



Fuller Youth Institute

Churches Engaging Young People Project
Stage One
Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Stage One Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Copyright Statement: All of the following information and material is the property of the Fuller Youth Institute. The information may not be distributed, modified, displayed, reproduced – in whole or in part – without the prior written permission of the Fuller Youth Institute (fyi@fuller.edu). Thank you.

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Informed Consent

Greetings from Fuller Theological Seminary and the Fuller Youth Institute! Our mission at the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) is to equip young people with the lifelong faith they need, and we do that by leveraging research into resources that elevate leaders, young people, and families. Your church has been nominated as being particularly effective at engaging young people (ages 15-29).

Description of the project

The current study invites you to participate in the Churches Engaging Young People (CEYP, pronounced “keep”) Project by completing an online questionnaire.

The purpose of this study is to gain a deeper understanding of how your church engages young people, and the connections between engaging young people and a thriving church. In the questionnaire, therefore, we will ask questions about your church’s size and attendance, ways young people’s faith is expressed, theological understanding of the gospel, response to the wider culture, approach to spiritual formation, sense of community and intergenerational relationships, role of parents in discipleship, leadership structure, emphasis on social justice and service, and shared corporate worship.

While the questions in this survey focus mostly on young people, a senior/lead pastor in your congregation is also being invited to complete a survey that focuses more on the related dynamics of the overall church.

Compensation

As a way of saying “Thank you!” for your help and participation, we will send you a \$50 gift card of your choice to either Amazon.com or Starbucks coffee (sent electronically via email). Once you complete the survey, your church will also be entered into a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

Procedure

To participate, read this consent form carefully. **At the end, if you agree to participate, please fill in the requested information and proceed to the next page to answer the questions.**

By participating in this survey, you are giving us permission to contact you with an invitation to participate in further research related to this project.

Your questionnaire responses will be reviewed by the project’s investigators and research assistants. We take confidentiality very seriously, and will make sure that your personal information is kept private. After the questionnaire is completed, responses will be downloaded and all identifying names will be removed and stored elsewhere to protect your privacy and the privacy of others. All data will be stored securely.

We do anticipate publishing the results, but your role and participation will be kept anonymous. Your name and your church’s name will not be identified in print anywhere without your future consent.

Risks and benefits to you

We do not anticipate any direct risks or benefits to you as a result of participating in this study, other than any natural benefits that come from reflecting on your congregation and its practices. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and even if you agree to participate, you have the right to not answer any of the questions in the questionnaire, or to withdraw from the study at any time for any reason, including any distress you experience during your participation.

Questions, rights and complaints

If you have any questions about the study, please contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Consent statement

Agreeing to participate in the Churches Engaging Young People Project means that you understand it is a survey study. It also signifies that each of the following statements is true of you:

- You are 18 years of age or older;
- You have read this consent form and all of your questions have been answered;
- You understand that you may withdraw from the study at any time, or refuse to answer any of the questions asked of you.

All of the answers you provide will be kept private and confidential in the manner described above. You have the right to see the results prior to their being published. You may want to keep a copy of the consent form for your records by printing this page.

We hope that this study will be of great importance to pastors, parents and young people. Thank you for your consideration!

If you give your consent to participate in this study, please fill out the information requested below, and proceed to the survey questions on the next page of the survey. We will assume that if you fill in the requested information and complete the survey, you are agreeing to participate.

If you do not wish to participate, please leave the information blank and do not complete the survey. We will then delete your name from the contact list, and you will not be contacted again.

Here's the information we need, if you agree to participate (otherwise, leave it blank and do not complete the survey):

* 1. Your Full Name:

* 2. Your Title At The Church:

* 3. Church's Name:

* 4. Church Mailing Address:

* 5. Church City:

* 6. Church State:

* 7. Your E-mail Address (to contact you for possible future research related to this project):

* 8. Your Phone Number:

Your responses will be saved after each page you complete. If needed, you may exit and return to finish the survey later. When you return, the survey will resume after the last page you completed.

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

As you answer the following questions, here are a few notes about terminology:

- **By “engaging young people,” we mean involving and retaining them in the congregational community, as well as helping them develop a vibrant faith in Jesus. We anticipate this definition will be refined during the course of the project.**
- **For the purposes of this study, we are defining a young person as between the ages of 15-29.**
- **It is impossible for our language to reflect all traditions. So in the following questions, where we use the term “pastor,” please mentally insert youth worker, rector, priest, bishop, volunteer, etc., as appropriate to your context.**
- **Similarly, when we use the terms “church” or “congregation,” please insert parish, gathered fellowship, community of faith, etc., as appropriate to your context.**
- **If your church has multiple geographic sites or locations (and it is difficult for you to respond on behalf of all of these sites), please select the one with the most young people and respond based on that site.**

This survey is not designed to assign a grade to your ministry. Rather, your frank and honest responses will help the Fuller Youth Institute gather important data that will potentially help thousands of churches to better engage young people. Near the end of the survey, you will be given the opportunity to select a \$50 gift card to either Amazon.com or Starbucks Coffee.

9. Your church's denominational affiliation (if applicable):

10. If your church has multiple sites/locations, please indicate which site/location are you responding on behalf of:

11. Is your position at the church:

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Volunteer
- Other (please specify)

12. How long have you worked at your church (or volunteered if you are in a volunteer position)?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21 or more years

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

For this section of the survey, we will ask you to think about three groups separately: 15-18 year-olds, 19-23 year-olds, and 24-29 year-olds.

- When we use the phrase “participate in the congregation,” we mean the total number of unique individuals who attend worship and/or other ministries of your congregation on an average week.
- For sections that focus on ages 19-23, please only include those involved in your congregation at least six months per year; in other words, do not include students away at school most of the year as you answer these questions.

13. Approximately how many people participate in your congregation from each of the following age groups (please choose a specific number, rather than giving a range):

15-18 years old	<input type="text"/>
19-23 years old	<input type="text"/>
24-29 years old	<input type="text"/>

What has happened to the number of people participating in the congregation over the last 5 years from each of the following age groups?

14. 15-18 years old

- Decreased substantially (by over 25%)
- Decreased (between 5%-25%)
- Remained about the same
- Increased (between 5%-25%)
- Increased substantially (by over 25%)

15. 19-23 years old (please only include those involved in your congregation at least six months per year; in other words, do not include students away at school most of the year.)

- Decreased substantially (by over 25%)
- Decreased (between 5%-25%)
- Remained about the same
- Increased (between 5%-25%)
- Increased substantially (by over 25%)

16. 24-29 years old

- Decreased substantially (by over 25%)
- Decreased (between 5%-25%)
- Remained about the same
- Increased (between 5%-25%)
- Increased substantially (by over 25%)

What percentage of each of the following age groups participate in a ministry other than the worship service (such as a small group, discipleship group, or Sunday School class) on average at least once a month?

17. 15-18 years old

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 31-50%
- 51-70%
- Over 70%

18. 19-23 years old

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 31-50%
- 51-70%
- Over 70%

19. 24-29 years old

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 31-50%
- 51-70%
- Over 70%

What percentage of each of the following age groups actively volunteer (on average at least once a month) in some ministry of the church, either within the congregation or by joining the congregation to serve in the broader community?

20. 15-18 years old

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 31-50%
- 51-70%
- Over 70%

21. 19-23 years old

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 31-50%
- 51-70%
- Over 70%

22. 24-29 years old

- Less than 10%
- 10-30%
- 31-50%
- 51-70%
- Over 70%

23. During an average week, approximately how many people (including all adults, teenagers, and children) actively participate in your congregation? (Please include the total number of unique individuals who attend worship and/or other ministries such as adult classes, small groups, or youth/children's ministry gatherings.)

24. What is one practice (beyond church attendance) in your congregation that best signals commitment or growth in 15-29 year olds?

25. In the past two years, approximately how many 15-29 year olds participated in this?

26. What is a second practice (beyond church attendance) in your congregation that best signals commitment or growth in 15-29 year olds?

27. In the past two years, approximately how many 15-29 year olds participated in this?

28. Think of a young person (15-29 years old) in your congregation who has a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ. Please describe 3-5 characteristics of what this young person's faith looks like.

29. Based on this description, what percentage of the young people (generally) in your congregation have a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

30. What evidence would you give to support this rating? (Please give up to three examples)

Your responses will be saved after each page you complete. If needed, you may exit and return to finish the survey later. When you return, the survey will resume after the last page you completed.

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Following are several statements that may describe young people (ages 15-29) in your congregation. Our attempt in this section is to try to capture different ways young peoples' faith is expressed (which we recognize is a challenging thing to do). For each age group indicated below, please select what percentage of the young people in your congregation embody each statement.

What percentage of the young people in your congregation...

...take time for individual prayer, worship, and other practices that connect them with God

31. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

32. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

33. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...make decisions and act in ways that are shaped by their faith

34. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

35. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

36. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...talk openly about their faith questions and struggles

37. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

38. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

39. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...talk about their faith with others who are not yet Christ-followers

40. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

41. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

42. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...take time to read and study the Bible

43. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

44. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

45. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...respond to current social issues in light of their faith

46. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

47. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

48. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...are willing to serve others in need both locally and globally

49. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

50. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

51. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...seek God's guidance for their lives

52. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

53. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

54. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

...regularly participate in worship or prayer with others

55. 15-18 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

56. 19-23 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

57. 24-29 year olds

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Following on this page and the next are several statements that may describe your church. Each statement has three questions: the first question will ask “how important,” the second will ask “how intentional,” and the third will ask “what percentage.” Please read each statement carefully and select the appropriate rating or percentage. Please be as frank as you can in your assessment, and remember that your answers are confidential.

58. How important is it to you that your congregation serves (through church programs or other ways) in the local community or city in ways that help others?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

59. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that promote service in the local community or city in ways that help others?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

60. What percentage of your congregation actually serves in the local community or city in ways that help others?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

61. How important is it to you that your congregation serves (through church programs or other ways) outside of your city or state in ways that help others?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

62. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that promote service outside of your city or state in ways that help others?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

63. What percentage of your congregation actually serves outside of your city or state in ways that help others?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

64. How important is it to you that your congregation cultivates relationships where peers can share honestly with each other?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

65. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that cultivate relationships where peers can share honestly with each other?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

66. What percentage of your congregation participates in relationships where peers can share honestly with each other?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

67. How important is it to you that your congregation cultivates intergenerational relationships (meaning relationships between people from different age groups)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

68. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that cultivate intergenerational relationships?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

69. What percentage of your congregation participates in intergenerational relationships?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

70. How important is it to you that parents in your congregation actively participate in the church ministries and/or activities in which their children and adolescents participate?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

71. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that encourage parents to actively participate in the church ministries and/or activities in which their children and adolescents participate?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

72. What percentage of the parents in your congregation actively participate in the church ministries and/or activities in which their children and adolescents participate?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

73. How important is it to you that parents in your congregation actively participate in faith-building activities with their children and adolescents outside of church gatherings (for example, prayer, reading Scripture together, serving)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

74. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that encourage parents to actively participate in faith-building activities with their children and adolescents outside of church gatherings?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

75. What percentage of the parents in your congregation actively participate in faith-building activities with their children and adolescents outside of church gatherings?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

76. How important is it to you that the children's and youth ministry leaders in your church regularly communicate with parents of children and adolescents?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

77. How intentional are the children's and youth ministry leaders in your church in regularly communicating with parents of children and adolescents?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

78. What percentage of the parents of children and teenagers in your church seem to act on the communication your church provides?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

79. How important is it to you that the children's and youth ministry leaders in your church regularly provide parents with resources to help nurture faith in the family?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

80. How intentional are the children's and youth ministries in your congregation in regularly providing parents with resources to help nurture faith in the family?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

81. What percentage of the parents of children and teenagers in your church seem to actively use the resources your church provides?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

82. How important is it to you that your congregation equips people to grow as followers of Christ?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

83. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that equip people to grow as followers of Christ?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

84. What percentage of your congregation is equipped to grow as followers of Christ?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

85. How important is it to you that the ministries of your congregation equip people to follow Christ in ways that are unique to specific age groups (for example, young children, middle school, high school, college, etc.)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

86. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that equip people to follow Christ in ways that are unique to specific age groups?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

87. What percentage of the ministries of your congregation equip people to follow Christ in ways that are unique to specific age groups?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Following are several statements that may describe your church. Please read each statement carefully and select the appropriate rating or percentage. Please be as frank as you can in your assessment, and remember that your answers are confidential.

88. How important is it to you that when important decisions are made in your congregation, input is sought from those groups affected by the decision?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

89. How intentional are the decision-makers in your congregation in seeking input from those groups affected by important decisions?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

90. What percentage of the time is input sought from affected groups when important decisions are made?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

91. How important is it to you that the senior leaders in your congregation are willing to share openly the reasons behind the decisions they make?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

92. How intentional are the senior leaders in your congregation to share openly the reasons behind the decisions they make?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

93. What percentage of the time do the senior leaders in your congregation openly share the reasons behind the decisions they make?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

94. How important is it to you that your congregation intentionally develops young people to be leaders?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

95. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities or fostering relationships that intentionally develop young people to be leaders?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

96. What percentage of the young people in your congregation who are ready for leadership are being intentionally developed to be leaders?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

97. How important is it to you that your congregation intentionally engages with potentially controversial cultural issues of our day?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

98. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that engage with potentially controversial cultural issues of our day?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

99. What percentage of your congregation engages with potentially controversial cultural issues of our day?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

100. How important is it to you that when your congregation engages with potentially controversial cultural issues, you try to take a gracious posture in dealing with people and issues with whom you might disagree?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

101. How intentional is your congregation in planning activities that encourage a gracious posture in dealing with people and issues with whom you might disagree?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

102. What percentage of your congregation takes a gracious posture in dealing with people and issues with whom they might disagree?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

103. How important is it to you that your congregation understands that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the overarching story of God?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

104. How intentional is your congregation in promoting an understanding that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the overarching story of God?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

105. What percentage of your congregation shows understanding that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the overarching story of God?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

106. How important is it to you that your congregation understands that faith is about more than behaviors or following rules?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

107. How intentional is your congregation in promoting an understanding that faith is about more than behaviors or following rules?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

108. What percentage of your congregation shows understanding that faith is about more than behaviors or following rules?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

109. How important is it to you that your congregation's corporate worship is interactive (meaning worshippers are treated as active, rather than passive, participants)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

110. How intentional is your congregation in planning corporate worship that is interactive?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

111. What percentage of the time (based on the average number of services in a year) is your congregation's corporate worship interactive?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

112. How important is it to you that your congregation's corporate worship is intergenerational in nature (meaning different age groups participate together)?

- Not Important
- Somewhat Important
- Very Important
- Absolutely Important

113. How intentional is your congregation in planning corporate worship that is intergenerational in nature?

- Not Intentional
- Somewhat Intentional
- Very Intentional
- Absolutely Intentional

114. What percentage of the time (based on the average number of services in a year) is your congregation's corporate worship intergenerational in nature?

- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

Churches Engaging Young People Project: Youth/Young Adult Leader Survey

Please answer the following open-ended questions to the best of your ability:

115. Please list three ways you have seen young people (15-29 years old) contribute to the health or growth of your church?

116. What do you believe are three characteristics about your church that account for your success at engaging young people?

117. What are the three biggest challenges your church faces when it comes to ministering to young people?

118. Comments on any of the previous questions (optional):

119. Would you prefer a \$50 gift card to Amazon.com or Starbucks Coffee?

- Amazon.com
- Starbucks Coffee