

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 these trips occur?

A We hope to arrange the first trip for January 23–28, 2022 and a second in March if there is sufficient interest.

Q How many people can go?

A One group of up to eight individuals from Holy Spirit Parish and the Episcopal Diocese of Montana will be able to go in January.

Q Is there an itinerary for January?

A Tentative plans call for the following itinerary (see map on reverse):

Saturday - Arrive at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in El Paso, TX
Sunday - Worship at St. Christopher's, update on current border situation
Monday – be present with migrants in shelters in Juarez, Mexico
Tuesday – shelters in El Paso, travel to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Marfa, TX
Wednesday – visit shelter in Ojinaga, Mexico, meet with border patrol
Thursday – drive along the border to Columbus, NM / Palomas, Mexico
Friday – visit Women's Collective in Palomas, Mexico, return to El Paso
Saturday – Return to Missoula

Q What will this trip cost?

A You pay for your airfare to El Paso, about \$360 round trip (or drive 1,385 miles from Missoula to El Paso). Room and board costs (arranged by RGBM) will be modest. Accommodations are simple, dorm style rooms, with limited shower facilities. Transportation to and from the border sites will be courtesy of RGBM in an eight-person passenger van, with the longest travel day in the van being about 275 miles.

Q What is the weather like in the borderlands in January?

A In January, El Paso daily temperatures rarely are below 47° or above 71°. Skies are overcast or partly cloudy about half of the time. Rain, ice or even snow are uncommon, but they do happen.

Q What documents do I need?

A You'll need proof of COVID vaccination to participate in the pilgrimage. You will need a current passport to enter Mexico if we can do so. As a U.S. citizen, you will not need a Covid test to return from Mexico to the US by land.

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 will I be certain this trip will happen?

A The course of COVID in the area is uncertain. We'll have a go/no go date in mid-December. And the Diocese of the Rio Grande must approve travel to Mexico by pilgrimage participants, again for health reasons.

Q When do I need to make a commitment?

A Let Audrey or Clem know by Nov. 15th that you plan to make the trip. If more than eight people want to participate, we will plan a second trip for March.

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

(see map on reverse)



Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande