

Education

E-Link

to Youth and Family Ministry



Issue 13

August 2008

Welcome to E-Link, your bi-monthly online news about Youth and Family Ministry from the Association of Unity Churches International. Each issue provides bits of current information and connects all of us who serve Youth and Family Ministry throughout Unity churches.

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Reel in the Volunteers!

When you are fishing for volunteers, what do you use for bait? Have you tried a vision? Most individuals will choose where they invest their free time by choosing what moves them whether it is inspiration or desire to make a difference. A vision paints the picture of the youth ministry you want to create, the one you want your youth and families to experience. In one to two sentences easily expressed and easily remembered, your vision draws the people who want to make it happen. These are the volunteers who will partner with you to make the vision a reality.

Wanted: Your Opinion!

We want and need to hear from you on a survey regard curriculum and youth ministry! Join the 78 churches who have already given us insight. Even you who do not have a formal YFM program can respond regarding ways we can assist you.

All Unity ministers and Youth & Family Directors, help us design future Youth & Family curriculum. By completing a short online survey, you will guarantee that your ministry's voice is heard regarding our current and future curriculum and resources.

Please have **one** person in your Youth Ministry program (preferably the YFM Director) do this by **September 8, 2008** or sooner. The survey can be found online at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nbdGnVhESza84xmkVzfetQ_3d_3d You can also find this link at www.unity.org The Latest.

To those who have already completed it, thank you for sharing your insight and experience with us! And thank you to all who are completing this now.

IYOU Outcomes

From July 13-18, 125 stakeholders in International Youth of Unity gathered at Unity Village for an Appreciative Inquiry Summit. The group created new vision and purpose statements for IYOU and formed action teams to determine the structure needed in order to support the statements and to generate plans for each of the purpose intentions.

Vision Statement: As a Spirit-led youth movement, we empower individuals around the world in their spiritual journey.

Purpose Statement: We manifest our vision through these eight intentions:

- Worldwide service
- Clear communication using technology
- Practice and promotion of spiritual principles
- Leadership
- Events
- Prosperity
- Supportive Community/Connections (through unconditional love and acceptance)
- International Development

Structure: Creating the framework for IYOU is in process and at present, the structure team has determined:

- The International Youth of Unity event will be held annually at Unity Village, MO.
- A planning team to create the event will consist of the International YOU Coordinator, 8 regional representatives (6 YOUers and 2 adults) and 1 international representative.
- The annual conference will become a program designed to learn leadership skills and deepen spiritual practice for youth and sponsors.

The action teams are exploring numerous innovative ideas that will be shared as they are developed.

Curriculum News

New for Uniteens! 6845 Navigating Thru Change \$14.95 (plus shipping)

Change is a given in any Uniteen's life. These eight interactive lessons explore various changes they face including fear of change, choosing to change, family changes, letting go of the old, and trusting. Your Uniteens will practice connecting to God within for guidance, so that will be their first response during shifting circumstances.

You can check on all the latest publications at <http://www.unity.org/newcurriculum>

"The soul loves silence because it is shy, and silence helps it feel safe."

Parker J. Palmer

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