

Scenarios for Putting It All Together

Quadrilateral Thinking Case Study 1

The senior high youth group at First United Methodist has participated in a summer work trip for the past 20 years, each time taking part in a home repair project in Appalachia. Many of the adult leaders who have gone on the trip have done so for years, and both the youth and the congregation feel very good about the project and their past experiences.

This year, the church has some new youth leaders who participated in other mission projects with their previous church. They like the project that First UMC normally does, but they are also very aware that there are many wonderful projects around the country and many needs in places other than in Appalachia. These new leaders would like for the youth to consider another project. How can the adult leaders and the youth use the Quadrilateral to consider different options and make a faithful decision?

SCRIPTURE:

TRADITION:

REASON:

EXPERIENCE:

Scenarios for Putting It All Together (continued)

Quadrilateral Thinking Case Study 2

The youth group at Wesley UMC has grown a lot in the past couple of years; and little by little, the behavior of the youth has started to change. Couples are sitting next to each other and holding hands during youth group, paying more attention to each other than to the activities. Some youth who are not “regulars” in the church seem to have little respect for the youth room and other spaces in the church. Youth who don’t “fit in” as well are getting picked on more often. Cell phones go off regularly during discussions. It just seems as if the level of respect for one another has declined.

The youth leaders know that a solution has to be found—and soon. They want the youth to have a good time, but they also feel that there should be more of a purpose to the group than just fun. Rather than impose a bunch of rules on the group, some of the youth and leaders have decided that they want to use the Quadrilateral to determine how to proceed. What would each of the four parts of the quadrilateral have to say in this situation?

SCRIPTURE:

TRADITION:

REASON:

EXPERIENCE: