

Beloved Empowered

Growing Faith. Growing Futures.

A \$5 MILLION ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN to provide funding in
perpetuity for Diocesan youth and young adult initiatives.

“We’ve got to equip our children, our young people, to be the light of Christ that we hope and want to be in the world. It won’t happen casually. We need to be all in.”

— Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows



The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis:

This is Our Work To Do

The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis has made a clear decision: Youth and young adult ministry will not be seasonal, reactive, or dependent on whatever is left in the budget. It will be permanent, structured, and funded for the future.

In 2022, clergy and lay leaders asked a hard question: **Are we serious about rebuilding diocesan youth ministry — or are we hoping someone else handles it?**

THE ANSWER WAS YES. WE ARE SERIOUS.

Since then, diocesan-wide youth engagement — retreats, mission experiences, campus ministry, and regional gatherings — has grown significantly. With sustained investment, the diocese will have the capacity to serve 1,000 youth and young adults with meaningful programs and support by 2035.

Youth Engagement

FROM 2022 TO PROJECTIONS IN 2028 AND 2035.

Growth like that doesn’t happen by chance. It happens when people decide something matters and back it with real resources over a long period of time.





Why This Matters Now

Our youth face challenges unlike the generations before them - challenges that the church is uniquely well positioned to address.

Today's young people are growing up in a digital environment unlike any generation before them. Social media platforms and algorithm-driven content shape how they see themselves and the world.

Research shows that 41% of teens with the highest social media use rate their mental health as poor or very poor, and teens using social media more than three hours per day face significantly higher risks of anxiety and depressive symptoms (American Psychological Association, 2024).

A separate study published in the Journal of Affective Disorders found that approximately 40% of depressed and suicidal youth reported problematic social media use, linking intensive screen exposure with more severe depressive and anxiety symptoms (Journal of Affective Disorders, 2025).

This campaign responds directly to that reality. The Church offers something the digital world cannot: steady mentors, real relationships with God and one another, shared worship, and a community that knows their name. Real ministry, in real time.

“We’re preparing now, to ensure that the Church of Tomorrow will rise up, deeply grounded in the Christian values of God’s all-embracing love. We aren’t just going to hope that our young people and future generations will be here and ready to meet tomorrow’s challenges. Our work must be about raising up generations that know this in their bones. There is no more urgent work.”

— Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows



The Waycross Endowment

\$1 Million

Waycross Camp & Conference Center has offered a place to encounter God through nature since 1957. Episcopalians of our diocese, and all others who seek the powerful sanctuary of the outdoors, are welcome in these sacred woods of Southern Indiana. The importance of this playful space has only increased as young people now step away from screens, learn independence, form friendships, and discover an active dimension of their faith. Discernment and formation, two critical elements of hearing a call to service in our church, have traditionally been supported through our unique relationship with this place.

We joyfully commit a portion of our campaign - \$1 Million - to assist this treasured asset in its goal to raise \$2.3 Million by 2030, to match a generous gift to Waycross from Lilly Endowment, Inc. This likely means Waycross will launch its own capital campaign in the next few years, and we pray for your generosity to both.

Waycross has been entrusted to us, and we recognize it as a powerful space of both respite and play, one we have long known it to be. We seek to strengthen it for those who come next and invite you to join us in this endeavor.



The Diocesan Endowment

\$4 Million

This endowment ensures youth ministry won't be squeezed out when economic cycles tighten or leadership changes. It creates stability that young people — and their families — can rely on.

\$2M

ENDOWED DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTER

Permanent leadership. Providing support for all parishes in the Diocese.

\$1M

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM EXPANSION

Retreats, mission trips, campus ministry, and new engagement efforts grounded in Episcopal faith.

\$1M

YOUTH RESOURCES

Scholarships for Diocesan youth events, mission trips, retreats, and Waycross summer camp and programs. Critical assistance that removes financial barriers.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR WAYCROSS

Waycross was recently awarded a competitive grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to support capital improvements to the buildings and grounds. These capital projects will update aging infrastructure and make existing spaces more accessible, ensuring that camp programs and events can be held year-round. Thanks to this generous grant, up to \$1 million in gifts designated for the Waycross endowment as part of the Beloved & Empowered campaign will be matched by Lilly Endowment, Inc. Funds from Lilly Endowment, Inc. will pay for these much-needed capital improvements, including:

- ▶ **Rebuilding cabins** to include accessible restrooms.
- ▶ **Renovating an existing property** to serve as a guest house for staff, volunteers, and leadership to use during camp.
- ▶ **Updating the swimming pool** to ensure accessibility for visitors of all physical abilities.
- ▶ **Building a permanent bridge** across the creek to White Oak Trail, providing year-round access to the trail network and improving access for emergency responders.

The Future: Our Turn to Provide for the Next Generation

Beloved & Empowered: Growing Faith, Growing Futures

is a \$5 million endowment campaign to fund youth and young adult ministry in perpetuity.

This is not a short-term fix. It is long-term stewardship. We invite you to make a gift that reflects both your faith and your foresight.

A gift to this endowment creates permanence, protects youth and young adult ministry from economic swings, removes financial barriers, and strengthens the Church in the present and the future.

The vision is clear. The need is real. The opportunity is ours. Now is the time to step forward and build something that lasts.



Thank you
for taking the time to
consider a gift.

“Over the past few years, we have expanded what ministry with young people can be, and as that vision grows, so does the need. Each year, more than 100 youth participate in diocesan programs, and nearly half require scholarships to attend. As we expand the number of youth participating in our programs, the need for scholarship support will also increase. Beloved & Empowered can ensure that every young person has access to their faith community. As Diocesan Youth Ministry expands beyond centralized programs into deeper partnerships with congregations, this campaign will also help equip local communities to build ministries that meet the needs of their own young people.”

— Heather Campbell, Diocesan Youth Minister

THE NEXT GENERATION OF PHILANTHROPY

“I think of the faithful people of the past whose names are inscribed on our pews, in stones, on glass windows. They were facing the challenges of their own day, whether world wars, economic collapse, or other crises. Yet they had the foresight to imagine us, today. And they were extraordinarily generous out of their belief that the future Church needed to be provided for.

This is our moment. People often tell me, ‘We want to do something.’ Your gift to this endowment moves us ever closer to our goal of a more inclusive, engaged, and empowered youth and young adult ministry throughout our diocese – and the world.”

— Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

“There is little that’s more important than responding to the spiritual longings of youth and young adults, nurturing them in their lives of faith, and welcoming them into an inclusive and loving community. Through my involvement with Bishop Jennifer and her team on the Christian parenting project, I have seen firsthand the diocese’s energetic commitment to this type of discipleship and community building. Their plans for youth and young adult leadership, programming, and resourcing can pave the way toward achieving these inspiring goals.”

— Dr. Brian Steensland, Professor of Sociology,
Indiana University Indianapolis.