RE: Ministry Internship Opportunities for El Valle District summer 2018

Description of Placement - El Valle District is made up of 41 churches in the Rio Grande Valley in Deep South Texas. We are part of the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. While the EVD is 90% Hispanic the make-up of the individuals is extremely diverse. The intern could expect a multi-cultural experience in this border area. There is great economic growth happening in the Valley as the new performing arts center has opened, a medical school is being built, and vitalization is occurring along the main highway. With that said, the Valley is also a place with many struggles and poverty. The district continues to engage the folks in the colonias and on the northern side of the Mexican border. The district office interacts with clergy and congregations in this borer context. Some of our churches are growing and cutting edge, while other have diminished and attendance has dropped. The district is also transitioning from Harlingen to McAllen and we are repurposing a closed church into a ministry center that will house several ministries including the district office.

Description of Possible Responsibilities (but not limited to) - 1. Help with ongoing district activities/meetings. Experience ministry, leadership opportunities and different perspectives from local area pastors and the superintendent. 2. Work directly with Susan Hellums (EVD Border Area Ministry Coordinator) and support summer missions teams in the EVD. 3. Support Mission Service Project - June 11-17. Groups from all over the state come to build/repair homes in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the area. There is also opportunities to serve, teach and share with community children about Christ’s love. 4. Support and possibly attend Youth Summer Camp in New Mexico - July 16-21. 5. Engage the colonias with experiences with existing justice ministries. 6. Support activities with El Valle District Project Transformation (PT). PT engages college-age young adults in ministry and service with underserved children in site churches located in low-income communities.

Contact information
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Requirements:
1. Serve forty (40) hours a week in a supervised parish ministry setting for ten weeks during the summer.
2. Participate in a two-day orientation seminar to be held May 11-12, 2017 and a two-day reflection seminar to be held during August term, 7-8, 2017.
3. Participate in an online reflection group throughout the summer semester.
4. Participate in weekly meetings with a Ministry Internship Supervisor at your church. Complete readings and written assignments as directed by the Faculty Internship Supervisor.

**Students will receive:**
1. an $8,000 grant that will be applied to the student’s Candler account ($2,000 for living expenses and $6,000 to go on the student account).
2. three academic credit hours that will count towards the Fall 2017 semester (This will be your August-term class.)
3. the opportunity for deeper formation in the practice of ministry.
4. on-site supervision and mentoring.
5. faculty supervision.
6. reflection group experience.

**Application Instructions:**
1. Write a 1-2 page essay on why you have chosen to apply for this internship, your vocational goals, your particular skills for ministry or the things you would like to practice/experience, the specific issues of ministry that you intend to explore, and how this will deepen your leadership ability. (Essays should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1” margins on all four sides).
2. Submit your essay along with your resume no later than 12:00 noon, March 15, 2017 to Lisa Parker (Con Ed Coordinator) at lisa.parker@emory.edu
3. Applicants will be contacted by congregational leadership as a part of the process of selection. Interviews will be conducted beginning early March 2017.
4. Questions may be directed to Dr. Thomas Elliott, Jr., Director of Ministry Internships. If you need to meet with Dr. Elliott, please call Lisa Parker, Contextual Education Coordinator, to set up an appointment at 404.727.4178.