



Supporting Collaboration

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

- *Fall Youth Retreats 2025*
 - **Mondo: The Student Ministry Department hosted 114 attendees from 13 parishes for the 2025 Mondo Middle School Retreat at Camp Bob Cooper.** The Daniel Island Music Academy Band, composed of high school students, led worship for the weekend. Josh Wills, the Student Minister at St. Paul's Summerville, taught on John 13–17 on the theme of One: we have one Savior, we are one Body, we are filled with one Spirit, we have one Mission.
 - **Regenerate: The Student Ministry Department hosted 99 attendees from 12 parishes for the 2025 Regenerate High School Retreat at Camp Bob Cooper.** Joseph Grech, the Youth Minister & Worship Leader at St. Thomas Mt. Pleasant, led worship with college students from the Clemson FCA worship team. Dr. Ellie Paley, professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and recent Cambridge Ph.D. graduate, spoke on Genesis 1–3.
 - Special recognition should be shown to Mattie Zanin, the Fall Retreats Manager, who orchestrated excellent, smooth, and safe weekends. As well, the Diocesan Youth Commission, led by Melissa Bennett, served faithfully and excellently at Mondo. Youth Commission students shared their testimonies at both Mondo and Regenerate.
 - Look forward to expanded options for church group and individual registrations for Mondo and Regenerate in 2026.

- *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 primarily covered preparation for Fall Retreats.

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:

- *Unknown Leaders*
 - Canon Myers has begun to establish connections at Anderson University in the Christian Studies department in order to build relationships and support incoming ministry leaders in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina.
- *Hiring Processes*
 - **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
 - St. Michael's, Charleston | Full-time Youth Minister

Developing Ministers and Ministries

The department aims to be the leading 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.
- *Student Leader Network – Spring 2026 Coaching Cohort*
 - Canon Myers is pleased to offer a **free diocesan youth ministry coaching cohort provided by the ACNA's Student Leadership Network team**. The cohort will meet on Zoom on Thursdays from Noon–1pm beginning Thursday, January 15th, 2026 for six weeks. This cohort is free for any youth ministry leader in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina.
- *Initiative Grants*
 - A **2025 Youth Ministry Initiative Grant** was given for a collaborative youth ministry event in the Charleston area called United. The youth ministers at James Island Christian Church, Ft. Dorchester Baptist, Charleston Baptist, the Cathedral Church of St. Luke & St. Paul formed intentional relationships across churches and denominations and have hosted multiple United gatherings in the past 18 months. The grant was used to cover food for the event, providing pizza and snowcones for over 300 attendees at the September United gathering.

Shared Vision for Youth/Student Ministry

At the Student Ministry Department retreat in August, we recognized all the ‘gaps’ which exist when someone answers the question, “What is youth ministry?” Together, we spent the weekend wrestling with what Scripture says, what we’ve experienced as practitioners, and what needs exist to evangelize and disciple one generation after another. Here is my best proposal for a shared vision for youth/student ministry:

*Youth/Student Ministry exists to create **intentional** spaces for **safe, intergenerational, Gospel relationships**.*

I believe this framework, though not exhaustive, will begin to cultivate a positive vision for what youth ministry is, is not, and can look like in the various contexts and ministries of this diocese. I also believe that the Anglican tradition is uniquely equipped to form young people in Christ, and we can join the Holy Spirit in this good, Gospel work.

Grace & Peace,

The Rev. Canon Hunter Myers

The ADOSC Student Ministry Department



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