How do I become a missionary or volunteer?

Discover how the work of mission enables people, places and communities to meet challenges with creativity, strength and hope. The General Board of Global Ministries is the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church. We have a variety of opportunities to help you to find the best place to serve or volunteer. Service opportunities exist within the United States and in many countries around the world. Our mission theology statement guides Global Ministries’ participation in the Missio Dei, recognizing that the transforming power belongs to God.

More than 300 missionaries serve in over 60 countries, while 100 volunteers reach out to 23 countries. They work as:

- Pastors
- Teachers
- Church planters
- Social workers
- Community developers
- Agriculturalists
- Public health workers
- Professors and so much more!

General application process:

*Mission Volunteers are not commissioned*

Placements:

Global Ministries works closely with partnering organizations and churches around the world to determine how a missionary can best serve the community. Our placement partners initiate an invitation for a missionary or volunteer to work in their community and play a key role in their community.

Categories of missionary service:

- Global Missionaries
- Church and Community Workers
- Mission Volunteers
- Global Mission Fellows
Global Missionaries

Global Missionaries are commissioned individuals and couples who are called to serve outside their country of origin as a tangible connection between the church and the community. They are “from everywhere to everywhere,” bringing their unique gifts and graces to share in a new culture as they live in solidarity and connect the church in mission.

Service details:
- Term Duration: 3 years (renewable)
- Age Requirement: 21 to 67 years old
- Citizenship: All nationalities
- Application: Open year-round

Benefits:
- Salary and pension
- Training and support
- Health, vision and dental insurance
- Transportation and relocation cost

Application documents:
- Online application
- Three references
- Updated resume
- Diploma

Placement categories:
- Ecumenical ministries
- Education
- Community development
- Health care and much more!

Missionaries serve in vastly different locales in more than 60 countries around the world. Here are a few examples of how Global Missionaries are using their professional skills to engage the church in mission.

El Salvador
Missionaries serve as leadership-development coordinators with partner churches.

Austria
Missionaries work with church development and migrant ministries for those from many cultural backgrounds.

Burundi
Missionaries serve as coordinators in the evaluation and monitoring of community projects in the conference to control HIV and AIDS and other pandemic diseases.

Cambodia
Missionaries engage in agriculture, community and sustainable development, supporting victims of human trafficking and church enrichment.
Church and Community Workers (CCWs) are missionaries of Global Ministries responding to God’s call to uplift the disenfranchised and poor in rural and urban areas in the United States. They facilitate communication and collaboration to equip churches to recognize and respond to needs in their community.

The work of CCWs is ever-changing to meet the needs of their community. However, they embody core values that help them equip churches and communities to work together to address holistic human needs. The placement is a partnership between Global Ministries, the annual conference, the project and the missionary.

Service details:
- Term Duration: 6 to 9 years (renewable)
- Age Requirement: 21+ years old
- Citizenship: U.S. citizens
- Application: Open year-round

Benefits:
- Salary
- Housing allowance
- Health, vision and dental insurance
- Transportation and relocation cost

Application documents:
- Online application
- Three references
- Updated resume
- College diploma

Placement categories:
- Poverty
- Racial injustice
- Domestic violence
- Health care and much more!

The work of CCWs is ever-changing to meet the needs of their community. However, they embody core values that help them equip churches and communities to work together to address holistic human needs. The placement is a partnership between Global Ministries, the annual conference, the project and the missionary.

**Community Health**
Missionaries offer prescription medications to those who cannot afford to buy them and providing referrals to other social service agencies.

**Children and Youth**
Missionaries provide care for children and youth who are deeply hurt by the effects of mental/physical disabilities, drug/alcohol abuse, low academic achievement, and racial/social class prejudice.

**Migration**
Missionaries provide legal services and language education to migrants, often through congregation-based legal clinics.

**Community Development**
Missionaries serve the community by meeting economic and social needs due to underemployment, substandard housing, and a shortage of clean water.
Mission Volunteers

Mission Volunteers is a program designed for mission-minded individuals and couples who desire to engage in God’s mission. This is an opportunity to build new relationships while promoting justice and peace in the world. Mission Volunteers (MVs) can offer their skills and talents for service in their country and around the world on long-term assignments at their own expense.

Service details:
- Term Duration: 2 months to 2 years
- Age Requirement: 18+ years old
- Citizenship: U.S. citizens and residents (able to self-fund)
- Application: Open year-round

Benefits/Expenses:
- Logistical coordination
- Training (Registration $200 USD)
- Advance number
- Missional networking opportunities

Application documents:
- Online application
- Three references
- Resume (Optional)

Placement categories
- Agriculture
- Education
- Construction
- Health care and much more!

The Mission Volunteers program offers individuals and couples the opportunity to volunteer for a period of two months to two years. Through a long-term placement, these volunteers can use their personal gifts to engage and live in community with those whom they serve.

Ohio
MVs coordinate volunteer groups to do home repair projects for low-income or elderly residents in the area.

Chile
MVs maintain the garden and manage a garden club within the school and teach the students ecological practices and how to be good stewards of God’s earth.

Czech Republic
MVs assist the pastor with programming and organizing church activities, editing the congregation’s website, and leading Sunday school for children.

Thailand
MVs help host free English-conversation classes with local school-aged children.

Kenya
MVs work to support the various departments within the hospital, including the Community Health Department and medical outreach clinics.
Global Mission Fellows

The United Methodist Church has been sending young adults to serve short term in mission since 1951. The Global Mission Fellows program offers the opportunity for service in the United States (the US-2 Track*) and around the world (the International Track). Fellows seek to connect the church in mission while addressing the root causes of oppression and alleviating human suffering in their host communities.

Fellows serve outside of their home context while living out the core values of the program: to engage with local communities, connect the church in mission and grow in personal and social holiness. By learning intentionally from their new community and sharing their gifts and graces, Fellows help to create sustainable change and promote human dignity for all. Here are a few ways Fellows are continuing to make an impact.

Service details:
- Term Duration: 2 years
- Age Requirement: 20 to 30 years old
- Citizenship: Open to all nationalities
- Application: Open September to January

Benefits:
- Simple-living monthly stipend
- Health, vision and dental insurance
- Transportation and relocation cost
- End of service award and more!

Application documents:
- Online application
- Three references
- Current/valid passport (Intl. Track)
- Updated resume and transcripts

Placement categories:
- Health
- Education
- Migration
- Food security and poverty

The United Methodist Church has been sending young adults to serve short term in mission since 1951. The Global Mission Fellows program offers the opportunity for service in the United States (the US-2 Track*) and around the world (the International Track). Fellows seek to connect the church in mission while addressing the root causes of oppression and alleviating human suffering in their host communities.

Fellows serve outside of their home context while living out the core values of the program: to engage with local communities, connect the church in mission and grow in personal and social holiness. By learning intentionally from their new community and sharing their gifts and graces, Fellows help to create sustainable change and promote human dignity for all. Here are a few ways Fellows are continuing to make an impact.

Service details:
- Term Duration: 2 years
- Age Requirement: 20 to 30 years old
- Citizenship: Open to all nationalities
- Application: Open September to January

Benefits:
- Simple-living monthly stipend
- Health, vision and dental insurance
- Transportation and relocation cost
- End of service award and more!

Application documents:
- Online application
- Three references
- Current/valid passport (Intl. Track)
- Updated resume and transcripts

Placement categories:
- Health
- Education
- Migration
- Food security and poverty

Fellows serve outside of their home context while living out the core values of the program: to engage with local communities, connect the church in mission and grow in personal and social holiness. By learning intentionally from their new community and sharing their gifts and graces, Fellows help to create sustainable change and promote human dignity for all. Here are a few ways Fellows are continuing to make an impact.

Term Duration: 2 years
Age Requirement: 20 to 30 years old
Citizenship: Open to all nationalities
Application: Open September to January

Simple-living monthly stipend
Health, vision and dental insurance
Transportation and relocation cost
End of service award and more!

Online application
Three references
Current/valid passport (Intl. Track)
Updated resume and transcripts

Health
Education
Migration
Food security and poverty

Global Mission Fellows

Brazil - International Track
Fellows work with children in a low-income community to provide a safe place for them to learn sports, languages, arts skills and much more.

Philippines - International Track
Fellows coordinate programs for women, youth and children, as well as contribute to essential community development efforts.

Zimbabwe - International Track
Fellows partner with the community to coordinate and monitor health programs, including maternal and child health, malaria prevention and HIV and AIDS education.

Philadelphia - US-2 Track*
Fellows work alongside a nonprofit organization to provide support to U.S. immigrants and refugees with information about immigration laws and citizenship.

Russia - International Track
Fellows provide tutoring to the youth in English language and other projects by providing opportunities for group problem-solving and lifelong development.

Philippines - International Track
Fellows coordinate programs for women, youth and children, as well as contribute to essential community development efforts.

*Those serving in the US-2 Track must be eligible to work in the United States without sponsorship.

Learn more
Contact us
Apply now
Donate