

MISSION INTERN PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT SITE APPLICATION

SUMMARY

The Mission Intern Program is a three-year leadership development and social justice service program for young adults ages 20-30. The three-year program is divided into a 16-month international work/study assignment and a 16-month action/education assignment in one's own country. It is an opportunity for young people to hear the prophetic voice of communities and individuals around the world who are working for systemic change and to apply that experiential learning to their home context. The program encourages participants to learn about and live out the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ while working as grassroots organizers and/or advocates in areas of conflict resolution, peace, education, environmental justice, economic development, indigenous rights, and women's and children's issues.

GOALS OF MISSION INTERN PROGRAM

To commit to a ministry of presence, which supports marginalized communities working for peace and justice.

1. To learn through experience, the day-to-day effects of systemic oppression on local communities, both internationally and nationally.
2. To actively participate with local organizations working for social justice.
3. To learn to live the gospel of Christ by connecting with people who model creative social witness.
4. To enrich your faith by learning with others, inter-religiously and ecumenically, experience the liberating power of God.
5. To bridge the experiences of different communities so as to better facilitate communication and cooperation between peoples seeking justice in a global context.
6. To witness in one's local church and community about new ways to envision mission as a global church.
7. To develop as a leader, prepared to be a prophetic voice in society and committed to holding the church accountable to God's calling.
8. To form a covenant community of young adults committed to demonstrate through word and action the importance of Christian presence within and support of global movements for social change.
9. To engage in faith based action for justice and disciplined theological reflection in order to better integrate social justice into Christian faith and learn to live a new definition of mission.

CRITERIA FOR PLACEMENT SITES

1. The organization shall be a church, faith-based, ecumenical or community organization.
2. The organization shall be committed to addressing critical justice issues and involved in ministries of human liberation. Priority is given to organizations working in areas such as community empowerment, economic development, women's and children's issues and environmental concerns.
3. The organization will provide the missionary with experiences which facilitate understanding and skill development related to:
 - local cultural traditions and the ways in which they influence and are influenced by political, social and economic systems
 - critical justice issues from the perspective of local communities
 - the role of faith-based communities in addressing critical justice issues
 - models of social change which emerge out of local cultural contexts
4. The organization shall designate a person to give direct, ongoing supervision and guidance to the missionary in areas of work, cultural education, community adjustment, housing and other areas which seem appropriate.

COMPENSATION FOR MISSION INTERNS

- The General Board of Global Ministries covers orientation costs, moving expenses to and from placement site, and medical insurance.
- The General Board of Global Ministries also provides a living stipend or salary for the Mission Interns.
- Placement Sites are responsible for assisting the Mission Intern in finding safe and appropriate housing.
- Provisions should be made for sick days and a *minimum* of two weeks paid vacation (up to four weeks is recommended). This *does not* include time spent at General Board of Global Ministries' events which include a mid-term and end-term event during time of service.

TIME LINE

- Placement site applications are due **February 1**.
- Placement site matches will be confirmed by **June 1**.
- Mission Interns will arrive at the placement site in **August**.

NOTES:

Please include with your application printed descriptive material about your church or agency. These will be helpful in discussing your agency with interested young adults.

MISSION INTERN PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT SITE

MISSION PERSONNEL, GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

(Mission Interns will serve in these assignments from August of the first year thru December of the second year)

AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Agency Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Fax Number _____

Website / E-mail Address _____

Executive Director or Contact Person _____

Describe the goals of your agency:

Describe the project the mission intern is intended to serve:

Describe the responsibilities of the Mission Intern. (Please attach a separate job description).

Indicate options for room and board available for the intern in your community:

Has the project had a Mission Intern assigned to it in the past?
If so, when, who and what were there job responsibilities?

Why is the project interested in hosting a Mission Intern at this time?

What skills/training or interests do you feel are needed by the Mission Intern to serve in your project (age requirements, training, degrees necessary)?

How will you orient the Mission Intern to the community and provide in-service training?

How do you feel your project can help a Mission Intern fulfill his/her commitment to be in mission?

What connection does your organization have to the General Board of Global Ministries?
How long have you had a connection? Do you relate to a specific person?

RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

How is the project involved in working towards social justice specifically as it relates to this goal of the General Board of Global Ministries: *“Seek Justice, Freedom and Peace—We will participate with people oppressed by unjust economic, political and social systems in programs that seek to build just, free and peaceful societies.”*

Please return completed application to:

**Young Adult Program Office
General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Dr. Room 320
New York, NY 10115
Phone: 212-870-3660
Fax Number 212-870-3774
youngadults@gbgm-umc.org**

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1

Educational Supervision and Learning Goals: *A Guide for Supervisors*

Motivation: In an effort to clarify our expectations of Mission Interns and placement site supervisors, we integrate an educational supervision component into the Mission Intern program.

Context: Given the unique role of the Mission Intern Program, we understand the importance of two different types of supervision. Most organizations have a supervision policy that includes staff meetings and peer reviews. This supervision falls under the category of administrative or managerial supervision. ***Mission Interns flourish when they are also provided with educational supervision that places emphasis on how they are growing and changing especially as that relates to their own learning goals and objectives.***

Educational supervision requires that the supervisor:

- ***Make an effort to understand the motivations of the Mission Intern.***
- ***Allow some flexibility in specific tasks within the given job description.***
- ***Engage the Mission Intern in reflection on how specific tasks meet personal goals.***

Background: At this stage we have trained the Mission Interns in the development and use of personal learning goals as their contribution to educational supervision. Mission Interns were asked to identify their overarching or general goal for the entire three year experience, and specific learning objectives related to their job description. Mission Interns were also encouraged to create tasks for themselves outside of work that might help them to achieve some of their objectives.

All Mission Interns were trained to reflect through journaling and encouraged to identify issues or concerns from their experiences to discuss with their supervisors at scheduled meetings as part of their ongoing process of reflection and learning.

Proposal for Supervisors: Mission Interns will share learning goals with their direct supervisor within the first three weeks of work. After the Mission Intern and the supervisor have time to reflect and learn more about each other, they should meet a second time to integrate and modify the job description and the learning goals.

Once the job description and learning goals document have been agreed upon they should be signed and sent to the Young Adult Program office in New York for final approval. Over the course of time this document may evolve or change. We ask that any mutually agreed upon changes be sent to New York so that our office is well informed of the most current understanding between supervisors and Mission Interns. ***Staff in the program office will treat the job description as a signed agreement between all parties which is to be upheld and respected and which details the nature of the assignment and the responsibilities of the Mission Intern.***