

Leadership UMC 2005 - 2006

Pure of Heart - Reclaiming Young Adults to the United Methodist Church

Executive Summary

Project Background and Summary

- The North Georgia United Methodist Conference (NGUMC) resides in one of the fastest growing states in America.
- Growth in membership of the NGUMC has not kept pace with overall population growth in Georgia.
- Georgia continues to be a young state compared to the nation, with a higher percentage of its population in the 25 to 44 age group than the national average.
- Recognizing that this age group contains a number of stages of life subsets, (single, married without children, married with children, divorced without children, divorced with children, widowed without children, widowed with children, etc.) we choose to focus our efforts on parents of young children.
- The 2004 Book of Discipline defines a young adult as anyone between the ages of 18 and 30; however, the median age of USA population has risen from 26 in 1970 to 33 in 2000 and is projected to continue to rise; therefore, we decided to define young adults for our project as people between the ages of 25 and 34.

Understanding this Population

- Interest and desires of 25 – 34 age population.
- Erik Erikson theories of psychosocial development assumes that psychosocial development occurs in stages.
- Within Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, the age population from 20 – 40 is the Young Adulthood stage.
- The primary task at this stage is to form strong friendships and to achieve a sense of love and companionship (or shared identity) with another person.
- Summary of Barna research of 77 million American adults who are churched.

Facets of Ministry to Attract, Retain and Disciple

- Community Connection
- Recreation
- Family Care/Safe Haven
- Spiritual Nurturance and Nourishment

Recommendations at Conference and Local Church Level

- Children's Ministry including Preschool and Sunday School
- Make an effort to reach this population
- Spiritual development specifically targeted and advertised to this age group
- Church grants from the NGUMC for new church's attempting to reach this age group