



**United Methodist Volunteers In Mission**  
**Southeastern Jurisdiction Office of Coordination**  
Rev. Nick Elliott, Director  
315 West Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 750  
Decatur, Georgia 30030  
(404) 377-7424 Fax: (404) 377-8182  
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## PROSPECTIVE INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

(Individual Application Information)

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### The Application Process for Individual Volunteer Service

Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers In Mission, in partnership with local and international churches, institutions and ecumenical organizations, has identified [opportunities](#) for individual volunteers, either single or as married couples. Terms will vary according to the amount of time the individual volunteer has available and the needs of the host community. The usual length of service is two months to two years. In many countries, fluency in the local language is required.

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### Characteristics of Successful Volunteers

Because individual volunteers will be viewed as missionaries by the host community, they may be asked to pray aloud, speak in public on short notice, and/or lead Bible studies. Individual volunteers should possess the following characteristics:

1. A growing Christian faith and understanding of mission;
2. Involvement in a local church;
3. Maturity and a sense of personal security and wholeness;
4. Ability to live with uncertainty, ambiguity, and loneliness;
5. Flexibility and willingness to meet the demands of the assignment, including working under the supervision of the local authorities;
6. Willingness to observe standards of behavior acceptable to the host church, usually including no alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs;
7. Skills in interpersonal relationships, including intercultural and interracial experience;
8. Educational preparation and/or skills appropriate to the position;
9. Physical and emotional health;
10. A sense of humor.

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### The Placement Process

Although the UMVIM, SEJ Office cannot promise a prospective volunteer a specific placement, we will work toward an appropriate match. Once the office receives a completed application, references, and application fee (\$50 international, \$25 USA), consultations take place, usually by phone. Then the application is sent to the applicant's first choice. If that placement does not materialize, the application may be sent to other choices. In any event, the volunteer and the office must agree on the location to be considered. This process may take several months.

***The individual volunteer is expected to cover the cost of transportation and personal expenses in the place of assignment.*** Ideally, the place of service will provide room and meals. However, that is not always possible because volunteers often go where the need is greatest and the local leadership is unable to provide room and meals. Six orientation sessions for individual volunteers are held each year in varied locations. All individual volunteers are expected to attend one of these sessions prior to placement.

After studying the above, if you feel called by God to serve as an individual volunteer and if you reside in the southeastern United States, contact [UMVIM, SEJ](#) for an application.



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## APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

Thank you for your inquiry about the United Methodist Volunteers In Mission program and for your interest in serving the church through this avenue. Volunteers who serve with us do so with the understanding that each participant is responsible for securing his or her own travel, living and personal expenses, as well as helping raise funds for the projects they assist.

Please complete the following and mail it to the above address with the appropriate application fee. This information will be shared with the Annual Conference or Jurisdictional UMVIM Coordinator in your area. Your application will be considered on the basis of current opportunities for volunteers and you will be contacted by us upon receipt of your completed application, references and registration fee. Information will be provided to you as to the required orientation process.

### PERSONAL DATA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Permanent home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Identity \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Denomination

Home church

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Conference (UMC) \_\_\_\_\_

What has been your experience in the life of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Languages you speak other than English \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ fluent \_\_\_\_\_ functional \_\_\_\_\_ beginner

Have you had previous volunteer experience \_\_\_\_\_ Describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to live and work under conditions that may be uncomfortable, unfamiliar, and require your flexibility and understanding, with respect for the local culture and local church leadership? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Do you have any reservations about working under the direction of leaders of another race, religion, nationality, or culture?

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical limitations? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACEMENT INTEREST**

Skills you can share (Examples: carpentry, plumbing, other construction, sewing, teaching, medical work, office work, legal help, farming, mechanical work, etc. List in order of proficiency and use these abbreviations: P=professional; E=experienced; L=learner.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical preferences for service:

U.S. state or region 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

International (Country) 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you already had conversation with someone in your place of preference? Is so, please give his or her name, address, and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

When and for how long do you wish to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

How much lead time do you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you understand that no salary, benefits, or travel expenses are provided to volunteers, and that volunteers pay their own room, board, and travel? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

When and how will you finance your time of service? Personally \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteers are required to have adequate insurance coverage. Do you need information about insurance? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your motivation for becoming a Volunteer In Mission \_\_\_\_\_

How do you expect this experience to benefit you? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you expect to share your experience with others upon you return? \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to notify in case of an emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)

Street

city

state zip

phone – day

phone – night



Books \_\_\_\_\_

Magazines \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES**

Please send reference forms to your pastor and two other persons (an employer, supervisor, or teacher, and another person who knows you well) to be returned directly to this office. Please list their names below.

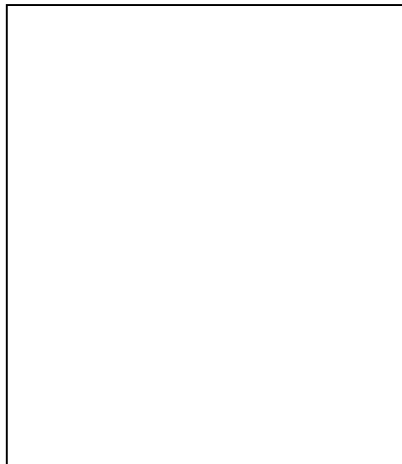
Full name	Street	City	State	Zip	Occupation
1.					
2.					
3.					

**Note: A non-refundable fee of \$50 and a \$30 background check fee for a TOTAL OF \$80 per individual or married couple for international assignment, or a \$55 fee for national assignment, must accompany this application. Make checks to UMVIM, SEJ.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of candidate \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a recent photo.**



**DUE TO THE IMPORTANT RELATIONAL ASPECT OF MISSION WORK: EACH APPLICANT MUST PASS A BACKGROUND CHECK. THERE IS A THIRTY \$30.00 FEE FOR THIS SERVICE. PLEASE GIVE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND SIGNATURE CONSENTING TO A BACKGROUND CHECK.**

**SS NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_



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## REFERENCE REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

\_\_\_\_\_, an applicant to serve as an Individual Volunteer with The United Methodist Church, has given your name as a personal reference. We will greatly appreciate your response to the parts of this questionnaire in which you have knowledge in regard to this applicant. Please return this form to the above address.

1. Estimate the candidate's ability in his/her profession \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does the candidate respond under difficulty circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you aware of any health problems of the applicant or his/her family that might cause difficulty in the mission experience? If so, please explain \_\_\_\_\_
4. To your knowledge, does the applicant have a history of alcohol or drug abuse? If so, please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the applicant's outstanding abilities? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Does the applicant take responsibility well? Give example \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Comment on what you know of applicant's faith commitment and relationship to the church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How do you perceive the applicant in terms of adapting to an intercultural situation and relating to persons who may live in extreme poverty? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What degree of success in this ministry would you predict for the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Print or type name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(feel free to use the back of this page for additional comments)

# United Methodist Volunteers In Mission

## Basic Questions and Answers

- [Mission Statement](#)
- [Who are United Methodist Volunteers in Mission?](#)
- [Where do volunteers serve?](#)
- [How do I volunteer for a team ?](#)
- [How can my church or group sponsor a team?](#)
- [What about volunteering as an individual?](#)
- [What projects are available?](#)

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### Mission Statement

- **The mission of UMVIM is to enable persons to share their faith in Jesus Christ through utilizing each individual's unique skills and gifts in hands-on mission activities in a global context. Our theme is: *Christian Love in Action***

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### Who are United Methodist Volunteers In Mission?

- UMVIM is a fellowship of believers, lay and clergy, men and women, adults and youth, who have stepped out in faith to serve the needs of communities around the world.
- The common characteristic of volunteers is a desire to serve and a willingness to share the gospel as part of a work team, medical team, or as individual volunteers.

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### Where do volunteers serve?

- Projects exist at the local, conference, national, and international levels.
- Interested persons may serve in a variety of settings and locations working with local Christians and affiliated agencies around the world.

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### How do I volunteer for a team ?

- Churches, districts, and conferences sponsor volunteer teams for service around the world for periods averaging from 1 to 2 weeks.
- Team leaders and their sponsors determine the destination, schedule, team size and other aspects of their trip at the request of local churches in areas with a need for teams.
- A great way for interested volunteers to get involved is to join an existing team.
- A list of Future Teams Planned is available from the UMVIM, SEJ. This list includes date, location and the contact person (team leader) with a phone number.

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### How can my church or group sponsor a team?

- Those persons with experience on a team may seek to become team leaders. For more information, contact your conference [UMVIM coordinator](#), or the [UMVIM, SEJ](#) office.
- Assistance in selecting sites is also available, along with a Handbook (\$20) with valuable information on preparing, training and leading a team. You may order the Handbook from our office.

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### What about volunteering as an individual?

- UMVIM, SEJ, in partnership with local and international churches, church institutions and ecumenical organizations, has identified opportunities for individual volunteers, either single or as married couples.
- Terms will vary according to the amount of time the individual volunteer has available and the needs of the host community.
- The usual length of service is two months to two years.
- In many countries, fluency in the language is required.
- An application and placement assistance is available the UMVIM, SEJ office.
- Before requesting an application please read the [information for potential individual volunteers](#).

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### What projects are available?

- To see listings of available projects for teams and individuals, review the UMVIM Web site at [www.umvim.org](http://www.umvim.org)
- For answers to specific questions about the volunteer experience, contact [UMVIM, SEJ](#).