

MINISTRY SUMMER SERVICE (MSS)

Ministry Summer Service is a leadership development program for college students in the Church of the Brethren, provided through the Youth/Young Adult Ministry office and the Ministry office. Students, or interns, involved in MSS spend 10 weeks during the summer working in a local congregation or church related organizations such as: district offices, camps, and denominational programs.



MSS provides an excellent opportunity for young adults to explore ministry as a vocation, or to simply learn what ministry is all about in a particular setting. The Bible is a record of God calling people to challenging tasks. MSS is no exception. Through MSS, God calls congregations and other ministry settings to reach out in the ministry of teaching and receiving. Likewise, God calls young adults to explore the possibility of church work as their vocation.

Interns are required to spend one week in orientation at the beginning of the summer. This usually takes place at the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, IL. Interns then spend nine weeks working in their placement site, developing leadership skills and exploring a call to ministry. Interns receive the following in exchange for their participation:

- \$2,500 tuition grant
- food and housing for ten weeks
- \$100 per month spending money
- transportation from orientation to their placement
- transportation from their placement to home

Each intern is linked with a mentor from the ministry site. Mentors are required to attend part of the orientation in Elgin, as well as meet regularly with the intern during the summer through meetings, devotions, prayer, study, etc...

Camps can be a part of MSS by hosting an intern. It is expected that the intern serve in as many facets of camping as possible, such as: counseling, leading camp programs, office work, training opportunities, time spent in the kitchen and on maintenance, board meetings, and visiting congregations.

Youth Peace Travel Team members are also participants in MSS. The orientation experience is an excellent opportunity for team members to understand their job as a vital ministry. It is a wonderful partnership shared with OMA, the Youth and Young Adult Office, Brethren Volunteer Service, and On Earth Peace.