

GLOBAL IMPACT

Matthews United Methodist Church
Global Impact Committee
Individual Missions Funding
February 8, 2023

Whereas, as part of Matthews United Methodist Church's mission to "Reach, Teach, Praise, and Serve," the church encourages short term missions as means for the church's members and affiliates to become the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Therefore, the Global Impact Committee (GIC) hereby initiates the following policies and procedures for funding short term, summer internship, and long term missions:

Short Term Missions Policy

- 1) "Soft" application deadlines for short term trips, defined as trips two weeks or less, shall be established semiannually: April 1st and September 1st. Applications outside of these dates may be considered by the GIC on a case-by-case basis depending on funds availability.
- 2) The GIC will create a standard application for short term mission trips.
- 3) Applicants are expected to complete the application form provided and will make themselves available for questions, within reason, from GIC for additional information or clarification.
- 4) The GIC shall consider the following criteria in its decision to award funding:
 - a. The nature of the mission in keeping with GIC focus areas. Applicants can reference the [GIC website](#) to ensure alignment.
 - b. Encouragement of first time or repeat short term mission participants.
 - c. Membership and active participation in the Church.*
 - i. *Affiliated nonmembers may be considered on a case-by-case basis based on the discretion of the GIC.
- 5) The GIC shall establish a budget to fund short term missions, which may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the GIC.
- 6) Available funding:
 - a. Maximum of \$500 or 1/3rd of trip costs, whichever is higher, for first time participants
 - b. Maximum of \$200 or 1/4th of trip costs, whichever is higher, for repeat participants.
- 7) The GIC will actively promote such opportunities to encourage participation and general awareness.
- 8) Approved short term trip participants shall be required to provide the following within two months following their return:
 - a. An informal "smart phone" video testimony of the experience and impact of the community served that may be published on the GIC website and social media channels.
 - b. At least a 500 word written testimony of the experience that may be similarly published by the GIC.

Summer Internship/Intermediate Term/College Youth Missions Policy

- 1) "Soft" application deadlines for summer internship/intermediate term trips, defined as trips exceeding two weeks, shall be established annually on March 1st (prior to annual GIC budgeting). Applications outside of this date may be considered by the GIC on a case-by-case basis depending on funds availability.
- 2) The GIC will create a standard application for summer internship/intermediate term/college youth mission trips.
- 3) Applicants are expected to complete the application form provided and will make themselves available for questions, within reason, from GIC for additional information or clarification.
- 4) The GIC shall consider the following criteria in its decision to award funding:
 - a. The nature of the mission in keeping with GIC focus areas.
 - b. Encouragement of first time summer internship/intermediate term/college youth mission participants.
 - c. Membership and active participation in the Church.*
 - i. *Affiliated nonmembers may be considered on a case-by-case basis based on the discretion of the GIC.
- 5) The GIC shall establish a budget to fund summer internship/intermediate term/college youth mission trip, which may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the GIC.
- 6) Available funding:
 - a. Considered on a case-by-case basis by the GIC.
- 7) Approved short term trip participants shall be required to provide the following within two months following their return (or monthly updates during the trip if it exceeds 2 months in length):
 - a. An informal "smart phone" video testimony of the experience and impact of the community served that may be published on the GIC website and social media channels.
 - b. At least a 500 word written testimony of the experience that may be similarly published by the GIC at the conclusion of the trip.
 - c. Awardees will be encouraged to provide regular social media updates, if feasible, during the trip that can be shared by the GIC.