

2020 Responsive Resolution:
Supporting and Investing In Youth and Young Adults in Unitarian Universalism

WHEREAS the UUA Commission on Institutional Change Report, “Widening the Circle of Concern,” recognizes that:

1. The constant restructuring of youth (ages 14-18 and/or in high school or the equivalent) and young adult (ages 18-35) programming obstructs our institutional memory and hinders retention and spiritual growth of our youth and young adults;
2. Youth and young adults of color have unique struggles due to their intersecting marginalized identities in UU spaces and require additional support to convene with people who share their identities;
3. Youth and young adults have access to less capital than older age ranges and require more support to attend regional and national events like General Assembly;

WHEREAS many UU youth and young adult leaders are not valued, heard, or supported in our faith, as evidenced by the resignations of the 2020 GA Youth and YA@GA volunteer staff, and the lack of action taken after numerous responsive resolutions similar to this one, especially from 2008-2013;

WHEREAS many youth and young adults - especially youth and young adults of color -, have been supported at the surface level, without regard for our vision and leadership in youth and young adult spaces;

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalist young adults are less likely to be connected to a specific congregation and to other UU young adults their age;

WHEREAS youth and young adults are not only the future of this faith, but our past and present, and Unitarian Universalism will benefit by supporting people raised and formed in this faith;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2020 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

1. Requests the Unitarian Universalist Association hire and retain Lifespan Faith Engagement (national) and Congregational Life (regional) staff - at least 1 FTE per region by GA 2023 - to support youth and young adults; specifically dedicated to supporting youth and young adults of color, emerging adults (ages 18-24), older young adults as they transition to adulthood, and unchurched young adults;
2. Requests the Unitarian Universalist Association include specific and separate line items in the budget for youth and young adult events;

3. Requests that the UUA Board of Trustees require and facilitate participation of youth and young adults on the accountability commission proposed in the Commission's report; .
4. Encourages member congregations to hire and pay staff to support youth and young adults, and to financially support youth and young adults, especially those with multiple, intersecting marginalized identities, and that new ministers be charged in their call to cultivate youth and young adult ministry;
5. Requests the UUA incentivize and resource member congregations to cultivate ministries for UUs aged 18-24, with a focus on unchurched emerging adults;
6. Invites congregations to incorporate participatory and collaborative experiences of spiritual deepening - such as circle worship -, into congregational life, recognizing younger Unitarian Universalists experience worship differently; and
7. Invites congregations to incorporate input from youth and young adults in congregational decision-making processes, including youth leadership on congregational and district/regional boards, recognizing that many younger Unitarian Universalists often are excluded from decisions that directly affect their community and faith development.

Put forth by GA Youth and YA@GA

With additional support from

- Former 2020 GA Youth and YA@GA Staff
- LREDA Board of Trustees
- DRUUMM Steering Committee

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