



Winter/Spring 2009

Youth Ministries Updates

www.uua.org/youth

Excellence in Ministry

In December, the Panel on Theological Education convened the Summit on Excellence in Ministry in Seattle. From December 10-12, representatives from a variety of groups gathered to discuss our ministries. Youth Participant Kiera Wesley, from the Pacific Northwest District, shares some of her experience:

“As a youth representative, I was honored to be invited to the Excellence in Ministry Summit. I am incredibly thankful to have had the experience. My first impression was that I was not going to be able to fit in too well with the other participants because of my age, but I was soon proved wrong by all the adults who seemed eager to hear what I had to say. In the beginning of the Summit, there was an introduction activity, where we were separated into small groups which was beneficial to my ability to be confident enough to connect to the adults at the meeting.

The format of the meeting was interesting in itself. The Open Space Technology was a conversation format that I was not familiar with, and this was a wonderful introduction to different types of discussion. I really liked Open Space because it relieved some, although not all of the pressure to be confined to one room, as well as making the conversations richer and more productive.

My favorite conversations were Session #4: The Roles of Youth and Session #5: Children are our Heart. Although the Session #4 group was small, it related most to my work in my district and the Session #5 conversation was moving because of the apparent passion for the topic displayed during discussion. I was also thrilled to come away from the meeting with an idea for a youth program, which many adults were very encouraging and helpful with. Overall I really enjoyed the meeting; it was nice to be able to connect to more adults and meet many influential figures in the UUA.”

This newsletter seeks to provide the latest information on the ongoing Youth Ministry Implementation Process as well as other updates and opportunities for youth. It is published by the Youth Ministry Office at the UUA.

Youth Ministry Working Group and Mosaic Project Reports Released!

The Unitarian Universalist Association is delighted to announce the release of two highly-anticipated reports, which together address the future of our ministries to UU young people. The Youth Ministry Working Group Report and the Mosaic Project Report, now available online, each provide concrete steps that Unitarian Universalists must take to build multigenerational, multicultural faith communities that nourish and serve members of all ages and identities in the new millennium.

The Youth Ministry Working Group's report offers a comprehensive set of recommendations for youth ministry at all levels of our Association—from the local congregation to the national headquarters staff. The goal is to create a youth ministry that is spiritually deepening, faith developing, inclusive and anti-oppressive, a ministry that provides multiple pathways for youth involvement in congregational life.

Working Group member and UUA Board of Trustees Youth Observer Nick Allen commented, “This document is a new framework for religious community. It is from the minds of many - young, old, and everywhere in between - and for the use of all. It displays the intentionality that multicultural, multigenerational ministry demands.”

You can read more about the Working Group report at <http://www.uua.org/youthministry> and more about the Mosaic Project at <http://www.uua.org/mosaic>

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Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color

Welcome to the first column for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color. This new ministry is charged with advocating for and supporting Unitarian Universalist youth and young adults who identify as people of color. One responsibility of the ministry is to create programs for leadership and identity development. Another responsibility will be to focus on anti-racism/anti-oppression/ multicultural education and systems of accountability in congregations, districts and UUA staff.

In the coming months, I will work with leadership of Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), districts and congregations to host workshops and trainings. So if you are active in your congregation or district and want to host a training or workshop please contact me. Also, if you are a UU youth who identifies as a person of color I would love to hear from you.

Living My Faith,
Rev. Monica L. Cummings D.Min.
mcummings@uua.org

Recap and Upcoming Events

In addition to the final meetings of the Youth Ministry Working Group and the preparation of the report, there have been many other youth-related happenings on the National level. Some highlights include the GA Youth Caucus Staff gathering in Salt Lake City to prepare for youth programming at General Assembly and the convening of a Social Justice Roundtable to make recommendations for youth social justice work and programs.

Coming up are the Inward Journey events for youth and young adults of color (see Right for information on the first) as well as two General Assembly Workshops focused on the Youth Ministry Working Group and Mosaic Project reports and how you can implement these recommendations in your own congregations.

Find us on Facebook!

You can join hundreds of others as a Fan of UU Youth Ministry by searching for Unitarian Universalist Youth Ministry from the Facebook homepage. Come check us out and participate on our discussion board.

An Inward Journey of Spiritual and Identity Development – a Free Event for UU Youth and Young Adults of Color

Have you ever had the thought, "How can I bring my total self to Unitarian Universalism?" The sixth principal of our Unitarian Universalist principals asks that we work towards "the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all."

If you are 15 to 30 years old and identify as a person of color (persons of Native American, Asian, Arab, Latino/a, African descent, trans-racially adopted, biracial, multiracial and international.) YOU are invited to join us in conversations and activities that will focus on identity and spiritual development in Unitarian Universalism.

Date: May 16, 2009

Time: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Place: Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair

Sponsored by the Youth and Young Adults Ministries Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

To view a flyer for this event and the registration form, please visit www.uua.org/youth and click on the News link on the left-hand side.

If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Monica L. Cummings, Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color, at 262-705-5786 or mcummings@uua.org