

STATESIDE AND INTERNATIONAL
**IMMERSION
EXPERIENCES**



THE MINISTRY
COLLABORATIVE



Macedonian Ministry Foundation's immersion experiences through The Ministry Collaborative consist of short-term travel opportunities that are designed to help our pastors reconnect with God, deepen relationships within their cohorts, and explore creative, paradigm-shifting approaches to ministry. Whether located stateside or internationally, our immersion experiences combine in-depth learning with intentional opportunities for worship and rest. In each immersion experience, pastors reflect on how exposure to diverse social, cultural, and environmental contexts can transform the ways in which they read Scripture, approach leadership, and understand their own sense of vocation.



BORDER IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Agua Prieta, Mexico / Douglas, Arizona

This 8-day, 7-night immersion experience is designed to help pastors reflect on and act upon what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ when borders divide us. Hosted by Frontera de Cristo's Mission Education Ministry, participants will be challenged to understand the realities of life on the border through a variety of learning experiences, including a border infrastructure tour, visit to the Border Patrol station, visit to the children's enrichment ministry at New Hope Community Center, lunch at the women's cooperative at Dougla Prieta Trabaja, and a visit to CRREDA (a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center). These experiences are integrated with daily spiritual practices and participation in the worship life of border congregations. Biblical reflections based on the gospel of Mark are part of each day and explore the broader theme of

"Discipleship and Borders." Throughout, emphasis will be placed on listening for the voice of God speaking through the Scriptures, people, and experiences on the border. The final day and a half of the immersion experience will be spent at a Tucson-area resort, where participants will have time to rest, debrief their experience, and reflect on their calling to follow Jesus across the borders in their own communities.



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Kalispell, Mt

This 8-day, 7-night immersion experience is situated within the one-million acre footprint of Glacier National Park. Encompassing the Continental Divide, breathtaking mountains, and the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi, this setting offers a compelling

context for spiritual renewal, outdoor exploration, and reconnecting with nature. Throughout, participants will engage with biblical themes related to ecology, sacred space, Sabbath, and the place of wilderness experience in faith formation. Particular attention will be given to the situation of displaced indigenous peoples, including what it looks like to pursue justice, faith, forgiveness, and lament in the midst of dislocation, both physical and spiritual. Participants will have opportunities to hike, play, pray, rest, and experience Serious JuJu (a Community skateboard ministry for at-risk youth) in the wilderness cathedral of Glacier National Park.



CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Atlanta, Ga / Montgomery, Al

In this immersion experience participants will travel throughout Georgia and Alabama exploring key locations related to the Civil Rights movement. Along the way, participants will have the chance to engage in honest learning and discussion about the history and on-going legacy of racism in America and the role the church can play in the pursuit of justice, healing, and reconciliation. Site visits to churches, memorials, and museums will be integrated with opportunities for worship, reflection, and rest. Major stops include:

Atlanta – Center for Civil and Human Rights; Ebenezer Baptist Church; the King Center; Georgia Civil Rights Cold Case Project at Emory

Montgomery – The National Memorial for Peace and Justice; Rosa Parks Museum; Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist church

Selma – Edmund Pettus Bridge; National Voting Rights Museum and Institute

Birmingham – 16th Street Baptist Church; Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; Kelly Ingram Park

IMMERSION EXPERIENCE CORE VALUES

Spiritual Rejuvenation. Fostering opportunities for pastors to rest, receive care, and reconnect with God through generous accommodations, thoughtful programming, and an itinerary with ample free time.

Integrated Learning. Combining in-depth engagement of the Bible, theology, and Christian traditions with authentic worship, devotion, and spiritual formation.

Intentional Community. Cultivating deep, mutual bonds of friendship, both personal and professional, in the context of intentionally diverse communities and through dialogue, fellowship, and travel.

Contextual Awareness. Equipping pastors to reflect on the ways in which context, whether ancient or modern, matters for how they interpret Scripture, approach ministry, understand themselves, and relate to others.

Shifting Ministry Paradigms. Inspiring creative, out-of-the-box thinking through exposure to innovative ministry models, new perspectives on leadership, and fresh approaches to problem solving and social change.





HOLY LAND IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

Galilee/Jerusalem/Bethlehem

This 12-day, 11-night trip to the Holy Land offers pastors a powerful opportunity to walk where Jesus walked and to explore the historical, geographical, and biblical roots of their faith. Rather than being a religious sightseeing trip, this immersion experience approaches pilgrimage as a spiritual practice. Through in-depth teaching, daily group reflections, and opportunities for communal worship, pastors will have the chance to reconnect with God, deepen relationships within their cohorts, and explore what it means to encounter the holy in the midst of the challenges of ministry. The trip begins with a one-night stay near Caesarea Maritima, where pastors will explore connections between their experience of pilgrimage and their calling as apostles. From there, five days are spent in Galilee, where pastors will experience the home-base of Jesus' ministry. Highlights include a boat trip on the sea of Galilee, a hike on the Mount of Beatitudes, and time exploring sites at Capernaum, Tabgha, and Nazareth. From Galilee, the trip heads south through the West Bank for a two-day stop in Bethlehem. This portion of the trip includes opportunities to engage with Palestinian Christians and other faith leaders who are laboring for peace in the midst of conflict and divided communities. The trip concludes with a three day stay within the walls of Old Jerusalem where pastors will walk the Via Dolorosa, descend the Mount of Olives, explore the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and burial, and wade in the mineral-rich waters of the Dead Sea. Throughout, emphasis is placed on how the experience of pilgrimage can disrupt, inspire, and transform how pastors think about leadership, community building, problem-solving, and social change in their ministry contexts.



NORTHERN IRELAND IMMERSION EXPERIENCE (IN GREEN, ALL CAPS)

Kilkeel/Cultra Northern Ireland

This 9-day, 8-night trip offers pastors a journey of rest, hope, healing, and creativity. Pastors will stay in historic rural accommodations, from cottages in exquisite natural surroundings to a retreat center on the grounds of a 140 year old country house by the sea. Most mornings will be spent in intentional conversations with local poets, pastors, and peacemakers about the challenges of sectarian divisions and violence in the history of Northern Ireland and the deep work of reconciliation. Afternoons and evenings will provide ample space for free time, along with hiking, music and storytelling, inspiring art, and good food. The trip is co-led by Brian Ammons, a spiritual director and an ordained pastor in the Alliance of Baptists who writes and speaks widely about the intersections of religion, social justice, gender, and sexuality, and Gareth Higgins, a writer, storyteller, and community leader who, in addition to leading trips to his native Ireland every year, was the co-founder of the Wild Goose Festival and The Porch Magazine.