



HESS FELLOWS ADVOCACY PROGRAM

– Agency Application –

Part I: Agency Information

Agency: General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church
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Agency Mission Statement: The General Board of Church and Society implements the Social Principles and other public policy positions of The United Methodist Church through a comprehensive ministry of community based grassroots organizing, transformative participatory education, legislative and public policy advocacy at all levels of domestic governance; address public witness and advocacy at the international level including the United Nations and NGO coalition partners; GBCS priorities include connecting acts of mercy with sustainable systemic acts of justice and advocacy and organizing; connecting with constituencies and local congregational emerging and existing leadership; and applying an ethically informed and justice-oriented public witness in places of power and decision making.

Part II: Plans for Hess Fellow

1) Please describe a project you plan to assign to the Hess Fellow. Your description will assist the Hess Center staff in matching your needs and interests with the strengths of student applicants. While the specifics of the project(s) may change, please provide an outline with specific examples of a likely or possible project the Hess Fellow will complete. The internship experience and the main project(s) must focus on advocacy.

The Hess Fellow will work with the department of Women's and Children's Advocacy and Organizing. Past fellows have worked with me to identify their passion and have created or significantly contributed to a new or ongoing initiative that engenders deeper exploration of our foundational question: would look the church look like if we believed that women and girls were made in the image of God? The exploitation and/or abuse women and children contribute to each of the issues in this portfolio: human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and reproductive justice.

2) What skills would a Hess Fellow need to succeed at your agency? In the past, agencies have requested students with particular majors, foreign language proficiency, research experience, computer programming knowledge, graphic design skills, etc.

We have had superb experience working with past Hess Fellows and are eager to continue this relationship. The best learning/working relationships with had had with Fellows are based on mutual trust and

communication, maturity of critical thought and a high capacity to work in an educational environment that is cross-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-racial, crosses economic divisions and values diversity. Excellence in written and verbal communication is a must. Proficiency in a second language other than English is desirable but not necessary. Computer skills, database work (SALSA), graphic design, are all desirable.

3) We have had some success with sharing Fellows between agencies in the same city that engage in related work. Would your agency be interested in dividing a Hess Fellowship with another agency that shares a similar mission and proposes a similar internship project?

Yes. Although ideally the work of the women's and children's portfolio is substantial and the Fellow would do well to immerse herself/himself into the project/initiative, its methods, and organization of the General Board of Church and Society. Substantive resources created by former Hess Fellows have been published and used broadly throughout the UMC.