

Youth at UUCB

Our overarching goal is to expand the youth experience beyond the youth room and incorporate them more fully into the congregation.

There are some structures/ongoing approaches that support this mission across the board, followed by specific change areas of focus.

Structure/approaches:

1. Striving for a ratio of 5 unrelated adults who know each youth (varying roles-- some closer connections, some more casual ones)
 - a. mentor/youth relationship
 - b. mentors introductions
 - c. RE teachers from the past, current youth advisors
 - d. committee members (green sanctuary, RRTF) on committees youth are involved in
 - e. choir music stand partners
 - f. UU neighbors
 - g. OWL teachers
 - h. youth's co-teachers of younger RE classes
2. Make sure youth are present in our intergenerational community
 - a. inviting youth to participate in and attend the worship service
 - b. elder tech workshop
 - c. gift making day
 - d. planning a Friday Fellowship/game night
 - e. participating in social justice work

We identified Three Change Areas as we begin this work:

1. Partnering with parents
 - a. 3 invitations per year--invite youth and their parents to attend local events of interest, in the hope that there will be a mini-UU community sharing these experiences
 - b. intentionally reconnecting with parents as youth transition into high school
 - c. add a parent/youth transition into middle school (6th/7th)
 - d. connect with parents of seniors to discuss how we can prepare them for graduation-to-post-graduation transition (see 3)
2. increase internalized faith

- a. adding Life Issues Facing Teenagers (LIFT) to youth group (opportunities for conversations about issues that are relevant to their daily lives)
 - b. host a youth conference
 - c. Make muusa more accessible (financially and informationally)
- 3. Strong transition from high school to beyond
 - a. life skills training
 - b. intentional congregational involvement in a departure ritual around graduation
 - c. maintain current programs
 - i. mentors
 - ii. strengthening connections with other adults
 - iii. invitations to return for reunions
 - iv. sending cookies
 - v. CoA reunion gatherings