



Missionary-in-Residence Program

Program Description

The Missionary-in-Residence program at Union University provides temporary housing for career international missionary personnel on stateside assignment. The purpose of providing this housing is to meet the needs of the missionary family as well as to provide awareness and education concerning global missions for members of the University and surrounding church communities. Through the ongoing presence and strategic involvement of international missionaries on campus and in the churches of the region, many are able to gain greater insight into the work that God is doing throughout the world through international missions.

Each year, several hundred Union students participate in short-term missions both domestically and internationally, and the number of graduates who are entering international missions is exciting. Currently, recent Union graduates are serving in international missions in Poland, Botswana, India, China, North Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and more.

As the Office for Spiritual Life seeks to meet students where they are in their relationship with God and to help them take the next step toward a life that connects fully with God's global purpose, the opportunity for students to experience God's global heartbeat through the life of a current international missionary is exciting and has great long-term potential. While Union University seeks to prepare students for lives of service to Church and society, the Missionary-in-Residence Program is a formative influence as students consider the specific areas to which their lives will be dedicated.

The Missionary-in-Residence program is coordinated through the Office of Spiritual Life, under the direction of the Director of Student Mobilization. Missionaries in residence (MIRs) live on the Jackson campus or in off-campus housing provided by the University. MIRs are preferably alumni of Union University. Selection for the Missionary-in-Residence Program at Union as well as specific agreements between the University and missionary personnel are decided by the Office of Spiritual Life. The application for consideration as an MIR at Union is available for download on the MIR website. Please download and save the application to your computer. Upon completion of the application, please email the saved Word document per instructions included with the application to Elizabeth Ward at eward@uu.edu

University Expectations

We look forward to partnering with missionaries in residence in the following:

Serving as a member of the Spiritual Life Team

The vision of the Office of Spiritual Life is to meet students where they are in their relationship with God and help them take the next step toward a life that connects fully with God's global purpose. As a member of our team, the MIR uses his/her unique gifts to minister to students for the purpose of discipleship and engagement in God's movement around the world. We anticipate involvement in GO Week and other special events sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life.

Engaging intentionally in university and student life

Relationships with students naturally develop as MIRs become integrated into university and student life on the Union University campus. We encourage MIRs to proactively pursue relationships with students. Many on our campus are interested in international missions involvement. From eating in the cafeteria to attending basketball games to simply hanging out in [Barefoot's Joe](#), there are numerous ways to be involved with students on our campus.

Advocating aggressively for the mobilized lifestyle

The pervasive myth regarding missions is that it is something to “do.” Beyond that, many think of missions as something to be done in other cities, states, and countries. The Office of Spiritual Life desires for our students to live mobilized lives that actively pursue knowing God and making Him known. As students develop a greater understanding about connecting with God’s global purpose, they will pray differently, spend money differently, and freely follow God anywhere.

Participating in GO Week

[Global Opportunities \(GO\) Week](#) is an annual event during the fall semester, traditionally the third week of September. The purpose of GO Week is to inform and inspire students about God’s movement around the world. Missionaries and representatives from Christian organizations, camps, and ministries come to campus to interact with Union University students. During GO Week, we also announce the [GO Trips](#) (short-term opportunities sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Life) for the upcoming year. This is a strategic week for MIRs as there are multiple opportunities to form relationships with students at the beginning of the semester. These relationships can be on-going throughout the MIR’s time on campus in seeking to mentor and to disciple students concerning God’s glory among the unreached peoples. (Further information about GO Week will be provided).

Filling requests made by local churches

Through the Missionary-in-Residence Program, there are also opportunities to speak in associational meetings and West Tennessee churches sharing first-hand accounts of God’s movement around the world. These speaking engagements allow MIRs to serve as a vital link between Union University and area churches. MIRs have the freedom to schedule such events and engagements around family needs and any events/meetings required by the International Mission Board and Union. The Offices of Spiritual Life and [Church Relations](#) works in cooperation with MIRs to coordinate speaking engagements.

University Provisions

Union University has 2 homes used exclusively for the Missionary-in-Residence Program. These homes are available to missionaries and their families free of charge. Each home is fully furnished.

- Mercer House (on campus) - 4 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths
- Adams House (on campus) - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths

Union University provides missionaries in residence with the following University privileges which other members of the Union community receive upon admission/employment:

- Missionaries in residence personnel may take credit courses during their time at Union University. MIRs can take classes at the same rate offered to Union University faculty/staff (IMB career personnel only). Audit fees will be the same as for all other employees. For more information contact *Enrollment Services*, 661-5210.
- Union University [Wellness Services](#), including the Wellness Center, Aquatics Center, and Student Activities Center (Union ID needed). Please contact Dustin Donner for orientation prior to using the Wellness Center.
Dustin Donner, Operations Manager, Wellness Services, Student Services - ddonner@uu.edu
- Free admission to all non-tournament Union University [athletic events](#) (Union ID needed)
- Use of Union University [Health Services](#)
Paul Mayer, University Nurse, 661-5284, pmayer@uu.edu
- Use of Union University [Counseling Services](#)
Paul Deschenes, Director of Counseling Services, 661-5322, pdeschenes@uu.edu
- Use of [Emma Waters Summar Library](#) (Union ID needed)
Director of the Library, 661-5410
- Use of University Post Office
Linda Taylor, Mail Services, 661-5290, ltaylor@uu.edu