

## Priority Areas/PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer Programme

### About the PCUSA Programme

*A Year of Service – A lifetime a change* – that’s the strapline for the PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) programme. YAVs spend 11 months, from September to July working within different priority area parishes in Glasgow. Scotland is one of the 6 international sites and there are 15 national sites around the USA working with partner agencies and within churches to address the root causes of poverty, violence and injustice within a global context and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



PCUSA have been offering this opportunity for over 20 years now and it has been a transformational experience for most of those who have been involved. Its aim is not to recruit people into ministry but to help young people to explore who God is calling them to be, not just for a year but for their entire lives. Surprisingly, 80% of the volunteers do eventually end up serving in some form of ministry within the Church.

### The core tenets are:

- Leadership development through faith in action
- Cross cultural diversity serving in communities of need and engaging in root causes of poverty
- Simple living
- Participating in intentional Christian community with fellow volunteers and local partners
- Exploring vocational discernment

### What YAVs do



We are currently hosting 4 YAVs who are on work placement in 4 different church/community projects for the duration of their stay. This can include children’s, youth and family support projects, mental health drop ins, community cafes, arts, music and drama, community growing and environmental work and school chaplaincy and much more. As far as possible we try to match the volunteer to the placement depending on their skills and interests. On Sundays, the YAV is involved in congregational activities such as assisting in worship, leading children and youth work and other pastoral duties.

### Community Life

Volunteers live together and have community space every week to spend time together for community building, reflection and prayer. In addition, volunteers will meet with the site coordinator twice a month for group time to reflect on experiences, learn more about the impacts of poverty in Scotland and how the church and other agencies are addressing these issues, while also learning more about Scotland’s history and culture. There will also be three four-day-long retreats during the year in October, February and June.

