Minute for Mission

Exploring Faith and Passion Through Service as Young Adult Volunteers

Once worlds away, Juliet Owuor [ō-war] and Maggie Collins now find themselves mere inches apart. They share a small New York City apartment with two other young adults — but that’s not all they share.

Juliet — a native of Kenya, whose family eventually settled in Lubbock, Texas — and Maggie, who calls Winston-Salem, North Carolina, home, were both commissioned last summer to serve as part of the [Young Adult Volunteer](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/) (YAV) program, an ecumenical, faith-based year of service lived out in sites across the U.S. and around the world.

Juliet, who received her undergraduate degree and is now in the midst of graduate work at Texas Tech University, says, “The YAV program gave me the freedom to try something new. To be here [in New York], I knew I had to let go of everything. I knew if I wanted something different, I would have to do something different.”

For her, the “something different” that was just the right fit at the right time for her was the YAV program.

Young adults like Juliet and Maggie, who seek to transform not only themselves but also the systems that perpetuate injustice in the U.S. and across the globe, are supported, in part, through the [Pentecost Offering](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/), one of the PC(USA)’s four [Special Offerings](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/).

Gifts to the Pentecost Offering support the YAV program and also the [Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium](https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/) and the [“Educate a Child, Transform the World”](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/) national initiative. A hallmark of this shared offering is that 40% of it is retained by our congregation for our ministries with young people, while the remaining 60% is used to support young people through ministries of the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/).

Maggie said that she was initially attracted to the YAV program because of the way that it gives young people the opportunity to live across the United States and the world in order to explore their passion and faith in a unique way.

And that’s exactly what the Pentecost Offering has been about for over 25 years.

Maggie shares, “I am so grateful for the support that the church provides to the YAV program. When people give generously to the Pentecost Offering, it proves that our church and its members really want to empower young people and bring them into the church.”

Juliet adds that it is important to invest in youth — and we agree. Please give generously to support our young people — here in our own community, throughout the Church, and in places around the world. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

**Let us pray ~**

*God, we give you thanks for people like Juliet and Maggie and all who serve as YAVs around the world. May we work with you to create a world where children have all the tools they need to grow, learn and lead.* **Amen**.