

Young Adult Festival at General Convention

Now in its fourth occurrence, the Young Adult Festival is an integral part of General Convention. The Festival encourages and equips young adults, ages 18-30, to engage fully in General Convention by providing access, training, and a community of support for processing the events of convention with peers and mentors. It is designed to develop a new generation of church-wide leadership and to raise the profile of young adults and young adult ministries at General Convention and across the church as a whole.

History

In 2003, the first Young Adult Festival was held at General Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. At that first event, the Festival was located in a house off site and focused on self-care and personal development aspects. About 40 people participated. Despite lower numbers, the energy and passion of these young adults had such an impact on DFMS that young adult ministry was affirmed as a top mission priority for the coming triennium.



The Young Adult Festival continued to grow over the following three Conventions, changing both in format and substance with each location and the nature of the issues facing the church.

Young Adult Festival at 77th General Convention

In 2012, the Young Adult Festival welcomed 106 participants, fewer than a dozen of which were engaged as chaperones or ministers, for six days of the 8 day Convention. Thirty dioceses were represented as well as the Philippine Independent Church.

Cost was \$275 for a shared room, \$425 for a single room, \$100 for commuters. At the 77th General Convention, Young Adult Festival participants outnumbered young adult deputies 5:1.

Staffing

The Young Adult Festival relied primarily on three staff for organization and leadership:

- Jason Sierra, Officer for Young Adult Leadership and Vocations
- Glenn Libby, Campus Ministry Coordinator (DFMS Consultant)
- Campus Minister at UCLA and USC, Diocese of Los Angeles
- Shannon Kelly, Young Adult Network Development Coordinator (DFMS Consultant) – Diocese of Southern Ohio



Program Elements

The program was designed by a team of committed young adults:

- P'tricia Egbert, Chicago
- Shawn Evelyn, Los Angeles
- Laura Oliver, Texas

Programming was developed to incorporate both education and ample time for participation in the life of the church and of General Convention.

Education: Workshops were offered in three general tracks:

- Equipping young adults to take part in GC: Mary Getz of Episcopal Public Policy Network offered an "Intro to General Convention." Jason Sierra offered "Episcopal Church Polity 101."
- Equipping young adults for continued ministry in the church: Church leaders participated in a panel to talk about their road to ministry and current work, including Kim Robey of Anglican Women's Empowerment, Larry Bourgeois of the diocese of Southern Ohio, Matthew Moretz of "Fr Matthew Presents" fame, and Caroline Hall of Integrity. Other topics included Starting a Young Adult Ministry, led by Lauren Caldwell, diocese of Atlanta and Nils Chittenden, diocese of North Carolina. and Staying Involved In the Church, led by Jason Sierra.
- Fun: No Young Adult Festival would be complete without fun. The Fun workshops included a Drumming Workshop for both youth and young adults led by Lacey Brown.



Internships: For the first time, internships were incorporated into the fabric of the Young Adult Festival. Based on the model of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's Young Adult Presence, a total of 24 interns were deployed among 9 organizations. Most organizations took 1-2 interns, with exception of Episcopal Peace Fellowship, which took 9, and Episcopal Service Corps, which took 4. Each individual organization paid the

Festival registration fee for their interns (including housing and program). Interns performed any number of tasks, such as event facilitation, advocacy, testifying at committees, tracking legislation, shadowing staff, staffing the organizational booths, meeting with leadership, communications/social media, reporting, and blogging.

Worship

Worship was focused on centering the Young Adult Festival engagement with General Convention and building community. Worship was led by professional musician, liturgist, percussionist, music teacher and youngish adult, Lacey Brown from Seattle's Church of the Apostles (COTA) in the Diocese of Olympia. Lacey was assisted by KJ



Lysen, also of COTA.

Through worship, the Festival reimagined traditional hymns as well as celebrated through Brown's original compositions.

Celebration of Young Adult Ministries – "Leading Not Leaving"

On Saturday, July 7, the Young Adult Festival and Episcopal Young Adult and Campus Ministries joined Episcopal Service Corps in sponsoring a Celebration of Young Adult Ministries titled, "Leading Not Leaving."

The reception was designed to recognize and honor the importance of young adult participation in General Convention and the life of the church, to celebrate the partnership between Episcopal Service Corps and DFMS, and to provide a chance for all young adults and young adult ministers to gather in community.



More than 250 attended, including youth visitors, interns, workshop presenters, Episcopal Service Corps representatives, bishops, the President of the House of Deputies, Presiding Bishop, and DFMS staff.

Space

The primary location for the Young Adult Festival was the Hilton Downtown, located just a few blocks from the Convention Center where General Convention was held. Having the Festival in the hotel where participants were staying facilitated development of community through common housing. A lounge was provided on the hotel second floor with art supplies, information, refreshments, games, and prayer space.

Partnerships

The Young Adult Festival worked with several partner organizations:

- Episcopal Service Corps hosted an evening snack and information break
- Forward Movement hosted an evening snack and information break
- Megan Castellan of Arizona hosted a Millennial Leaders conversation
- Black Ministries hosted a conversation on school to prison pipeline

In addition, the Episcopal Church Indigenous, Latino, and Asiamerican Ministries all sponsored young adults so that they could attend.

Expenses

Pre-Convention expenses	\$ 1,812.31
Pre-Convention meeting travel	\$ 1,406.99
Convention travel	\$ 2,831.07
Meals and refreshments	\$ 2,068.82
Supplies	\$ 1,076.47
Printing	\$ 396.93
Rental equipment	\$ 3,170.00
Celebration	\$ 6,992.90
Hotel	\$45,612.20
Additional Convention expenses	\$ 1,690.88
Total expenses	\$67,058.57

Income

Participant registration	\$11,123.00
Sponsoring organizations	\$ 6,240.00
Total Income	\$17,363.00