

EMPATHETIC CONVERSATION

Sample Conversation Starters

An example of how to frame these conversations to young adults:

We want to build a stronger, more exciting young adult community at _____. As we begin to do that, we think it will be helpful to get to know the young adults in our community better. I would love to just talk and get to know you and hear a little bit about your story and journey.

Getting to know you questions

- Where are you at in life?
- What drew you to this career/area of study?
- What energizes you about your job / schooling?
- What is your favorite way to spend your free time? What kinds of things bring you joy?
- Is there anything challenging going on in your life right now? What kind of support do you need in your life that you aren't getting?

Faith Questions

- Did you have an experience of Church growing up? What was it like?
- What has your experience of Church been like post-college? Has it changed?
 - Anything positive?
 - Anything frustrating?
- Choose a word that would describe the role that Orthodoxy plays in your life now?
- What about faith in general? No judgment!

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- Do you wish the church would show up for you in ways that it hasn't?
- Do you feel like something is missing in your church experiences?

Some Thoughts

When you are having conversations with people you do not know as well, it may feel uncomfortable to ask questions about their challenges or their faith. Our experience is that young adults often feel more ready and comfortable answering these questions than we feel asking them! So be warm, curious, genuinely friendly, and brave, and you'll probably have a wonderful conversation!