



The United Church
of Canada

Living Partnership through Pilgrimages:

A Gathering for People-to-People Pilgrim Leaders



May 31 to June 1, 2019

Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre
in Paris, Ontario



The United Church
of Canada

*Bless to me, O God, the earth beneath my feet,
Bless to me, O God, the path whereon I go,
Bless to me, O God, the people whom I meet,
Today, tonight and tomorrow. Amen*

(A prayer from the Iona Community in Scotland)



The Situation

The United Church of Canada works with over 100 partners in God's mission around the world. [People in Partnership](#) provides a framework for the exchange of people (from Canada to global partners, and from global partners to Canada). The program enables United Church people and global partners to encounter each other, accompany each other in God's mission, and learn more about each other's contexts. These opportunities vary in length from a few days to a few years.

"Pilgrimage" describes the short-term intercultural immersion experience of usually one to two weeks in length within Canada or globally. In other contexts, these may be referred to as mission trips, immersion experiences, education and exposure trips, exchanges, or service-learning opportunities. In recent years, pilgrimages have been organized to Cuba, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Japan, Kenya, Palestine & Israel, South Korea and here in Canada. Some are organized by the national church office, and others are locally organized by United Church members and communities of faith. These opportunities are expressions of living partnerships.

Pilgrim opportunities are developed and carried out by many within the Church. While many leaders relate to our national office, this will be the first chance for groups doing similar work to gather for two days to share their practices, engage in conversations to improve the practice of living out [partnership principles](#), facilitating transformation from believer to disciple, and further develop a learning community of practice.

The People

There will be around **24+ people** at this gathering of United Church of Canada pilgrim leaders and emerging leaders from different parts of Canada. We have representatives from the following programs and host partner/country: [Come and See](#) (Palestine/Israel), [Open Hands United](#) (Nicaragua), [United Theological College](#) (Cuba), [Canadians Care Partnership Ministries](#) (Dominican Republic), Ottawa Presbytery (Zambia), Emmanuel United Church (Chipembi United Church of Zambia Global Partnership), Symons Valley United Church (Zimbabwe), Trinity United Church Service Project Team (Nicaragua), [El Salvador Mission Awareness Pilgrimage](#) (Regions 11 and 12), Fairlawn, Rosedale and Bloor St United Church ([Gibimishkaadmin](#)) and [Two Countries One World](#) (Colombia). [The GO Project](#), a ministry of Islington United Church with national programming and global partner participation is also represented.

The work of pilgrimage touches many program areas of **The United Church of Canada**. This is reflected in the General Council Office staff team that will be participating in part or all of the program:

Emo Yango, Program Coordinator, People in Partnership and Discipleship and Witness
Jim Hodgson, Program Coordinator, Caribbean and Latin America Partnership Program
Lori Neale, Program Coordinator, People in Partnership
Lori Ransom, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator



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Sarah Williams, Program Coordinator, People in Partnership

Terry Beaumont, Program Assistant, People in Partnership & for the Executive Minister

Wendy Gichuru, Program Coordinator, Africa and Middle East Partnership Program.

We are thrilled to be welcoming a Global Guest, **Dafer Kassis**. Dafer is the Advocacy officer at the [Alternative Tourism Group \(ATG\) - Study Center](#), in Beit Sahour, the West Bank, and Palestine. The ATG is a Palestinian NGO specializing in tours and pilgrimages that include critical examinations of the history, culture, and politics of the Holy Land. Established in 1995, ATG operates according to the tenets of “justice tourism”, that is, tourism that holds as its central goals the creation of economic opportunities for the local community, positive cultural exchange between host and guest through one-on-one interaction, the protection of the environment and political/historical education. ATG works to encourage all tourism operators to abandon exploitative mass tourism and to adopt practices that positively affect the host population. Through these methods, ATG seeks to promote a positive image of Palestine and its people and to contribute towards establishing rightful peace in the area. Since its establishment, ATG has provided its services to thousands of people from all over the world.

Jeanette Romkema (jeanette@globallearningpartners.com) Senior Consultant and Partner in Global Learning Partners www.globallearningpartners.com, will design and facilitate this learning event. She knows the United Church well and has been part of a number of UCC events. This past year she facilitated a 1-day working meeting with a team committed to developing an online *From Experience to Action* Resource Kit as well as a 4-day course for Israel/Palestine volunteers across the country. She loves working with and for faith-based groups and organizations, and has lived and worked globally for almost 30 years. She is a process expert and excited to be part of this work.

Lori Neale (LNeale@united-church.ca) is coordinating this event and co-facilitator. Lori Neale serves as Program Coordinator with People in Partnership with a focus on the pilgrim stream. A pilgrimage to El Salvador in the 1990's contributed greatly to her formation and lifelong commitment to faith doing justice. Over the years, she has led programs to Nigeria, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala and in Toronto. Crafting these experiences and fostering the personal and social transformation that they can unleash is a deep passion for her and talking shop with fellow pilgrim leaders is one of her most favourite things to do. If you have any concerns or suggestions from logistics to program content, please contact her. Her cell is 647 296 9645.

The Purpose

This event has been designed to do the following:

- provide opportunity to share practices among UCC pilgrim leaders across Canada
- explore and highlight the partnership principles and concepts of intersectionality and decolonizing solidarity
- explore theology of pilgrimage as well as the call and opportunity to move pilgrimage participants from believer to disciple



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- highlight certain best practices to provoke learning and conversation in priority areas based on [partnership principles](#), concepts of intersectionality and decolonizing solidarity and discipleship (e.g. mutuality, on-going, connect entire congregations, program-not trip based, sending and receiving strategies, re-entry)
- provide opportunity for pilgrim leaders to engage with a solidarity partner with expertise in hosting and designing pilgrimages which will help strengthen leaders, improve practices and situate the life and ministry of People in Partnership in a larger global context and practice
- provide opportunity for conversation about current practices and future possibilities for indigenous and non-indigenous UCC people-to-people experiences in Canada
- develop learning community of practice and network for sharing resources and potential collaboration going forward.

The Hoped-for Outcomes

As a result of this time we have together, it is our hope that the following outcomes are met:

- UCC pilgrim leaders have a network of colleagues with common understandings to call upon, consult and collaborate with and are able to support new leaders
- UCC pilgrimages are closer aligned with partnership principles, discipleship and intersectionality in values and in practice
- UCC pilgrim leaders are more aware of their practice and are motivated and committed to growing in their knowledge and practice
- People in Partnership's profile is increased
- Future pilgrims on UCC pilgrimages are active agents for change formed in these values
- The wisdom of UCC pilgrim leaders can contribute to current thinking regarding indigenous and non-indigenous people-to-people experiences here in Canada
- Partners with whom UCC pilgrim leaders work will benefit from improved relations rooted in partnerships.

The Time and Timing

Everyone will start arriving at 10am on Friday, May 31st and coffee will be waiting for you. The program runs from Friday, May 31st 11am to Saturday, June 1st 3:30pm. Due to travel distance, some will arrive Thursday evening.

Meals and breaks will be served in the building, and there are many opportunities to take a break, go for walks, share personal experience, and socialize. There will be time to learn, journey, as well as get to know each other.

Since the total time we have together is precious, please let us know if there are any conflicts for your time. We expect everyone will be fully present for the entire learning event.



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The Place and Space

This event is at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris, Ontario. This retreat center offers space for personal reflection, group work, energizing activity, enjoyment of nature and much more. It has much to offer us as a group and as individuals.

The address is:

1 Bethel Road, Paris.

Phone: 519-442-3212

Website: <http://fiveoaks.on.ca>



The Program

The two-day gathering will use a highly participatory design through use of small groups, panel discussions and interactive processes. Everyone attending will be both a learner and a teacher. A detailed agenda has been developed based on the interest and expertise of the attendees and our Global Guest, Dafer Kassis from Alternative Tourism Group. We have included some readings below that have shaped our thinking in developing this outline. If you wish to whet your appetite for some of the themes and contexts, have a read.

The Background Reading

1. [The United Church of Canada Principles of Global Partnership](#)
2. [People in Partnership](#)
3. [World Council of Churches' Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace](#)
(section IV. Participating in the Pilgrimage)
4. [Preparing for Pilgrimage Leaders' Guide](#)
5. [Pilgrimages for Transformation \(starting at "Reimagining Pilgrimage" page 5-9\)](#)
6. [Alternative Tourism Group Website](#)



The Agenda

FRIDAY, MAY 31st	
... to 11:00	Registration Opens
11:00 -11:45	Welcome and Introductions Acknowledging the Land Opening Prayer and Singing Our Sense of Place: We Are on Hold Ground Shared Reflection
11:45 – 12:10	Who are We, Why Are We Here
12:10 – 12:30	Overview of Our Time together and Guidelines
12:30 -1:30	LUNCH
1:30 - 2:30	Alternative Tourism Group: Living Partnership Through Pilgrimage in the Holy Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To hear firsthand from our Global Guest, Dafer Kassis, of ATG who hosts pilgrimages and engages in justice tourism
2:30 - 3:15	BREAK
3:15 - 3:30	Resource Library Development
3:30 - 5:00	Pilgrimages for Transformation: A Call to Discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To be inspired and reflect on the why of pilgrimage
5:00 - 5:30	Our Guiding Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To dig deeper into key questions of importance to us all
5:30 - 7:00	DINNER AND BREAK
7:00 – 8:45	Sharing Living Partnerships Across the UCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To share your specific programs and explore partnership questions
8:45 – 9:00	Closing with Gratitude
9:00 and on...	<i>Social Time!</i>

Discipleship marks a much-needed shift in understanding faith from as one of belonging to a belief system to a lifelong vocation. It is a movement from the status of a believer to that of a pilgrim in search.

“Pilgrimages for Transformation”
by Deenabandhu Manchala



SATURDAY, JUNE 1st	
8:00	BREAKFAST
8:30 - 9:00	Morning Prayer, by the water
9:00 - 9:20	Welcome and Overview A Brief Reflection on Pilgrimage – a warm-Up
9:20 - 10:20	Conditions on the Ground <ul style="list-style-type: none">To explore questions of country and partner context, security and advocacy responses
10:20 - 10:35	BREAK
10:35 - 11:05	Preparing for Pilgrimage: An Intercultural Encounter <ul style="list-style-type: none">To share preparation and design practices for intercultural encounter
11:05 - 12:20	Preparing for Pilgrimage: Intentionally Considering the WHO <ul style="list-style-type: none">To share how the “who” of your pilgrims, shapes programming (e.g. LGBTQ2+, intergenerational, small/large groups, as future leaders and as global citizens)
12:20 - 12:30	Revisiting Our Parking Lot
12:30 - 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 - 2:30	Looking Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none">To reflect on what our experience tells us about the future directions for program sustainability, and people-to-people reconciliation initiatives
2:30 - 2:40	Reflections from Dafer <ul style="list-style-type: none">To reflect on what Dafer has heard and invite him to nudge us further towards discipleship and transformation
2:40 - 2:50	Growing a Network of Pilgrim Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none">To name the next steps for continuing and growing this learning community
2:50 – 3:05	BREAK
3:05 - 3:30	My Personal Plan and Closing Circle <ul style="list-style-type: none">To name the next steps in your personal journey and work

*In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Luke 1: 76-79



DAY 1

Friday, May 31st

Welcome and Introductions

Acknowledging the Land

One:

The sacred land on which Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre is situated has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

All:

We are grateful to have the opportunity to gather in community, on this territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

See Appendix “Acknowledging the Land: Dish with One Spoon” for further description.

Opening Prayer

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with You.

Singing: “Holy Ground”

This is Holy Ground.
We are standing on holy ground.
For the Lord is present and where God is holy.
This is Holy Ground.
We are standing on Holy Ground.
For the Lord is present and where God is holy. x2





Our Sense of Place: We are on Holy Ground

What is this Place

The place where two or more flowing bodies of water join is called a confluence or conflux. Since rivers often serve as boundaries or borders, confluences sometimes demarcate three neighbouring nations, tribes, or political entities. Throughout human civilization, settlements and cities have developed at confluences to facilitate trade and transportation or to ensure safety. As well, given the significant meanings attached to water in many religions, watery locations have often been seen as sacred, especially sources and confluences.

About Five Oaks

Five Oaks stands on the land which the Cayuga nation occupied; a small settlement at the conjunction of the Grand River and Whiteman's Creek that was likely an important place for trade and ceremonial gatherings until a cholera epidemic depleted the community. This land became part of the Six Nations Reserve.

Sense of "Place": Our sacred setting is an integral part of this retreat centre.

- The land on which we sit, and the web of life of which we are a part, is a source of teaching and renewal that offers a glimpse of the Divine.
- Place is "sacramental," a symbol that expresses sacred realities that are often hidden, where God is always and already doing a new thing.

Scripture Reading

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up." ⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." ⁵"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

(Exodus 3:1-5, NRSV)





Shared Reflection

On your own, describe a time when you experienced “holy ground” in the context of living partnership through pilgrimages. Jot some notes for yourself if that is helpful.

Notes:

Stand up and greet someone you don’t know, don’t know well or haven’t yet greeted this morning. Share your thoughts as well as where you are from yourself. Do this a few times, so you meet 2-3 different people.

As a group, let’s hear who we will share this weekend with us. Please share:

- your name
- where you are from
- the holy ground you named.

Prayer

All:

In gratitude for the many ways that you have been present to us in these holy places and for bringing us here today in this new circle, we give you thanks O God.

Amen

Thoughts on “place”

The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass, they speak to me. The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the sea, speaks to me. The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, the dewdrop on the flower, speaks to me. The strength of the fire, the taste of the salmon, the trail of the sun, and the life that never goes away, they speak to me. And my heart soars.

- *Chief Dan George*

My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers from what seemed like one safe place to another. Like lily pads, round and green, these places summoned and then held me up while I grew. Each prepared me for the next leaf on which I would land, and in this way I moved across the swamp of doubt and fear.

- *Anne Lamott*



Who are We, Why are We Here

Our Theme

On your own, review [the cover image](#) for this event. Consider:

- How does this image speak to your idea of being on a pilgrimage?
- What are the advantages being on a pilgrimage with others?

Notes:

At your table, share your thoughts.

Let's hear from a few of you.

Our Goals

Let's have a review [The Purpose](#) (page 4-5) and [The Hoped-for Outcomes](#) (page 5).

- What are you especially happy to see here?





Overview of Our Time and Guidelines

Our Agenda

Let's have a look at The Agenda (page 7-8) for our time together.

- *What are you happy to see?*
- *What seems missing for you?*

Our Guiding Questions

To help us...

Guiding questions have us focus on the core of what we do and how we do what we do. They are questions that we need to ask in an ongoing way and the answer is unpacked and unfolded with each iteration. They help clarify our work and why we do what we do. Read the guiding questions for our time together. They are also on the wall with an invitation for us all to add our thoughts as we journey here together with them.

1. *How are we being moved to deeper discipleship?*
2. *How are we moving others to deeper discipleship?*
3. *How can we live in partnership?*

- *What questions do you have?*



*Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes, the rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.*
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)



Our Guidelines

Before we dive into the work at hand, let's agree how we can best support and listen to each other over the next two days.

Below are some guidelines that can help us get the most out of this retreat.

- *What would you add?*

Session Guidelines

- Start and stop on time
- Keep attention in the room and not on screens
- Welcome candor
- Post resources as they come to mind!
-
-

We are convening a space for you to share and learn. In that spirit we have a parking lot, a library and (optional) lunch conversations:

In the **parking lot**, we can put topics, issues, questions that come up that we want to name and address but not in this moment.

The **library** is on the two tables and flipchart to share artifacts and resources. Please put a Post-it note with your name on it:

- *What do we collectively have?*
- *What would be helpful to develop?*
- *What topics would you like to see as webinars in 2019-2020?*
- *Who would like to (co)lead one?*

The **“focused” lunch conversations** are optional. You can invite people into such a conversation and the planning group may also invite them. A few things:

- Make a table sign if you want a specific conversation
- Join a conversation you are interested in
- There are no expectations and there is no need to report back
- One conversation we would like on Day 2: *How do we build our network?*





Alternative Tourism Group: Living Partnership Through Pilgrimage in the Holy Land

Introducing Dafer Kassis, Advocacy Officer for Alternative Tourism Group (ATG).



As you listen to Dafer, consider the following:

- *What similar forces led you to create your pilgrimage experience?*
- *How do the challenges that ATG face resonate with your own?*
- *What is the nature of the host-pilgrim relationship?*
- *What question would you like to ask with this unique opportunity to hear and learn from the host perspective?*

Solo Reflection

On your own, take a minute to jot down some of your thoughts.

Bringing in Our Stories

With your table, share your thoughts to the questions on your sheet. Take 15 minutes.

Let's hear a sample of your thinking.

- *What questions do you still have for Dafer?*

Personal Next Steps

On your own, jot down your plan:

- *How can I apply it? What are the opportunities to use this?*

BREAK

Holy Land Hospitality:
A PATHWAY TO PEACE

with **Dafer Kassis**, Advocacy Officer of the
Alternative Tourism Group-Study Center (ATG)
in Beit Sahour, the West Bank, and Palestine

7pm on Monday, June 3rd, 2019

Mary Ward Centre (in the Loretto College building)
70 St. Mary Street, Toronto, ON





Resource Library Development

Pilgrimages for Transformation: A Call to Discipleship

Introducing Wendy Gichuru.

Before this event, you were provided with Deenabandhu Manchala’s article [“Pilgrimages for Transformation: Discerning New Signposts”](#). Wendy will introduce the concept of “Pilgrimages for Transformation”, the four signposts of pilgrimages for transformation, and some key concepts with which to approach them. Note the definitions for “intersectionality” and “decolonizing solidarity” on the next page.

As you listen, consider these questions:

- *What resonates with your thinking or experience?*
- *What is new for me and I want to consider more?*
- *What can I add to what is being shared?*

Over to Wendy...

Solo Reflection

On your own, take a minute to jot down your thoughts.

Bringing in Our Stories

In pairs, share your thoughts about all you heard using the above questions.

Let’s hear some of your thoughts.

A Bit More to Consider

Now, let’s have Wendy continue...

Bringing in Our Stories

At your table, what else is coming to mind about all that was shared.

- *What question do you have for Wendy or the group?*

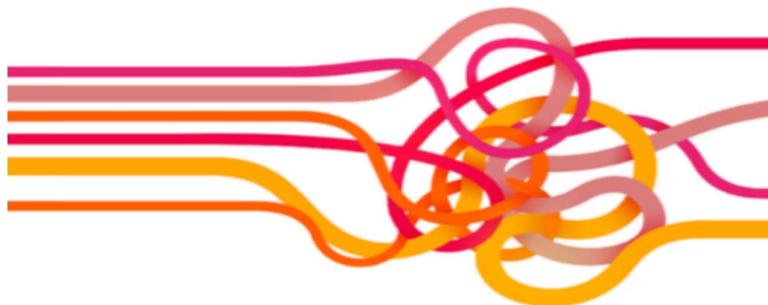
Personal Next Steps

On your own, return to your sheet and name 1 way to you can apply what you have heard.

- *How can I apply it / What are the opportunities to use this?*

The Four Signposts

1. Call to discipleship and lifelong transformation
2. Encounters with the wounded
3. Speak truth to power
4. Engage with those already on the way
5. Engage in confession.





Intersectionality and Decolonizing Solidarity

Intersectionality is the idea that power relations among different social categories intersect and combine to determine the social position of an individual and her experience of oppression. Intersectionality emerged from the [Black feminist movement](#) because of a very important analysis of how Black women faced both racism and sexism and even the latter in different ways to White women. The concept of intersectionality was made popular by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw. She conducted studies of anti-discrimination laws in the United States, showing that these laws tended to favour white women and Black men. The specific situation of Black women had not been taken into account. Crenshaw used a metaphor from geometry (a geographical point of intersection) to describe the impact of overlapping relations of oppression and the intersectional experiences of Black women.

- *What is coming to mind for you?*

Decolonizing Our Solidarity is an ongoing process. The "[Decolonizing Our Solidarity](#)" project emerges out of the anti-colonial feminist movement developed by Women of Colour, Critical Race, and Third World Feminists, among others. International solidarity initiatives generally emerge from a sense of the injustice of Global North/South inequalities. Activists who engage in this field of social action want to see a new distribution of power among the different regions of the world. International solidarity networks including activists from both North and South are often presented as an alternative form of relationship, based on the principle of equality. However, because North/South relations have emerged from a history of domination, good intentions are not sufficient to overcome inequalities. *The question is, how can this fundamentally unequal relationship be transformed?*

This question – a central one for many international solidarity movements – forces us to take a critical look at our practices; it invites us to observe how, despite ourselves, we reproduce the relations of oppression we wish to abolish. Our approach is to first identify these power relations in order to then plan how to overcome them within relationships of solidarity. We recognize that we do not study these issues from the outside, but rather that we act within them, contributing to the reproduction and reinvention of social relations. For this reason, we will begin by situating ourselves within the inequalities we seek to identify, taking stock of our own social positions. We will identify the privileges conferred on us and withheld from people with whom we wish to build relationships of solidarity.

- *What is coming to mind for you?*



Our Guiding Questions

Let's close the session before dinner by revisiting our guiding questions on the wall.

- *As you continue to dig deeper with these questions, what is getting clearer for you?*
- *What new questions do you have?*



Prayer

DINNER – We will be back here at 7pm

*I am the reason you walk. I created you so that you might walk this earth.
I am the reason you walk. I gave you motivation so you would continue to walk even when
the path became difficult, even seemingly impossible.
I am the reason you walk. I animated you with that driving force called love, which
compelled you to help others who had forgotten they were brothers and sisters to take
steps back towards one another.
And now, my son, as that journey comes to an end, I am the reason you walk, for I am
calling you home. Walk home with me on that everlasting road.*

-Wab Kinew, "The Reason You Walk"



Sharing Living Partnerships Across the UCC

Our Programs

Let's hear more about each other's programs! To do that, we invite each program to create a visual to communicate what you do. Please include:

- your names
- the program title
- key activities
- target audience
- an invitation for others to connect with you
- ... and whatever you feel is important for us to know.

Be creative and informative! People in Partnership has an example to share. You have 10 minutes.

Learning about Each Program

Let's hear a summary of each program in 2-3 minutes each.

A Gallery Walk

Then, take a walk and visit the ones you are especially curious or interested in. Do the following:

- Write the name of *2 people* you want to speak to (here or after this event) and what you want to talk about. Write a note to yourself below and then on a Post-it note for the person on their flipchart. For example, you have a resource to share, a question to ask, or an idea to discuss.

My plans:

1.

2.





Our Partnerships

To discuss more about partnerships, we will use a “stand on the line” technique...



Closing with Gratitude

Gratitude has this ability to bridge the gulf between our spiritual and material concerns. Gratitude arises in that place where our deepest longings find the glass of life to be half-full rather than half-empty.

- Mary Jo Leddy, Radical Gratitude

On your own, reflect on the day and all that you are grateful for. Let's hear from a few people...

It's time to relax. Sleep well.





DAY 2

Saturday, June 1st

Morning Prayer, *by the water*

Walk back to our venue...

Welcome Back and Overview

A Brief Reflection on Pilgrimage – a warm-up

On your own, read the quotes on pilgrimage below. Select one that resonates with you this morning.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
(Psalm 84:5)

*Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes,
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.*
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

*Our first task in approaching other people, another culture, is to take off our shoes.
For the place we are approaching is holy.
Else, we may find ourselves treading on people's dreams.
More serious still, we may forget that God was there before we ever arrived.*
(Max Warren)

*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.*
(Lila Watson)

We cannot love God unless we love one another, and to love each other we must know each other. We know God in the breaking of the bread, and we know each other in the breaking of the bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship.
(Dorothy Day, "The Long Loneliness")

*Don't let the world steal your soul. Being a Christian is about choosing Jesus
and deciding to do something daring with your life.*
(Shane Claibourne)

Let's hear a few to help get us started.



Conditions on the Ground

Thoughts about pilgrimage

At your table, discuss the following questions about preparing for a pilgrimage.

- *What sources do you consult to assess country conditions?*
- *What happens if country conditions change?*
- *How is your plan for advocacy and partnership upon return informed by country conditions/context?*

Our Panel

Introducing Jim Hodgson, Pat MacDonald and Marianna Harris.

to explore questions of country and partner context, security and advocacy responses

As you listen, consider these questions and use your handout to record your thoughts:

- *What resonates with your thinking or experience?*
- *What is new for me (and maybe challenging!) and I want to consider more?*
- *What can I add to what is being shared?*

Bringing in Our Stories

In pairs, share your thoughts about the questions on your sheet.

In the large group, let's hear some of your thoughts.

- *How does the panel wish to respond?*

Personal Next Steps

On your own, jot down your plan:

- *How can I apply it? What are the opportunities to use this?*





Preparing for Pilgrimage: An Intercultural Encounter

Learning from Personal Experience

Introducing Alyson Huntly.

As you listen, consider these questions and use your handout to record your thoughts:

- *What resonates with your thinking or experience?*
- *What is new for me (and maybe challenging!) and I want to consider more?*
- *What can I add to what is being shared?*

Bringing in Our Stories

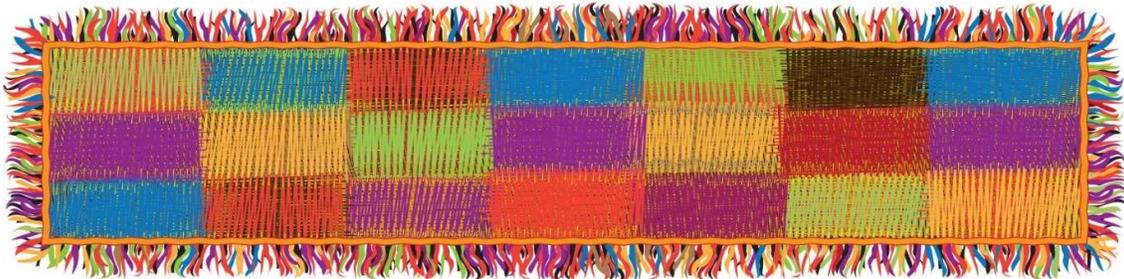
In pairs, share your thoughts about the questions on your sheet.

In the large group, let's hear some of your thoughts.

Personal Next Steps

On your own, jot down your plan:

- *How can I apply it? What are the opportunities to use this?*





Preparing for Pilgrimage: Intentionally Considering the WHO

Learning from Personal Experience

Introducing Vicki McPhee, Phyllis MacRae and Kelly Moores.

to share how the “who” of your pilgrims, shapes programming e.g. LGBTQ2+, intergenerational, small/large groups, as future leaders and as global citizens

As you listen, consider these questions and use your handout to record your thoughts:

- *What resonates with your thinking or experience?*
- *What is new for me (and maybe challenging!) and I want to consider more?*
- *What can I add to what is being shared?*

Bringing in Our Stories

Each table has one question to discuss and brainstorm about. As you offer ideas, start each with a verb and be as specific as possible. You will have 10 minutes at each table. A bell will ring letting you know when to move.

NOTE: You can also consider another WHO - *What additional tip sheet about the WHO do you want to write (or have written)?*

1. Things to consider when organizing pilgrimages with LGBTQ2+ persons.
2. Things to consider when organizing intergenerational pilgrimages (e.g. youth and parents) and when organizing large groups (16+).
3. Things to consider to connecting home and global issues.

In the large group, let’s hear some thoughts.

Personal Next Steps

On your own, jot down your plan:

- *How can I apply it / What are the opportunities to use this or explore further?*



Revisiting Our Parking Lot...



Looking Beyond

Program Longevity, Sustainability, and Succession Planning

Let's divide into four groups, each around one of the questions below. Please record your thoughts and know you will report back to the group. You have 15 minutes.

1. *What do you wish you knew when you started that you know now – for those ready to pass the torch?*
2. *How to sustain largely volunteer driven commitment? What are the opportunities?*
3. *How to transition/find new leadership?*
4. *As a new potentially emerging leader, what would help you take leadership – for emerging leaders?*

Let's hear from each group, briefly.

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous People-to-People Experiences in Canada

Introducing Lori Ransom.

Let's hear from Lori Ransom about the current context for Indigenous Justice and Ministries and what she has heard thus far in our time together and would like to explore further.

Open Discussion





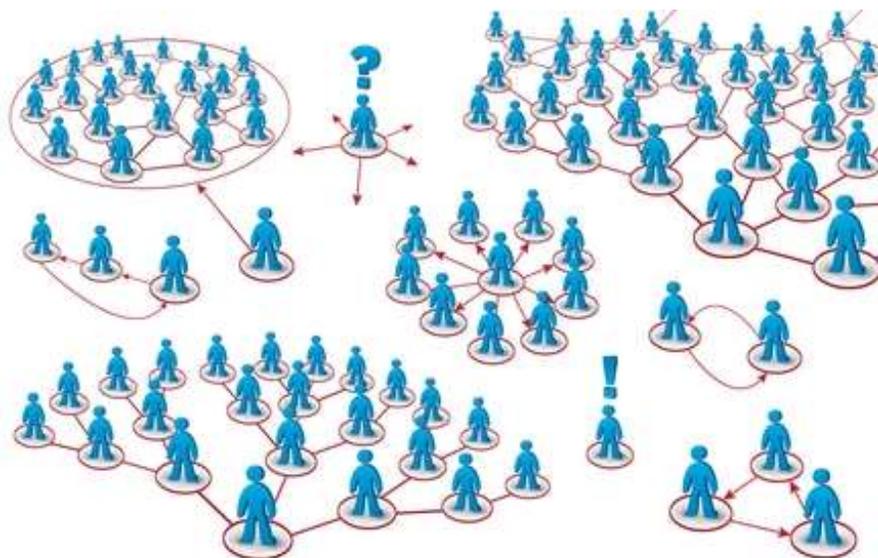
Reflections from Dafer Kassis

Let's hear some final thoughts from Dafer, from what he has noticed, discerned, felt and heard. Please write some notes if this is helpful.

Let's hear from the group.

Growing a Network of Pilgrim Leaders

You are all doing important work. So, how are we grow the Network? What ideas do you have?





My Personal Plan and Closing Circle

As we prepare to depart, let's take a few moments of quiet reflection to remind ourselves of our time together. Three qualities of a pilgrim are a stance of gratitude, desire to move towards a destination (something/someone) that is not yet complete, and readiness to return a new way making/a deliberate choice towards holiness.

My Plans

On your own, review your action plans from all the reflection sheets you created and consider the journey we have experienced together. Then, jot down your final thoughts to these 3 questions on the postcard given to you:

1. Something you are grateful for
2. A direction you wish to move
3. An action you plan to take

Closing Circle

Let's here what you wrote and celebrate.

Closing Prayer

One: Jesus, our teacher and our sibling,
You call us forth to deeper discipleship.
To be People on the Way

Be with us, as we go from this place

Left: The way is long,

Right: Let us go together

L: The way is difficult

R: Let us help each other

L: The way is joyful

R: Let us share it.

L: The way grows before us

R: Let us begin.

All: Amen





The United Church
of Canada



APPENDIX



Alex Janvier

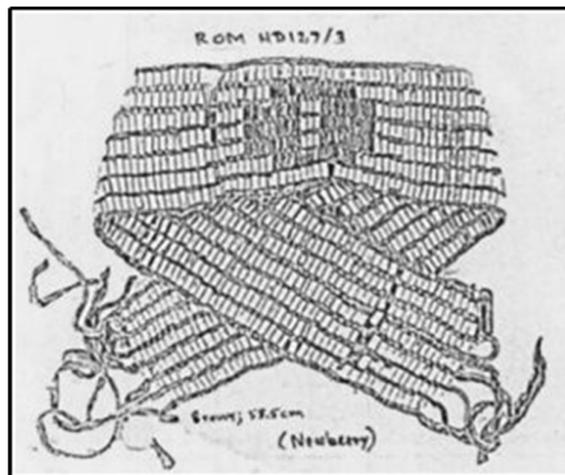


Acknowledging the Land – “Dish with One Spoon Territory”

Toronto is in the “Dish With One Spoon Territory.” The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.



The “Dish” or sometimes it is called the “Bowl” represents what is now southern Ontario (from the Great Lakes to Quebec and from Lake Simcoe into the U.S.). * We all eat out of the Dish – all of us that share this territory – with only one spoon. That means we have to share the responsibility of ensuring the dish is never empty; which includes, taking care of the land and the creatures we share it with. Importantly, there are no knives at the table, representing that we must keep the peace. The dish is graphically represented by the wampum pictured.



(*This was a treaty made between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee after the French and Indian War. Newcomers were then incorporated into it over the years, notably in 1764 with The Royal Proclamation/The Treaty of Niagara.)



My Personal Notes

What I know	
New for me	
Ideas to offer	

My Action Plan

Whowill do what...	...by when.



Participant List

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*We come together conscious of our hopes for our families, our community, and ourselves.
We come together conscious of how much there is to learn about each other
and the community we share. We come together in the hope of building new connections
and strengthening those that already exist. In this, we are somewhat like modern day pilgrims.
May we enjoy walking together!
(Kristine Greenaway)*