

Good Morning! My name is Adrienne Monahan. I am the Missioner for Youth and College Ministries with the Diocese of Southern Virginia. I am also the lay chaplain at the Canterbury Center at Old Dominion University in Norfolk.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the Christian Formation and Youth Ministry leaders in our province. There are 10 diocesan leaders that gather monthly over Zoom to coordinate opportunities for youth and leaders in the province.

I of course have to give a shoutout to Pam Cochran, who helps coordinate all of this and is a wonderful asset to our group.

So what are these opportunities? Thanks to the financial support of the province there are a few each year for both the young people of our province, and the leaders who lead them.

For the leaders, we have a formation retreat that is put on by Forma, out of VTS, Virginia Theological Seminary. The 2026 Forma conference was in person for the first time in 3 years, and we gathered in Denver, Colorado. Forma is an annual gathering that brings together formation leaders from across the church for networking, learning and inspiration. For lay leaders, clergy, volunteers and staff. Designed to support, empower and connect the leaders shaping faith in every context.

Despite a big east coast storm and many travel woes, 6 of the province 3 diocese were represented at Forma. (picture)

The joy of an in person conference is the opportunity to connect and learn from each other. Knowing that, Province 3 helped to provide a closer opportunity for leaders called Beyond Forma. This Claggett hosted conference used webinars and recordings from the Forma conference, along with attendees leading workshops on the conference material. This province wide conference will be how we host Forma next year as well, as this conference is virtual the years in between the in-person gathering. (picture)

The province also offered a two-part Zoom presentation on Countering Christian Nationalism. The first session featured author Pamela Cooper-White. And the second session was led by Rev. Jenny Williams, from the ACLU. The main focus was how to approach the subject with young people and youth in our parishes.

And speaking of the youth. Province 3's youth-led event was in March, also at the Claggett Center. A wonderful team of 7 youth from all around the province met and planned 4 sessions of faith, fun and fellowship. Rev. Shana Watson was the keynote speaker, and there was even a live band.

The youth leadership team shared the message of “Faith on the Road” over the course of the 3 day event. You can see some of the scripture and themes here, but don’t take my word for it. See for yourself! (video)

We look forward to hosting the next PYE in April 2027, the week after Easter. So mark your calendars.

Finally I’d like to say thank you. We all know that the work of the church take a lot of time, talent and treasure, and the team I am here representing would like to thank the province for the financial treasure they provide to help underwrite and supplement these opportunities so that we can continue to grow the church and our faith, one young person at a time.