

US-2 Program Goals & Selection Criteria

The US-2 Program is a leadership development experience through peace with justice missions for young adults (20-30 years old). This two-year opportunity to serve in the United States encourages participants to deepen their faith while learning from and serving with community based organizations. US-2's will boldly reexamine their role and participation in society as they struggle with hunger, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, illiteracy, children at risk, substance abuse, racism, domestic violence, and inadequate health care.

GOALS:

1. To enter into a two year covenant of mutual ministry with the General Board of Global Ministries and an assigned placement site organization.
2. To work with a local faith based organization working with the surrounding community to bring social justice.
3. To live, socialize, and worship within the community surrounding your placement site organization.
4. To participate in both hands on direct service work and community wide movements for social change.
5. To work in and learn from traditionally marginalized communities, most often in cross cultural settings (geographic, racial, class).
6. To learn through experience, the systems which cause social injustice, how these systems work together, and ways local organizations work against these systems to improve the lives of their communities.
7. To commit to personal spiritual growth and the development of Christian beliefs, honoring your knowledge of God and personal experience working for justice in the world.
8. To explore possible vocations, especially those related to ministry, mission, or social work.
9. To commit to living on the program stipend as an exercise in spiritual and economic discipline and an intentional commitment to living within the means of the host community.
10. To develop oneself as a Christian leader who has the skills and sensitivity needed to respond to the challenges of human suffering and to provide direction for the church in the midst of this broken world.
11. To form a covenant community of young adults committed to Christian discipleship and service beyond traditional church settings.
12. To discern where God is calling you to work for change and to be open to the personal transformation required to fulfill this calling.
13. To engage in faith based action for justice and disciplined theological reflection in order to better integrate social justice into Christian faith.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES:

1. Commitment to the Christian faith with an ability to express and relate it to mission objectives, goals and issues of social justice
2. Completion of an education program (college, graduate school, etc.) and/or equivalent life experiences which contribute to effective service
3. Intellectual, emotional and physical strengths/stability

4. Work experiences which evidence commitment and skills appropriate for missional tasks-observation, research, community involvement, interpretation and communication (written and oral)
5. Willingness to commit two (2) years to the program
6. Support of General Board of Global Ministries goals and the capacity to relate those goals to vocational intention and work
7. Sensitivity to cultural diversities, awareness of events and issues in the world, evidence of cross-cultural and interpersonal skills and a commitment to combat oppressive conditions such as poverty, racism, classism and sexism
8. Willingness to become part of a collective community of interns
9. Willingness to adopt a subsistence lifestyle
10. Amenability to evaluation, training, accountability and group process
11. Commitment to action-education for systemic change
12. Indication of potential leadership in church and society