

Summer Internship Report 2017

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**Episcopal Church Office of
Government Relations
Washington, D.C.**

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

I conducted background research on issues around immigration and refugee rights. I monitored major news outlets and White House press releases for relevant issues. I produced reports on international and foreign affairs for public policy analysts. I represented the Episcopal Church in policy strategy meetings. I met with members of Congress and their staff to advocate for the positions of the Episcopal Church.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

This internship provided me with the opportunity to learn about issues with which I had no prior experience. For the first time in several years, I was entirely outside of my professional and academic comfort zone, which pushed me to consider new viewpoints and strategies for success. I was most proud of my drafting of the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's response to President Trump's anti-transgender tweets.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

I was excited to find that the skills I developed as an English major were so applicable to advocacy work. In this internship, I was expected to read large amounts of information and synthesize the key issues into briefings.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

The majority of my work was performed on my own, but the office met regularly to discuss strategy for future issues. In those settings, I learned how to work effectively in professional settings with a larger group.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

This internship solidified my interest in public service, and helped me develop the immediate steps I plan to take after Sewanee. The director of my office was intentional about speaking to me about my career plans, and offering advice and support in the future.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

The most memorable moments from my internship were the instances in which I met with refugees, undocumented immigrants, and temporary protected status holders. Those incredibly brave people had experienced trauma in their home countries, and the future of their lives in the US was and are threatened by the current administration. It was a humbling experience to speak with 14 year olds who were fighting to remain in US public schools. Those conversations were inspiring, and will remain with me.

Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

Thank you! I had a spectacular experience, and it would not have been possible without your generosity.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?

GW student dorms were incredibly overpriced. I encourage students to make the most of any connections they may have through Sewanee, family, and friends to search for other housing options.