



Frequently Asked Questions

Service Requirements

Q: What are the applicant requirements?

- Young adults between the ages of 20 to 30 in the year that service begins
- Hold a bachelor's degree or higher equivalent work experience
- Able to communicate in English at a conversational proficiency level
- Committed to two years of service
- Willing to live and serve in solidarity with others
- Dedicated to addressing the root causes of injustice
- Called to put their Christian faith into action

Program Details

Q: What is the difference between the International Track and the US-2 Track?

The International Track is available to passport holders from any country. The US-2 Track is available for United States residents, DACA holders, and anyone who has a valid work authorization* in the United States.

***NOTE:** Global Ministries does not sponsor United States work authorization for fellows.

Q: What is the timeline for the selection process?

A timeline for each track can be found on our website.

Q: Do I need to be part of The United Methodist Church (UMC) to apply?

Applicants from other Christian denominations are welcome to apply. However, all fellows must agree to abide by Methodist values during service and will be commissioned as a missionary of The UMC.

Q: Can I work or continue my college/graduate classes while serving?

We encourage our fellows to engage and connect with their local communities; therefore, our fellows are asked not to work for pay outside of their placement or to take classes for credit.

Q: What could I expect as a typical work schedule?

A workweek of a fellow can be up to 35-45 hours. This includes time spent at the placement site, as well as mentorship, community building, continuing education and other activities that support their work.

Q: Do I have a choice about where I serve?

Our team is highly skilled at matching applicants with placements that best suit their skills and interests. We use what an applicant shares about their interests and skills and work with each person to find the best placement.

Q: Do I need a passport and visa to serve?

If you are applying for the International Track, an unexpired passport is required and fellows are responsible for all costs related to getting a passport. If you are invited to the program, the process of applying for visas is handled primarily by the fellow with assistance from Global Ministries staff and partners. Fellows are expected to research the specific

procedures for their destination country by visiting the websites or contacting the nearest consular office to inquire about the timeline and details. If you have more questions about the passport requirement, [contact us](#).

NOTE: If you are applying for the US-2 Track, a passport is not required to apply or serve.

Q: What is simple living?

Simple living is an act of solidarity and humility. As learners and co-laborers, fellows commit to having the same standard of living as that of their local partners. Simple living means that the daily needs of the fellows are covered, but they will have the opportunity to experience systems of injustice in the same way as the community. We consider many different factors in the calculation of the stipends, taking cost of living, safety and security into consideration for each placement context. Need more details about the privilege of simple living? [Contact us](#) and our staff will reach out to answer your questions.

Q: What are some examples of ways I could serve?

We are always cultivating new placement sites based on requests from our partners. Some previous positions were youth advocate, children education assistant, outreach coordinator, legal clinic coordinator, refugee work manager, agriculturalist and much more! Follow us on social media to hear about creative ways that fellows are serving right now!

Q: Would I be serving with other fellows in the same city?

Increasingly, fellows are placed in areas where there may be another fellow in the same town or region, but every placement context is unique.

Q: Can I travel home if the need arises?

A primary goal of the program is to be present among the community where the fellow is serving and live within the means of those around them. Because access to travel is a privilege, travel home is not common for fellows and is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Can people visit me during my time of service?

Yes, fellows are allowed visitors, but this is contingent upon receiving approval.

Q: Do you accept couples?

Yes, we accept married couples. We ask each individual to submit a completed application and to be sure that they indicate their relationship. Each applicant is accepted or denied based on their own merits.

- If both individuals are accepted, they will be assigned to the same regional area.
- If only one gets accepted, the spouse can join the fellow at their placement site, providing they are able to cover all travel and living expenses during the time the fellow is in service.

IMPORTANT: Global Ministries will not cover any of the costs for the relocation, travel, and living expenses of the spouse if s/he is not a fellow. The living stipend is designed to support only the financial needs of the fellow.

Q: May my child/dependent accompany me during my service?

Children or dependents are NOT permitted to accompany fellows during service. Fellows must ensure that adequate arrangements have been made for their care and support during the service term.

NOTE: The living stipend is designed to support only the personal living expenses of the fellow and does not provide extra to support other family members.

Q: Can a fellow terminate their service before the end of the 24 months?

We expect those who enter the program to make the full 24-month commitment. In the case of an unexpected termination, requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Could I serve near home?

If applying for the International Track, fellows will relocate to a different country from their home context. And if applying for the US-2 Track, a fellow will be placed outside of their home state. For example, if you are from Brazil, you will not be able to serve in Brazil.

Financial Questions

Q: What are my options for student loans?

You are responsible for your student loans during service, though depending on the type of loan you have, you may qualify for a loan deferment.

Q: Do I get paid as a fellow?

Yes, fellows receive a monthly stipend to cover their personal expenses. Stipends fall in a range, depending on the country where the fellow serves.

Q: What benefits will I receive?

During service, fellows are provided with:

- Competitive medical, dental, vision, and mental health coverage
- Powerful and practical training events
- Relocation costs to and from the placement site
- Cohort events and continuing education
- Paid vacation and end of service award
- Dynamic local and regional mentoring and support

Q: Do I need to fundraise while serving?

Yes, fellows live out the core value to connect the church in mission by fundraising for the program. Training in fundraising and networking skills are provided throughout a fellow's time of service.

Life After Service

Q: What do fellows do after their two years of service?

Many alum find ways to continue working for justice and peace, often in positions at social justice-minded organizations. Some take positions in the private sector or government while some pursue ordination or full-time ministry. Others continue their education or pursue careers of service (social work, education, law, medicine, etc.). In general, fellows gain valuable work and life experience that they can implement wherever the next steps of their journey takes them.

Q: How can I contact an alum of the program to talk with them about their experience?

Email our Mission Advocates: mayams@umcmmission.org.