

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference  
[www.swuuc.org](http://www.swuuc.org)

# Young Adult Ministry Leadership Intensive

## Conference Packet and Readings

Hosted by Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church  
<http://www.emersonhouston.org/>

1900 Bering Drive – Houston, TX 77057

Theme Speakers: Sarah Prickett and Sean Briscoe

Workshop Leaders: Rev. Aaron White, Sarah Prickett, and  
Sean Briscoe



March 20-22  
2009

# Conference Agenda

Friday, March 20, 2009	
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Registration and Gathering (Westwood Hall)
6:00 pm to 6:45 pm	Dinner (Westwood Hall)
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Opening Worship – Multigenerational <b>Vernal Equinox Service</b> hosted by <b>Emerson UU Church</b> (Sanctuary)
8:15 pm to 9:15 pm	<b>Opening Conference Session</b> (Westwood Hall)
Saturday, March 21, 2009 (Continued on Next Page)	
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast (Westwood Hall)
8:30 am	Gathering Time (Room 205-206)
8:45 am to 10:15 am	Theme Speakers - <b>Sean Briscoe and Sarah Prickett</b> - How We Did It: The Development of Young Adult Ministry in Little Rock (Room 205-206)
10:15 am to 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am to 12:30 pm	Workshop Session 1: <b>Inreach</b> , Building Healthy and Sustainable YA Groups and Integrating Young Adults into the Congregation. Led by <b>Rev. Aaron White, Sarah Prickett, and Sean Briscoe.</b> (Room 205-206)
12:30 pm to 1:15 pm	Lunch (Westwood Hall)
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Workshop Session 2: <b>Outreach</b> , Attracting and Welcoming a New Generation. Led by <b>Rev. Aaron White, Sarah Prickett, and Sean Briscoe.</b> (Room 205-206)
3:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm	<b>Optional Q and A Panel with Presenters</b> (Room 205-206)

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Dinner (Westwood Hall)
7:15 pm to 8:15 pm	<b>Evening Worship – UU “Taize-Style” service</b> led by Rev. Aaron White (Westwood Hall)
8:30 pm -	Social Time
<b>Sunday, March 22, 2009</b>	
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast (Westwood Hall)
8:45 am to 9:00 am	<b>Gathering Session:</b> Final Q and A (Room 205-206)
9:00 am to 10:45 am	<b>Workshop Session 3: Addressing the Needs of Your Congregation.</b> Participants break off into groups where workshop presenters will work collaboratively with you to address the concrete needs of your congregation. (Room 205-206)
11:15 am to 12:30 pm	<b>Worship service at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church</b> (Sanctuary)
12:30 pm	Depart



# Checklist for Involving Young Adults in Congregational Life

Adapted from a resource by Chris Douglas, Young Adult Ministry Office, Church of the Brethren  
From the "Unitarian Universalist Guide to Young Adult Ministry"

<http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/yacm/guideyoungadultministry.pdf>

## 1. Worship:

- How many times a year do you invite young adults (18-35 year olds) to help plan worship services?
- How many times a year do you invite young adults to lead worship?
- How often do young adults provide special music in worship?
- Is there a young adult on your worship committee?
- Has your congregation made an effort to find creative ways of restructuring worship to appeal to young adults?

## 2. Leadership:

- How many young adults are on your Congregational Board?
- In the past 10 years, how many times has a General Assembly delegate from your congregation been a young adult?
- How many of your RE teachers are young adults?
- Are young adults nominated from your congregation for district and national positions?

## 3. Activities:

- Do you provide child care at all of your church activities?
- Are there specific events or activities for young adults in your church?
- Does your congregation publicize district and national young adult activities?
- Do you encourage young adults to attend Unitarian Universalist conferences, district/regional meetings, district/regional young adult conferences and General Assembly?
- Do you offer financial assistance or scholarships for young adults to attend conferences?
- Are they on the mailing list?

## 4. Outreach:

- Do you maintain contact with your young adult members who are non-resident (at college, working in another city, in the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps, etc.) through sending bulletins, newsletters, care packages, etc.?
- Do you include young adult members in your annual canvass?
- Have you conducted a survey of the 18-30 year-olds in your congregation? How many are:
  - active or inactive or "scattered"?
  - younger (18-24) or older (25-30)?
  - married or single?
  - parents or childless?
- Are you intentional in reaching out to single persons?
- What kind of atmosphere exists that will help a young adult ministry be successful?

## 5. Resources:

- Have you contacted the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry or your District Office for resources?

## Top Ten Tips for Young Adult Ministry

### From the “Unitarian Universalist Guide to Young Adult Ministry”

<http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/yacm/guideyoungadultministry.pdf>

**1. EDUCATE:** Educate the congregation about young adults and their needs. A good way to do this is through a Sunday service dedicated to young adult issues. If you have a minister ask him/her to do one, or consider asking a young adult in your congregation to do service on what it is like for them to be young and part of a UU spiritual community. Perhaps they could do it together...

**2. INVESTIGATE:** Find out what your congregation already does (or does not do) for young adults, and for youth as they age out of our youth programs. Do you have a young adult group? A youth group? An annual bridging ceremony that celebrates the transition from youth to young adulthood? What do you do to keep in touch with youth from your congregation after they graduate from high school?

**3. INVITE:** Be hospitable. Have a young adult greeter (official or unofficial) on Sunday morning who pays particular attention to the young adults who come to the worship service. Invite young adults to be a part of your congregation and its leadership.

**4. WORSHIP:** Ask a young adult to help you view the worship service through YA eyes. Who are the visible people in leadership? Is the service participatory? Ask a young adult to do a reading, light the Chalice or lead some music. What is the pace of the service, the music? Young adults generally like a variety of music. Take a moment to read "Weaving Worship to Welcome Young Adults", which you will find in the information packet. Consider ordering the Soulful Sundown guide for some tips on making worship more contemporary.

**5. ASK:** If you have a few young adults in your congregation, gather them together and ask them what they need; worship, discussion, social time, service opportunities. Ask a young adult to share with you what they see when they walk through the door on a Sunday morning. Listen when they answer you.

**6. PUBLICIZE:** Hold well publicized, regularly scheduled meetings, in a public space, preferably at the church. Use different methods of communication—e-mail, web site, phone calls, flyers/posters and newsletters.

**7. SUPPORT:** Be an ally to young adults in your congregations but they need to provide the leadership for the group. Don't patronize young adults by assuming they'll do the nasty jobs around your congregation or that they're children who need your guidance.

**8. FOOD:** After church brunches (or dinners before or after an evening worship service) are one of the most successful means for young adults to get connected with each other. Go every Sunday to an inexpensive restaurant; make sure it is the same place and same time for the folks who get there late. Consider having a dinner at the congregation to which non-young adult members bring the food.

**9. BE INVOLVED:** This generation of young adults volunteer at a higher rate than many older generations. They want to be involved with congregations that are involved with social justice and social service in the larger community. They seek opportunities connect their values to the larger world—so provide them in your congregation, and be prepared for the challenges that young adults will bring in this area.

**10. OFFICE OF YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRY:** Contact our office to get ideas about young adult ministry, to ask for help, or to schedule a consultation.

## **Web Resources on Young Adult Ministry**

It might be helpful to take a look at some of the following websites before the conference:

### UUA Office of Young Adult Ministries

<http://www.uua.org/aboutus/professionalstaff/congregationalservices/youngadult/index.php>

### ConnectUU: An “online database of Unitarian Universalist Young Adults”

<http://connectuu.com/>

### Unitarian Universalist Guide to Young Adult Ministry

<http://www.uua.org/documents/congservices/yacm/guideyoungadultministry.pdf>

### Church of the Younger Fellowship

<http://www.uucyf.org>