



## Ministry Description

### J2A Leader

At the beginning of J2A, leaders have primary responsibility for the group's direction and activities. Over the two years, the group gradually takes increasing responsibility for making decisions about activities, with the leaders retaining a directional role. Using the Journey to Adulthood lessons and activities designed for 14 to 16 year olds, leaders teach skills necessary for adulthood in the world and in Christian community.

J2A Leaders are adults (over age 21) who are regular participants in the life and worship of Trinity who are *not related to youth in the J2A group*. This ministry position is part of a gender-balanced team which should include at least two adults (over age 21) from the congregation, as well as college/seminary intern(s).

#### This ministry involves

- Spending time with young people
  - Listening—being easily amused but not easily shocked
  - Being willing to learn
  - Being willing to explore spirituality
  - Having curiosity and a sense of fun
- Community building
  - Celebrating accomplishments of young people like driver's licenses, PSAT/SAT tests
  - Maintaining guidelines for confidentiality within the group
- Being a role model
  - Modeling male-female friendship
  - Modeling adulthood
  - Sharing stories about yourself, your spiritual wanderings, and your own journey toward adulthood
- Teamwork with other J2A leaders and interns
- Self-care
  - Work to your strengths!
  - Healthy boundaries – you are their leader, not their friend
  - Attend to your own spiritual well-being

- Participate in the worship and life of the congregation
- Ask for help and support when needed

**This ministry does *not* require**

**Expert knowledge about Christianity, the Church, the Book of Common Prayer, child development, or anything else**

**This ministry is supported by**

- Safe Church training
- Journey to Adulthood program training
- Teamwork – A team of J2A leaders and interns:
  - ministering, praying and planning together
  - respecting and celebrating one another's gifts
  - meeting regularly with clergy for support
- Clergy – available for liturgy planning, pastoral needs and consultation
- Parents – facilitating youth participation, praying
- The entire Congregation – through prayer and financial support of the program
- Term limits – after you engage in this ministry for two years, you must do something else for two years

**Responsible to**

**Curate or other clergyperson having direct pastoral oversight of youth programs**

**Time Commitment**

- Two program years (Sept-June)
- Approximately 200 contact hours per program year, including most Sundays, some evening and weekend events
- Preparation time for group meetings
- Support time with other leaders and clergy