

SO YOU WANT TO START A YOUNG ADULT GROUP?

By Julie O'Neal

Questions to Consider That Will Help Get Conversation Going

- › Define what young adult means to you and setting where you see young adults in your community.
- › Why do you want to form a YA group? Where will this group regularly meet?
- › How many young adults are involved in the process of forming this group? Do adults want to start something for the young adults OR are young adults requesting something? If young adults are not involved, how do you plan to incorporate them in all of the stages of this process?
- › What is the focus of the group? Is it a Bible study, a Sunday school class, social group? And more specifically—is the focus outreach, spiritual formation, worship-oriented, fellowship, networking, support?
- › What expectations do you have of the young adult group?
- › How involved (if at all) do you want the members of this group to be active and involved in the church? Define what expectations are around church membership, leadership and financial giving.
- › How does the rest of the church embrace multi-generational ministry with this age group?
- › Are there opportunities for mentoring of this group and by this group? If so, how (financial, life skills, general, spiritual, career/vocation, etc.)?
- › Have you talked to young adults in the area who are not necessarily in the church?
- › Are you expecting other young adults from outside of your church community to participate in this group? If so, where do you see these young people coming from?
- › Do you envision this group to be solely United Methodist or do you see it encompassing other denominations as well?
- › What kind of financial support is available for this group? What other resources can this group tap into (i.e. meeting space, curriculum, food, etc.)?
- › How will decisions be made by the group (i.e. leader with group input; solely by the leader(s); consensus; Roberts rules of order).
- › What are the responsibilities and expectations of the group leader(s)?
- › What support system do you have in place for the leader(s) of this group?
- › Is the group leader compensated in any way for her/his work (financial, work study credit, office space, etc)?
- › How will the group react if consistently there are 3-5 people who participate in a sporadic, irregular basis?