Taizé Pilgrimage
with Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, New England Conference, UMC
July 19-29, 2019

For more information
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2019 Taizé Pilgrimage
JULY 19-29, 2019

Our invitation to you

If you are between 16 and 30 years old, you are invited to apply to join Bishop Devadhar’s annual pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France.

This spiritual journey is a chance to deepen your connection with God through daily prayer, Bible study, small-group studies and personal reflection.

“From its beginning the community has been inspired by two aims: To live in communion with God through prayer and to be a leaven of peace and trust in the midst of the human family.” – Taizé Community website

“… an amazing time for me to reconnect with God …”
– Amanda, 2017 pilgrim

Accueil Welcome Empfang Acogida Przyjęcie Приём

Each pilgrim must be approved by a pastor and sponsored by a church in the New England Conference.

Pilgrims are required to complete an application form (see page 6), enter into the Taizé Covenant and attend an orientation meeting.

This is a unique opportunity to invest in the spiritual development of our youth and young adults. Local churches are encouraged to fund and/or help with fundraising for our pilgrims.

Approximate Cost: $2,200*

Payment schedule:
- Jan. 15, 2019 $400 deposit (non-refundable; due at registration)
- March 4, 2019 $900
- April 15, 2019 $900

Price Includes:
- Roundtrip airfare
- Lodging in Geneva and Taizé
- Meals in Taizé
- Transportation in Europe

Registration and Resource Materials
The following documents are required to register for the pilgrimage:

Registration Form and Agreement
Pilgrim Covenant
Pilgrim Personal Statement & Pastor Recommendation
Health and Medical Information Form

A copy of your valid passport and two photos must be included with application.

Learn more at www.neumc.org/taizepilgrimage

* Trip cost does not include meals or optional sight-seeing or incidentals in Geneva.
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“... even though everybody speaks a different language, we were all able to sing one song together. I saw God in the unity – even though we’re all different; we come from different places, we were all able to come together as one.”
– Diane, 2017 pilgrim

A typical day
Each day, brothers of the community introduce a Bible reflection, followed by a time of silence and sharing in small groups.

In the afternoon, workshops help to deepen the relationship between faith and life in the areas of work, social questions, art and culture, the search for world peace.

Pilgrims who wish can spend the week or the weekend in silence, to take time to listen to how God speaks to them in prayer, in the Bible or through the events of their life.

Monday to Friday
8:15 a.m. Morning prayer, then breakfast
10 a.m. Introduction to the day with a brother of the community followed by quiet reflection or small group discussion
12.20 p.m. Midday prayer, lunch
2 p.m. Optional song-practice
During the afternoon: international small groups or practical work
5:15 p.m. Tea
5:45 p.m. Theme workshops from Tuesday onwards
7 p.m. Supper
8:30 p.m. Evening prayer, then vigil with songs in the church, followed by night silence

The Oyak café is open daily for socializing, and offers snacks and beverages at nominal cost.

Bringing Taizé to New England
Bishop Devadhar has called Taizé “the church of the 22nd century.”

The bishop is committed to establishing nine Taizé worship centers around the New England Conference by 2020.

Taizé-style services provide another way for people to enter a life a faith and allow congregations to reach new, younger, more diverse people as we fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church.

To help foster the development of these new Taizé-style services in New England, the Office of Congregational Development awards $2,000 scholarships for the Taizé Pilgrimage.

Upon returning from Taizé, scholarship recipients will work with a coach, chosen in consultation with Conference Director of Congregational Development Rick McKinley, to create a new Taizé-style service based on the principles used at the community in France.

“I was surprised at how willing people are to open up and share. Just by a simple ‘Hello, Where are you from?’ Everybody’s so friendly here.”
– Steve, 2017 pilgrim

See videos and more at www.neumc.org/taizepilgrimage
Your stay at Taizé

The Taize Community is located in the Burgundy region of France about 3 hours by bus from Geneva, Switzerland.

This pilgrimage is rigorous — both emotionally and physically.

The Brothers embrace a life of simplicity, and living conditions at the community are very basic.

Pilgrims sleep in dorms or tents, and must bring their own bedding.

There are shared public bathrooms. Pilgrims supply their own toiletries and towels.

The meals are filling, but the fare is basic and portions are not large. Pilgrims are encouraged to bring snacks.

Community chores are also part of each day for all pilgrims.

Be aware that access to electrical outlets and internet is extremely limited.

Meet youth from around the world

Some 3,000 pilgrims from across Europe and around the world come to Taizé each week; most are youth and young adults.

In Bible study and your small-group experiences, you will have the chance to meet people your age who come from a variety of cultures, backgrounds and faith traditions.

The simplicity of the Taizé worship service, conducted each time in several languages, makes it accessible and welcoming to all. You will have the opportunity at Taizé — in this unique worship and at all times — to experience what it means to be a citizen of the world.

This is also a time to get to know your fellow pilgrims, and, in some cases, build relationships that continue long after the pilgrimage has ended. Each afternoon the New England group gathers with Bishop Devadhar to check in and share the day’s experiences.

“Your stay at Taizé

There’s an invitational sense of community here that anybody from any walk of life, any religious past or present, any culture can come here and experience the incarnation of Christ through the hospitality and love of the Brothers.”

— Hannah, 2017 pilgrim

“We started out with Bible study with one of the Brothers. He was very funny and engaging … it was a blast to learn about the Bible with him.”

— Josh, 2017 pilgrim