

LEADERSHIP UMC 2010-2011

Light of the World Small Group Project

Survey Analysis Summary

As part of our group's research, two surveys were conducted – one for youth and one for youth leaders. The youth survey was circulated via youth leaders at the home churches of our small group members. A total of 30 youth responded. The youth leader survey was distributed to youth leaders at the home churches of our small group members, as well as several other churches in the North Georgia Conference. A total of nine youth leaders responded.

Two compelling pieces of information were revealed in the youth survey. The first was the importance of committed adult leaders in which the youth can confide. The second is the youth's desire for opportunities to build authentic relationships and minimize cliques within their youth group. Also of interest was that almost 55% of the respondents feel their church's use of social media (i.e., Facebook, MySpace, Twitter) enhances their Christian experience and over 61% feel that their church's use of video has improved their understanding of the Bible.

Likewise, youth leader responses about factors that attract and/or increase youth participation in activities repeatedly referenced committed leaders and the importance of relationships among youth, and between youth and their leaders. Asked to rank eight different factors that encourage and attract youth participation, youth leaders ranked "feeling welcome by other youth; minimizing exclusive cliques" as the number one factor. This further validates the need and desire for youth to build authentic relationships. When asked about challenges in attracting and retaining youth participation, competition with other activities (sports, etc.) and parent involvement/support were common responses.