

"Youth Participation in Worship: Moving from Tokenism to Partnership"

Oftentimes when youth are involved in worship they are relegated to a couple of roles...if they are included at all! What would it look like to include youth in all aspects of planning, preparing, and leading worship? Diocesan Youth Missioner Elle Dowd will speak about principles that can be adapted for your specific worship context, how to deal with barriers that may be inherent in including youth as partners, and most importantly, why it's worth the challenge.

Elle describes herself as a "religious studies scholar with interests in incarnational relational youth ministry, feminist theology, and global ministry." She graduated with honors from Iowa State University with a degree in Religious Studies and has served as a Christian Educator, pastoral intern, and Youth Coordinator at Episcopal and ELCA churches. She has led several mission trips to Jonathan's House for Orphans in Sierra Leone as their Sponsorship Coordinator.

Elle lives with her husband, Adam, and their 8 year old daughter, Alice, in St. Robert, Missouri. She is very excited to share her passion for youth ministry at the 2015 Verger's Conference.