

HOW DO I  
BECOME A  
MISSIONARY  
OR A  
VOLUNTEER ?

CONNECTING THE CHURCH IN MISSION

 **GLOBAL MINISTRIES**  
The United Methodist Church

HOW DO I BECOME A

# MISSIONARY ?

The United Methodist Church has more than 430 paid and volunteer missionaries in placements around the world.

**Do I have to be ordained?** No!

**What skills are needed?**

Many kinds of skills are needed.  
Here are a few examples:

- Accountants
- Pastors
- Administrators
- Farmers
- Professors/Teachers



Courtesy of Kelsey Gatz

HOW DOES THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# PLACE MISSIONARIES



1. It all starts with the **placement sites**. They are driven by the needs and requests of those who are involved locally.
2. **People** must answer the calling to serve as missionaries wherever needed. Their gifts and skills are then matched with the needs of placement sites.



*Paul Jeffrey*



# AM I BEING CALLED



1. An individual feels a call to mission service.
2. An individual engages in conversation about their call with pastors, mentors, missionaries, and others.



Courtesy of Christopher Hamera

*This time of inquiry can take from three months to several years. It's different for everyone.*



I FEEL I'M BEING CALLED—

# WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE



## MISSIONARY SERVICE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES

(Note: You must be eligible to work in the United States)

- Church and Community Worker Missionaries
- Racial and Ethnic Plan Missionaries
- Mission Volunteers
- Global Mission Fellows—US-2

## MISSIONARY SERVICE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

- Missionaries Serving Around the World
- Global Mission Fellows—International
- Mission Volunteers

I WANT TO SIGN UP!

# WHAT IS THE PROCESS

The process varies depending on the program.  
Click on the program below to learn more about this application process.

**GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS (AGES 20–30)**

**GLOBAL MISSIONARIES**

**RACIAL AND ETHNIC PLAN MISSIONARIES**

**CHURCH AND COMMUNITY WORKER MISSIONARIES**

**MISSION VOLUNTEERS (AGES 18+)**

# APPLICATION PROCESS FOR:

## GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWS



*Courtesy of Relinjoy Pabrua*



# APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Candidate completes an online application (application deadlines will be posted on our website).
2. This application is reviewed by volunteers from local churches around the globe and members of Global Ministries' staff.
3. All applicants are cleared through the background check process.
4. Eligible candidates are invited to participate in the selection process after their applications have been reviewed.
5. Candidates who successfully complete the interview and discernment process are recommended for the program.
6. Notification of acceptance to the program is sent two to three months following the interview.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

7. Global Ministries recommends a placement.
8. Placement site staff and candidate interview one another, and if both discern that this is the right fit, then steps are taken to finalize assignment.
9. Visa process is initiated for International Track.
10. Upon commitment, candidates attend a three-week training event held in July.
11. Service begins generally in August/September.

*The **application process** takes about six to nine months.*

# FAQS

**Q: I already have an organization that I want to work with as a missionary. Can Global Ministries assign me to this organization?**

**A:** Selecting someone for missionary service is a two-track process:

1) Partner requests a missionary.

2) Individual discerns call.

Global Ministries sends a missionary only when there is an approved placement as requested by the Global Ministries partner.

**Q: Do I have to raise my own funds?**

**A:** Global Mission Fellows are expected to cultivate support from family, friends, and local churches to raise financial support for the program, but more importantly, to connect the church in mission.



# READY TO GET STARTED



[Click here](#) for our online application!



*Cynthia Mack*

# APPLICATION PROCESS FOR:

**GLOBAL MISSIONARIES**

**RACIAL AND ETHNIC PLAN MISSIONARIES**

**CHURCH AND COMMUNITY WORKER MISSIONARIES**



*Courtesy Dieudonne Karihano*



# APPLICATION PROCESS: **APPLICATION STAGE**

1. Individual applies online.
2. Applicant contacts Annual Conference Committee on Mission Personnel\* (CCMP) for an interview.
3. CCMP interviews and makes a recommendation.
4. Upon recommendation by CCMP, applicant's information is placed in applicant pool.

\*If available



*Paul Jeffrey*

*The **application stage** can take three to six months.*



## APPLICATION PROCESS: **EXPLORING STAGE**

Do my gifts/passion fit the need identified by Global Ministries?

- Global Ministries matches the gifts and graces needed at each placement site with those who are in the applicant pool.



*Paul Jeffrey*

*This **exploring stage** takes three months to a few years (it depends on the needs of the placement site).*

# APPLICATION PROCESS: SELECTION STAGE

1. Global Ministries conducts a virtual interview when a potential match is identified.
2. A recommendation is made if both the applicant and the interview panel discern that this is the right fit.
3. Candidate is presented to Global Ministries' leadership for approval.



*Felipe Castillo*

*This **selection stage** can take one to three months.*

## APPLICATION PROCESS: PREPARATION STAGE

1. Global Ministries makes an official offer of hire if the candidate is approved and receives the necessary wellness and background check clearances.
2. Candidate is invited to participate in a three week missionary training and orientation.
3. Candidate is commissioned to missionary service upon completion of training.



*Courtesy Mission Volunteers*

*The **preparation stage** takes one to six months.*



## APPLICATION PROCESS: **SERVICE STAGE**

Global Ministries sends newly commissioned missionary into service.

### **Service lengths vary:**

- Racial and Ethnic Ministries missionaries and Global missionaries have a three-year term that is renewable at the end of each term.
- Church and Community Worker Missionaries commit to serve five to eight years or longer.



*Courtesy of Shandirai Bwawa*

# FAQS

**Q: I already have an organization that I want to work with as a missionary. Can Global Ministries assign me to this organization?**

**A:** Selecting someone for missionary service is a two-track process:

- 1) Partner requests a missionary.
- 2) Individual discerns call.

Global Ministries sends a missionary only when there is an approved placement as requested by the Global Ministries partner.

**Q: Why does it take so long to find a match for me to serve as a missionary?**

**A:** Global Ministries believes that our partners are best able to determine their need for a missionary. Therefore, unless there is a request from the partner for a missionary with skills/gifts that match your profile, Global Ministries will not be able to select you for missionary service.

**Q: Do I have to raise my own funds?**

**A:** Global missionaries, Racial and Ethnic Plan missionaries, and Church and Community Worker missionaries are expected to cultivate support from family, friends, and local churches to raise financial support, but more importantly, to connect the church in mission.



READY  
TO GET  
STARTED



[Click here](#) for our online application!



*Courtesy Alex Devoid*

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR:

## MISSION VOLUNTEERS



*Courtesy Robert Meredith*

## APPLICATION PROCESS: MISSION VOLUNTEERS

1. Complete online application, note that applications are accepted throughout the year with the deadline dependent on which training event the applicant will attend.
2. All applications are screened, including reference checks.
3. Background checks are completed.
4. Eligible candidates are invited to a training event, which is also a time of evaluation.
5. The candidate is recommended for placement upon successful completion of the training.
6. The time of service is dependent on the need of the host partner and the availability of the volunteer candidate.
7. Candidates are interviewed by the Mission Volunteers staff and the jurisdictional coordinator from the applicant's home jurisdiction.

*The **entire process** takes about six months.*



# FAQS

**Q: I already have an organization that I want to work with as a missionary. As a Mission Volunteer, can Global Ministries assign me to this organization?**

**A:** Selecting someone for missionary service is a two-track process:

- 1) Partner requests a volunteer.
- 2) Individual discerns call. Global Ministries sends a volunteer only when there is an approved placement as requested by the Global Ministries partner.

**Q: Do I have to raise my own funds?**

**A:** Individual Volunteers are self-funded and raise 100 percent of their funds; an important component of this program is to connect the church in mission.

# READY TO GET STARTED

[Click here](#) for our online application!



*Mike DuBose*