



JOURNEY
OF FAITH

A PILGRIMAGE OF DISCERNMENT FOR MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

Journey of Faith is a unique opportunity for renewal offered for pastors by Columbia Theological Seminary's Center for Lifelong Learning. *Journey of Faith* includes an expense-paid two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

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 has five or more years of ordained experience in ministry and actively serving as an installed pastor, co-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 November 19, 2009. Send the applications to:
Natasha Nichols
Staff Associate
701 S. Columbia Drive
P.O. Box 520
Decatur GA., 30031
- Applicants will be notified of acceptance no later than **December 18, 2009**. A \$500 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 pilgrimage.
- Payment of transportation costs to and from Atlanta for the pilgrimage experience, for any amount that exceeds the funds provided through the Cobb foundation.
- Be physically able to handle the rigors of international travel and pilgrimage exploration.
- Access to the Internet and an e-mail address

AND

- Commitment to participate fully in the orientation, pilgrimage, and follow-up
- 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, and learning materials for orientation

PILGRIMAGE

- **April 19-May 5, 2010** Orientation & Pilgrimage
- **July 5-Aug 5, 2010** Post Pilgrimage Reflection Process

A p p l i c a t i o n D e a d l i n e N o v e m b e r 1 9 , 2 0 0 9
Notification of acceptance by December 18, 2009

JOURNEY OF FAITH EVENTS

Orientation

The two-day orientation will take place at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. The orientation will include group meetings, informal conversation, and worship.

Purpose of Orientation

- 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 Harrington Center, Columbia Seminary campus.

Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage experience will last 15 days (14 nights). The timing of the trip (Wednesday evening and Wednesday 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 experts, and time for photography

Post-Pilgrimage Reflection Process

Using electronic means of collaboration and sharing, the group will share written reflections and other post-pilgrimage evaluation.

Purpose of Reflection Process

- Continue to build community among participants
- Discuss the pilgrimage experience: stories, lessons learned, and possible applications of the experience for relationships, ministry, and calling
- 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

November 19, 2009 - Deadline for application. Application and letters of reference should be signed and postmarked by November 19. Original letters of reference, must be postmarked by this date.

December 18, 2009 - Notification of acceptance. *\$500 check payable to CTS for registration fee due following acceptance.*

April 19-21, 2010 - *Orientation*

April 21-May 5, 2010 - *Pilgrimage*

July-August, 2010 – *Reflective Process*

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

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701 S. Columbia Drive

P. O. Box 520

Decatur, GA 30031

Journey of Faith is a Columbia Theological Seminary Lifelong Learning event.

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