

Young Adult Ministry Tips for Ministers

1) Young adults want relationship with you!

A direct quote from a respondent to our Canadian UU young adult survey: “The attention of a minister is one of the most meaningful things for young adults and has been a critical part of my continued involvement in UU community.”

2) Invite young adults to connect with you.

Explicitly. Invite them to coffee. Let them know, as a group and personally, that you are available for discussions about life, spirituality, the congregation – everything! – and not only in times of crisis. *And* that you are available in times of crisis, too! Pastoral care availability and office hours listed on the website or newsletter may not be a clear enough invitation.

3) If you host them, they will come.

Ministers have had good success in hosting young adult events/dinners. Consider hosting regularly, once a year as a minimum, and as often as monthly. If frequent events are not possible for you in your available time, consider asking your DRE to co-host with you at the outset, and to alternate with you in the future.

4) Young adults enjoy relationships with people of all ages.

It can be a mistake to insist on introducing young adults only to other young adults in the congregation. While young adults enjoy interacting with peers, most (almost all) also really enjoy conversations with people of all ages. Some young adults perceive that older adults are reluctant or anxious about talking with them, but like all people, young adults appreciate anyone who truly listens and engages with them. Know this yourself if you are older, and also help your older congregants learn it, too.

5) Young adults are as diverse as any other group in the congregation.

All young adults like:

- a) Alternative worship
- b) God talk
- c) Atheism
- d) Social media
- e) Connecting with peers
- f) Current music, TV, movies, and pop culture
- h) Social justice and environmental issues
- h) **NONE OF THE ABOVE!**

But your openness to any and all of the above, even if you’re not an expert, is handy for connecting with many young adults!