IV. Compassionate Action

*Students must complete one of the following two options:*

1. Serving Society; Enacting Justice

Courses in this area involve active student participation in a course with a service project, or an internship that includes significant involvement in responding to social issues. A course or internship fulfilling this requirement should deliberately raise students’ awareness of issues of justice grounded in social class, gender, ethnicity or human disability; the environment; or the impact of technology. The course should invite students to examine their own presuppositions, and to heighten their sensitivity to develop their skills in where injustices occur within a given community, and developing their agency to effect positive change for the betterment of those within that community, their exercise of charity and compassion. The service project, which is to be explicitly integrated into the academic content of the course, should, when possible, be performed for a non-profit organization.

**Interpretive Statement**

Activities designed to fulfill the Serving Society; Enacting Justice section of the General Education program should substantially conform to the following criteria.

1. The service component should be preceded by an orientation which addresses
   a. Relevant theories guiding effective Christian ministry and service
   b. The context [including social structure and client population] in which the work will be done.
   c. The specific goals within the service of the activity.
   d. The method for documenting the service activity, types of reporting that will be expected.

2. The service component should take place in a context where the student will have exposure to one or more of the following:
   a. Issues of economic disparity and class.
   b. Issues of gender and ethnicity.
   c. Issues of environmental stewardship/ remediation.
   d. Issues of social or political disenfranchisement.
   e. Issues of community identity, infrastructure and safety.
   f. Issues related to aging.
   g. Issues of disability.
   h. Issues related to the logistics of or structures for serving society and/or enacting justice.
   i. Other similar or related issues.
3. The service component may take the form of direct contact and service or may take place in a setting which addresses systemic and structural concerns.

4. Typically, at least 12 hours of service should be performed.

5. The service component should be embedded in or connected to an academic context (lecture, class discussion, seminar, readings, discussions with a mentor) which will enable student to process the experience beyond a casual level and ground their experience in a framework of Christian mission and service.

6. There should be a clear system of accountability and reporting for both performance and processing.

**Committee Praxis**

**Student-run or externally-run ministries**

Students who wish to fulfill the Serving Society; Enacting Justice General Education requirement using a student or externally-run ministry should enroll in the 0-unit APP-191SS section relevant to their ministry. Unit APP 192 Service Experience Seminar. The purpose of the APP-191SS registration APP 192 is to provide a means to connect academic learning and reflection with service experiences which lack the level of on-site supervision expected for an internship experience.

**Expectations:**

- The ministry must have a sufficient track record to demonstrate long-term stability, good organization, effective service, and significant contact with the population being served.
- The ministry must have the support of the Director of Campus Life and must be proposed for inclusion through the traditional GE application process for all courses desiring GE credit.
- A member of the teaching faculty or a member of the staff with faculty status must lead a seminar that (a) prepares students for participation in the ministry and (b) reflects on the experience.
- As with all courses meeting this GE area, the seminar should include preparatory readings and exercises which orient students to the cultural and/or social context of the ministry.
- The Internship Office will not oversee such a course. The office has a different mission; conducting ministry oversight will obscure the mission and strain already stretched resources.
- Credit is granted for participation in the seminar—not for the ministry work.
- Since the seminar is intended for reflection on the field experience, successful completion of the course is contingent on appropriate engagement during the field experience. The syllabus must have some mechanism (such as a daily reflective journal) in place to monitor participation.
- Since student-run and externally-run ministries typically do not have mechanisms in place for internship-level on-site supervision and the experience is often compressed, the amount of direct contact should be approximately double (24 hours) that required for a faculty-coordinated project or a supervised internship fulfilling the Serving Society; Enacting Justice GE component.

**Certification Criteria**
Students will be able to:

1. Identify theological motivations for service; the needs of the population being served; the effects and affects resulting from those needs; and the causes of those needs, such as involuntary circumstances, individual choices and structural injustices;
2. Articulate how they have been affected by their experience (for example, changes in beliefs, attitudes or values) and how their experiences might inform their calling to discipleship, citizenship and future service.

Administrative Structure:

1. The course is graded P/NC and a grade of pass is contingent on adequate engagement in both the seminar and the field experience components of the course.
2. In order to ensure the appropriateness of the participants for the field experience, instructor approval is required for registration.
3. Administrative procedures such as registration and grade submittal will conform to the expectations of standard courses.
4. Since APP 191SS APP 192 is intended to fulfill the Serving Society; Enacting Justice GE requirement, the GE Committee will review proposals (syllabi) to verify the appropriateness of the project, adequacy of the preparation and reflection, and adherence to these principles.

Certification Criteria:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify theological motivations for service; the needs of the population being served; the effects and affects resulting from those needs; and the causes of those needs, such as involuntary circumstances, individual choices and structural injustices;
2. Articulate how they have been affected by their experience (for example, changes in beliefs, attitudes or values) and how their experiences might inform their calling to discipleship, citizenship and future service in their own communities.

Student Learning Outcome:

TBD

Students will engage in meaningful ways within a community and be able to articulate the ways they have been changed as a result of this engagement.