

PSD Conference—UU Youth Final Project

Date: April 24-26, 2010

Location: Davenport, IA

Purpose: Being that the conference theme was Multi-generational, we asked the youth to create poster boards that express their opinions on related topics. These topics were developed as a group and were meant to explain what the kids care about in general and their perspective of multi-generational events.

The four topics were:

- Worship or Church
- Community
- Personal
- Music

Worship or Church

This topic included what they like/dislike about worship services or church in general.

- "I love belief talks."
- "Sitting in service sucks."
- "I like hanging out with other youth."
- "I want to hear more current music, not just hymns."
- "I want audience participation in the church service."
- "I want more movement instead of sitting still for an hour. I am looking for spiritual and community growth. I love singing and milestones. I would like more youth-led services. I'd want some more different music besides hymns, but I want them more mixed-up service order." "I agree with that!"
- "I would rather hang out with my friends than attend a church service." "Me too, totally!"
- "More teaching and learning with and back and forth with older people. We teach them, they teach us!"
- "I would like to be with more children and be able to move around."
- "I would like more movement in service and I like to be with other youth."
- "I like youth group... I go to church for this, not necessarily for the lecture but for the people."
- "I like it when we have outside services."
- I wish there were more young people in church. I am a humanist and do not enjoy long meditative silences. I Love joys and concerns."

Community

This topic was chosen by the youth and the purpose was left undefined, but the kids all talked about their church community.

- "I'd like more community togetherness (like game night or poker nights)"
- "I enjoy team-building type activities. Like challenge courses."
- "I enjoy our summertime Camp UU—helping with the little kids." (Davenport Unitarian Church)
- "I love the discussions with other ages." "...like talking about your beliefs"
- "I'd like to be with the little kids more." "...lik Easter Egg hunts or planning worship services for little kids"
- "I thought the church camp out was fun!" (Davenport Unitarian Church)
- "My favorite multi-generational activity is the all church birthday party. It's so fun!" (Davenport Unitarian Church)
- "I'd want a good community base with a mid of all ages and I wan to t get to know a lot of people and share our common interests and have good discussions." "I agree with that one" "I agree with that one"
- "I like more intergenerational services" ..."like the plays and mingle with older people"

Music

This topic included their likes/dislikes on all music. Some chose to include church, some talked about personal preferences. They chose to allow each person a square to write in.

- Running Music, Classical, Emma Runquist, Dance, Band, Jazz, R&B, Hip Hop, Up Beat,
- Reggae, Hip Hop, Jazz
- In general, I don't like church music. I would like to hear more current music. I want to see the words projected instead of fumbling in the book. I would like to have a youth choir. I listen to emo-rock (Cut Copy, Strokes) and Folk Rock (Brandi Carlile, Shawn Colvin, Gregory Alan Isakov) I try to introduce my kids to many different genres. And I love to sing!
- Reggae, Metal, Rock, Old Country, Grunge
- Musicals, pop, dance, marching drums!, Taylor Swift all the way!
- Prince, Heavy Metal, ICP, Rock
- Rock Pop

Personal

This was a topic chose by the kids. It was to include what they like to do in their personal time.

- Nature
- Music, sports, and my pets rock
- Food
- Talking
- Crowns! (we all made crowns and wore them over the weekend)
- Crowns!
- I love animals!
- Animals
- Acting like a little kid! Laughing, jumping, coloring, goof around
- Emma Runquist, friends, UU, having fun with people, challenges, helping people, family sports, community, active, sports, technology, band, music, social justice
- Parties
- Friends,
- Music
- Family
- Majic is awesome
- I love my ipod
- Community
- Facebook
- I see all
- Dragons are my favorite creatures ever
- Band rocks!

Feedback from the Youth Leader

The following is the overall assessment from the youth leader, Beth Kundel Vogel, who facilitated the discussions and weekend activities.

The youth want to participate in multi-generational church services just occasionally or rarely, and they want to be involved in developing those services to make sure that they are appealing to their age group. These services would be interactive, experimental, and involve movement and music they like. Generally speaking, they would rather spend that church service time in their own age groups.

As far as inter-generational activities go, they prefer special events that involve the outdoors, games, parties or discussions. Some of them would like more meaningful time spent together—to discuss religion, beliefs and faith. Others are more interested in simply having fun together.

