



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

Supporting Collaboration

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

- Fall Youth Retreats 2025
 - Mattie Zanin and Canon Myers have rolled out registrations for Mondo (Oct. 10–12) + Regenerate 2025 (Nov. 7–9) at Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton, SC. **This Fall, we are opening up individual registrations for Fall youth retreats.** In the past decades, registrations happened primarily in parishes who bring their teenagers to the Fall retreats. **We intend to reach students who do not have a parish group attending but who would still like to come to Mondo and Regenerate. We trust that this additional path for registrants will make Fall youth retreats more accessible for all ADOSC parishes and for teenagers beyond our diocese.** Individual registrants will be put in a diocesan group at Mondo and Regenerate, led by volunteer leaders who have been screened, trained, and will be monitored in accordance with the diocesan child protection policies.
- Youth Commission
 - Six students from across the diocese have joined the 2025-26 ADOSC Youth Commission cohort. **Melissa Bennett and Canon Myers have decided to move the Fall and Spring cohort training weekends on a rotation throughout the diocese.** The goal is for the Youth Commission trainings to begin with Sunday worship at a diocesan parish and will continue with training in the afternoon. **We believe this change better expresses the collaborative nature of the Youth Commission, allowing parishes across the diocese to host and celebrate our young servant leaders.** The first

iteration of this new training rotation began at Church of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, August 10th.

- Additionally, the 2026-27 Youth Commission application process will be *far* more accessible and streamlined. The previous application process involved the applicant submitting 10+ pages of application documents, including a clergy reference, *before* submitting their application and conducting the interview. **The new application process will be:**
 1. A high schooler will submit the digital interest form on the diocesan website.
 2. The Canon or Youth Commission lead will schedule a phone interview with the applicant within a week of receiving the interest form.
 3. Before or after the phone interview, the applicant will request a member of the clergy at their parish to submit a digital reference form.
 4. The Canon and Youth Commission lead will assess the applicant's interview and reference to decide upon admission to the Youth Commission cohort.
- The primary criteria for admission to the Youth Commission include:
 - A current or rising high school student (preference is shown for students 10th grade and above)
 - Demonstrates an understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and their faith in him
 - Demonstrates burgeoning servant-leadership
- Youth/Student Leader Network
 - The Fusion student ministry leader gatherings returned in August 2025 with a fun and fellowship gathering at Top Golf in Charleston. The Fall 2025 Fusion gatherings will continue monthly, alternating in-person and on Zoom to allow for greater participation for youth ministry leaders throughout the diocese.

Discovering Unknown and Unengaged Leaders

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

- 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
 - Brett Kucera | Full-time Youth Minister at Prince George Winyah, Georgetown
 - Joseph Grech | Full-time Worship Leader and Youth Minister at St. Thomas, Mt. Pleasant
 - Amelia Kitchens | Middle School Ministry Intern at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke & St. Paul
- 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
 - Christ St. Paul’s, Hollywood, SC | Full-time family minister
 - Christ Church, Mt. Pleasant | Full-time youth 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:

- Monday Co-Working
 - Canon Myers offers a Monday co-working space for youth/student ministry leaders in the greater Charleston area. The location rotates throughout the Charleston metro, from West Ashley, James Island, Mt. Pleasant, Downtown Charleston, North Charleston, and Summerville. Co-working has provided a unique opportunity for younger youth ministry leaders to steward their

responsibilities among peers who encourage, discern, collaborate, and pray together.

- Initiative Grants
 - **The 2025 Student Ministry Initiative Grant application is open on the ADOSC website under the Student Ministries page.** 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,

The Rev'd Canon Hunter Myers

The Student Ministry Department
of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina



The Rev. Canon Hunter Myers | Canon for Student Ministry

The Very Rev. Corey Prescott | Clergy Chair

Melissa Bennett | Youth Commission

The Rev. Canon Laura Bowman | Canon for Safe Churches

Justin Johnson | Camp Jubilee

Camden Windham | Residency Development & Leader Coaching

Mattie Zanin | Fall Retreats Manager