

St. Paul's

United Methodist Church



Youth Ministry Conversation: Next Steps

July 25, 2023

Thank you to all who were able to join our ZOOM gathering on Tuesday July 25, 2023 to discuss youth ministry at St. Paul's UMC. We heard from a variety of voices and shared space with a broad representation of our congregation. The purpose of this gathering was not to formulate a plan of action, but to provide space to hear how others think of and imagine youth ministry. Below represents a summation of our discussion.

Our youth expressed a desire to be part of a youth ministry that:

- Meets regularly
- Provides opportunities to connect with each other and others
- Includes fun activities so they can have fun in church
- Provides a welcoming space to discover Jesus on their own
- Engages them in projects(i.e. service projects)
- Has snacks

Our parents expressed the following thoughts:

- Fear of losing youth because there is no "place" for them to plug in to the church
- A concern for the lack of Sunday School and a tie in to Christian Education/Formation which supplements what happens in the home.
- The difficulty of when Sunday School and service occur simultaneously and how that pulls on the number of persons willing to volunteer to lead Sunday School
- The need to tie youth ministry activities and themes to the bible and scripture
- That we are willing to keep trying new things; that if something doesn't work don't just give up, find out why and try something else.
- There needs to be someone willing and dedicated to guiding and leading teens
- That there are BWC resources available that would allow our youth to gather with other youth within the conference.(e.g. Camps at West River and Manidokan)
- The desire to have youth engage in retreats and opportunities to covenant and connect.
- Engaging our youth in outward facing(community visible) activities
- A parent/adult volunteer coordinator would help organize and schedule coverage for Sunday School

The following questions were raised:

- What is the role of parents [and other adults] in youth ministry?
- If the opportunity evolved for St. Paul to partner with other churches (UMC and others of similar doctrine) and bring all of our youth together for an activity, event, class, etc. - would we be willing?

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Announcements

Sunday September 10, 2023 at 12 noon there will be an orientation and information session for prospective confirmation students, parents/guardians of prospective confirmation students, and those interested and/or willing in being confirmation sponsors. Our 2024 confirmation class will begin Sunday January 7, 2024 and will be led by Pastor Pat and Pastor Joey. You will receive more definitive information about this at the information session.