

Becoming a Community of Reconciliation

A Peacebuilding Pilgrimage to Northern Ireland

June 29 - July 7, 2025

Optional Scotland Extension: July 7 - July 11, 2025

Steering Committee: *Dave Davis, Roberto Fois, Gordon Mikoski, Glory Thomas, Tori Paquette, SueAnn Shiah, Jeff Vamos, Kiran Young Wimberly*

Trip Prospectus

Information. A digital copy of this prospectus and all documentation and information about the trip can be found at our trip website, accessible via this address:

tinyurl.com/NIPeacemaking.

Purpose. The Presbytery of the Coastlands is sponsoring a Peacebuilding Pilgrimage to Northern Ireland, designed to enable participants to learn experientially through dialogue with the people, place, and context of Northern Ireland and through group reflection and interaction. The intended outcome will not simply be cognitive learning, but the development of new skills to apply in church and community leadership here at home. The core of the experience will involve several days in residence at the [Corrymeela Community](#), guided by their staff and leaders.

This experience is not mere tourism but is designed for church leaders (lay and clergy) to develop skills in peacebuilding to use in their particular contexts. These skills are especially important at a time of profound division within our society and churches.

This learning and equipping experience will focus on three areas:

- The history of the conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, and ancillary areas of learning, such as Reformation history relating to this conflict.
- Learning about theories and practices of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, especially through dialogue and interaction within the group and with others.
- The relationship of worship to social witness and peacebuilding.

Key to the experience is the composition of the delegation, and so the Steering Committee is seeking to put together a delegation (25-30 people) not of people who think and look alike, but leaders who are diverse in perspective, race, financial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other attributes. For this reason, we ask participants to fill out a brief application form. See below for application deadlines and notification for participation.

Who. We invite all members of the Presbytery of the Coastlands and its congregations to apply, as well as any affiliated with the surrounding New York, Pennsylvania and New

Jersey presbyteries. We will welcome applications from leaders affiliated with other religious communities, in service to creating a diverse delegation.

Financial Assistance. The Steering Committee is committed to removing financial ability as a barrier to participation. We encourage prospective participants to apply for financial aid. The [trip application](#) contains a link to the Financial Aid Application form.

Preparation. The experience of the group prior to the trip will be a very important part of the overall learning experience. We ask participants to prioritize several pre-trip meetings and experiences—approximately 4 in-person or virtual gatherings prior to departure, and other group communications and interactions. Details will be forthcoming after the formation of the delegation.

Itinerary and Tour Operator. As mentioned above, the core experience will take place at The Corrymeela Community. Other key experiences include ancient sites like Newgrange, Knowth, and Monasterboice; exploring The Troubles with a dual-narratives tour in Belfast, and exploration of the role of art in reconciliation in Belfast and Derry. In addition, those who wish for a deeper exploration of the Reformation history may extend their pilgrimage with time in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, and St. Andrews. Our tour operator is [Progressive Pilgrimage](#), which has a great amount of experience operating tours with Corrymeela and in Northern Ireland. For detailed information about the trip itinerary, please refer to the brochure provided by Progressive Pilgrimage.

Application Process and Payment:

- 1) Please fill out the online application. [Click here](#) to be directed to the application. Applications are due by November 30, 2024, in order to receive the early bird discounted cost of \$4,200. All other applications after that date will be subject to the full trip price of \$4,350. We ask that all applications be submitted by December 31, 2024. The Steering Committee is aiming for a delegation of approximately 30 persons. Applicants will be notified on a rolling basis in December and January.
- 2) “Book Now” button. Note that if you select the “BOOK NOW” button on the Progressive Pilgrimage site (this is OPTIONAL), you will submit appropriate information for registration, but will be placed on the waiting list until invited to join the delegation. DO hit the “Download Trip Brochure” for more details about our travel and itinerary.
- 3) If applying for financial assistance, please fill out the [financial aid application](#). You will be notified about any award of financial assistance when you have been invited into the delegation.
- 4) Register with Progressive Pilgrimage and pay a \$500 deposit. Once you accept the invitation to join the delegation, you will be sent a registration link to register with our tour operator, Progressive Pilgrimage. At that time, you will need to pay the \$500 deposit for the trip. Your place in the delegation will not be secured until the deposit is paid. Note that financial aid cannot be applied to the deposit.

- 5) Payment Schedule. An additional payment of \$1,000 is then due by January 31, and the balance of the payment, less financial aid, is due by April 15, 2024.

Questions and Information: Please Contact Sofia Na at: sofia.na@ptsem.edu.