

First Third Ministry

Currently, there are very few children, youth and young adults actively involved in the ministry of Trinity United Church. Trinity has been generous and active in its support of Camp Spirit, Evolve, and Imagine, mostly through the allocation of the minister's time. Most of our ministry with people in the first third of their lives is "delegated" to a small handful of people who run "Explore" (formerly Sunday School).



To be clear, ministry to people in the first third of their lives is no longer being done through weekly programming (like Sunday School or Youth Groups). The transition to "events" oriented ministry started over 20 years ago. We started letting go of "Youth Leader" positions in local congregations, though we maintained "Youth Ministers" at the presbytery court. These Youth Ministers often worked with youth to host a number of events in the presbytery for youth to participate in. Eventually, it was necessary for multiple presbytery youth ministers to work together to make events happen. We no longer have Presbyteries. Pacific Mountain Region has recently created First Third Ministry (the first 33 years of a person's life) to oversee regional ministry with children, youth and young families. This includes Camp Spirit, Imagine, Evolve, May Retreats, and Youth and Children at Conference. Camp Spirit, Imagine, and Evolve are rapidly growing events, however, as more and more young people are participating, fewer of them have any relationship with a traditional congregation. It is NOT the mission of First Third Ministry to grow local congregation, but to serve people in the first third of their lives.

Are we satisfied with Trinity's relationship to people in the first third of their lives? Is Trinity called to deepen its relationship to First Thirds Ministry, even though it isn't intended to grow a congregation? Are you called to serve people in the first third of their lives?