



**JOURNEY  
OF FAITH**

## **A PILGRIMAGE OF DISCERNMENT FOR MINISTRY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Journey of Faith* is a unique opportunity for renewal offered for mid-career pastors by Columbia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning. *Journey of Faith* includes an expense-paid two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land and two short retreats—one before and one after the pilgrimage.

This extraordinary event will enable pastors to journey from the demands and challenges of everyday ministry, to visit the birthplace of our faith, and to reflect on their call to ministry. Participants will have an opportunity to deepen their spiritual journey, clarify their call to ministry, and gain valuable insights through this journey to the roots of our faith.

This is your invitation to apply to participate in *Journey of Faith* and to encounter the Spirit of God in unexpected ways.

### **REQUIRED OF PARTICIPANTS**

- Applicant is at mid-career (between the ages of 35-55 with five or more years of ordained experience in ministry) and actively serving as an installed pastor or associate pastor of a congregation
- Completed application form and two references (one from a peer clergy and one from a judicatory official providing an appraisal of the applicant's present service in ministry and potential for future service to the church) must be submitted in the original form and signed by the applicant and references. These must be postmarked by June 22, 2009. Send the applications to:  
**Deedra Rich**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**701 S. Columbia Drive**  
**P.O. Box 520**  
**Decatur GA., 30031**
- Applicants will be notified of acceptance no later than **July 6, 2009**. A \$250 check, payable to CTS to cover the registration fee, will be due upon acceptance.

- Preference will be given to those who have never traveled to the Holy Land
  - Completion of practical arrangements such as passport, transportation, and planning for congregational leadership while away
  - Completed documents and forms required by Columbia Theological Seminary for international travel
  - Payment for incidental and personal expenses related to the retreats and pilgrimage.
  - Payment of transportation costs to and from Atlanta for the orientation retreat, pilgrimage experience, and follow-up retreat for any amount that exceeds the funds provided through the CF Foundation through arrangements with Academy Travel.
  - Access to the Internet and an e-mail address
- AND*
- Commitment to participate fully in the orientation retreat, pilgrimage, and follow-up retreat
  - Commitment to prepare for the pilgrimage, which includes appropriate physical conditioning, conversations, reading, study, and prayer
  - Completion of a reflection paper at the conclusion of the pilgrimage experience
  - Completion of *Journey of Faith* evaluation process

### **PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPANTS**

- Room, board, and overseas airfare for the Holy Land pilgrimage
- Room, board, learning materials for orientation and follow-up retreats

### **PILGRIMAGE**

- **September 22-24, 2009** Orientation Retreat
- **October 28-November 11, 2009** Pilgrimage
- **January 5-7, 2010** Follow-Up Retreat

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Notification of acceptance by July 6, 2009

# JOURNEY OF FAITH EVENTS

## Orientation Retreat

The two-day orientation retreat will take place in the Emory Conference Center, in Atlanta. The retreat will include group meetings, informal conversation, and worship.

### Purpose of Orientation Retreat

- Build a sense of community among participants
- Provide travel details and information about the ethos of the Holy Land
- Orient participants to the pedagogy of pilgrimage, including prayer and meditation, the practice of keeping a journal, documentation of learning through photos and the art of perceptive observation and mindful reflection
- Identify ways to include spouse, family and congregation during the experience
- Provide materials for the pilgrimage experience, including *Pilgrimage: Exploring a Great Spiritual Practice* (Edward C. Sellner)

*Participants will be housed at the Emory Conference Center.*

## Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage experience will last 15 days (14 nights). The timing of the trip (Wednesday evening and Thursday return) is planned for the convenience of pastors. The pilgrimage will include

- Spiritual guidance, with time for reflection, prayer, and journal writing
- Group learning activities, including discussion, reflection, and prayer
- Worship at various sites in the Holy Land
- Visits to biblical sites, lectures by local expert, and time for photography

## Follow-up Retreat

The two-day retreat following the pilgrimage will be held at the Harrington Center, on the Columbia campus. Activities will include readings and presentations, conversations, worship, and times for reflection and prayer.

### Purpose of Follow-up Retreat

- Continue to build community among participants
- Discuss the pilgrimage experience: stories, lessons learned, and possible applications of the experience for relationships, ministry, and calling
- Identify next steps for follow-up
- Discuss the personal reflection papers that each participant will complete as a part of the project
- Evaluate the pilgrimage experience as a learning event: What was helpful and what can be improved?
- Orient participants to resources and opportunities for continued learning post-pilgrimage

## SCHEDULE

**June 22, 2009** - Deadline for application. Application and letters of reference should be signed and postmarked by June 22. Original letters of reference, must be postmarked by this date.

July 6, 2009 - Notification of acceptance. \$250 check payable to CTS for registration fee due following acceptance.

September 22-24, 2009 - *Orientation Retreat*

October 28-November 11, 2009 - *Pilgrimage*

January 5-7, 2010 - *Follow-Up Retreat*

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## ITINERARY

Spiritual guide for *Journey of Faith*, is Tom Lewis, director of the Spirituality Program for Lifelong Learning. Each day includes worship, discussion, personal reflection, prayer—and travel for comfortable distances, with short presentations to help pilgrims understand the context of the sites.

### Day 1

Depart Atlanta.

### Day 2

Arrive at Lod Airport and drive directly to the retreat location in Galilee. Theme: Thanksgiving and awareness through prayer, listening, seeing. Group worship. Introduction of the big question: “God, why am I here?”

### Day 3

Walk a trail to the top of the Cliff of Arbel for a panoramic view of the Sea of Galilee. Visible in the distance are the Plain of Gennesaret, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes and Tabgha. Descend the trail and drive to Capernaum. Theme: “Walking” as a practice in prayer, meditation, and spiritual formation. Overview of Jesus’ Galilean ministry.

### Day 4

Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha (traditional site of the loaves and fishes), and the Chapel of the Primacy of Peter (traditional site of Jesus’ appearance to the disciples while they were fishing, “Cast your nets on the other side.”) Theme: Jesus feeds us.

### Day 5

Journey to Kursi on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee (traditional site where Jesus healed the demoniac and cast the demons into swine) and return across the sea by boat. Theme: Stilling the storms of life.

### Day 6

Drive through Galilee to Nazareth and, after exploring Nazareth, return by a different route that offers a better view of Mount Tabor (traditional Mount of Transfiguration). Theme: The Pilgrim from Nazareth

### Day 7

Drive north to Banias (Caesarea Philippi) and the foothills of Mount Hermon. Along the way pass Tell el-Qedah, the site of ancient Hazor.

### Day 8

Sabbath rest in Galilee.

### Day 9

Transfer from Galilee to Jerusalem. The drive is not so long, but there are three important places to visit along the way: Megiddo (Armageddon), Mount Carmel, and Caesarea.

Theme: “This is the day the Lord has made.”

### Day 10

Morning walk into Jerusalem: from Mount of Olives via the Garden of Gethsemane and the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Theme: Praying in the Garden, touching the tomb.

### Day 11

Jerusalem. Garden Tomb, the Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu on Mount Zion, and the Western (Wailing) Wall. Theme: City of David.

### Day 12

Morning excursion to Bethlehem. Visit the Shepherd’s Fields, Manger Square, and the Church of the Nativity. Theme: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

### Day 13

Full day excursion to the Dead Sea (Masada, Qumran, Swimming.) Theme: The two seas of the Jordan.

### Day 14

Free Time. Closing worship service/and discussion of the experience. Theme: The Journey of Faith. Why did God want you here? What is God calling you to do?

### Day 15

Arrive in Atlanta.

## Contact

Deedra Rich

Program Coordinator for Lifelong Learning  
404-687-4557

[journeyoffaith@ctsnet.edu](mailto:journeyoffaith@ctsnet.edu)

520 S. Columbia Drive

P. O. Box 520

Decatur, GA 30031

*Journey of Faith* is a Columbia Theological Seminary Lifelong Learning event funded in partnership with the Holy Land Pastoral Renewal Program of the CF Foundation.

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S E M I N A R Y

# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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1. Please complete all questions.
2. Note the word limit for answers, and please be concise.
3. Two letters of reference must be received (postmarked) by June 22, 2009.
4. Sign your completed form. Please note that your signature is required in two places.
5. **Your original, signed application must be postmarked by June 22, 2009.**
6. Send your form to:

Deedra Rich  
Columbia Theological Seminary  
701 S. Columbia Drive  
P.O. Box 520  
Decatur, GA 30030

The Journey of Faith Project Committee will review applications. Selected applicants will be notified by **July 6, 2009**.

## SCHEDULE

**September 22-24, 2009**  
Orientation Retreat

**October 28-November 11, 2009**  
Pilgrimage

**January 5-7, 2010**  
Follow-Up Retreat

## Contact

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