



ADOSC Student Ministry Department | **Diocesan Council Report, May 2025**

Supporting Collaboration

This department serves parishes and parish ministry leaders. Since February 2025, we have supported collaboration in youth/student ministry in the diocese in the following ways:

- Fall Youth Retreats 2025 – Mattie Zanin and Hunter Myers have begun the planning for Mondo (Oct. 10–12) + Regenerate 2025 (Nov. 7–9) at Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton, SC.
- Diocesan Convention – The Youth Commission Winter Weekend was held February 28–29 in Summerville, SC to prepare the cohort to serve at the 2025 Diocesan Convention. Melissa Bennett prepared the team for both the behind-the-scenes support and up-front leadership of Morning Prayer on the Saturday of Convention. **The Youth Commission served excellently at Diocesan Convention, and I would like to give thanks to God for Maggie O’Lear’s beautiful testimony.** To God be the glory for his faithfulness to us through the service and leadership of this generation!
- Youth/Student Leader Network – The Fusion student ministry leader gatherings continued throughout the Spring semester, culminating in a celebration lunch on Thursday, May 8th, hosted by long-time youth minister Rob Schluter (St. John’s, John’s Island).

Discovering Unknown and Unengaged Leaders

This department champions parishes by helping to discover unknown and unengaged leaders for youth/student and college ministry. We have done so recently in the following ways:

- **Applications are now open for the 2025–2026 Youth Commission Cohort!** We’ve streamlined how students apply and join the youth commission. Rather than download and fill a long application package, high schoolers can fill out the form below to start the process. After they submit the interest form, Melissa Bennet or

Hunter Myers will contact them for an initial interview. Then, they will receive the remaining forms to complete their application, including reference forms for their parish clergy and youth minister to submit. All forms, including references, will be completed electronically. The application can be found on the ADOSC Student Ministry Department page.

- We give thanks for new youth ministry leaders hired in the following roles this Spring:
 - Sam English | Full-time Family Minister at St. James, James Island
 - Cole O'Keefe | Full-time Youth Minister at St. John's, Florence
 - Riley Tart | Student Ministry Resident at St. Helena's, Beaufort
- Continue to pray for the Lord to lead the right candidates to the following open positions:
 - Church of the Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island, SC | Full-time youth ministry director
 - Prince George Winyah, Georgetown, SC | Full-time youth minister
 - Christ St. Paul's, Hollywood, SC | Full-time family minister

Developing Ministers and Ministries

The department aims to be the premier ACNA diocese for discovering and developing next generation ministers. Here are a few ways we've supported this work:

- The goal of this department is for every ADOSC parish to do intentional youth/student ministry. To this end, **we have begun to work with parishes to come up with creative and local solutions for raising up student ministry leaders.**

Inquiries can be made to studentministry@adosc.org.

- Here's a creative hiring success story:
 - In Spring 2024, the Church of the Good Shepherd began looking for part-time youth minister candidates in the Camp Jubilee staff. After a conversation with The Rev. Will Klauber, Canon Myers worked to secure free housing for their candidate for a calendar year to supplement the startup cost of hiring this part-time position, in the

hopes that it would prove valuable and receive full-time funding. In July 2024, Evan Jackson was hired for this position. In January 2025, Evan was called to be the full-time Family Minister at Church of the Good Shepherd. Through this creative and collaborative work, we were able to support this parish in the hiring, discernment, and development of a next generation minister. We thank the Lord for the Rev. Will Klauber and the vestry at the Church of the Good Shepherd for their work in supporting next generation ministry and ministers.

- **The 2025 Student Ministry Initiative Grant application is open!** The Youth Ministry Initiative Grant exists to come alongside ADOSC youth & student ministry champions with financial support for their ministry ideas. You can apply for the Initiative Grant as a church, rector, student ministry team, student minister, or as a middle/high school student. You can apply for an Initiative Grant once in a calendar year. Initiative Grant funds are intended to supplement the financial cost of a ministry idea and cannot be used for individual compensation. For students with an idea must share the ministry idea with a church leader and have their support. Priority will be given to ministry ideas that are collaborative (involving other churches/youth ministries) or student-led.

Continue to pray for our young people, for their parents, for their clergy, for their student ministry leaders, and for their peers to know the love of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Grace & Peace,
Canon Hunter Myers

The Student Ministry Department
of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina



Hunter Myers | Canon for Student Ministry

The Rev. Corey Prescott | Clergy Chair

Melissa Bennett | Youth Commission

The Rev. Canon Laura Bowman | Canon for Safe Churches

The Rev. Justin Hare | College Ministry

Justin Johnson | Camp Jubilee

Camden Windham | Leader Coaching

Mattie Zanin | Fall Retreats Manager