

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION



YOUNG ADULTS PUT FAITH IN ACTION

Today's young adults are part of the Millennial Generation – one of the largest generations in U.S. history. About one-third of these young adults, born between 1982 and 1995, are not affiliated with a faith community.

The ELCA is expanding its vision of what it means to engage a population of young adults, particularly among those seeking to live out their vocations and callings in ways that help people and work for justice and peace.

And through Mission Support, ELCA congregations are offering opportunities for young adults to articulate their faith and engage in the world around them.

A group of ELCA young adults, for example, took part in the United Nations 58th Commission on the Status of Women in New York City, where participants focused on gender inequalities.

ELCA member Ulysses W. Burley III attended the commission as part of a cohort, intentionally including women and men. He reflects that among "5,000 feminists, womanists, mothers, daughters and sisters from all over the world gathered in solidarity to uplift critical issues regarding women and girls' rights, there was me – a 'he' for 'she.' My role at the Commission on the Status of Women was to listen, then learn, then use what I'd learned to speak up and speak out against the denial of the human rights of women and girls."

Ulysses and the other ELCA young adults have committed to a year of further learning, along with helping to identify other young adults to participate in the next round of U.N. deliberations. Through the newly evolving ELCA Young Adults cohort, working in partnership with other ELCA ministries like ELCA World Hunger and the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, young adults are coming together to make a difference.

An opportunity like attending the United Nations not only "raises new leaders in the church," says Rozella White, program director for ELCA Young Adult Ministries, but helps young adults "claim who they are and discover their unique God-given gifts and passions, as they engage in acts of service, justice and peace."



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