Meet Bryan Bergman of Grace Church, Tuscaloosa

PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer for 2017-2018

My name is Bryan Bergman, and I am proud to be serving as a YAV in Indianapolis for the 2017-18 year. As a native of neighboring Cincinnati, I am happy to be returning to the Midwest, where I can serve a community I hold dear. Growing up in a secular Jewish family, I never gave any thought to God. I believed that religion had nothing to offer me, and had no Christian friends to look to for an example. That changed when I moved to Alabama for college. I made friends who were very involved with the Southern Baptist campus ministry. I saw their relationship with God as something I could aspire to. I read the Bible for the first time, and realized it would be possible to live a life of faith. I was baptized as a new believer in January 2014.

In the Baptist church, I had to make many compromises between my idea of God and what their leaders said the Bible says about God. It felt uncomfortable, but they led me to believe that was the only way to be a Christian. Last year, when I was serving as a youth minister and my faith had matured some, I began to ask tough questions. Being unsatisfied with the answers, I sought wisdom from Christians outside the Baptist church. I found what was then University Presbyterian Church to be a welcoming place, unafraid to struggle with faith. I learned that the PC(USA) is a home for people with beliefs like mine, who desire to serve Christ and love people. I have been a member of the new Grace Presbyterian Church since its formation earlier this year, and my eventual goal is to attend seminary and work in college ministry.

About YAV in Indianapolis

The Indianapolis YAV site is sponsored by Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, with the goal of providing opportunities for deep engagement and cooperative work with people of diverse religious identities. With almost 4,000 members, Second is one of the largest congregations in the PC(USA), and one of the most influential in the city. Second’s long tradition of missions and service began in 1837 with its founding minister, Henry Ward Beecher, and continues with their partnerships with agencies like Global Interfaith Partnership, Interfaith Hunger Initiative, and Westminster Neighborhood Ministries.

To Support Bryan

For more information, go to his web page:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new/bryan-bergman/>

To help support him financially, click on the “Support Bryan” button or go directly to: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/e051478/>