

Candidate Guidelines
2019 MEXICO INITIATIVE PILGRIMAGE
SAN LUIS POTOSÍ September 28-October 5

Required Paperwork (due now):

- _ Application
- _ Recommendation from minister of applicant's congregation (Ministers should submit recommendation from Church Board Chair.)
- _ A valid passport with an expiration date of at least six months after the end date of the journey

Able to endure tough travel conditions:

- _ Schedule will change frequently
- _ No refrigeration for medicine
- _ No internet access
- _ Very basic medical assistance
- _ Limit of one 26" checked bag under 50 pounds.
- _ Food will be ample and nourishing, but there will be no control over menus (Fish, some chicken, rice and beans, some vegetables, lots of fruit, no sweets or cheese)
- _ High temperatures without air conditioning or fans

It is important that our group is diverse including:

- _ Racial/Ethnic diversity
- _ Geographical diversity (within Indiana)
- _ Age/Occupation/Interests diversity

Requirements of Participants:

- _ Active member of a Disciples of Christ congregation in Indiana
- _ Participate in 3-4 pre-trip preparation meetings
- _ Complete required study and pre-reading for trip
- _ Lead devotions/day's reflections once or twice during the trip
- _ Be prepared to give multiple interpretation presentations and/or written articles following the trip
- _ Help host partners from Mexico during future visits to Indiana
- _ Reflection and journaling
- _ Willing to take on responsibility for some portion of trip (managing money, photography, reporting back on web if possible, health care, etc.)
- _ A commitment to remain healthy and engaged, and follow directions

Physical Demands:

- _ Immunizations may be needed
- _ Able to tolerate a hot, humid climate without air conditioning or fans
- _ Able to follow an intensive schedule, as much as 12 hours some days
- _ Able to carry your own luggage
- _ Able to walk a mile with minimal stopping and keep up with the group
- _ Able to climb in and out of vehicles
- _ Able to go without alcohol and cigarettes for a week
- _ Able to check pre-trip emails regularly and print materials
- _ E-mail address is required (no exceptions)
- _ Ability to listen with brain and heart as well as ears

Personality / Spiritual:

- _ Flexibility (some activities/days will not go as planned)
- _ Ability to deal with being immersed in a totally different culture and learn a few phrases in Spanish
- _ Willingness to get along with those different than yourself
- _ Willingness to go outside of personal comfort zone to be a help to fellow participants
- _ Willingness to accept others who may be having a bad day
- _ Willingness to talk to outside groups and ask for their help either with your fund-raising or with donations
- _ Realize you will not have all the comforts of home
- _ Willingness to share a room for a week with someone who may be very different from you in age, temperament, or background
- _ Realize that contact information will be published online as a speaker for the experience
- _ Ability to put personal wants and desires aside and to participate fully in all activities
- _ Ability to live out of one suitcase for a week