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Steps for Registering and Preparing *Pilgrimage to the Southern Border*

Congratulations for considering this journey of faith! If there is any way I can be helpful in your preparation, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

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- 1. *Make application for a current passport if you don't have one.*** While a passport is not mandatory for participating in this pilgrimage, there will be opportunities during our time in Arizona to cross the southern border; you will need a current passport to return into the USA. Several months is necessary to receive your passport, so this is an important first step.
- 2. *Log onto:*** www.Commongroundontheborder.Wordpress.com There you will find information about the event at Good Shepherd Church. Click on the "register" button to share your information and payment for the event. If you are a member of Plymouth this registration fee will be reimbursed to you by the AF&L Department. If you are a member of another faith community, you may want to ask about any financial support they may offer. Contact Brenda Grauer to let her know you have registered.
- 3. *Come to an Information Session about "Pilgrimage to the Southern Border" at Plymouth Church.*** Dates for the next information sessions are: Sept 23, Oct 1, and Oct 8 following worship at 11:45 in rm 102. or if you have already attended a session...
- 4. *Book your ticket for the flight to Tucson.*** The recommended flights for our Pilgrimage are ones on which you arrive about noontime or before at Tucson International Airport on Wednesday, Jan 10, 2024. Choose a return flight that leaves mid-to late afternoon.
We plan to have a morning closing session you will not want to miss.

Recommended outbound flights from Cleveland are:

American Airlines: 7:50am/#1464; or 7:30am/2331; or 7:44am/2336

Southwest Airlines: 7:15am/#2904

United Airlines: 6:21am/#1545

Delta Airlines: 6:00am/2734

Let Brenda know when you have booked your flight; include the flight times (inbound and outbound) and confm#. She will maintain records of

everyone's travel arrangements to coordinate comings and goings.

We will pick you up in our van at the airport and meet everyone at baggage claim upon arrival from any of these flights on Wednesday, Jan 10th.

By having everyone book their own tickets, we are able to save the cost of "blocking seats" and you are able to choose airline in which you might have flight miles or coupons. The total round trip airfare as of September 17th was \$401 round trip. That price will inevitably increase over the next months, so the sooner you book your flight, the better your chances for getting a lower rate. Contact Brenda Grauer to let her know your flight and confirmation #
Also, if you will be flying to Arizona out of another airport, please arrange your arrival to conform to our schedule.

5. Lodging. We have a block of rooms reserved until the beginning of December at *The Canoa Ranch Golf Resort* in Green Valley, Arizona. This is a highly recommended place to stay, for the comfort, space, beauty and the all around restful nature of the premises. Even now the staff has been going out-of-their way in planning comfortable spaces for us, ideal for conversation, fellowship, worship and quiet reflection.

You will be given a list and pricing for various kinds of rooms at *Canoa Ranch*. When you call Brenda to reserve your room, please, if possible, offer two choices for the kind of room you prefer. Our room block is for more rooms than we will need, however, your second choice may be needed as we try to meet satisfactory room assignments for all in our group. If there is a person or persons with whom you would like to room make us aware of that request. The room block will be held only until the beginning of December, so you'll want to tend to this reservation early.

There are a few 1-queen-bed rooms, and will be reserved first for persons with health reasons who need to room alone. There are also 1-king-bed rooms that will accommodate two people who want to sleep together. Some of these king rooms are adjoined to a living/dining/kitchen area with patio that is shared on another side with a 2-queen-bed room. Other standard rooms have 2-queen beds. Each room has it's own bathroom.

In the fashion of traditional pilgrimages, we will enjoy an inclusive sense of community throughout the six days, in which we will share many experiences, as well as living spaces. The suites at *Canoa Ranch* will provide us room to cook, store snacks, wine etc. as well as indoor and outdoor gathering and relaxing areas. Each of us will have more-than-adequate space for alone time there, roaming, sitting quietly, walking and resting. For some, participating in this pilgrimage will necessitate a shared room. When you are ready, but not later than November 1st, if possible, please indicate your room preference to Brenda.

Payment for your room and for your Arizona van transportation will be paid directly to Plymouth Church. You may place the checks into an envelope and

place it in the offering plate during worship; or you may send the checks by mail or put them directly into the church's mailbox at the main entrance. Each check needs to indicate "Pilgrimage": one marked "Lodging cost \$\$\$"; one marked "Van cost \$125". Because we anticipate that there will be pilgrims who are not members of Plymouth, our financial office is accepting only checks for these two expenses. Please let Brenda know when you have submitted those payments and the amounts.

6 On-site Transportation. It is looking as though we may have more than one seven-person van transporting us to and from Good Shepherd Church, Canoa Resort, and the airport. If you would be willing to be vetted as a part-time driver, please let Brenda know asap. We would like to have two drivers per vehicle. (Payment info included above with lodging payment info.)

7. Pre-Travel Orientations Sessions. (Dates, times to be announced.)

Later this year we will schedule several orientation sessions to keep you updated and informed. There are several immigration professionals who have been asked to share their experiences and offer suggestions for what you will be experiencing in Arizona. You will also be given a small guided journal that will be given to you for meditation throughout your time of pilgrimage preparation and walking. Be sure to pack the journal in your bag.