A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING

Emmaus is a diverse Christian campus ministry at the University of Montana which is sponsored by the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Lutherans, in partnership with the Episcopalian Church USA & the United Church of Christ. We value and foster strong relationships, honest conversations, eating well, spiritual grounding, service to others, social justice, care of the earth, leadership development, and vocational discernment. Weekly we offer Sunday night Dinner and Discussion and a mid-week Dinner Church. We also offer ongoing service and advocacy projects, interfaith events, retreats and trips. In addition, we offer monthly educational lunches, occasional workshops, university learning events, and faith-based organizing around issues of justice and service in partnership with local faith communities and agencies. ECM is a Reconciling in Christ ministry; welcoming believers, doubters and seekers of all faith traditions, political perspectives, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP

Faith-based Environmental Organizing, Action and Activism: This practicum will focus on faith leaders, faith communities, and individuals in the Missoula area and on the UM campus who are interested in faith-based responses to climate change through organized environmental education, projects and activism. We will work with a team of leaders who are working to start a local branch of the national organization called Interfaith Power and Light as well as with members of the Missoula branch of 350.org. We will also work with individual clergy and congregational committees to develop a vision, mission and strategy for individual congregations. In addition, we will work with regional church bodies and leaders to develop a “people of faith” advocacy letter that will go to our national legislators in regard to the upcoming climate talks in Paris in December.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The primary work of this practicum is to be the lead administrator and organizer for this new Missoula chapter of faith-based environmental work. The intern will get a lot of supervisory and committee support in this effort. Enthusiasm, participation, and member action will be high, but we are in need of an organizer to help call meetings, set agendas, contact potential members, and to keep driving the project forward.

Learning opportunities include: community organizing, vision and mission development, direct contact of potential members, development of educational materials, development of publicity and marketing materials, organizing a wide variety of action steps, running meetings, talking to people of diverse perspectives about potentially controversial issues, building consensus, and recruiting many people for a statewide sign-on letter.

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
Overall, we are looking for a team player who cares deeply about the environment and climate change issues, is willing to work with a diverse committee, is well-organized and self-driven, and is ready to help bring great ideas and vision into fruition. It will help if this person has familiarity with the dynamics of faith communities. We do not have a faith statement requirement for this position, but we do require that this person be open to and respectful of a wide variety of faith perspectives, and can work with people from any of those perspectives. This position will include meetings with congregation members and clergy on a regular basis.

Job duties will include:

1. Work directly with the Emmaus campus pastor to set agendas and priorities for this work.
2. Work as the organizer for our new faith-based environmental action team. (We have been meeting for about 6 months so far in 2015.)
3. Visit and interview individual clergy, church councils, and other faith leaders to access where their community is in regard to this work. Help faith communities develop a plan of action to move forward with education, action and advocacy.
4. Help to develop educational opportunities for congregations as well as faith-based student groups around the issues of climate change and environmental advocacy.
5. Help develop a statewide clergy sign-on advocacy letter and help recruit signatures throughout the fall. Help develop and recruit a “people of faith” letter in the same regard.
6. Find effective ways to recruit faith leaders, congregants and students to be part our new organization.

Applicants should be able to work well with others on a team, take direction when needed from a supervisor, be flexible as plans change, and be able to take initiative on their own. They will need to communicate clearly and promptly with supervisor, team members, and people from a variety of campus and community groups. They should have solid organizing skills, competent computer skills, and the ability to carry a project through from start to finish. They must have their own laptop.

Emmaus Campus Ministry will provide adequate work space, a printer, a local phone, wireless internet, weekly supervision, funding for programs and advertising as needed. We will also provide a $800 stipend per semester.

Interested second or first year MSW students should contact John Lund for an application and interview. Selection will be made based on qualifications and fit for our organization.