

### ***Conversation with the New Generation***

*This responsive reading was collaboratively authored by the UBC Youth*

Youth: We are in a stage of our lives where we are trying to make some sense out of what it means to be raised American Baptist. Today we are sharing our collective thoughts with you.

**All: Thank you for sharing! We are listening.**

Youth: You have taught us to love one another, to practice compassion, and to seek justice.

**All: For this we rejoice!**

Youth: We understand prayer to be when we are connected with each other in our joys and concerns. We may not know to whom we pray or why, but we are joined together as a community of people who care.

**All: Thank you for listening to our joys and concerns. We also rejoice and hope with you.**

Youth: We don't know if we believe in God, and our understanding is clouded by too many popular images. We prefer terms like "Holy Mystery" for now.

**All: Your questions are welcome here. We also struggle with words, images, and doubts.**

Youth: The Bible makes very little sense to us. We know you teach the Bible during Sunday service, but we have a hard time paying attention to this format.

**All: The Bible is complex. Many of us take a lot of time to study it, and even then we often don't understand all of it. We are here to answer your questions as best as we can.**

Youth: We wonder about these other Truths in the Universe.

**All: There are many paths and many Truths. We uphold the Baptist principle of Soul Liberty. Each of us has our own journey and we hope that our stories help you to find your own way. We seek to provide you with a Christian foundation, but we do not want to limit your exploration as you continue to go out into the world.**

Youth: We like having Autonomy of the Local Church, but we also feel un-connected to a larger progressive Christian community.

**All: We are not the only liberal, awesome, family style church out there. We hope you go out into the world and find people as cool as we are to travel with you in your adult years.**

Youth: We're glad we weren't raised Catholic. We like the idea of the Priesthood of all Believers much better.

**All: You are empowered to communicate directly with God, to interpret Scripture, and to minister to one another.**

Youth: When we explain what an America Baptist is to our friends, we say "Our Pastor is gay and we are welcoming to all."

All: Thank you for sharing a Welcoming and Affirming message.