

Items to Consider When Approving MCC Internship Sites

- Specific Learning Goals of Intern**
Each intern has specific gifts as well as experiential strengths and weaknesses. We will work to find an internship placement where the intern's individual learning goals will most likely be met.
- Non-Home Church Setting**
Almost always, the "home church" (i.e. congregation where intern is a member and/or which endorsed the intern for REVM) is not an appropriate internship placement. The objective is for the intern to come into a congregation where s/he is not known in order to experience, explore, and reflect on pastoral authority/identity.
- Non-Transitional Setting**
We prefer not to place interns in a congregation in major transition—e.g. in an Interim situation.
- MCC vs. Other Open & Affirming Congregation**
Extreme preference is given to MCC congregations so that interns can have an experience of MCC ministry beyond their local churches. However, when there is not a suitable MCC nearby or other project-based or distance learning opportunity that seems more appropriate, another open and affirming congregation may be approved. This would require (a) the supervising clergy at this congregation be familiar with MCC polity and our supervising clergy manual, (b) the student would need to have an existing and thorough familiarity with MCC beyond his/her local church.
- Ability of Supervising Clergy to Appropriately Mentor Interns**
One of the most important aspects of "good internships" is the ability of a supervising clergy to mentor a student through the process. We consider (a) the supervising clergy's training and experience to work with interns (b) the availability of time for the supervisor to have weekly 1-hour meetings with interns (c) the commitment of the supervisor to be present for various experiences of the intern in order to provide evaluative feedback—e.g. vs. viewing the intern as "free labor" or someone to fill in while the supervisor is on vacation.
- Ability of the Congregation to Provide a Stipend**
While it is not always possible for congregations to financially support interns, we encourage this practice as a commitment to the formation of future clergy.
- Field Education Requirements of Seminary**
We recognize that it is advantageous for students to be able to allow one internship experience to satisfy the requirements of both MCC and their Seminary Field Education. When possible, we will work toward this end.

These and other variables will be considered when approving an internship placement to meet MCC requirements. All internships must receive advanced approval of the Office of Formation and Leadership Development.