



IMPACT REPORT PREPARED FOR:

NASSAU PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PRINCETON, NJ

FEBRUARY 2016

THANK YOU!

To our partners in ministry at the Nassau Presbyterian Church~

I am so thankful to be sharing this news of what God is doing in our midst! With your prayers and partnership, Nassau Presbyterian is a part of the formation of a rising generation of called, committed, and confident leaders for our church and our world.

With Nassau's partnership in prayer and support, the Young Adult Volunteer program continues to make significant advances. The 2015/16 YAV class, for instance, is a strong group – 85 young adults who are serving in 5 international and 16 national sites. We are excited that this year's group is the most racially diverse class we have recorded in YAV history; 21% of participants are people of color. This is a very important sign, and we look forward to continuing to grow this opportunity for all young adults interested in serving.

I am thankful for your deep partnership – through the prayers of your congregation for the YAVs serving this year, for the invitation to have your 'adopted' YAVs visit your worship and share their experiences, and for your sustained programmatic support. Through all of the ways, you all are contributing to planting of transformative seeds of leadership. In these pages, you'll see the ways those seeds from years past are taking root, and you can also see the freshly planted seeds of YAVs in the thick of their year of transformative service.

Blessings in your many areas of ministry, and thank you for partnering with us in the Young Adult Volunteer program.

Rev. Richard Williams

YAV Coordinator

Philippines '99-'00; Nashville '00-'01

THANK YOU!

About YAV

a year of service...

Young Adult Volunteers put their *faith into action* through a year of service in sites around the United States and throughout the world. YAVs serve alongside local partners working in the areas of the world's toughest problems – addressing the root causes of poverty, working for reconciliation in cultures of violence, and sharing the hope of Christ. YAVs (age 19-30) grow and learn as part of an intentional Christian community, practice living simply, and work for meaningful change in the world.

for a lifetime of change...

YAVs engage in discernment – the practice of deep listening – to find out who God is calling them to be. Through spiritual practices, relationships, and living in community, YAVs explore what a life of service can truly mean – not only for a year, but for their entire lives.

Where is God calling you to serve?

Facebook: /yavprogram

Twitter: @yavprogram

Instagram: @yavprogram

www.youngadultvolunteers.org

THANK YOU!

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program in its current form was created through an initiative of our General Assembly in 1994 called Volunteers in Shared Ministry. The idea was to build on our denomination's long history of volunteerism as we fulfill Christ's commission to take the Good News into the world. With a focus on young adults, the church recognized the need to "empower a new generation of Christian leadership for the church and the world and to evangelize and revitalize congregations of the PCUSA." It was also called to be "a program marked by the reformed practices of spiritual formation and leadership development." (General Assembly documents)

More than 1,600 young adults have been sent into a year of YAV service since 1994. The impact has been significant:

- 92 percent of YAV alums say their YAV year directly influenced their current vocation,
- 79 percent of YAV alums now regularly attend worship, and 63 percent report additional participation in congregational life,
- 75 percent say the YAV experience led them to more involvement in the PC(USA),
- 32 percent of YAV alums go on to ordination and pastoral leadership.

As part of their service, volunteers are placed in community agencies or local churches, with jobs depending on the needs of partners and the skills of the YAV. They are exposed to some of the hardest problems in the world – poverty, violence and reconciliation, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ – while living and reflecting with other volunteers on the meaning and motivation of their Christian faith.

The YAV program is expanding, deepening its investment in the creation of transformative leaders for our church and our world. With God's guidance, more young adults, from a wide array of backgrounds, will be able to share the experience that so many have before. The YAV staff continues to explore ways to reach out to young adults from many different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds to ensure that all have the chance to serve and that the YAV program will continue to reflect the ever-changing demographics of our denomination. It is important to the YAV program that these efforts are not only reflected in our program demographics, but also in the spaces our program creates so that every person present at our workshops, sites, and events feel welcome. The continued support of faithful congregations like Nassau is critical to the success of this effort.

THANK YOU!

Nassau's Support of YAV

GIVING HISTORY TO YAV

- May 5, 2015: \$10,000
- June 2, 2014: \$10,000
- August 12, 2013: \$10,000

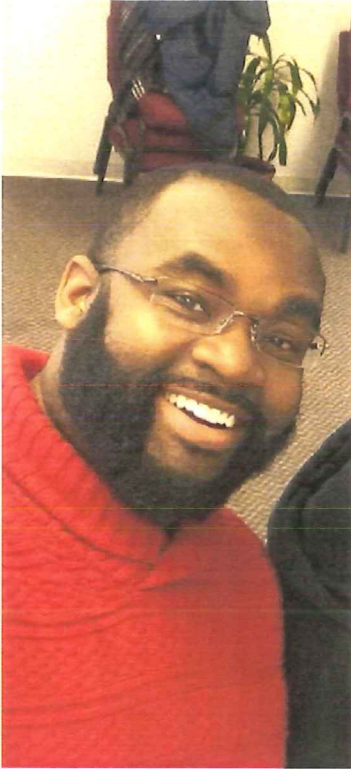
OVERVIEW

Nassau Presbyterian Church has been a great friend to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Its generosity to the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is particularly broad and deep. For many years, Nassau has sent members into YAV service. In 2013, in addition to supporting a serving member, Nassau made a decision to support the general YAV program in order to partner with young adults who may not have the benefit of a strong home congregation or may not have grown up in the PCUSA. For the last two years, **Nassau has been the largest congregational supporter of the YAV program** even though none of their members have been in service. This amazing generosity has helped the YAV program continue to make a difference in the church and the world.

Nassau was the first congregation to partner with YAVs who were not Nassau members. This effort began as a program called YAV-a-Year, meant to direct church giving to non-members when no members were serving, but to revert back to member support when members did serve. As the program has evolved and the need for increased general support of the program has continued to grow, YAV-a-Year has started to evolve to encourage congregations to both send members into service while continuing to support the program. Leadership congregations such as Nassau are an important role model for other congregations in helping to lift up this interplay of service and support. Without continued and increased support from generous partners like Nassau it will be difficult for the program to continue offer the many training and discernment opportunities that make YAV so uniquely Presbyterian.

We are happy to share updates from Nassau's three former YAV partners on the following pages. Through their words we hear clearly the impact that Nassau's generosity has made and continues to make in their lives and in their faith journeys. Thank you!

THANK YOU!



Justin Chambers

ATLANTA 2012-14

"Words cannot express my level of gratitude for the Nassau Presbyterian Church community. Thank you all for your commitment to me and to this program. You all played a pivotal role in this experience that has forever changed my life. Currently I'm working in Atlanta, GA doing recruitment for D.O.O.R (Discover Opportunities for Outreach & Reflection) and walking alongside the currently serving YAVs. I am especially grateful for Joyce MacKichan Walker, who went above and beyond to accompany me during my second YAV year. Additional thanks to Lolly and Richard O'Brien, who opened their home to me. Thank you all for caring, praying and giving of your resources. Blessings Nassau Family!"- Justin

THANK YOU!

Kelli Miller

MIAMI 2014-15

“Hola from Miami! I was so lucky to visit Nassau and meet some of the most amazingly-genuine people. Your hospitality and overall support for the YAV program was such a gift to me in a crazy and transformative time of my life. Since visiting, I’ve made a permanent move to Miami working for the non-profit, Best Buddies.

My year as a YAV was full of frustration, difficult questions, and uncomfortable truths; that’s why community is so essential. Having folks to learn from, speak freely to, and celebrate joys with helped make those hard parts of the year into experiences that transformed me. This experience led me to seek a supportive community today where I can continue to lead a life of service, faith, and compassion.”- **Kelli**



THANK YOU!

Caroline Tonarely

SAN ANTONIO 2014-15

“My trip to Nassau Presbyterian was one of the highlights of my YAV year. I was shown wonderful hospitality- from shared meals to a visit at the museum- and our hostess made me feel as if I were her own daughter. I was even sent a care package during Christmas, including a box of cocoa which got me through innumerable cold mornings in San Antonio. Speaking as someone who engages in a lot of self-reflection, your community not only supported me, but helped me gain great perspective into my year of service. Thank you all!”- **Caroline**



THANK YOU!

Current 2015-16 YAVs

Emily Kent

Home church: Immanuel Anglican Church, Destin, Florida

YAV site: Korea

Email: emkent@westmond.edu

Blog address: <http://emilytheyav.tumblr.com/>

Hi! I'm Emily, and I am excited to be part of the 2015/2016 YAV team to South Korea!
Originally from North Florida, this May I graduated from Westmont College in Santa



Barbara, California where I majored in Philosophy and minored in English. While in school, I spent a semester living in San Francisco and interning at the Public Defender's Office as a paralegal. My experiences there were invaluable, and opened my eyes to a variety of issues in our criminal justice system. I also love working with kids, and the past three summers I've worked at a PC(USA) camp called Dogwood Acres. Incidentally, this is where I heard about the YAV program and where I spent my last few months in the States working as an Assistant Director. I'm very excited to see what

the next year will bring; the ways in which God will use me and teach me.

THANK YOU!

Alyson Kung

Home church: Urban Village Church, Chicago, Illinois

YAV site: Korea

Email: alyson.kung@gmail.com

Blog address: <https://alygoestokorea.wordpress.com/>

My name is Alyson! The youngest of four, I was born and raised in the Chicago land area. I went to the University of Illinois at Chicago and received my BFA in Industrial Design in 2013. During my time there I was heavily involved in the Asian American community, I was an orientation leader, and studied abroad to Melbourne, Australia. The Young Adult Volunteer program was an answer to a prayer for me. I hope to spend my life learning about people and culture, and dedicating my life to service to others. The YAV program



provides a supportive first step into this world with a framework of reflection and social justice, and very importantly respect for those we work with. I have had two years time to reflect on if this was the path I've been called to walk, and now here I am.

At the Korea YAV site, Korean university students volunteer alongside YAVs at neighborhood children's centers fighting to end poverty. YAVs experience life on a divided peninsula in conflict, meet Koreans working for reconciliation and relationships across a border and learn how US policies sometimes help but often hinder the peace process.



Core Tenets of the YAV Program

2015-2016

- Intentional Christian Community
YAVs explore what it means to be a Christian community with one another and their neighbors. While some will live in housing together and others spread throughout their country, all YAVs will reflect together on their service and explore their relationship with God, the church, and their ministry in a broken world.
- Simple Living
YAVs are challenged to practice simple living – living an abundant life with less. Living simply pushes YAVs to evaluate their true needs with their lifestyle and beliefs.
- Cross-Cultural Mission
YAVs will intentionally explore the diversity of God’s creation, living and working outside of their comfort zone. YAVs will work to confront the systemic challenges of race, class, gender, and power, while learning to examine their own lives and actions.
- Leadership Development through Faith in Action
YAVs develop their leadership by serving in marginalized communities alongside local people of faith responding to poverty, violence, and injustice in their communities, sharing the gospel through word and deed.
- Vocational Discernment
Through theological reflection and spiritual practices, YAVs will participate in the process of vocational discernment –unearthing God’s desire for each person’s life and work.

In 2014, the YAV program celebrated its 20th anniversary. Young adults, ages 19 to 30, work for one year in communities of need both in the United States and abroad. One of the most exciting and effective programs in our church, the YAV program is “a year of service for a lifetime of change.” For more information about the program visit the YAV website at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/>. To make a gift online in support of the general program visit <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/E049075/> or contact linda.carter@pcusa.org.



YAV 2015/2016 Class Profile

Total placed (8/1/2015): 85
 2014/15 Goal: 120

Place of Service:
 Int'l 19 22% in 5 Int'l sites
 Nat'l 66 78% in 16 Nat'l sites

Gender:
 Male 29%
 Female 71%

Racial/Ethnic Composition:
 21% persons of color
 79% white

1% Multiple race/ethnicities
 2% Black/African American
 8% Asian/Asian American /Pacific Islander
 11% Hispanic/ Latino/a
 79% White

Denominational Affiliation:
 74% PC(USA)
 26% Other Denominations
 (12 denominations total; primarily Catholic, Non-denominational, and Mennonite)

YAV Exchange program:
 The YAV program is excited to continue and expand the Exchange program. We will have four young adults from Korea serving in various national sites, and this year we will also have one young adult from Mexico serving in our bi-national Tucson site, through a partnership with the *Frontera de Cristo* Border Ministry.

Synod:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Alaska/Northwest | 1 |
| Boriquen Covenant | 7 |
| Lakes and Prairies | 2 |
| Lincoln Trails | 9 |
| Living Waters | 4 |
| Mid-America | 2 |
| Mid-Atlantic | 12 |
| Northeast | 8 |
| Pacific | 1 |
| Rocky Mountains | 1 |
| South Atlantic | 12 |
| Southern Cal& HI | |
| Southwest | 4 |
| Sun | 12 |
| Trinity | 5 |

Highest Presbytery totals:

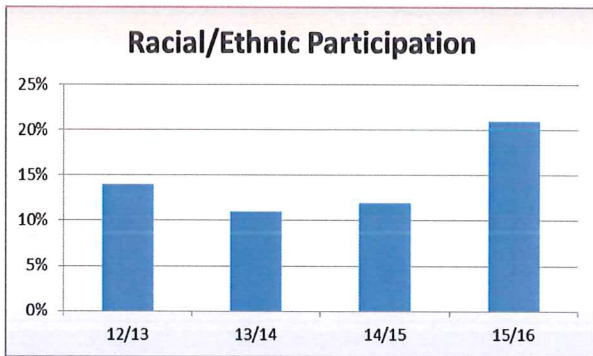
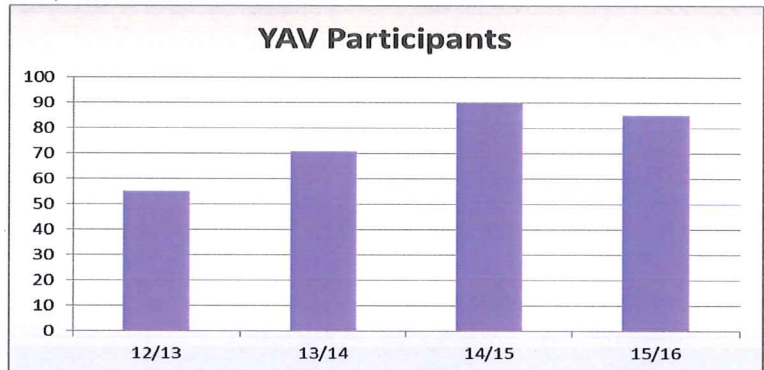
| | |
|-----------|---|
| Arkansas | 5 |
| Chicago | 5 |
| de Cristo | 4 |
| Charlotte | 3 |
| Detroit | 3 |
| Grace | 3 |
| New Hope | 3 |

Highest Congregation totals:

| | |
|---|---|
| Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock | 3 |
|---|---|

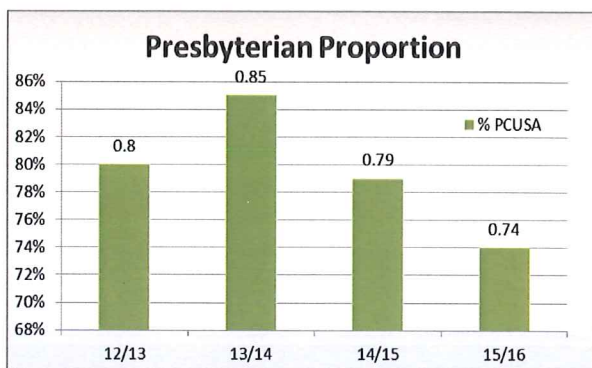
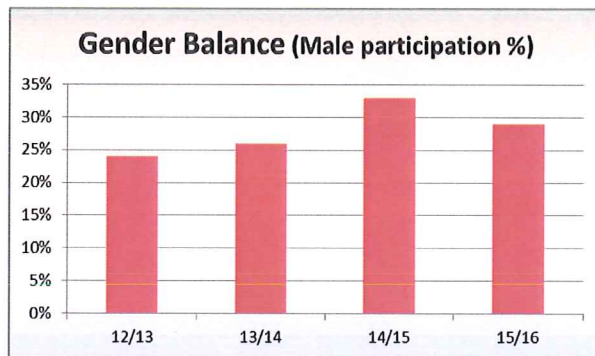
When looking at the overall trends for the size and scope of the YAV program, it is helpful to look at trends from the last four years.

In this, you see strong growth beginning in 2012, with the challenge to triple the size of the program. This growth continues up to the 15/16 class, which is slightly smaller than the previous class.



However, other markers of growth in the diversity of the program are continuing to grow strongly. One of the challenges to grow the program was to make the YAV program accessible to a wide range of participants to whom it previously had been considered inaccessible. Through specific programmatic changes and recruitment efforts, we are succeeding in making this program much more deeply diverse.

Another marker of our increase in diversity has been specifically increasing male participation. These efforts have also been showing fruit.



The YAV program remains a strongly Presbyterian program, but is intentionally increasing its ecumenical participation. This adds a diversity of traditions and faith expressions to the learning and serving environment for all YAV participants.