

Bosnia IST 2016 Mission Scholarship Project

Goals

1. To offer the experience of working for peace in Bosnia to 2 young people of color or whose primary language is other than English
 2. To intentional walk with 2 of our urban congregations for 12+ months helping them to strengthen their ministry life as peacemakers.
 3. To bring greater diversity to the Bosnia IST 2016 Travel Team, to better reflect the diversity of our synod and church.
 4. To help the church - congregation and synod - explore ways to be better ministry partners.
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Selection

We are seeking 2 participants who meet the following criteria:

- Between ages 16-24.
- Are physically and mentally healthy.
- Can work well on a team and in diverse cultural settings.
- Can travel outside of the USA (to Bosnia-Herzegovina).
- Is an active member of an ELCA congregation of the New Jersey Synod
- Is a person of color or whose language of origin is other than English.

They will be expected to participate full as a member of the 2016 Travel Team, including attending all team meetings. Travel Team details, including team meeting dates and the online application are at www.servanttrips.org/travelteam.

Congregational Involvement

The home congregation is a key partner in this project! The New Jersey Synod's Bosnia Leadership Team will designate a 3-person team who will meet several times with identified leaders from the participating congregations and their Travel Team members. These meetings are designed to help the congregation:

1. Plan ways to support their Travel Team member.
2. Become involved in the Bosnia Home Team efforts.
3. Discern ways to strengthen their congregation's ministry life as peacemakers beyond the Bosnia Ministry.

At this point we expect there to be at least 2 meetings between now and the trip (June 22-July 3), and at least 2 meetings following the trip.

These meetings might include such topics as:

- Ways for the Travel Team member to communicate and connect their experience to the congregation before, during and after the trip.
- Ways for the congregation to learn more about this ministry.
- Ways to connect this trip/ministry with congregation programs - Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, summer programs, etc.

- Ways for the congregation to celebrate and consider broader connections between this ministry and the life and mission of the church.

After the Trip

During the autumn of 2016 the synod’s Bosnia Leadership Team will walk with the Travel Team member and their congregation in a three-part process of reflection, evaluation, and discernment.

1. **Reflection** process - what did they experience? What was God up to?
2. **Evaluation** - what did they learn from this experience?
3. **Discernment** - in what ways (new and renewed) might God be calling them as a congregation of peacemakers?

The Bosnia Leadership Team will engage in a similar process, helping the team consider what they and the Synod might learn from this initiative, including ways in which they might be called to engage in this ministry in new and different ways. They will particularly look at the question: might this serve as a model, or suggest other models, for ministry partnerships between Congregation and Synod?

Finances

Cost breakdown:

\$1,900	Travel Team Fee	This covers, all in-country travel, interpreters, program materials, team shirt, travelers insurance, and most of the food.
\$1,700 (est.)	Airfare	This covers the flights from New Jersey to Bosnia-Herzegovina and back. The exact price is not yet set.

\$3,600	Total Cost	

Income breakdown:

\$1,200	Travel Team member & congregation support	
		<i>\$100 due 2/17; \$200 due 3/18; \$900 due 5/21</i>
\$1,500	Fund For Mission Grant	
\$900	Additional funding through donations and Bosnia Ministry support	

\$3,600	Total Income	

Lastly

There is much more information about the trip for Travel Team members and congregations on our website: www.servanttrips.org. Please contact Jason Reed if you have any questions: bosnia@njsynod.org; 609-586-6800 (Synod Office); 609-234-8405 (Mobile Phone).