committee Member in the Mountain Desert District
UUA Youth Ministry Core Values

- Spirit / Faith Centered
- Congregationally Based
- Justice focused and Multi-culturally Competent
- Youth Voice
- Community Building
Youth Ministry Competencies

• (1) Able to form healthy relationships and share leadership with youth
• (2) Create a safe(r) youth program
• (3) Pastoral care and interventions
• (4) Inclusive youth ministry
• (5) Skilled communication
• (6) Models of youth programming
• (7) Develops in self-knowledge and presence
• (8) Able to function on a team
The Youth Ministry Roundtable

Youth & Young Adult Ministries & Congregational Life Staff.

Angela Kelly UUCSJ
Nancy Combs-Morgan MidAmerica
Eric Bliss Pacific Western
Bart Frost YaYA Office
Elizabeth Nguyen YaYA Office
Kim Sweeney New England
Evan Carvill-Ziemer Central East
Jennica Davis-Hockett YaYA Office
Natalie Briscoe Southern
Shannon Harper Central East
Chalice Lighting
Check In

• Who’s in our virtual space?
Centering Exercise
Overview: Healthy Youth Group Dynamics
Adolescent Development

A Few Perspectives:

Cognitive Development
Emotional Development
Social Development
Faith Development

Misconceptions about Adolescence
Multiple Learning Styles
What are the different styles?

**Learning Styles:**

1. Visual-
2. Aural-
3. Verbal-
4. Physical (kinesthetic)-
5. Logical-
6. Social-
7. Solitary-
Teaching to Multiple Learning Styles

- Why use these styles?
- Including the styles in lessons
Covenant
Approaches to Covenanting
Methods of Covenanting: An Aspirational Approach
Aspirational Covenant

- How do I want to treat myself?
- How do I want to treat others?
- How will I communicate?
- How do I want to treat my environment?
- How will I live my Unitarian Universalist faith?
- How do I become a person that others can count on?
- What sacrifices am I willing to make in the name of the good of the community?
- How will I make amends?
Safety in Intergenerational Settings

The Power Differential
Advocating for Youth
Boundaries
Listening and Sharing
Modeling
Steps to Community Building
Deep Fun

- Bonding
- Opening Up
- Affirming
- Stretching
- Deeper Sharing / Goal Setting
Small Group Development Model
Experiential Education

• “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” - Benjamin Franklin
Inclusivity

Dismantling Cliques

Offering Common Experience

Faithful Community: Covenants

Creating Inclusive Behavioral Norms: “One Assumption” Communities

Teaching and Modeling “Active Inclusion”
Group Dynamics

Centering Youth Voices
Centering Marginalized Voices
Concrete Methods for Calling Back
Noticing Strengths, Passions, Talents
The Balcony View

“We like to bring together people from radically different fields and wait for the friction to produce heat, light and magic. Sometimes it takes a while.”
Calvin and Hobbes

How come we play war and not peace?

Too few role models.

I'll be the fearless American defender of liberty and democracy.

...and you can be the loathsome godless communist oppressor.
Invite the Heart
Invite Complexity
Restorative vs. Punitive Justice
Restorative Models and Practices
Q&A
• Learning Styles Online
• National Center for Education Statistics
• Conflict Solutions Center
• Bringing the Web to Life, Jennica Davis Hockett
• 5 Jagged Rocks of Unitarian Universalism
• Deep Fun, by Denny Rydberg
• Developmental Sequence in Small Groups, Bruce Tuckman
• UUA Safe Congregations Handbook
• Developing Adolescents, American Psychology Association
• Essential Partners
• Living a Life that Matters, Harold Kushner
• Restorative Justice Model, adapted Eric Bliss
• Youth Ministry Advising: A Complete Guide, UUA Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Next Month’s UUA Youth Ministry Webinar:

“Communication and Social Media”

Bart Frost, UUA Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director and Tim Atkins, DRE at Morristown UU Fellowship

March 14th at 8 pm EST and March 16th at 1pm EST.

Register at uua.org/ymwebinars
Closing
THANK YOU!