

# The Episcopal Church at Work / Jan 2025



## Be bold in your faith

### Apply today to Young Adult Service Corps

**For nearly 25 years, the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) has trained and placed young adults ages 21-35 for a year of service across the [Anglican Communion](#).**

The path to becoming a YAScEr is spiritually intentional and rigorous, and the mission staff of The Episcopal Church walks alongside applicants before, during, and after their year of service.

Often young adults use their time in mission settings to discern and prepare for ministry; others use it as an opportunity to gain experience to use in other professional settings. With nearly 25 years of placements, YASC marked a milestone last year, when a member of one of the first classes, Austin Rios, was consecrated bishop of San Francisco.

#### Who should apply and begin discernment?

Young Episcopalians who are interested in global mission service.

#### What work will I do?

Young Adult Service Corps members are placed in positions that enhance and build skills. Most placements are related to the areas of administration, agriculture, community development, education, evangelism, health care, social services, and youth work.

**Say yes to discerning whether this work you are called to do, and apply today.**

#### Go Deeper: Blogs from YASCers:

- [Knitting For Hope](#)
- [Crossing Boundaries with The Triangle of Hope in Liverpool](#)

- [Meet Catalina: A Young Episcopalian Ready for New Horizons in Central Mexico](#)
- [We make our plans, but God guides our paths](#)
- [Young Adult Service Corps – Asset Map](#)

#### Key Dates:

- **Applications are due:**  
Jan. 31, 2025
- **Discernment Week:**  
March 2025 at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York
- **Mission Training:**  
June 2025 at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York
- **Mission Deployment:**  
August - September 2025

# Reflections from the Rt. Rev. Austin Rios on his YASC experience



## What drew you to initially applying to Young Adult Service Corps?

In my senior year of seminary, the Rev. Jane Butterfield approached me outside the library of the Seminary of the Southwest and asked if I might be interested in being a missionary. Due to the peculiarities of my discernment process, I had a year of canonical waiting to do after graduation from seminary and before I could be ordained.

I remember going into Jane's office and thinking, "A missionary? Me?"

In my senior year of college, I had joined an ecumenical group of students who spent six months preparing for a "reverse mission trip" to Nicaragua and had witnessed firsthand how the unhelpful empire-building dynamics often associated with missionary efforts could give way to companionship and faithful curiosity in authentic mission encounters.

After praying about it and talking with a friend who had been one of the first YASC missionaries, I decided to take the risk and sign up. I continually thank God for connecting me with Jane that day, and for the life that has unfolded as a result.

## What surprised you about your year of service?

Xalapa, Veracruz, was a rich environment for being a YASCer. Some of the most surprising aspects of serving as the administrator for the diocesan bishop came from seeing the insides of how another member church in the Anglican Communion did business, and witnessing the interactions and relationship between The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Mexico. I helped out at the local cathedral in whatever tasks needed to be done (even playing the organ), and helped coordinate companion diocesan relationships and large group visits.

The bishop I worked for was a candidate for the presiding bishop equivalent in the Church of Mexico, and I saw how political alliances affected church hierarchy. Through these experiences I gained a deeper appreciation for how challenging it is to work for justice and wield structural power in the church.

But the biggest surprises, and the most joyful ones, arose from the people who were part of our daily lives. Marcelo, who ran a



restaurant out of his home near the cathedral with the best tortillas I've ever tasted. Don Ricardo, whose makeshift cat sanctuary and hard-earned wisdom reminded me that appearances can distract us from deeper truth. The Rev. Gaby Reyes, whose path as an ordained woman faced so many more obstacles than my own.

YASC provided a container and the space for me to truly begin to see, appreciate, and love people in new ways. That is a skill that has served me well in life and ministry. In retrospect, I can see how the learning from my YASC year has been foundational to my almost 20 years of ordained service in the church.

### **What pieces of advice would you give to someone who is considering applying?**

Allow yourself some time to sit with the questions about what saying yes to YASC might mean for the people with whom you'll serve and to you.

Are you a naturally curious person who is willing to look for and be attentive to God's guidance in an unknown and uncertain environment? YASC will make you more so.

If you are at all on the fence about participating—wondering if now is the right time or whether you will “be enough” for the people with whom you'll live and serve—lean toward going. God will show up in your moments of fear, uncertainty, and worry and teach you to rely



on others and the Holy Spirit for discerning the way forward.

And if you feel like you are the perfect fit, sign up as well! But make sure you temper your zeal with service and deep listening.

### **Is there anything else you would like to share about your YASC experience?**

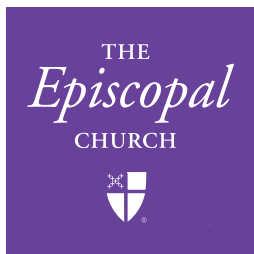
While the year I spent in Mexico was transformative, the most satisfying part of YASC was becoming a mentor to others going through the program. It was my

great privilege to work with several YASCers while in Rome, and to see how both the congregation and the YASCers grew as a result. Seeing the myriad powerful and faithful ways in which these former missionaries are transforming the church and world is one of the great joys of my life.

### **Give Today**

Give Today – Please support the BLESS: Annual Appeal with a gift today.





## Support this work with a gift to The Episcopal Church: **BLESS Appeal**

Your gifts to The Episcopal Church BLESS Appeal support the work of global mission. We are so thankful for your generosity.

- **Call** (212) 716-6002
- **Online – The Episcopal Church**
- **Make a gift of securities** – contact April Frazier at (212) 716-6002 for information.



## **BOXED: Featured Podcast**

**Meditations: Emmanuel God with Us.**



## **Feast Days**

**Jan. 18 Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle**

**Jan. 25 Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle**

**Jan. 27 John Chrysostom, bishop and theologian, 407**



## **Prayer/Meditation**

O heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.