



## Ministry Description

### YAC Mentor

Where the adults in Rite-13 and J2A had a primary role in the group's direction, in YAC the young people have the primary responsibility for determining the direction of the group and its activities. These 16 to 18 year olds have learned about their identities and Christian community in Rite-13, and built on that information with skills for adulthood in J2A. In YAC, mentors offer encouragement as young people write their personal credos, and take on leadership roles in the congregation.

YAC mentors are adults (over age 21) who are regular participants in the life and worship of Trinity who are *not related to youth in the YAC 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 high school graduations, college admissions
  - Guiding young people into teamwork that respects one another's gifts and contributions
  - Maintaining guidelines for confidentiality within the group
- Being a cheerleader/advisor/friend
  - Encouraging young people to practice the skills they have learned for adulthood
  - Giving loving feedback
  - Helping young people make a plan and act on it
  - Being able to watch young people take steps into adulthood without interfering or rescuing them
  - Respecting young people's autonomy
  - Sharing stories about yourself, your spiritual wanderings, and your own journey toward adulthood

- **Teamwork with other YAC mentors and interns**
- **Self-care**
  - **Work to your strengths!**
  - **Healthy boundaries**
  - **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 YAC mentors 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**

**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**