

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 equivalent life/work experience
- Commit to two years of service
- Willing to live and serve in solidarity
- Called to address the root causes of injustice
- Feel called to put their Christian faith into action
- Able to communicate in English at a conversational proficiency level

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 an unexpired work authorization* in the United States.

*Global Ministries does not sponsor United States work authorizations for Fellows.

Q: What is the timeline for the selection process?

A timeline of our selection process can be found [here](#).

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

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: 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 will work with you to find the best fit.

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

Yes, an unexpired passport is required when applying for the program and Fellows are responsible for all passport related costs. The process of applying for orientation and placement visas are handled primarily by the Fellow with assistance from Global Ministries. 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.

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 additional mentorship, community building, continuing education, and other activities that will support your experience.

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 cultivation of the stipends and take safety and security factors into consideration for each placement context.

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

We are always cultivating new placement sites based on the requests from our partners. Some of the previous positions were youth advocate, children education assistant, outreach coordinator, legal clinic coordinator, refugee work manager, medical assistant and much more!

Q: Would I be serving with other Fellows in the same site or city?

Increasingly, Fellows are placed in areas where there may be another Fellow in the same town or country, but every placement context is unique.

Q: Could I serve near home?

Our Fellows serve in a different country from their “home” country. For example, if you live in Hong Kong, you will not be able to serve in Hong Kong.

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 be sure that you indicate your 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, then the other spouse can join the Fellow at their placement site, providing they are able to cover all travel and living expenses.

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

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

Children or dependents are not permitted to accompany you during the two years of service. You must ensure that adequate arrangements have been made for their care and support during your service term.

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

Q: Can a Fellow terminate their time of 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.

Financial Questions

Q: What are my options for my student loans?

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

Q: Do I get paid as a Fellows?

Yes, you will be receiving a monthly stipend to cover your personal expenses. Stipends range between \$300-\$800 depending on the country where you are serving.

Q: What benefits will I receive?

During service, Fellows are provided with:

- Medical, dental, vision, insurance and behavioral health coverage.
- Two weeks orientation
- Transportation to and from placement site
- Midterms and continuing education
- Paid vacation and end of service award
- Global Ministries and placement site support

Q: Do I need to fundraise while serving?

Yes, Fellows connect the church in mission by fundraising for the program. Training in fundraising and networking skills are provided during training and throughout their 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 similar social justice-minded organizations. Some take positions in the private sector or government while others continue their education or pursue careers of service (social work, education, law, medicine, ministry). In general, Fellows gain valuable work and life experience that they can implement in their home communities or wherever the next steps of their journey take them.

Q: How can I contact a current or Alum Fellow to ask about their experience?

Please email mayams@umcmmission.org to connect with an alum or mission advocate.

