

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if I don't think I want to attend seminary or be a pastor?

That is ok. Many of our Calling 21 interns are not positive what they want to do following graduation from college. Calling 21 provides a safe and creative environment in which to see how God is calling you in your life of faith.

We all have a calling and a purpose, and we can live that purpose in a million different ways, whether or not we are the pastor or staff person of a church. Think of Calling 21 as a part of your journey to explore this notion of calling more.

Do all United Methodist clergy lead churches and preach on Sunday?

No! In the United Methodist Church, clergy includes Local Licensed Pastors, Associate Members, Elders or Deacons.

Elders may serve as pastors in local churches, but may also be campus ministers, military or hospital chaplains, and more. Deacons sometimes serve local churches in specified areas of ministry such as music leaders, directors of Christian education, youth ministers or in the community as Social Workers or in non-profit organizations. Talk more with your pastor about how clergy live out their calling and you can visit this resource www.explorecalling.org.

What will I do this summer?

For the safety and health of all involved, the Calling 21 leadership team is working with the host churches on an internship program that has significant "in-person" time with virtual components. You will work with a pastor of a United Methodist congregation, doing a little bit of everything that happens around a church. From being a part of Sunday morning worship to the everyday tasks that happens during the week. Your Calling 21 clergy will be able to mold your experience to take into account what you are looking for and passionate about. It will be a time of new experiences, growth and transformation for the church community.

Will I be paid?

You will receive a stipend of \$3,000, as well as free room and board. The stipend is paid over the course of the internship in four increments, less any federal and state tax withholding.

Where will I live?

Unlike past years, a host home situation may not be feasible. We will allow for flexibility and work with interns on best housing options due to the present circumstances. The Calling 21 team is securing campus housing at United Methodist schools in proximity to your host church.

What will I eat?

You will share meals with your host family as well as have access to their kitchen. We encourage interns to communicate their summer schedule so that you know when you will be eating with family or not. When you apply, please remember to tell us of any allergies you have or dietary restrictions.

What is the application deadline?

February 1, 2021. We will also schedule a time in February for your interview by video conference.

What are the dates of this internship?

- Calling 21, Intern Orientation begins **May 31, 2021** at [Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA](#).
- The internship itself is from **May 31 to June 3**.
 - This includes interns attending Annual Conference together in Hampton, VA on **June 17-19, 2021**
 - Reflection Event in Richmond, VA on **August 2-3, 2021**.

Are you going to send me to the middle of nowhere?

You could find yourself in a small town, a suburb, or a city environment; all within the bounds of the Virginia Annual Conference. Your church assignment will be announced by the end of March.

How much education do I need to participate in Calling 21?

We would like you to be an undergraduate who has completed at least two semesters of full-time college, university, or community college work.

Can I apply if I am not from Virginia?

Yes; however, we do give preference to United Methodist students who either are from Virginia or attend school in Virginia.

What if my question is not answered here?

The Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton, Chair of the Calling 21 Team, at meghanclayton@vaumc.org or the Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, ClergyExcellence@vaumc.org or (804) 521-1126