

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES | SEPTEMBER/2017

Youth Ministry Staff and Volunteer Start Up Guide

Your A - Z for getting started in youth ministry

7

10

Youth Ministry Staff and Volunteer Start Up Guide

INTRODUCTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTININUED READING

CURRICULA

Whatever your role in youth ministry we are so grateful that you have chosen to support our young people in their spiritual journey. The resources in this Start Up Guide will help ground you in the theology and methodology of our youth ministry and the many forms of support available to you. Depending on your level of responsibility and time commitment, you and your supervisor can decide together which of these resources will be right for you to pursue.



STAY CONNECTED	2
BACKGROUND	3
BASICS	5
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	6

STAY CONNECTED

Regional Staff Contacts

uua.org/regions

Get to know your Congregational Life staff! They're here to support you, dream with you and keep you up to date on the latest and best in youth ministry.

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Contacts

uua.org/offices/staff/mfd/yaya-ministries

The YaYA office wants to connect with you about ministry with youth and young adults of color, young adult and campus ministry, youth ministry and leadership development, fundraising, advisors and adults in youth ministry and anything else regarding healthy, vibrant youth ministry. We're here to support you, offer resources, connect you with other brilliant folks and lift up your successes.



Listservs & Social Media

http://www.uua.org/youth/adults-ministry/reach-out

Make sure you're connected to the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries through social media, connected to other religious educators through email listservs and Facebook groups and know who your primary Congregational Life contact is.

Annual Calendar and Events

uua.org/youth/events and uua.org/youth/events/calendar

Whether it's cluster conferences, national events or leadership schools, helping youth connect to our larger movement is a great investment as they will likely bring excitement and enthusiasm for their faith home.

Blue Boat Blog

uua.org/blueboat

Hosted by the Office of Youth and Young Adult (YaYA) Ministries, Blue Boat is a blog for sharing stories and successes of youth and young adult ministry, as well as discussion on issues of social justice, dismantling white supremacy, and providing resources, information, guides and best practices

for youth, young adult and on-campus groups and individuals as well as the advisors and staff who work with them.

Luminary Leaders

uua.org/luminary

Help your youth get recognized for their leadership and connected with other youth leaders across the country by encouraging them to apply for Luminary Leaders and writing a Letter of Endorsement for them. Your congregation will receive a letter of congratulations so you can publicly show your appreciation for your youth leaders.

UUCSJ

uucsj.org/

The mission of the UU College of Social Justice is to inspire and sustain effective and spiritually grounded activism for justice. If you're planning a service trip with your youth or a multigenerational service trip, they are an excellent resource.



DRUUMM

druumm.onefireplace.org/

If you are a Person of Color, become a member of Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries, a Unitarian Universalist People of Color Ministry and anti-racist collective bringing lay and religious professionals together to overcome racism through resistance and transform Unitarian Universalism through multicultural experiences. DRUUMM creates space for youth, young adults and families of color to heal and work collectively. Invite your youth and families of color to become members as well.

Allies are welcome and organized as Allies for Racial Equity. (alliesforracialequity.wildapricot.org/)

BACKGROUND

Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth

uua.org/sites/live-

new.uua.org/files/documents/yaya/consultation_summary_report_2007.pdf

After the dissolution of YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists), our UUA engaged in a multi-year process of figuring out how to meet the spiritual needs of our youth, be welcoming to all youth in a multicultural world and

24 Farnsworth Street, Boston MA 02210 | P (617) 948-4350 | E youth@uua.org

build an intergenerational faith. This process also redefined youth empowerment and youth leadership, set benchmarks for intergenerational community, and detailed how to organize youth ministry for success by moving beyond a one-size-fits-all ministry. The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth is the result of this process and essential reading for preparing and supporting adults for ministry with youth.

Mosaic Project Report

uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/idbm/mosaic/0904_report.pdf

The Mosaic Project addresses the following questions: What are the ministry needs of Youth and Young Adults of Color? How do our Unitarian Universalist institutions need to change in order to meet these needs? What structures need to be strengthened or established to support families, congregations, campus groups, districts, and continental bodies in their ministries to these youth and young adults?

How Youth Lead

uua.org/sites/live-

new.uua.org/files/documents/yaya/130207_brd_rpt_lead.pdf

Supporting the faithful leadership development of our young people is a cornerstone of the way Unitarian Universalists do youth ministry. In 2013, then Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Carey McDonald, catalogued the various opportunities for youth leadership within our association, strategies for supporting youth leadership and data on how exactly youth are leading in our association.

Summit on Youth Ministry

uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/yaya/summit_report_2007.pdf

Today, the Youth Ministry Roundtable (Congregational Life and UU College of Social Justice staff with youth ministry in their portfolio and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries) bases their theology, strategy and methodology of youth ministry off of the key foundations established in the Summit on Youth Ministry: Excellent youth ministry should be congregationally based; multigenerational; spirit-centered; and counter-oppressive, multicultural, and radically inclusive.

Safe Congregations

uua.org/safe/handbook

Our Unitarian Universalist Association has been a leader in creating both resources and recommended processes to help make congregations safe

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST and welcoming places to all. Although no policy or knowledge of the issues can absolutely guarantee safety in your congregation under all circumstances, congregations can take pro-active steps to create environments that are safe and prepared. Speak with your supervisor and ensure that you are familiar with and able to abide by your congregation's Safe Congregations policies.

BASICS

Big Picture of Youth Ministry

prezi.com/genrpwlziqia/the-big-picture-of-youth-ministry/#

From before they even become a "youth" to when they "bridge" into young adulthood, this presentation details the congregational, regional and national ways youth can engage with Unitarian Universalism, and how adults can support them.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es3NqvBxaAQ

Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen addresses ways to minister to youth and young adults of color by being real about where we are as a faith movement, asking the right questions, providing ways for youth and young adults of color to connect with each other and our faith, and do your own identity development work.

Youth Ministry Advising: A Complete Guide

uuabookstore.org/Youth-Ministry-Advising-P17246.aspx

This book covers broad-ranging topics including ways to recruit and support youth advisors, the nuts and bolts of youth group management, the role of youth in advisors creating a safe space, leadership training, and programming and project ideas.

Shared Leadership

http://www.uua.org/sites/live-

new.uua.org/files/youth_adult_shared_leadership.pdf

When it comes to leadership development for youth in our association, whether a group or project is nominally led by an adult or a group of youth,



the leadership will always be shared. The difference between these two approaches lies in the ratio of youth leadership to adult leadership.

Web of Youth Ministry

uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/yaya/web_of_yth_min.pdf

The Web of Youth Ministry is a model for considering the balance in your youth programming and includes covenantal leadership, multigenerational relationships, spiritual development, beloved community, justice making, pastoral care, faith exploration and identity formation.

Youth Ministry at its Best & Worst

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/guides/youth-ministry-its-best...and-worst

A simple infographic that explains eight principles foundational for building a youth ministry that is relational, covenantal and grounded in a deep theology.

4 Year Leadership Track

uua.org/blueboat/guides/4-year-leadership-track-youth

There are so many opportunities for youth leadership development there's no way they could do it all in one year. This infographic provides a path for youth to stay engaged over their four high school years as well as what to look forward to after they graduate.

Hub Map

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1uDluwXAUt0ja7sHp4a2SaRo Lnuo&hl=en_US&usp=sharing

As youth transition into young adulthood they may be moving to another place or looking for a different relationship to Unitarian Universalism. Show them you support the next stage of their journey by helping them find a young adult ministry in their new location.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Competencies for Ministry to and with Youth

uua.org/youth/adults-ministry/competencies

These eight vital areas of development for volunteers, staff and professionals in youth ministry embody a regional and national standard for youth ministry. Delve into each competencies by watching the Youth Ministry



Roundtable's webinar series and facilitate workshops to help your youth ministry team develop skill.

Renaissance Modules

uua.org/careers/re/renaissance

The Renaissance Program is our UUA's premier professional development program for religious educators. Each module provides standardized basic training in a specific area useful to religious educators. Many of the modules are offered online and the resources for all modules are available for your review. You do not need to join the Religious Education Credentialing Program to take "Ren Mods."

Our Whole Lives Trainings

uua.org/re/owl/trainings

Our UUA's comprehensive sexuality education program offers facilitator trainings for the middle and high school aged curriculum. Even if you will not be an OWL facilitator, the training provides excellent basics in group dynamics, difficult conversations, boundaries and self-awareness.



CONTININUED READING

Helpful Blog Posts

Why UU Youth Ministry Sucks

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/guides/why-unitarian-universalist-youth-ministry-sucks

We all know Unitarian Universalist youth ministry is not perfect. In fact, it's often just a jumbled mess of individuals trying their best to transform the lives of teenagers. Here are the top 5 reasons proving my point.

3 Models for Youth Group Covenanting and Beyond

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/faith/3-models-youth-group-covenanting-beyond Being bound by covenant means continually making the choice, as Rumi says, that wherever I am, and whatever I do, to be in love.

5 Ways to Support Youth in your Congregation

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/guides/5-ways-support-youth-in-your-congregation

The more opportunities we create for our youth to create deep, meaningful relationships within the entire community, the stronger their connections to Unitarian Universalism will be.

13 Reasons We Need to have these Conversations

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/guides/13-reasons-we-need-have-these-conversations...

Because our youth are already having these conversations we need to have them and we need to equip parents to have them as well. Here are some resources on talking with youth about suicide and self harm prevention.

Adolescent Brain Development and Faith Formation

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/guides/adolescent-brain-development-faith-formation

What parts of the brain are going through a massive update in the teen years and how can those of us in faith formation and leadership development have a hand in this massive update?

Share the Love: Bridgers' Care Packages

http://www.uua.org/blueboat/issues/share-love-bridgers-care-packages

How do we share the love when our beloved youth grow up, cross that mythical bridge and become official adults? One simple and effective way to stay in relationship with our bridged young adults is through sending care packages their way!



Kenda Creasy Dean's compelling new book investigates why American teenagers are at once so positive about their faith and at the same time so apathetic about genuine religious practice. This book requires some translation into our UU theology, but worth the read.

Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain

Dr. Daniel Siegel busts a number of commonly held myths about adolescence and explores exciting ways in which understanding how the brain functions can improve the lives of adolescents, making their relationships more fulfilling and less lonely and distressing on both sides of the generational divide.

Youth Ministry 3.0: A Manifesto of Where We've Been, Where We Are and Where We Need to Go

Mark Oestreicher explains why we need a change in youth ministry, away from a dependence on programs to one that is focused on communion and mission. This is a quick and insightful read.



Sticky Faith: Youth Worker Edition: Practical Ideas to Nurture Long-Term Faith in Teenagers

Fuller Youth Institute has done extensive research in the area of youth ministry and teenage development. In Sticky Faith, Kara E. Powell, Brad M. Griffin, and Cheryl A. Crawford present youth workers with both a theological/philosophical framework and practical programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers.

Growing Souls

Mark Yaconelli's contemplative approach to youth ministry is based on a Christian community's commitment to cultivate attentiveness to the presence of mystery and divinity in the lives of young people and is supported through sabbath, prayer, covenant community, accompaniment, discernement, hospitality and authentic action. This book requires a bit of theological translation but you'll appreciate the context of youth group as a spiritual community.



Sustainable Youth Ministry

Mark DeVries pinpoints problems that cause division and burnout and dispels strongly held myths about what makes youth ministries last. He then provides the practical tools to lay a strong foundation for your ministry so that it isn't built on a person or the latest, greatest trend. This is a must read for those in program manager roles.

Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad Griffin provide a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing-spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, Growing Young shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church.

CURRICULA

Tapestry of Faith

uua.org/re/tapestry/youth

Embodying lifespan faith development for our congregations, this collection of free curricula and resources nurture UU identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love.

Be the Change

uua.org/bethechange

Be The Change gives UU youth a starting place for discussions about the role of race, identity and justice in living out their faith. The project includes additional activities, further links and resources, and an online community to support groups engaging with the project.

Bringing the Web to Life

uua.org/webtolife

Bringing the Web to Life is a youth ministry leadership development curriculum for congregations. This curriculum is based on the 8 components of the Web of Youth Ministry. Each session is created to be able to stand alone, or be used in conjunction with other sessions.

To this I give my heart

uuabookstore.org/To-This-I-Give-My-Heart-P18121.aspx

This journal is a companion on the year-long Coming of Age journey and a tool to help think through some challenging questions. Within these pages you'll find prompts, quotes, and creative exercises to explore UU history and theology, spirituality, community, leadership, personal beliefs and identity.

Bridging: A Handbook for Congregations

uuabookstore.org/Bridging-P17227.aspx

This resource offers a blueprint for a year-long program marking the transition from youth to young adulthood, and for ceremonies commemorating this transition. It invites parents and caregivers to express their support for the young person's journey while acknowledging the significant changes and feelings the family experiences when a young person moves into adulthood, and offers the congregation meaningful advice on supporting youth on the cusp of young adulthood.

