

Greetings my fellow siblings in Christ. My name is Kemper Dyson, I am a Ruling Elder from Middle Spring, and was gracefully given the opportunity by you all to serve the 225th General Assembly as the Carlisle Presbytery's YAAD. When I was posed the question, "what gives you hope for the future of the PCUSA?" I was immediately drawn to my fellow commissioners' engagement to the youth of the PCUSA. I was blown away with how imperative it is to acquire the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love of the future leaders of our denomination. This GA was unlike no other and thus resulted in a concerning amount of YAAD participation. This past GA was served by roughly 60 YAAD's from across the nation and Puerto Rico. YAAD Advisor Jeff Moles reported that a typical GA would be served by roughly 120 YAAD's. For starters, what is a YAAD? A YAAD is a person within a presbytery affiliated worshipping community who does not meet the requirements to serve as a commissioner. This opportunity allows the young folks of the PCUSA to have a direct impact on the denomination on a national level. It is important to remember that the young folks are not just the leaders of tomorrow but rather the leaders of today. And so, what gives me hope for the future of the PCUSA? My answer would be my fellow peers who were given the opportunity to serve the church in this capacity. I know that there are so many other capable folks in our nation who can help facilitate the direction of the Church in a Christ-like manner, they just need the opportunity to serve. Many capable youth make it known if they want to serve the church, however, some do not. It is essential to embrace the young folks of the Church as we are all called to love and serve the Lord in ways in which may be unknown to us. So, when you find yourself in your next nomination committee meeting, I encourage you to contact a kid. I am thankful for my congregation and Presbytery's grace and love as they have allowed me to spread my wings and serve the Lord in ways I would have never imagined. I know I am running out of time, but this experience was such a life changing event for me. You can read more reflections from this past GA's YAAD's on the Presbyterian Outlook website. Thank you.