



## The YAV program is virtual this year!

Applications are open now for next year (2021–22)

**For the first time in its nearly 30-year history, the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is virtual in 2020–21 (October through July).**

“Participating in a YAV year is supposed to provide young adults with two primary things: an opportunity to directly address root causes of poverty, and a chance to explore the meaning of Christian faith and accountability,” said Diamond Duman, a virtual YAV from Key West, Florida. “The goal has not changed; the method has become different. I am engaging in the virtual YAV program with aims to still enact change in my community, combat poverty and grow in my faith during trying times. I know the information I gain and the skills I learn will make me a stronger activist when I am called to be a leader of progress.”

YAVs are working on social and racial justice issues through the lens of Presbyterian Mission’s **Matthew 25** invitation to **dismantle structural racism, eradicate systemic poverty and build congregational vitality**. YAVs are being guided by staff in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Office of the General Assembly and other church leaders across the denomination and ecumenical partners.

“The ability to ‘go virtual’ has allowed the YAV program to partner in a broader ministry context, which would not have been possible during a regular YAV year,” said Destini Hodges, YAV associate for recruitment. “We have partners at the national, mid council and congregational level to assist us in interpreting our new Core Values, while lifting up what it means to be a connectional church doing mission in

partnership.” Once COVID-19 is no longer a threat, Hodges said that what virtual YAVs do this year could potentially lay the groundwork for a new mission model that remains a vital part of the YAV program in years to come — after COVID-19 is no longer a threat.

The Rev. Everdith Landrau, coordinator of the YAV program, said that although face-to-face encounters are irreplaceable, virtual service does offer a space for theological reflection, engagement and discipleship. “We believe this virtual program will invigorate our 2021–22 recruitment season, while giving the 2020–21 class unique options created just for them.”

YAVs are able to choose from two options.

### OPTION A —

Take part in a virtual YAV year (2020–21) — Commit to participating in training modules (six hours each week) focused on social justice, advocacy and the Matthew 25 invitation related to dismantling structural racism. For the first time, as a one-time exception, the virtual year also will be open to 18-year-olds who are interested in exploring the YAV program. (Student loan repayment assistance is available. No stipend and no health insurance are provided.)

### OPTION B —

Take part in a two-year YAV journey (2020–22) — Commit to participating in the virtual year (2020–21) and the in-person year (2021–22). This option allows YAVs to begin fundraising for their in-person YAV year early. (In addition, they also can apply for student loan repayment assistance for the 2020–21 virtual year, available in four installments.)

Learn more about YAV at [pcusa.org/yav](https://pcusa.org/yav) and apply today!



Presbyterian Mission  
**Young Adult  
Volunteers**