

Young Adult Ministry Developer Report

Submitted to the Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson, Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri & the 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri



Young Adults in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in 1931

The Programming Year

We began this year with excitement and anticipation for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's visit to Saint Louis and the diocese of Missouri. Young Adults from across the diocese attended the Case for Love movie release across the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri organizing trips in January in small and large groups to attend the showings. The Office of Young Adult Ministry sponsored ten tickets in the St. Louis Metropolitan area to see the film in Chesterfield.

In February, the Office of Young Adult Ministry development co-sponsored an event with the Office of Children, Youth and Family ministry development and the Episcopal Church of Holy Communion during the Interfaith Weekend. The event brought famed Jewish composer and performer Alicia Jo Robins into town for a Torah Study, Community concert and Adult Forum. Young Adult ministry practitioners were instrumental in the organizing and marketing of the event.



In March, The Happening was launched and had its first meeting on Maundy Thursday. The alternative spiritual experience is a mixture of art, music, and authentic faith conversations. The Happening was organized by young adult Wes Ragland and sponsored by the Office of Young

Adult Ministry in partnership with TryTank. The event had over 70 young adults in attendance. The Office of Young Adult ministry is committed to supporting the sustainability

On March 30th, the Young Adult network held its first ever Young Adult Easter Egg Hunt at the Episcopal Church of St. Michael St. George. Young Adults networked and searched for fund prizes that included movie tickets, spa treatments, and Starbucks gift cards. This event connected Young Adults for some light-hearted fellowship before Holy Week.



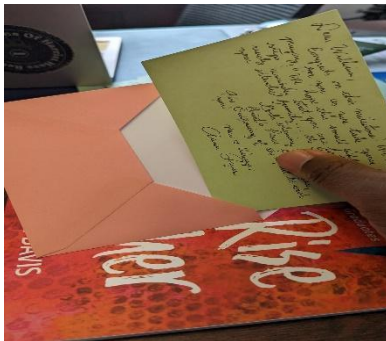
In April, the Office of Young Adult Ministry in collaboration with the Diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission brought famed Cole Arthur Riley into town for a discussion about emerging spirituality and to sign her recent books *This Here Flesh* and *Black Liturgies*. The event was held at Christ Church Cathedral and had a wonderful showing from young adults all over the St. Louis region.

In May, the office of Young Adult Ministry took three Young Adult Ministry Lay Practitioners to Princeton's Institute for Youth Ministry. Practitioners were able to retool and learn different strategies for engaging younger generations in ministry and worship. These ministry practitioners were also able to retreat and replenish their spiritual wells.



Later that month, the Office of Young Adult Ministry Development and the Office of Children, Youth, and Families celebrated

graduates by sending handwritten letters of congratulations and blessings to each graduate from high school in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Graduates also received a copy of Joe Davis's *We Rise Higher* book of poetry. This effort was to ensure that college bound students kept their connection to their Episcopal communities and to the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.



In August, the Office of Young Adult Ministry helped support the relaunch of Campe Phoenix (now called Camp Firebird) by ensuring that young adults were active in volunteering for this year's camp. Young Adults from across the diocese served in a variety of capacities including camp counselors, worship leaders, village counselors, support staff, and chaplains.

Deaconess Anne House Ministry Update

The Deaconess Anne House is going through a process of redevelopment. This year saw the reconstruction of the Deaconess Anne House Advisory Council. The council is made up of ten members of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and is represented by each order of ministry (priest, deacon, and lay). At their first meeting, the advisory council reviewed the Deaconess Anne House report and held a preliminary discussion on the new shifts needed for the Deaconess Anne

House Ministry which include the need for a financially sustainable model, the need for a model of dispersed community, and the need for a model that expands its ministry beyond the St. Louis metropolitan area in hopes of creating a truly diocesan-wide ministry.

A special development team was also structured to design the next iteration of the Deaconess Anne House Ministry. Ministry Design was set to begin the second week of September this year but was stalled because of an emergency medical leave taken by the Ministry Developer for Young Adults. The design team had to reschedule their work into 2025 but look forward to presenting at the 186th Diocesan Convention the newly designed Deaconess Anne House Ministry.

In Conclusion



Young Adult Ministry in the diocese of Missouri celebrates another successful year of growth, wonder, and joy. We continued to increase our network and further develop the capacity and numbers of lay involved in young adult ministry. As Young Adult Ministry Developer, I take great pride in helping the diocese continue to recognize and champion leadership of Young Adults in critical areas of the church leadership. It

has been a joy to see Young Adults connect with their calling and find their vocations in life and in the church. As the programming year winds down, the office of Young Adult Ministry turns its gaze toward 2025 with hopes for curating more exciting opportunities for Young Adults to connect and support each other in ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. One can expect a relaunch of the Deaconess Anne House, a Diocesan sponsored Young Adult Retreat, and plenty of opportunities for young adults to engage in faith formation and for lay support of these ministries to be strengthened and supported. If you would like to find out how your young adults can be involved in the young adult network or if you would like for me to come speak to your church about young adult ministry in the diocese, please email me at arogers@diocesemo.org.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Aaron Rogers
Ministry Developer for Young Adults