

**Youth Advisory Delegate
Matthew Fackler
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto**

Hello, my name is Matthew Morgan Fackler, I am a current member of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, and I have been nominated by my church as a candidate to be the Youth Advisory Delegate representative for the Presbytery of San Jose in the upcoming General Assembly. Thank you for considering me for this position and God Bless.

Personal background in the Presbyterian Church

I was born into the Presbyterian Church and was baptized at Covenant. I participated in Sunday school throughout my elementary school days. Beginning in middle school, I was invited to participate more in worship and began to work as a greeter, usher, and liturgist. I quickly found that I greatly enjoyed serving as a liturgist and, more over, being involved in the planning of worship. My sophomore year of high school, I was elected to session. I served on Session for three years as co-chair of the Worship committee and co-chair of the Nominating committee. In addition, I also served on Covenant's Pastor Nominating Committee and worked diligently to get the wonderful Reverend Margaret Boles to come to Covenant. During this time, I also fully discovered my passion for worship and began serving as the liturgist monthly and doing the children's sermons. This continued throughout my junior and senior years of high school and culminated with my leading of a youth service on youth Sunday where I gave a homily on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. I am now currently a freshman at Washington University in St. Louis and have begun attending a Presbyterian church in the area.

Personal hopes and desires for the Church

For me, the Presbyterian Church has always served as a source of strength and comfort for me in difficult times and encouragement and praise for me in times of joy. My desire and hope, therefore, would be that the Presbyterian Church continues to spread that feeling of support and religious sustenance. For that to occur, I envision a church that is accepting of all of God's people and does its best to not just comfort and welcome those who walk through its doors but goes out into the world in order to actively spread the good news that is the unending love of Jesus Christ.

Brief descriptions of several significant issues facing the Church

There are a sizable number of issues facing the Church today but I think the largest is the dwindling number of members of the Church and the increased number of people who not only would describe themselves as non-Christian but as non-religious. This backlash against the Church and organized religion as a whole could have disastrous consequences for the future of our world and it is our job as Christians to actively go out and make it more comfortable for those who are scared or intimidated by the Church in order that they may have the opportunity to develop their own relationship with God.

A statement that, if elected, she/he intends to be a General Assembly resource for the Presbytery in the year following service as commissioner.

I, Matthew Morgan Fackler, if elected, commit to being a General Assembly resource for the Presbytery of San Jose in the year following my service as commissioner.