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Ohio River Valley

Shawnee Valley

Ministry Intern Program

Application for Mentors & Host Churches – Summer 2024

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern program sponsored by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church for undergraduate students interested in exploring a call to ordained ministry during the summer of 2024! This seven-week paid internship will allow selected mentors and host churches to play a critical role in the experience of each assigned intern discerning a call to ordained ministry. Each mentor and host church will develop a relationship with the assigned intern that will help the intern cultivate leadership skills for effective ministry as they partner with clergy and laity in a local church.

Expectations and Qualifications

To provide the most beneficial ministry experience for our interns, it is expected that each mentor and host location meet the following qualifications:

...for the Mentor

- West Ohio Clergy Member
- Experience developing and supporting young adult leaders.
- Ability to create a safe space for discernment within ministry context
- Available for weekly meetings with assigned intern to process experience.
- Desire an intent to create an experience that will expose the intern to a broad understanding of ordained ministry in West Ohio
- Available to attend an orientation in late spring and debriefing in summer after the program ends
- Willingness to seek out opportunities for the assigned intern to explore their specific interests in ministry.

...for the Host Location

- Actively and effectively demonstrating all Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
- 100% of Conference and District apportionments paid in 2023.

- Ability to provide a flexible ministry experience which reflects the ministry interests of the intern.
- All staff and lay leadership should understand the intent of the program and the required investment of a supportive congregation

Overview

Our West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern program is designed to be eight consecutive weeks or the equivalent:

- 320 hours working in the host church.
- Internship Program Orientation with Mentor Introductions
- Participation in the West Ohio Annual Conference Session May 29 – June 1, 2024.
- Mission and Justice Educational Experience
- Internship Program Debriefing at the Intern's Host Church

Stipend

- The 6-week internship stipend is \$4,000.
- Housing will be coordinated, as needed, by the host church.

To Apply

Interested mentors should submit a completed application, including all essay questions emailed on or before March 22, 2024.

Applications may be emailed to: Rev. Donnetta Peaks, Director, Office of Ministry, dpeaks@wocumc.org.

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LOCAL CHURCHES to **MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**
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A WORLD OF **JUSTICE, LOVE** and **PEACE** filled WITH **PEOPLE**
GROWING IN the likeness of **JESUS CHRIST.**



Host Church Information

Church Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Senior Pastor Information

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Years in Present Position: _____

Will the Senior Pastor be the Mentor? Yes No

Clergy Mentor Information (if other than Senior Pastor)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Position: _____ Years in Present Position: _____

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Section 2: Narrative Section

Please answer the following questions:

1. Provide a brief description of the church's ministries and staff including information regarding membership and active worship attendance.
2. During the first two weeks of the internship, a program outline will be requested from the mentor and host church. The Intern and Mentor should work together on the program outline so the intern has an opportunity to engage the breadth of experiences applicable to ordained ministry while gaining a more thorough understanding of their specific areas of interest in ministry. For the purposes of this application, please describe the suggested areas for intern involvement (opportunities the student will have to learn and do ministry).
3. Identify and explain the unique benefits or experiences that the mentor and the church can offer to an intern.
4. What characteristics are the mentor and the church looking for in an intern?
5. In what ways does the mentor anticipate assisting the assigned intern in processing his/her calling?
6. When approached with the idea of hosting an intern, how has the congregational leadership responded? Please elaborate, providing specific examples.
7. An SPRC (or Lay Discernment Team) connection is encouraged for the intern to process his/her experience. Please name and describe the intentional connection that will be made between the intern and other lay leaders in the church.
8. Please have a leader from the Church Council (or equivalent) briefly describe the mission/ministry of your church. Insert or attach response.

Section 3: Partnership Questions

The intern is expected to provide his or her own housing. Due to COVID restrictions housing will not be provided.

The total cost of each placement is approximately \$6,000. This includes the stipend, mission and justice education, seminary visits and ministry exploration sessions, and does not include administrative costs that each hosting site will incur.

Is there any additional information you would like to provide to the selection and placement team?

Thank you for your interest in mentoring and hosting a West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern in 2023. We look forward to partnering with you to continue to develop Ministry Leaders!

Please refer to the West Ohio Conference website (www.westohioumc.org/internships) for intern eligibility requirements and further information about the West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program.

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