

Rio Grande Borderlands Ministry Listening Pilgrimage FAQ

Q: What is the purpose of this trip?

A: To learn about the collaborative ministries of the Episcopal Church on the border in Texas and New Mexico, to understand the experience of migration from the perspective of migrants themselves, to deepen our understanding of what it means to welcome people who are different from ourselves, and thus to discern ways Episcopalians in Montana can support RGBM relief, advocacy and development ministries.

Q: When will the trip occur?

A: The 2023 Listening Pilgrimage is scheduled for the week of February 13th.

Q: How many people can go?

A: Up to seven individuals from Holy Spirit Parish and the Episcopal Diocese of Montana will be able to participate in the 2023 Listening Pilgrimage.

Q: Is there an itinerary for the Listening Pilgrimage?

A: The itinerary is flexible, depending on the interests of those on the trip and conditions along the border at the time of the trip. Likely destinations include sites in the U.S. and in Mexico. Some destinations offer opportunities to talk with migrants and individuals who provide services to migrants. Other destinations focus on collaborative ministries and the history of migration along the southern border.

Q: What will this trip cost?

A: You pay for your airfare to El Paso, TX, currently about \$350 round trip (or drive 1385 miles from Missoula to El Paso), plus some spending money. The RGBM charge for room, board, staff and local transportation will be \$4000 per group. If the group is full (7 pilgrims) that is \$572/person. Accommodations are simple, dorm style rooms in a church, with limited shower facilities. Transportation to and from the border sites will be in an eight person passenger van.

Q: What is the weather like in the borderlands in February?

A: In February, El Paso daily temperatures rarely are below 37° or above 65°. Skies are overcast or partly cloudy about half of the time. It is often windy. Rain, ice or even snow are uncommon, but they do happen.

Q: What documents do I need?

A: You will need proof of COVID vaccination to participate in the pilgrimage. You will need a current passport to re-enter the U.S. if we travel to Mexico.

Q: What about photos and videos?

A: We'll be able to take photos and videos, but probably not of migrants' faces unless we have permission. We also have to be willing to be photographed and videotaped ourselves as part of this pilgrimage.

Q: When do I need to make a commitment?

A: Let Audrey or Clem know by January 8th that you plan to make the trip.

Q: When will I be certain this trip will happen?

A: We should know shortly after January 8th if the trip is a go. One determining factor may be the number of participants and the shared cost for the RGBM pilgrimage fees. Charge for a full group (7pilgrims) is least expensive for each pilgrim.

Q: Who can I contact for additional information?

A: Audrey Murray (612) 968-2108, audreymurray196@gmail.com or
Clem Work (406) 544-8795) clem.work@gmail.com

Listening Pilgrimage Locations

