

Host a Global Partner

Long-Term Hosting Opportunities

Invite a global partner to live, work, and worship in your congregation, presbytery, or Conference for periods from three months to three years.

Receiving Global Partner Mission Appointments

Your community could participate in programs as varied as

- **Mutuality in Mission:** up to a three-year ministry appointment to a pastoral charge
- **Partners in Residence:** up to a one-year appointment within a congregation, presbytery or Conference, or Education Centre
- **Global Partner Internships:** three- to six-month-long leadership development opportunities for global partner interns

The United Church has made it a priority to be engaged in partnership as a way of being in God's mission. "Partnership" means becoming involved with others in God's mission for wholeness of life, especially on behalf of the poor and powerless. Partnership brings people together in community to build relationships.

By supporting long-term "receiving" programs with global partners and United Church communities, United Church people have an opportunity to

- live out a faith commitment to justice and peace by learning more about partners and their work around the world
- deepen their understanding of the connection between justice issues in Canada and globally.
- explore and celebrate God's mission by living, working, and worshipping with global partners in the Canadian context

We have come to see our engagement in God's mission as resembling a global church family, sharing what it has, gratefully accepting gifts from one another, and working together for the sake of all. A global partner can be part of your congregation's response of embracing transformation for the mission God calls your congregation to in your community.

With the support of the Mission and Service Fund, receiving global partner personnel for a one- to three-year appointment creates opportunities to personalize the church's engagement in global mission through a direct relationship. It is an opportunity to share Canadian life, work, worship, and context with a global partner who brings another set of experiences and background to the conversation.

Participants in relationships with global partners speak of having felt a deep need to make a North-South connection in order to make sense of their own experiences. Relationships enable us to continue our work in Canada, when we are connected to others engaged in the same work in their own contexts. We are part of something bigger than ourselves. We are able to see things more clearly here by being informed from outside our own experience.

Learning from and worshipping with people from another culture and different life and faith experiences can alter forever the way we look at the world, think about our faith or read scriptures. New possibilities are opened up.

Witnessing our partners speak and express their faith and their hope can also give us confidence to speak about our own faith. A long term hosting experience creates another facet for deep and long lasting mission relationships.

Beginning Steps

Signal your congregation's interest in receiving a global partner for a long term appointment by contacting pip@united-church.ca. We can let you know of existing opportunities and point you to some helpful resources to assist your planning process.

Long-Term Hosting Possibilities

Appoint a planning committee that will coordinate the discernment and planning processes for the visit. Planning to implementation may take between one year and 18 months, so be prepared for the long haul!

The committee should be prepared to develop a brief proposal outlining the purpose and goals of the global partner appointment, including a job description and a tentative timeframe. General Council Office staff will work with a host community to refine the request and job description. Once agreed on the terms of an appointment, the General Council Office will also coordinate a recruitment process.

Responsibilities of Host Community

There are four main steps for the host community:

1. Discernment
2. Planning and preparation
3. Implementation
4. Debriefing

The planning committee should be prepared to organize, or delegate to another group, each of these key steps.

Discernment

It is important that your congregation or other United Church community be clear about why you are inviting a global partner to spend time with you, and the issues you'd like to explore together. You will need to think about an appropriate job description and the way in which it lives out the goals of the appointment. Some of the things you'll want to consider include the following:

- As a host community, what are your hopes and expectations for the appointment?
- How will this visit further the long-term mission interests of your community?
- What faith issues could be central to your experience?

Keep General Council Office staff informed of the discernment process, particularly how it is influencing the development of a job description.

Planning and Preparation

You have goals and objectives, a job description, tentative dates, and a recruitment process. What's next?

- *Budget planning and fundraising!* While some costs can be shared with the General Council Office, the host community is responsible for developing a budget to fund the initiative, including salary or living allowance, housing, and other related costs. How will these costs be met?
- *Family needs*—If the partner is coming with their spouse and children, attention to their needs is critical. What schooling options are possible? The spouse is unlikely to receive a working visa. What volunteer or other involvement is possible, based on the spouse's interests and skills?
- *Logistical planning*—While the General Council Office will coordinate the formal recruitment, invitation, and visa processes (and please be aware these can be complicated and time-consuming), the host community is busy planning logistics for the appointment.
- *Language*—Is language support or training required? How can that be managed? Where are these skills available within your community? Even if the partner has good skills in the language(s) used in your community, you should still see if speakers of the partner's first language live in the community. It is tiring to operate continually in a second language and comforting to speak your own language!
- *Accommodation*—The type of accommodation required will depend on the length of the appointment. Billeting may be possible for shorter-term appointments. Arrangements for room and board may be possible. Rental of a house or apartment is another possibility. Keep in mind the comfort of the global partner (and potentially, spouse and children). The type of accommodation should take into account need for privacy and downtime.

Long-Term Hosting Possibilities

- *Transportation*—What type of transportation will be required to fulfill the job description? What are the limitations of the personnel being received? Not all global partners drive, or may be comfortable driving in Canada, particularly in the winter. How will you take into account the partner's need for independence of movement?
- *Accompaniment*—Make sure a strong support and mentorship network is formed. There will be cultural, social, and emotional adjustments to be made. It is important the global partner has appropriate support in place.
- *Orientation*—Part of the planning process will include preparing for orientation. What does the global partner need to know about Canada? The United Church of Canada? Your community? Local concerns? What does your community need to know about the global partner? The country they come from? The issues and concerns the partner organization deals with?

Materials to help in planning orientation are available from the General Council Office.

Implementation

They are here at last! Plans are in place and ready to roll out. Be prepared to be flexible. Plans sometimes need to change. Have back up strategies in mind and ready to go.

Debriefing

It's important the global partner, host community, and General Council Office take a moment together to talk about the high and low points of the appointment, what went well, what might have been done better, and where to go from here. A creative use of face-to-face and conference call should make a personalized check-in process possible.

It is also important that the General Council Office understand how the visit accomplished the goals established. Each host community will be asked to write a summary of how the goals and objectives of the appointment were met, and at least one 200-word story (accompanied by a picture) describing an important event during the appointment.

Interested? The General Council Office can provide you with more information on possibilities for receiving a global partner appointment. Contact [**pip@united-church.ca**](mailto:pip@united-church.ca).

"We are not alone. Thanks be to God."