



# Frequently Asked Questions

## US-2 Track

### 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 or 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
- Desire to put their Christian faith into action

### Program Details

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

\***NOTE:** 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 at the bottom of this resource.

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 fellows to engage and connect with their local communities; therefore, 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. A list of possible positions is provided on our [website](#) and interest in a specific site can be indicated on the application.

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 service.

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.

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 include youth advocate, children education assistant, outreach coordinator, legal clinic coordinator, refugee work manager, agriculturalist and much more!

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

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

Q: Could I serve near home?

Our fellows serve in a different region from their "home" state. For example, if you are from Michigan, you will not be able to serve in Michigan.

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 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 other spouse can join the fellow at their placement site, provided 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 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.

## Financial Questions

Q: What are my options for my student loans?

Fellows are responsible for their student loans during service, though depending on the type of loan, qualification for a loan deferment may be a possibility.

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 state where the fellow serves.

Q: What benefits will I receive?

During service, fellows are provided with:

- Medical, dental, vision and behavioral health coverage
- Dynamic orientation
- Transportation to and from placement site
- Cohort events 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 live out the core value to connect the church in mission by fundraising for the program. Training in fundraising and networking skills is 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 such as social work, education, law or medicine. 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 fellow or program alum to ask about their experience?

Email our mission advocates: [mayams@umcmmission.org](mailto:mayams@umcmmission.org).



# US-2 Track Timeline

## Discern

**July 2022 - March 2023**



As individuals discern applying for the program, we recommend seeking advice from family and mentors. A helpful tool can be downloaded from the GMF website.

## Application Review

**December 2022 - April 2023**



Submitted applications will be reviewed by our selection team. Applications must be complete (all supporting documentation submitted) for an application to be considered.

## Status Notification

**Fall Notice: by December 31, 2022**

**Winter Notice: by March 30, 2023**

**Spring Notice: by May 15, 2023**



Applicants who complete all virtual interviews and have the potential for a placement match will be notified via email.

## Onboarding

**January - June 2023**



Candidates who receive a successful match will advance to the onboarding process, which includes additional clearances (background and medical) before final approval is granted.

## Travel to Placement

**August 2023**



Fellows who successfully complete all orientation requirements will be eligible to begin service.

## Apply

**Launch: September 1, 2022**

**Fall Deadline: December 1, 2022**

**Winter Deadline: February 1, 2023**

**Spring Deadline: April 1, 2023**



Interested individuals may access the application link at our website. Early submission is recommended for matching.

## Virtual Interviews

**Fall Round: December 5-16, 2022**

**Winter Round: February 6-17, 2023**

**Spring Round: April 3-14, 2023**



Strong applicants will be invited to a selection process, which includes three interviews. All interviews are held virtually.

## Matching Conversation

**January - June 2023**



Strong candidates will be invited to begin the matching conversation with our placement specialists. Matches must be affirmed by the placement site and candidate.

## Orientation

**June - August 2023**



All candidates for the program must attend the required virtual or in-person sessions assigned during orientation. Attendance is mandatory to be commissioned for service.