

Youth and Young Adult Updates from the National United Church of Christ

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Youth @ Synod 2021

This summer the United Church of Christ held its first fully virtual General Synod with much success. Among some of the firsts that took place were those among the youth and young adult programming. Early in our planning the team believed that connection had to be central to everything that was done. That includes connection to one another and providing a way for the content to be able to be easily connected to the real world for youth and young adults. To that end, we were able to provide dynamic speakers which included Rev. Traci Blackmon, Valerie Tutson, Bill McKibben and many others. Additionally, both age groups had “home groups” that met several times during the week of General Synod that allowed for deeper conversations, visioning and processing. We believe this was a huge success and is a model of how national events can foster a deeper sense of belonging amongst participants.

NEW! UCC Youth Ambassadors

While the Council for Youth & Young Adult Ministries has been around for many years, there have been some challenges as both groups have very different needs. While a restructure was explored several years ago, there is a clear need for something additional. To aid in leadership development and the creation of a special program that blends faith, justice and the core beliefs of United Church of Christ the national setting is launching a Youth Ambassadors program. The application is scheduled to launch mid-August and close mid-October. You can reach out to our Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement at pottert@ucc.org for additional program information, application and questions.

Return of the Youth & Young Adult Lenten Devotional — Deadline September 15, 2021

We are excited for the third iteration of the Youth & Young Adult Lenten Devotional. For past editions you may visit UCC Resources: <https://www.uccresources.com>. However, as we head into 2022 we believe there is a need to hear from our youth who bring passion, vision, and prophetic witness to God’s Spirit. We are looking for a total of 40 young people who are willing to write a devotion and prayer that will be featured in this new edition. Please contact Rev. Potter for additional information or to submit the name of a writer. **All writers will need to be secured by September 15, 2021.**