

Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Massachusetts

Convention Presentation

11.15.2025

formation.diomass.org/young-adult-ministry/

A Prayer for Diocesan-Wide Young Adult Ministry

in the Diocese of Massachusetts



In a world where many young adults feel disconnected and alone, hungry for meaning and purpose, imagine sacred spaces where isolation gives way to laughter—where strangers become friends around God's table as they share stories, explore faith, and ask questions. Here, they discover what it means to be known, loved, and fully seen.

Rooted in the richness of the Episcopal tradition and guided by mentors, they become alive to the movement of the Spirit, discovering that faith is not a set of answers but a lived journey.



Photo by Debby Hudson on Unsplash



**Together, may we create
sacred spaces of welcome
and belonging,
accompanying young
adults as they seek God
with courage, curiosity,
and joy.**



In a time when many congregations long to connect with younger generations and serve their communities more deeply, imagine a ministry shared across churches.

Here, young adults and congregations join hands to meet local needs with compassion and purpose—feeding the hungry, seeking justice, and building community.

Together as one body in Christ we can nurture faith, strengthen connection, and make God's love visible in the world.



Photo by [Stockcake](https://stockcake.com/i/community-planting-day_438527_770859)



Together, may we share a ministry that equips young adults and congregations to serve their neighbors with compassion and hope.

In a time when the Church is changing, imagine sacred gatherings of young adults, mentors and companions listening for what the Holy Spirit is doing next.

Here, they dream boldly and act faithfully, co-creating with God new expressions of worship, service, and community.

Through the courage and creativity of these young leaders and congregations, the Church is being renewed—vibrant, hopeful, and alive once more.



Photo by Jubilee Episcopal Church Austin



**Together, may we trust
and support the Spirit's
work in young leaders
who will renew and
reshape the Church for
our time.**



Program Summary

We will cultivate regional, non-residential young adult formation and discipleship communities that nurture imagination, faith, and leadership development.

These sacred, inclusive, and creative spaces will give young adults the space to worship together, engage in spiritual formation, and explore what it means to follow Jesus to lead lives grounded in God's justice, joy, and love.



Key Moments for Diocesan-Wide YA Ministries in Massachusetts



Discernment Committee Members

Co-Chair: The Rev. Rachael Pettengill-Rasure

Co-Chair: Sandra Soto

Executive Team: The Rev. Zachary Kinyua

Executive Team: The Rev. Natalie Thomas

Executive Team and Staff Liaison: The Rev. Shannon Kelly

Discernment Committee Members

- The Rev. Michael Bousquet
- The Rev. Dan Bell
- The Rev. Eva Dalzell
- The Rev. Spencer Hatcher-Tarplin
- Kate Howton
- The Rev. Edwin Johnson
- Patrick Kangrga
- The Rev. Isaac Martinez
- Jamie Shore
- The Rev. Kevin Vetiach
- Margaret Walker



Discernment Committee Timeline

December 2024 - February 2025

Formation of Discernment Committee

March - April 2025

Development of core values

May - June 2025

Full-day work retreat - *open invite to diocese*

Design of vision, mission, participants

July - August 2025

Benchmarking of 9 similar programs

Half-day work retreat - *open invite to diocese*

Initial design of new Young Adult Program

September - October 2025

Refinement of program with Bishop's staff



Core Values

Embodied Faith

Luke 4:18

Living out the Gospel through compassion, hope, and justice.

Authentic Presence

Psalm 139:14

Honoring the fullness of who we are as God's creation and bearing witness to the Spirit at work in ourselves and others.

Beloved Community

1 Corinthians 12:12

Building communities that reflect the kin-dom of God, where dignity, belonging, and mutual care are real.

Ongoing Transformation

Romans 12:2

Embracing lifelong growth as we discern and respond to God's call for justice, healing, and renewal in the world.

Intended Participants

The program is designed for young adults ages 18–32, with attention to the distinct needs of those in emerging adulthood and those navigating more established life paths. While primarily serving young adults in Eastern Massachusetts, the program is also open to those relocating to the region.

Rooted in progressive Christianity, it welcomes all who are open to spiritual exploration and formation in the context of the Episcopal Church. We aim for participants to reflect the diversity of the communities where we live and work and are committed to cultivating diverse cohorts across race, gender, sexuality, and class.



Impact Goals

- **Participants** experience deepened spirituality, community, and faith through Young Adult Discipleship & Sacred Spaces worship gatherings.
- **Participants** articulate vocational calling and begin developing leadership and formation skills.
- **Participants** engage in leadership and service within partner congregations and local communities.
- **Congregations** host young adult internships or leadership placements aligned with diocesan strategic priorities.
- **Congregations** engage in service and justice work within their local communities.
- Increased participation of young adults in **diocesan ministries and governance**.
- Strong pipeline of lay and ordained leaders **in our diocese**, equipped to lead the church toward vitality and justice

Intended Program Arc

Years 1 & 2: Discipleship & Sacred Spaces

- Regional YA formation communities rooted in faith, leadership, and imagination
- Weekly worship and formation, quarterly retreats (evangelism · justice · leadership · innovation)
- Individual spiritual direction and connection to local congregations

Years 3 & 4: Congregational Investment

- Embed fellows in parish internships aligned with diocesan priorities
- Integrate LDI-based leadership & organizing curriculum
- Paid stipends · dual tracks (internship / discipleship) · pathways to long-term vocation

Year 5: Scaling & Expansion

- Expand to new YAs & congregations · add alumni mentorship · build multi-cohort systems
- Focus on sustainability & leadership network across the diocese
- Potentials abound -- housing options, forming/planting churches

Get Involved



**Help us
choose a
Program
Name!**

Vote Now

