

How to Arrange a Perkins GTE Cultural Intelligence Seminar

UMVIM leaders interested in hosting a Perkins GTE Cultural Intelligence Seminar should contact Dr. Robert Hunt, director of Global Theological Education at +1.214.768.1374 or roberth@smu.edu.

Seminars are offered without cost to U-MVIM groups. Organizers are requested to ensure a minimum of 30 participants, provide photocopies of course materials for participants and arrange travel and overnight accommodations for the seminar leader.



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Cultivating Cultural Intelligence

A Seminar for UM Volunteers in Mission
and their Leaders



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Cultivating Cultural Intelligence

Cultivating Cultural Intelligence: Free Seminars for Volunteers in Mission



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission has become one of the greatest resources for Christian outreach in today's world. Tens of thousands of volunteers reach out in ministry to neighbors near and far.

Following God's call, mission volunteers place themselves in settings that are physically, socially, spiritually, and culturally challenging. At Perkins School of Theology, the Global Theological Education Program is committed to helping UM Volunteers in Mission meet the challenge of ministry in different cultural contexts.

Cultivating *cultural intelligence* can be an important asset in cross-cultural missions. Volunteers in mission who are self aware, cognizant of cultural differences, motivated to cross cultural boundaries, and sensitive to differences in cultural behavior are the most effective servants of God in mission.

In order to help improve the cultural intelligence of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, the Global Theological Education Program is offering at no charge, seminars in cultivating cultural intelligence to VIM groups. These are the same seminars offered to Perkins students who participate in cross-cultural immersion programs.

Participants learn the three key aspects of cultural intelligence: knowledge of one's own culture, mindfulness of the culture of others, and behavioral skills appropriate to engaging new cultures. The seminars feature lectures, case studies, and group and personal exercises, all based on the latest research by missiologists, sociologists, and psychologists, as well as the experience of generations of missionaries working across cultures.

While no seminar can fully prepare a person for his or her first encounter with a different culture, this introduction to cultural intelligence will guide participants into richer and fuller partnerships in ministry across cultures. Missioners will become more comfortable in their first encounter with a new culture, more sensitive in their ministry to people in that culture, and more likely to return having received as much as they have given.



Typical Seminar Schedule:

Session 1: 80 minutes Awareness of how culture shapes expectations. Presentation and role play.

Session 2: 50 minutes Cultivating mindfulness – an exercise in becoming culturally aware.

Session 3: 50 minutes Basic behavioral patterns for engaging new cultures. What to do until you know what to do!

Session 4: 50 minutes: Next steps – Resources for learning about specific cultures and cultivating cultural intelligence, including Q & A.



Dr. Robert Hunt is director of Global Theological Education at Perkins School of Theology. Dr. Hunt was a United Methodist missionary from 1984 to 2004, serving in Malaysia, Singapore, and Austria. A specialist in interreligious and intercultural relations, he has written numerous articles and books on Christian history, mission, and relations with non-Christian religions. His most recent work is *The Gospel Among the Nations: A Documentary History of Inculturation* (Orbis Books, 2010). He and his wife, Lilian Liong Huan Wong, reside in Dallas and have two grown children.