

## Laura Chambers – YAAD Bio



As a young child, I grew up in a large, Methodist congregation. During my middle school years, my mother decided that perhaps we should start exploring other denominations, because we both felt dissatisfied with the way our faith was not growing in our current surroundings. Soon later, I was invited to attend Wayside Presbyterian Church in Landisville, PA. I never realized when I first stepped into Wayside Presbyterian Church how much my church family would be instrumental in the growth, maturity, and confidence of my faith.

I grew up as an only child, and I was immensely quiet by nature. Never did I realize that I would meet my true best friend through my time at Wayside. This friend encouraged me to step out of my shell in order to glorify the Lord. I was active in Sunday School and worship time, and I used my gift of music for the glory of God. My friend also encouraged me to be social; I was in the youth program, I went on a mission trip to West Virginia, I was the youth representative for the board of Deacons from 2008-2009, I have been a camper at Camp Donegal for 6 years, and I went to Presbyterian Youth Triennium twice. Through these experiences I made such a strong community of fellow Christians that loved and supported me as I continued through high school. Through their love and support, I changed and I became more confident. In my maturity, I was able to understand who I was called to be, and who I am to be as a child of God.

Soon later it was my senior year, and I was immersed in my studies, my friendships, and most importantly, my college acceptance process. I was undecided as to where I wanted to go, or what I planned to study. I soon learned that Westminster College had a scholarship called the Young Presbyterian Scholarship, or YPS. This scholarship provided a very gracious chunk of my tuition, and I applied and was accepted. I am currently a sophomore at Westminster, and I thank God for his gracious direction and that he allowed me to have open ears to hear it. Currently I am still active in church activities at school; I have been led into Christian Education at Westminster College. I am involved with Habitat for Humanity, Young Presbyterian Scholars, CAYA youth fellowship, Seekers Westminster, Jubilee Conference, and Perspectives on World Missions.

After I graduated high school, I decided that I wanted to apply for a counseling position at Camp Donegal. I first went to camp the summer of my 8th grade year, and it was a challenging experience for me socially, and also spiritually. Throughout the years, I always had a desire to counsel and support others in their journey of faith. I was employed by Donegal Presbytery at Camp Donegal for two summers. Although my experience there was very challenging for me, I learned so much from my campers, and through the challenges that I had to overcome. I realized through my experience how much I enjoyed creative teaching, through drama, dance, art, and music.

I am currently at a point in my life where I am interested in assuming leadership in my church. I have learned so much from my employer, and the amazing volunteers that I have worked with at my time working for Donegal Presbytery at camp. I feel that becoming a YAAD would help me to learn more about General Assembly, and allow me to become more confident in sharing my voice with others.