



Nurturing Congregation

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Isaiah Project?

The Isaiah Project is a program designed by the Ministry Exploration Team of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Isaiah Project has three goals: To **challenge** local congregations in the Kentucky Annual Conference to assist in the development of young church leaders, to **identify** and recruit young people (college and seminary age students) for ministry in the Kentucky Annual Conference and to help college and seminary age students **develop** their call to ministry through an experiential service opportunity in a local church.

2) What is a Nurturing Congregation?

Nurturing Congregations are congregations who are partnering with the Board of Ordained Ministry in their attempt to develop young leaders for our Church.

3) How are the ways that one can become a Nurturing Congregation?

There are several levels of involvement one can have to become a Nurturing Congregation partner. First commit to pray for those God is calling into leadership and ministry. Second, have an Invitation to Ministry Sunday during September. Third, use the resources provided through the Isaiah Project to be deliberate in finding ways to identify and recruit young people into ministry from your local congregation. Finally, partner with us by having an Isaiah Project intern serve in your local congregation.

4) Who are the interns?

The interns are United Methodist young people who are at least in the summer after their first year in college. They may be college students who want to explore what God is calling them to do in a deeper way. They may be seminary students who are looking for a place to gain experience in a local church setting or seminary students who are looking to see if the Kentucky Annual Conference is the place where God is calling them to live out their ministry.

5) What type things would this intern do?

One thing the Ministry Exploration team has been clear about is their desire that the interns have a broad based experience. This person is not a summer youth or children's minister. The expectation is that the intern will have an opportunity to preach at least once during the internship. S/he should also have responsibilities for teaching a class of some sort. Preaching, teaching, administration, pastoral care, and evangelism should all be a part of the internship. Opportunity to assist in performing the sacraments is also encouraged.

6) How long does the internship last?

There are two options for the length of hosting an intern. They are a summer internship and a school-year internship. The most common will be a summer internship and that is open to college students and seminary students. The summer internship lasts for ten (10) weeks and includes eleven (11) Sundays. It is the understanding that these will be forty (40) hour weeks during the internship. The school-year internship is open only to seminary students who are in need of field education credit. The hours and length of this internship will depend upon the seminaries requirements which could change. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking a school-year intern and we will work with you and the seminary student to get that set up.

7) Who decides who gets an intern?

The Ministry Exploration team of the Board of Ordained ministry will review the applications and match interns and nurturing congregations.

8) Who supervises this person?

It is the expectation of the Ministry Exploration team that this person will be supervised by either an Elder or a Deacon. These persons are required to attend a one day Isaiah Project Intern Mentoring training event which will be held in April/May prior to the internship.

9) If we decide we want to have an intern what is expected of us as a congregation?

The Board of Ordained Ministry in its desire to partner with Nurturing Congregations has committed a large portion of its available programming money to this program. It is their desire to provide a \$2,000 partnership grant to local churches that have an intern. A local church would be responsible for the rest of the salary for the internship, (college interns; BOM \$2,000, local church \$2,000: seminary intern; BOM \$2,000, local church \$4,500). In the case where the student was from out of the area and unable to live at home, the local church would be responsible for providing housing, (this could not be in the pastor's home) and any travel reimbursement done for church purposes. It is also expected that the local congregation would develop a three person team (could be SPRC members) to meet periodically with the intern just to give feedback and make certain that s/he is included in the church community.

10) What if we would like to sponsor an intern, but do not have the money to do so?

Our website offers many resources for congregations, including links to places to apply for grants and other information. We encourage you to visit our website at www.isaiahprojectumc.com for more information and resources.

11) If we want an intern what is the process?

Go to www.isaiahprojectumc.com and complete the application form that you will find there. It will automatically be forwarded to the Ministry Exploration team for consideration. The deadline for requesting an intern for the summer is February 28.

12) If we have more questions who should we call?

Call the Office of Ministerial Services at the Annual Conference office. 800-530-7236 ext. 308.