



## Frequently Asked Questions

### General FAQs

#### **Q: Who can apply?**

Young adults from anywhere in the world who want to serve! Fellows must be between the ages of 20-30 on December 31<sup>st</sup> of their first year of service (the year they are accepted into/begin the Program).

#### **Q: Does an applicant need to be part of The United Methodist Church in order to apply?**

No, this program is open to all Christian denominations. However, all applicants need to agree to and abide by United Methodist values for the duration of their service and should be able to explain their prior experience with a United Methodist Church.

#### **Q: What are the requirements?**

- Be a Christian
- Be between the ages of 20–30
- Commit to two years of service
- Hold a Bachelors degree or equivalent life/work experience
- Feel called to address the root causes of injustice
- Live out the gospel alongside communities seeking peace and transformation
- Serve with, not to or for, others
- English language skills at a Professional Proficiency (must be able to write, read, and speak in English)

#### **Q: What is the Global Mission Fellow International Track and where do they serve?**

A 24-month initiative for young adults around the world to serve internationally while engaging with local communities, connecting the church in mission, and growing in personal and social holiness. Service is an initial month of training, 20 months of working overseas and is concluded by a 2-month work project, training, and itineration in the fellow's home country. Placements are located in regions of Africa, Eastern Asia and the Pacific Islands, South and Central America, and Europe.

#### **Q: What is the Global Mission Fellow US-2 Track and where do they serve?**

A 24-month initiative for individuals eligible to work in the USA to serve in the United States while engaging with local communities, connecting the church in mission, and growing in personal and social holiness. Possible placement sites are located in Alaska, Florida, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

**Q: Do Global Mission Fellows need to speak more than one language?**

Having a working knowledge of English is required for all candidates. While knowing more than one language would help in selecting a placement match, it's not a requirement to serve.

**Q: Can a Global Mission Fellow also be a full-time student?**

No. Serving as a Global Mission Fellow is a full-time commitment and any studies would have to be put on hold for the duration of the program.

**Q: Are Global Mission Fellows able to request specific sites or organizations as their placement sites?**

Space is provided on the application for the applicant's preferences. However, placement depends primarily on placement site availability, assets, and preferences.

**Q: Can a Global Mission Fellow serve near "home"?**

As part of the mission experience, Global Mission Fellows are expected to serve outside of their "home" context.

**Q: In what sort of work does a Global Mission Fellow participate in?**

Fellows integrate faith and justice by learning, walking, and working with communities in their struggles to address systemic injustice and human suffering around the world (i.e., hunger, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, gender justice, children at risk, conflict resolution, peace, education, environmental justice, immigration, racism, and inadequate healthcare). Depending on an applicant's strengths and interests, Global Ministries will do its best to place an applicant with an organization whose needs compliment their skills and experience.

**Q: Are married couples permitted to serve together as Global Mission Fellows?**

Married couples are both able to serve as Global Mission Fellows. However, both spouses must apply separately and be accepted on their own merits before moving forward as candidates of the Program. Married couples who both get accepted into the Program will be placed in the same regional area. Married couples can also be part of the Program even if only one person is accepted as a Global Mission Fellow. But please note that the spouse would not receive a stipend or the same programmatic support. It is recommended that interested married couples be married for at least one year before joining the Program.

**Q: Are dependent children allowed to accompany a Fellow to their placement?**

No, child dependents are not eligible to accompany a Fellow to their placement site. In addition, the living stipend is designed to support only the Fellow's personal living expenses, and does not usually provide extra for supporting other family members.

## Program Details FAQs

### **Q: What is the time-line for the interview/acceptance process look like?**

- Discernment and Application: September- January
- Interviews: January- February
- Notification of acceptance: March- April
- Notification of assignment: April- May
- Training: July OR August
- Placement begins: August- September

### **Q: Is it possible to commit to the 24 months initially and then leave the Program prior to completion?**

We expect those who enter the Program to make the full 24-month commitment. Voluntary termination has happened in the past and is considered on a case-by-case basis, as it has a significant impact on the placement site, the Global Mission Fellow's cohort, Generation Transformation, Global Ministries, and The United Methodist Church.

### **Q: Are Global Mission Fellows placed with other Fellows in the same city in a community living setting?**

Increasingly, Fellows are placed in clusters where there may be another Fellow in the same town or city. In particular, many US-2 placements are with Affiliates. (Affiliates are select United Methodist partner organizations that receive more than one GMF and provide mentorship, support, and supervision for Fellows locally.) These Affiliates develop placement positions and liaise between Fellows and their placement sites. Where there are no Affiliates, the possibility of being placed with another Fellow exists; however, this is no guarantee, as placement capacity is related to placement site needs and GMF skill matches. Those interested in being placed with other Fellows are encouraged to apply for the GMF US-2 Track, or note this preference on their application.

### **Q: Can fellows choose the placement location where they would like to serve?**

Placement process is a two-track process:

- Partner organizations request a missionary
- Individuals discern a call to missionary service

Global Ministries sends a missionary only when there is an approved placement as requested by Global Ministries partner. Matches are made with the skills of the applicant and the needs of the placement site as the determining factors.

### **Q: Are Global Mission Fellows safe while in service?**

Yes. Safety of Fellows is a priority. Evacuation parameters are established with the Fellow and the placement site, should the safety of a Fellow be compromised.

### **Q: What is a typical work schedule for a Global Mission Fellow?**

A Program workweek of up to 40 hours is anticipated for all Fellows. This includes time spent at the placement site, as well as time for the placement site to provide additional mentorship, community building, Bible studies, orientation, and other activities that will support the Fellows in their mission experience.

**Q: What are living arrangements like for a Global Mission Fellow?**

Global Ministries works with placement sites to find safe, affordable housing that is in the community, but not extravagant. Housing is only guaranteed for the Fellow.

**Q: Are Global Mission Fellows allowed to visit home?**

A primary goal of the program is to be present among the community. Mobility is a privilege—many people do not have the luxury to travel or leave their situation. Request to visit home during service are considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Q: Are Global Mission Fellows allowed to have people visit them while in service?**

Yes. Global Mission Fellows are allowed visitors. This is contingent upon placement site policies, as determined by placement site supervisors. Visitors are encouraged to visit only after the Fellow has been at their placement two to three months—this will allow the Fellow to settle in and adjust to her/his new ministry context.

## Finance FAQs

**Q: What type of financial support do Global Mission Fellows receive?**

Global Mission Fellows are provided with a “simple living” stipend that varies from place to place. Simple living means living modestly in all forms (food, housing, transportation, and lifestyle). Stipend is country and location specific. Here are some average monthly estimates:

- United States ≈ \$750.00
- Philippines ≈ \$511.00
- Democratic Republic of Congo ≈ \$600
- Ireland ≈ \$743.00

**Q: Do Global Mission Fellows have to raise money?**

Yes. Global Mission Fellows are required to offset some of the program’s cost through fundraising. The requested fundraising amount is often less than 10% of the total cost of funding the Fellow’s participation in the program.

**Q: Do Global Mission Fellows receive benefits, (health, life etc.)?**

Yes. Health insurance, including dental, medical, and vision, is provided by Global Ministries.

**Q: How does a Global Mission Fellow on the International Track get a visa to another country?**

Obtaining a visa\* should be handled primarily by the Global Mission Fellow with help from the placement site and Global Ministries. To understand specific visa procedures for the destination country, it is best to visit the consular or embassy websites, or directly call the consular offices to enquire about the proper procedure. Please note that while a visa might not be required for entry in some countries, almost ALL countries require that an application for a long stay visa be submitted for stays lasting longer than three months. To attend the training event, a visa may also be required.

**Q: Does Global Ministries cover the cost of the visa fee or a passport?**

Global Ministries provides for visa fees, as long as the Fellow submits a receipt for reimbursement or includes it in the allotted budget for the placement site. Please note: Global Ministries does not cover costs for choosing to hire a lawyer or a travel agent, nor does Global Ministries cover more expensive visa processes. *Global Ministries does not cover passport fees.*

**Q: Are Global Mission Fellows eligible for the deferment of student loans?**

Forbearance and deferment are available for many USA federally guaranteed student loans. Check with the lending institution administering the loan to confirm eligibility and obtain the appropriate forms, which must be completed by the Fellow and Global Ministries.