

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Council of Theological Students

Serving the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Statement of Purpose and Responsibilities

Purpose

The purpose of the Global Ministries Council of Theological Students (CTS) is to equip diverse groups of ministerial students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective ministers in a global community by providing opportunities to:

- Reflect theologically on global missions
- Engage in an ecumenical model of partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (DOC) and the United Church of Christ (UCC)
- Serve as a link between the Common Global Ministries Board and participating seminaries
- Learn about and advocate for global social justice concerns
- Network with other ministerial students and regional Ministries and Mission Interpreters (MMIs) and learn how to engage in mission interpretation on issues that impact the global church
- Engage in praxis-oriented education

Membership

Suggested guidelines for seminary selection of Council representatives:

- Each UCC and Disciples related seminary or divinity school may nominate two delegates to the Council (See list of member seminaries at the end of this document.). If a seminary nominates two, the second should be an international student.
- Patterns of representation should reflect diversity in areas such as race, ethnicity, class, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical ability.
- Representatives must be UCC/DOC students in at least their second semester and be enrolled in seminary or divinity school throughout their Council tenure.

Opportunities and Responsibilities for Students

- A. CTS members will be encouraged to:
 1. Serve on the Council from September of one year through August of the next year.
 2. Attend at least two Council events. These may include Mission Works, Ministries and Mission Interpreters training, General Synod or General Assembly, Ecumenical Advocacy Days and any mission trips or retreats that may become part of the program.
 3. Network with other Council members.

4. Learn the structure and ministry of the Common Global Ministries Board, Wider Church Ministries (UCC) and the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM).
 5. Be a liaison and resource for Global Ministries with local churches and the Region or Conference (connecting with the already existing network of liaisons).
 6. Share experiences and information with their seminary community and local congregation
 7. Connect faith and action with advocacy for peace and justice issues.
- B. Council members may be asked to participate at Council events in one or more of the following ways:
1. Write reflections (or create other forms of interpretation) to share with the wider church through various media.
 2. Prepare and present reports and presentations in a variety of settings.
 3. At an event:
 - a. Lead and plan worship, workshops or presentations.
 - b. Assist in orientation for incoming Council members
 - c. Coordinate with staff advisor for agenda planning
 - d. Participate in an evaluation
- C. Other Possibilities:
1. Global Internship Program
 2. Seminary studies at an international partner institution

Responsibilities of Staff Coordinators

- A. Contact Seminary Representatives in February or March to initiate the Student nomination process for the coming year.
- B. Provide all materials for the CTS Program to Seminaries and Students
- C. Provide the registration materials and coordinate arrangements for students to travel to and from Mission Works in October or Ministries and Mission Interpreters Training events.
- D. Provide a schedule and instructions for Student submissions to the Newsletter
- E. Send the newsletter to Seminary Representatives and Students.
- F. Consult with and/or refer students to other Global Ministries Staff when they wish to identify resources or support for their project.
- G. Coordinate the group missiology discussions.
- H. Make arrangements for and coordinate a final mission experience or gathering.

Responsibilities of Seminary Representatives

- A. Using the procedures of their seminary, select one or two students (the second would be an international student) who have an interest in Global Missions to participate in the CTS Program and submit their names to Staff Coordinators by the 1st of May. If no name(s) is(are) submitted, we will assume no interested student was identified.

- B. Provide consultation, support or guidance to the students as they develop plans for and implement their projects.
- C. Consult with the Students and the Staff Coordinators on ways to increase the awareness of the seminary community about Global Missions and the importance of connecting our congregations with partner churches around the world.
- D. Consult and offer Evaluation, as needed, on CTS Program Development.

Staff Coordinators:

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Member Institutions

Andover Newton Theological School
 Bangor Theological Seminary
 Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University
 Chicago Theological Seminary
 The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Disciples Divinity House
 Christian Theological Seminary
 Eden Theological Seminary
 Hartford Seminary
 Harvard University Divinity School
 Howard University School of Divinity
 Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta
 Lancaster Theological Seminary
 Lexington Theological Seminary
 Pacific School of Religion
 Phillips Theological Seminary
 School of Theology at Claremont, Disciples Seminary Foundation
 Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico
 Union Theological Seminary
 United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
 Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Disciples Divinity House
 Yale University Divinity School

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