

Immigration Immersion Project

July 25 – August 4, 2018

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Pacific Southwest Region

Vision: To equip young leaders to serve immigrants in their communities.

Mission: The Pacific Southwest Region's Youth and Young Adult Ministry (with support from the Hispanic Convencion and NAPAD) will provide an experience for select participants that:

- 1) Raises awareness among young leaders of the concerns, needs, and spiritual burdens of immigrants.
- 2) Empowers immigrants through the telling of their stories
- 3) Creates safe and authentic space for stories to be told and celebrated
- 4) Demonstrates a model for developing ministries that honors immigrants for duplication throughout our denomination

Why the PSWR Youth and Young Adult Ministry?

We have dedicated our regional youth and young adult ministry to strengthen and unify our church through hospitality, engaging young leaders in local service, empowering global ministry, developing relationships in ministry, and strengthening Disciples' identity. We are prepared to be a generous and capable host ministry.

Generally, young American people are interested in social justice, young American people want to make a difference in the world, and young American people are more likely to take risks to establish an impacting presence without fear of political retribution. In other words, much of the work our church needs to do towards unity and caring for those in need can be done as effectively (if not more effectively) by young leaders.

Our region is uniquely blessed to host and provide support for an opportunity like this one. We have invested interest as many of our families and friends in the PSWR are immigrants (10 million immigrants in Southern California alone). The Hispanic Convencion ministries are strong, NAPAD is thriving, and our youth and young adult ministries are paving new paths for our Church.

The time is right! As recent American political and legislative controversies surrounding immigration, refugees, and assimilation, interest is peaked, eyes are watching, and ears are listening. As followers of Jesus, we must respond to spread God's love and strengthen the Spirit of Christ in our communities.

Biblical Foundation:

Leviticus 19:33-34, Exodus 22:21, Malachi 3:5, Psalm 146:9, Micah 6:8, Matthew 25:35, Hebrews 13:2

Participant Qualification:

Those who serve in justice ministries are aware that paradigms often shift once exposed to personal struggles, concerns, and stories of others. When we see ourselves in those who are hurting, then we are more likely to be moved to respond. Our common humanity unites us in our struggles and in our achievements.

Activist Lila Watson challenges us to prepared for this kind of work by stating, "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." We must engage those who identify with immigrants and are motivated to strengthen communities. Therefore, the qualifications and expectations for participating in this project are defined as:

- 1) A commitment to implementing processes to empower the stories of immigrants.
- 2) A commitment to report personal experiences, learning outcomes, and spiritual growth with their home congregation and region.
- 3) A commitment to establish and support ministries of justice and equality within our denomination.
- 4) Between the age of 18 and 35.
- 5) An active member of a congregation in good standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- 6) Able to provide an endorsement letter from their pastor.
- 7) Is capable of traveling internationally (or can acquire before project begins).
- 8) Able to demonstrate in essay form life interest in anti-racism, reconciliation, and/or justice ministries in their communities of faith and beyond.

Financial Support and Expenses

This project is considered "on-the-ground all-inclusive", which means that once participants arrive in Southern California for the program all their expenses will be covered by a grant provided by the Oreon E Scott Foundation, funding provided by the Pacific Southwest Region, and the generosity of churches, members, and other partner organizations throughout California and Mexico. Food, lodging, programming, and other incidentals are not the responsibility of participants.

PLEASE NOTE: Participants are responsible for the cost and booking of their travel to and from Los Angeles, California including any meals during their travel time. Participants are also responsible for the cost of any fees associated with obtaining a valid passport or other documentation that qualifies them to travel into Mexico.

IMMIGRATION IMMERSION PROJECT

Tentative Itinerary

Wednesday, July 25 – Arrival at LAX and shuttle to hotel. Night free.

Thursday, July 26

- 8:00am – Breakfast
- 10:00am – Travel to Regional Office
- 11:30am – Lunch and greetings from Regional Ministers
- 12:30pm – Briefing and overview
- 1:30pm – Workshop with Matthew 25 initiative staff
- 4:30pm – Travel to House Meeting Location
- 5:30pm – Dinner
- 6:30pm – House meeting event (YIM and YLT to join)
- 9:30pm – Depart for the evening with host families (NAPAD/Convencion)

Friday, July 27

- 8:00am – Breakfast with families (travel to FCC Fullerton)
- 9:30am – Debrief: Theological/Biblical Grounding, Dr. John Berquist – DSF President
- 10:15am – Workshop: Disciples Immigrants – Dr. John Berquist – DSF President
- 12:00am – Lunch in area
- 1:30pm – Anti-racism activity, ARPR Committee/Bafa Bafa
- 2:30pm – Immigrant Legal Counsel – Tana Liu-Beers, Disciples Legal Counsel
- 5:30pm – Travel to Harbor Christian Church
- 6:30pm – Dinner and Mingle (Harbor Christian Church)
- (YIM/YLT to join for duration of trip to Tijuana)***
- 9:30pm – Depart for the evening with host families (NAPAD/Convencion)

Saturday, July 28

- 8:00am – Breakfast with families (travel to HCC)
- 9:30am – Debrief: Theological/Biblical Grounding, Rev. Lori Tapia – Pres./Obra Hispana
- 10:15am – Workshop: Resources from Obra Hispana – Rev. Lori Tapia
- 12:00pm – Lunch
- 1:00pm – Q&A – ICE and Border Patrol Agents
- 3:00pm – Travel to San Diego
- 5:30pm – Dinner at Casa de Oracion
- 6:30pm – Worship
- 7:30pm – Family Stories from CdO
- 9:30pm – Depart with Host Families

Sunday, July 29

- 8:00am – Breakfast at CdO
- 9:30am – Depart for Border
- 11:00am – Border Communion Service

12:30pm – Border Crossing
2:00pm – Lunch at Todas Las Naciones
3:00pm – Break
4:00pm – Travel to Puerto Nuevo for dinner
5:30pm – Dinner
6:30pm – Sightseeing/Shopping
9:30pm – Return to church for the evening

Monday, July 30

8:00am – Breakfast at Todos Las Naciones
9:30am – Debrief: Theological/Biblical Foundations – ???
10:15am – Travel to Albergues
11:00am – Arrive at Albergues
1:30pm – Travel for lunch
2:00pm – Lunch in area
3:00pm – Free Time
5:00pm – Worship/Dinner/Sharing Stories with families

Tuesday, July 31

8:00am – Breakfast at Todos las Naciones
9:30am – Debrief: Theological/Biblical Foundations – Rev. B. J. Barlow
10:15am – Depart for Tijuana Cultural Center
3:00pm – Sightseeing
6:00pm – Dinner
7:30pm – House Meeting
9:30pm – Depart with families for the evening

Wednesday, August 1

8:00am – Breakfast with families
9:30am – Debrief: Theological/Biblical Foundations – Rev. Lupita/Benito/Families
10:15am – What next? What haven't we covered?
12:00pm – Depart for border (Lunch on the way)
3:00pm – Arrive at Casa de Oracion
4:30pm – Dinner in Old Town San Juan
6:00pm – Travel to Los Angeles
9:30pm – Check-in Hotel (near Harbor Christian Church)

Thursday, August 2

8:00am – Breakfast at Hotel
9:30am – Debrief: Theological/Biblical Foundation – Rev. Sadie Cullumber
10:15am – NAPAD Immigrant Experience – Rev. Young Lan Kim, Assoc. Regional Minister
12:00am – Lunch (delivered)
1:30pm – Museum of Tolerance
6:30pm – Dinner in area
8:30pm – Meet Host Families (NAPAD) at Harbor

Friday, August 3

8:00am – Breakfast with families on the way to Harbor

9:00am – Los Angeles Multi-Cultural Tour

3:30pm – Call to Action – Meet at Abundant Life Christian Church

5:00pm – Goodbye Gathering/Multi-Cultural BBQ (all participants and guests welcome)

9:30pm – Check in at hotel

Saturday, August 4

Shuttle to airport/departure