Hospitality Houses: Joining with Young Adults in a Season of Service

Sponsoring Partners:
Rob Fohr, Young Adult Catalyst, Presbyterian Mission Agency
Rev. Richard Williams, Coordinator, YAV program, Presbyterian World Mission
Rev. Wayne Meisel, Faith 3/Cousins Foundation

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Presbyterian Mission Agency Directional Goal:
The Presbyterian Mission Agency inspires, equips, and connects the church to: Empower, engage, and join young adults in reforming the church for Christ’s mission.

Objective: We will inspire 1000 worshiping communities to join with young adults in a season of service.
Panelists

1). **Rev. Wayne Meisel**, Faith 3, Cousins Foundation
   • Hospitality House Movement & Vision

   • Hospitality House in an urban context

3). **Kyle Kooyers**, Resident of Common House at Waynesburg University (Waynesburg, PA)
   • College Campus-Based Hospitality House model

4). **Rev. Dr. Jack Barden**, Vice President for Admissions, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX)
   • Seminary-Based Model of Hospitality House and YAV Partnership
Webinar Objectives:

1. The experiences of our panelists in their three diverse contexts including their connections to a congregation and the broader community.

2. The experiences of our panelists in starting a house of hospitality including: acquiring a space, recruiting young adults, setting up a community rule of life, resolving conflict, and intentional conversations, etc.

3. The economics of starting a hospitality house including: start-up funds, setting a plan for financial sustainability, etc.

4. How you can access available resources to help you get a hospitality house started in your community as well as join in building a network of young adult hospitality houses/intentional communities.
Please send us your questions!
The Current Situation

a) Young Adults

b) Churches
Response/Action: the radical Christian call to Hospitality

a) Housing

b) Meals: The Table

c) Conversations: Vespers
Response/ Action: the radical Christian call to Hospitality

d) Films: *Faith and Service Film Series*

e) Discernment Weekends

f) AmeriCorps Chaplaincy
Rev. Wayne Meisel

Moving Forward

a) We are building a movement, not creating an empire.
b) From Wayne to We
c) Replicating, not duplication
Fifteen Points to Consider:

• The KISS: Keep It Simple Simple
• It's about young adults
• Residents get their own jobs
• It’s a one-year program, two if the second year includes a leadership role
• Reach out to AmeriCorps Programs, but not just AmeriCorps
Fifteen Points to Consider:

- Recruit Partner Churches
- Make someone at the church in charge
- Establish clear rules of community life
- Charge Rent
- Interview potential residents with vigor
Fifteen Points to Consider:

- Have signed covenant agreements
- Hold residents accountable to their expectations
- Appoint one of the residents the RA
- Establish a clear procedure for termination
- Do you have to be Christian to live in a Christian Community?
Bethany Presbyterian House of Hospitality (Trenton, NJ)

• Intentional young adult community that draws on the tradition of service and justice that we understand to be at the core of our faith commitments.

• Supported by community and congregation
Bethany Presbyterian House of Hospitality
We limited our recruitment to:

- Bonner AmeriCorps and Vista Members
- Princeton Theological Seminary students and referrals
- EducationWorks of New Jersey members
Funding and donations from a variety of donors
Many volunteered to renovate house and host and facilitate Vespers meals
Bethany Presbyterian House of Hospitality
• Suggestions:
  • Funding: Secure seed money for possible renovations and program costs and then seek matching funders.
  • Residents: Partner with local agencies that already hire and vet staff that will be serving in your area and needing low cost housing.
  • Staff: A Chaplain/Coordinator is vital to overseeing the program and supporting the Residents. A maintenance staff person or a building committee is vital to continue overseeing the property.

• House Blog: www.bethanyhoh.wordpress.com
The Common House (Waynesburg University)

Our vision is to live in Christian community to pursue the development of faithful living, ministry, and service. The Common House is a 12-month commitment to spiritual formation in Waynesburg and Greene County (Pennsylvania). This house will consist of five to ten young adults living in faith-based community for the sake of joining in Christ’s restorative work.

Core Values

– Participating in Christ’s restorative work
– Developing a depth of faith and an understanding of calling
– Establishing intentional relationships both internally and externally
– Exhibiting a model of Christian community
– Engaging in the life and growth of Greene County
– Weekly study with Spiritual Director: (all house members)
– Weekly Bible (all house members)
– Weekly gatherings to foster internal community on Sunday evenings (all house members)
– Meetings with individual mentors once a month
– Active involvement in a local congregation
– Take time for the Sabbath (whether it is a day, or specific time(s) within each day)
– This should be a time of retreat from vocational responsibilities, service, and house responsibilities
– Weekly meals
– Service
The Common House

• Community members supported the development of the Common House
  – Funding & donations
  – Church members volunteered to host meals
  – Local Pastors, church and community leaders invested time/resources

• Rules for Community Life

• Challenges & Joys
The Common House

Suggestions:

• Establish clearly defined entrance and exit procedures. Have a game plan for handling transitions good, bad, ugly.
• Members should receive support in finding a site/job that aligns well with the core values of the house.
• (echo Karen) Staff: A Chaplain/Coordinator is vital to overseeing the program and supporting the Residents.
AYAVA House-Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX)

AYAVA = Austin Young Adult Volunteer/AmeriCorps

Located on the campus of the APTS

Houses nine participants in three apartments
AYAVA House

• The following are principles that guide our discussion and lifestyle:
  – vocational discernment
  – service to the community
  – theological reflection
  – engagement in spiritual practices
  – simple living

• There is a programmatic component to the experience that is tailored to fit around the group’s work schedules.
  – weekly group dinners, quarterly retreats, and weekly educational and cultural activities to undergird and expand upon participants’ volunteer experiences.
AYAVA House
General Q & R
WEBINAR RESOURCES:

Recording of January 16th Webinar
PowerPoint Presentation January 16th Webinar
Hospitality House Resource Packet
& Other Resources will be available at the links below

http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/hospitality-house-resources/

http://www.faith3.org

Webinar participants will receive email with resources and links.
Conclusion

Thank you! Peace be with you.