

## **The Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteer (BFJYAV) Program**

A Year of Volunteer Service, Intentional Community, Simple Living, Food Justice, Sustainability, Vocational Discernment, and Spiritual Development

The Boston Food Justice YAV Program brings together young adults who are seeking to find a deeper purposefulness in their vocational journeys and who desire to learn practical ways to apply their faith to issues of injustice in the community where they live for the year. They live, work, and learn together in one of the most diverse cities in the United States, and are a ministry of the Presbytery of Boston.

Boston is home to a vibrant local food movement inside one of the oldest farming communities in the entire country. Additionally, Boston's educational community offers a rich array of opportunities to participate in the discussion to envision a more sustainable food system for all. In spite of this, inequalities in access to affordable healthy food persist throughout the Boston metro area. In their service year, Boston Food Justice YAVs enter into communities at the center of these inequalities. Volunteers grapple with how food can be made more healthy for low income communities, and how the purchasing decisions all people, whether rich or poor, make about food can affect the environment and the food system as a whole. Through this process we enter into the process together of learning what the Bible teaches us about food and how that applies to the common table we share with each other and the world.

### About:

What is the Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteer Program (BFJYAV)?

BFJYAV is a program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) National Office that provides opportunities throughout the United States and internationally for young adults between the ages of 19 and 30 to spend a year in service with church congregations and local organizations. Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) live together in intentional community with a focus on the practice of simple living, spiritual formation, and vocational discernment. YAVs time is spent serving the community that hosts them for the year in conjunction with intensive introspection and community reflection aimed at cultivating a sense of life purposefulness and mission.

### Mission:

As we endeavor to live as people of faith and action in our broken world, the Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteer Program as a ministry of the Presbytery of Boston will support and forward the Great Ends of the Church by:

- a) Providing compassionate service with communities to participate in action targeting improved access to and quality in food systems in the Boston metro area;
- b) Joining in ministry with congregations in a process of engaging them in transformational partnership and new ministry models in bringing the Gospel to the world;
- c) Nurturing, mentoring, and launching young adults into lives of service to Christ and the worldwide church through a year of intentional community, vocational discernment, and focused service to congregations and their communities of ministry.

Purpose:

The Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteers Program gives young adults a year-long experience living together in intentional Christian community and engaging in the mission of Presbytery congregations to secure healthy and sustainable food for all people. The program cultivates spiritual growth, vocational discernment, leadership development, and social and congregational transformation among the volunteers and the communities with whom they serve.

For more information: <https://bostonfoodjusticeyavprogram.wordpress.com/>

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