



Welcome Participants in IMAGINE: Life in the Margins!

Thank you for signing up for the event! We look forward to your presence as we learn and grow together. The information below will ideally help you prepare for your visit to New Orleans. We're standing by to answer any additional questions you might have about the event. Please email Sharon Curry at scurry248@gmail.com if we have left out any information.

Arrival:

If you are coming to New Orleans by air, please utilize rideshare (Uber/Lyft) or a taxi to get to the church. If we have your air travel information, you will receive a separate e-mail with a list of other participants who are arriving at the same time. We encourage you to contact each other for the purpose of sharing a ride together!

Please plan to arrive at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1545 State St. New Orleans in time for the opening and an introduction to the event that begins at 4:00 pm. You may bring your luggage to the church. Please also have lunch before the programs begin. Dinner will be served after the opening.

When arriving at the church, come to the State/Benjamin Street entrance. Early arrivals will have the opportunity to participate in a poverty simulation or to get acquainted with the area on your own.

What to bring:

In addition to a listening ear and an open mind, a willingness to learn from those we encounter along the way, and hands eager to pitch in and help where needed during our site visits. Please bring comfortable clothes and personal items: *Comfortable walking shoes. *A refillable water bottle – use often! It is June in New Orleans, you may want to pack insect repellent, as well.

Housing:

For those opting to stay with the group, we are lodging at the Loyola dorms. Roommate choices in your registration information will be honored. You may be placed in a double or quad room.

If you did not list a preference and would like to know with whom you are rooming, send a note to Sharon Curry, scurry248@gmail.com.

Departure:

Our event ends following our closing event and worship on Saturday at 12:00 pm. There may be limited space for those needing transportation to the New Orleans Louis Armstrong International Airport, however, please plan on using rideshare/taxi to get you to the airport.

Sign-up for events/programs: Participants will sign up for the different events and programs on Thursday evening. Some programs/events will have a limited number of participants.

Social Media:

We encourage you to use Social Media (specifically Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to tell the story you're encountering. Please use the hashtag *#IMAGINELifeinthemargins*. During and after the event, you can see/read what others are experiencing by searching our hashtag. Refrain from posting pictures of adults and children that can be easily identified. When in doubt whether or not you can use a photograph, ask the subject or simply do not use their image.

What to Expect:

Our focus for this event is to listen and learn from people who live on the margins and explore what poverty means in a variety of contexts; along with an opportunity to participate in hands-on missions at these sites. Our large group activities will take place at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church. Others will involve travel by van, streetcar, and/or walking.

Orientation, dinner, and conversation with ministry partners in the area on Thursday evening, will set the stage for dividing into groups of 12-15 for Friday's site visits.

Travel on Friday will be either by streetcar for the Okra Abbey and Berean Community Center groups or by van to the LJR/Cancer Alley site. We encourage you to not take personal vehicles unless needed for mobility issues because traveling the way that people in the margins travel daily is part of the experience. It also allows us to open ourselves to listening and learning from those we encounter along the way, giving us an opportunity to engage in conversation and open our eyes and hearts, and minds to see where God is working and what is breaking his heart, in ways that we can take home and make us more aware of what is happening in our own contexts.

We will return to St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church and have time for personal rest and reflection before rejoining the group for discussion, dinner, and evening fun on your own.

We will close Saturday morning with a presentation by Alonzo Johnson, Coordinator, of PCUSA's Self-Development of People (SDOP) program, and how they can assist in local contexts. We will close with a worship service where the groups will be asked to provide a portion of the service based on what they have heard and learned.

Event addresses:

St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1545 State Street, New Orleans

Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans

We look forward to having you join us. If you have any questions or need any additional information please contact Sharon Curry, scurry248@gmail.com (817) 736-6808.