

Highlights of Second Congregational Conversation re: CE - 06-27-16

YOUTH PROGRAM -

- Dynamic Leader - 12
- Create Value to the Kids - 9
- Kids - 4
- Community Involvement - 3
- Parent / Adult participation - 2
- Great Meeting Content - 1

VALUE TO KIDS

- Feeling of community -
- A place for youth to feel safe and to open up
- A place of safety to talk and bond
- Kids need to make a commitment to program
- Letting kids know we care about their journey
- Fellowship for Kids

MEETINGS

- Visit other UCC groups
- Faith lessons
- Spiritual guidelines
- Age appropriate groups
- Youth groups branch out - team up with other churches
- Quarterly meetings - or as needs arise
- Has an outreach component
- Youth involvement in church service
- Mission trips
- Convenient time to meet
- Team building activities
- Activities that are enticing
- More outings
- Meeting once month / Monthly or bi-monthly / as often as possible / weekly
- Kids right age
- Study bibles purchased for youth group kids
- Bible based program - as well as fun
- Give them a common goal to reach - strive for: God's work, outreach to community
- Kids learn to deal with everyday problems

LEADERSHIP OF GROUP

Young youth leader

Volunteer or hired

Provide direction

Hire a youth group leader

Someone with a lot of energy and passion for the kids

Someone from within the congregation

PARENTS / ADULT PARTICIPATION

Parental leadership

Youth / Adult pairing - mentoring

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Involvement with community, not just our membership

WHO? WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE - STRUCTURE

Combine CE director and Youth Leader

Youth Leader

For youth leader - outline expectations / goals for themselves and program

Have expectations of leaders

QUALITIES OF LEADER

Energetic / positive / fun

Innovative

Someone who can relate to kids in a positive and caring way

Strong organizational skills

Organization

Committed

Trust

For church leadership, find innovative ways to retain or recruit young families

Be a good example / role model

Communication

Leader with good personal skills, communication, organization, approachable

Experience with spiritual guidance

Leader can make sense and explain scripture to kids

Having leader who can organize and prepare ideas on their own as well as with input

Actively involved in kids lives

Someone who showed interests in each youth member and their interests

Leader involvement in community / schools / sports events

A leader who interacts with youth outside of church

Best interest of kids

Good connection with kids

Hire a youth minister who can also have outreach to young couples - dual role

GROWTH

Facebook page

Facebook - regularly update web page

Have family night

Have young families bring their friends

Community activities to do that are exciting (people in community who attend may want to see what our church is about)

Bring more families in so we have more volunteers

Figure out how to have families have ownership / be committed to church and Sunday school

Bring in young families

Make visitors feel welcome, follow up with phone calls

School bus to pick up children

Rewards - for getting new members to attend

Dynamic leader

Contemporary music with traditional music

Strong SS program

Strong youth group

Class to help young people to deal with obstacles in their life

How to choose Zion over sports - How do we compete with sports

Address why parents are dropping kids off at SS and not attending church

More visible pastor - school visits - lunches