

Strategic Planning Focus Group
11 12 2023 @ 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Community Room
Jenny Nelson, Facilitator– Barb Chapman, Scribe

Participants – High School Youth: Aaron Austin, Charlie Grodensky, Tobin Wright, August Fleury, Odin Timblin, Elijah Vander, Zwaag, Rosemary Graysmith, Caiden Herstein, Ion Resinger

Question 1: *What keeps you coming to church?*

- I want to make a positive impact on youth in this church and the community
- This church community is nice
- It's a habit
- I have a connection with the church
- I was made to come, then found community
- It's a good way to meet people
- I get paid
- It's a community I understand
- I came as a baby – I'm 6th generation UU
- It's my church – I'm UU
- I'm on the youth staff
- I have a job here
- I know people here
- I've been UU my whole life
- I feel like I fit, with both people & community
- I like working with younger people
- People know me and I've seen people grow up here

Question 2: *From your perspective as a high school youth, what are the church's strengths/special opportunities we should support?*

- Shelter Neck
- Family events
- RE program – it's the best
- ++++++ OWL
- Creating a community outside of school
- Emphasis on community
- You don't feel weird
- It's a place to let loose, especially on the playground
- Freedom and fun that structured/organized, but not too much
- A good place we're excited about
- Live music at all services
- Coming of Age
- Adult SEA
- Youth groups are awesome – you can let loose
- Chalice Camp
 - ✓ Working with kids
 - ✓ Great connections
 - ✓ Working with other counselors
 - ✓ Develops qualifications & experience
- Plays & musicals

Question 3: *What considerations for the future or improvement/needs do you think we should consider?*

- More cleaning products and more accessible
- Organize supply closet and other supplies
- Move Fire Circle to Kirby Room
- More connections between youth groups
- All youth groups come together for one big event
- Putting ideals of diversity into practice – it's hard to attract diversity when we have so little of it
- More equipment for playground
- ++++++++ Activities for kids during coffee hour, other than tag
- Getting younger kids in Fire & Water [groups] to take more responsibility
- Improve fund raising
- Security outside & a safety plan
- Parking lot issues
 - ✓ Courtesy, e.g., not throwing car doors open and hitting people
 - ✓ +++++ Sidewalk or pathway needed in parking lot
 - ✓ Buy UNC lot with abandoned buildings for a parking lot
 - ✓ Staff parking lot
 - ✓ Leaves covering lines on parking spaces in parking lot