

Qualifications for Missionary Service with The General Board of Global Ministries

- ❖ **Faith Confession:** All missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries must be Christians. Although membership in The United Methodist Church or other Methodist affiliated churches is not required for missionaries, familiarity with and commitment to the United Methodist Book of Discipline (the UMC's polity and structure) are required.
- ❖ **Church Involvement:** Applicants should demonstrate experience in mission and/or active involvement in the life and ministry of a local congregation.
- ❖ **Clergy and Laity:** Both lay people and clergy serve as missionaries with Global Ministries. Those assigned as pastors must be in good standing within their Annual Conference (if United Methodist) or denomination.
- ❖ **Assignments:** Missionaries do not initiate, create, nor design their own assignments. Rather, Global Ministries' missionaries are placed where local mission partners (United Methodist episcopal areas, autonomous Methodist churches or United Churches) have extended an invitation for someone to join in ministry with them in their context.
- ❖ **Length of Service:** Different programs require different lengths of service. Missionaries Serving Around the World, Church and Community Workers, and National Plan for Hispanic and Latino Ministries typically serve three-year, renewable terms. Individual Mission Volunteers serve between 2-months and 2-years. US-2s and Mission Interns serve approximately 25-months.
- ❖ **Educational Requirements:** A bachelor's degree or equivalent life experience is required. However, further educational requirements may vary among placements, and seminary training is necessary when assigned as a pastor or seminary professor. If an applicant does not have an academic resume, necessary equivalent vocational and/or life experience will be considered.
- ❖ **Professional Credentials:** All professionals (clergy, physicians, educators) who will serve as a missionary in their field of expertise must have the appropriate credentials/licenses in order to be commissioned for missionary service.
- ❖ **Experience with Diversity:** A candidate must have a willingness to engage in ministry with people of different racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds.
- ❖ **Language Proficiency:** Fluency in a language or languages other than English is an asset although not a requirement for application. Language study may be required for particular assignments.