Internship Opportunity with **Decker United Methodist Church**:

**Time commitment:** 12-15 hours/week

Start and stop dates coincide with APTS semester schedule for fall and spring of 2014.

*A full-time summer internship is a possibility if student shows interest and capacity for continuous work throughout 2014, and if funding can be secured for adequate compensation for an APTS summer intern.*

Decker United Methodist Church is an historic church found on the outskirts of Austin. The Decker community is over a century old, and its beautiful sanctuary is an historic landmark. Like many churches today, this church family is small, aging and faces steep challenges accordingly.

The church family is warm and welcoming. They are in need of more pastoral attention, in both care and at services, than they can currently afford by way of an appointed elder. They are also in need of tools to face their future, such as learning to reach out to their neighborhood that was a Swedish immigrant farming area when the church began. Now the area is comprised of low-income schools and neighborhoods that need community help.

Decker would benefit by 1-2 interns that would like valuable experience caring pastorally for this congregation, which has 12-15 active members and an equal number of shut-ins. This intern would gain significant experience in giving pastoral care and frequent preaching.

The unique spin on Decker is that it is currently in partnership with The Church Lab (TCL), a new church plant with a non-traditional style and focus on building interfaith relationships. TCL will eventually center its activities on Decker property. Rev. Carrie Graham is the pastor of both Decker and TCL congregations.

Due to the significant responsibilities this internship may offer, **characteristics** of a Decker intern include but are not limited to:

* a solid communicator, able to speak both directly and gently
* demonstration of promising leadership qualities in previous job roles
* a strong sense of integrity and personal responsibility
* consistent follow-through on tasks
* a team player
* organized
* strong administrative skills

Those with following **skills and interest** in the below activities would be a good fit:

* caring for a small, elderly community
* helping a congregation transition into a new phase of their community's story
* organizing, cleaning out, the upkeep and archiving a church's rich history and property
* rural ministry in general
* ability to speak Spanish is a plus
* support in developing a positive partnership between an aging church and a church plant
* support in project strategy that works to the benefit of the overall projects among the aging church and the church plant

**Contact:** Rev. Carrie Graham at [thechurchlab@gmail.com](mailto:thechurchlab@gmail.com).