

Emily Teerink Accepted As Young Adult Volunteer

The Presbytery of Milwaukee welcomes Emily Teerink, a member of [Immanuel Presbyterian Church](#), as a new [Young Adult Volunteer](#) (YAV). Emily will be serving in Zambia. Here's Emily's story:

"Having grown up in the Presbyterian Church as a member of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, I have always had an interest in mission and service work. I always wanted, but never had the opportunity, to attend an international mission trip with Immanuel. However, some of my favorite church memories are from regional mission trips I went on with my youth group and other service opportunities around Milwaukee. I have always felt that my faith is best demonstrated when I am able to put it into action and help serve others in my community and communities around the world.

"When I started to think about my post-graduate life from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, I knew I wanted to take a year or two off before starting graduate school or a job, so I looked at number of short-term service-oriented programs. As an international relations and environmental studies double major with a minor in Spanish, I have a strong interest in humanitarian issues and international development. This was first sparked when I studied abroad in Ecuador and had the opportunity to live and intern with an indigenous community outside of Quito.

"I stumbled upon Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) after my mom suggested I look into service opportunities through PCUSA. After a conversation with my pastor, Jean Dow, who put me in contact with a YAV alum from Milwaukee and a further conversation with this alum, I realized YAV might be the perfect opportunity to gain more international community development experience while also putting my faith into action. Now having gone through the application process and accepting a position in Zambia, I am excited to put my passion for service and community development into practice while also exploring my faith this next year.

"I do not think there is one thing that inspired me to be a YAV, but a combination of the experiences I described above. The Presbyterian faith has always been important to my family and me. With my family's support and my interests in international development, YAV seemed like a natural next step in my life. I am excited to see where this experience will lead me and I am looking forward to learning and growing through service and faith in Zambia.

"While there are a few things that make me nervous about spending ten months in Zambia, I know that I have a support system and community here at home as well as in Zambia that will help me through any difficulties I may experience during my year of service."

Rev. Jean Dow is an Associate Pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. She shares that Immanuel maintains a relationship with the hospital in southern Zambia. They are hoping Emily might find a way to visit when she's there.

"Emily grew up at Immanuel Church. She has always had a heart for international experience and service, and we are delighted that she has chosen to put her gifts to work through her participation in YAV program," says Jean.

Emily adds specifics about how Presbytery of Milwaukee members can help. "As a YAV, I have committed to raising \$5000 for my year of service. PCUSA covers all of the expenses for YAVs during the year including, food, housing, transportation, a stipend and loan assistance, which is the only way I am able to participate in the program. However, all of these expenses amount to roughly \$24,000 per YAV, which is why YAVs are asked to fundraise a portion of these expenses. Everything I will be doing in Zambia will be with or through the mission partner there, so although the money I fundraise will make it possible for me to volunteer, the donation will ultimately benefit the PCUSA mission partner(s) in Zambia. Raising the \$5000 is required for me to be able to participate in the program, but the fundraising requirement in general also supports the longevity of the YAV program.

"Here is the link to my online YAV bio, the blog I will be updating throughout the year and where donations can be made online in my name."

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new/emily-teerink/>