

PIPELINE TO PRISON LEARNING TOUR

August 4-9, 2019

"I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

- Matthew 25:36

Join MCC Great Lakes for this week-long learning tour focusing on the complex dynamics of the U.S. criminal justice system. Participants will journey from the local community level through the criminal justice system, learning about law enforcement, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry.



Based in Goshen, Ind., the tour will include day trips to South Bend, Elkhart, and Bunker Hill, Ind.

Lodging will be provided on the campus of Goshen College, 1700 South Main Street, Goshen IN 46526.



Cost: \$350 per person (includes lodging, onsite travel, meals, tour activities and honorariums)

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Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour FAQs: August 4-9, 2019

Q: What is the focus of the learning tour?

A: The focus of the tour is to immerse participants into the complex dynamics of the U.S. criminal justice system including diverse perspectives from individuals (men, women, people of color, young adults), as well as exposure to the systemic forces at play that have led to mass incarceration and the criminalization of marginalized groups.

The learning tour will be framed by six key concerns:

1. Racial disparities and the direct link with Mass Incarceration
2. Pipeline to Prison: Today's Offender, Yesterday's Victim: Female, Poor and Incarcerated
3. Justice for All: Where We Are
4. Doing Time
5. A Critical Look at the IN Juvenile Justice System and Immigration
6. Reflection and Preparation for Action

The tour will narrate the connections between the broader, systematic issues of racism and incarceration at the level of systems and structures, as well as a community-level perspectives from the grassroots on the experience of arrest, incarceration, and re-entry. We also will link advocacy/legislative work to address mass incarceration with the grassroots efforts of communities who experience and respond to mass incarceration at a local level.

Our framework for engaging these questions will be through the lens of Anabaptist faith, as we seek to understand where the church is present and where it is absent and why. The purpose is to connect tour participants not only to a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding mass incarceration, but also to provide them with learning opportunities towards next steps of engagement both in their local context and the broader advocacy level.

Q: What types of places/resources will the Learning Tour include?

A: Some of the "levels" of the U.S. justice system that we will be exploring are:

- Community-Historical: prior to arrest, impacts of school policies, conversations/teaching sessions regarding the historical/racial realities of mass incarceration, the historical/current context realities of residential segregation.
- Law Enforcement: arrests, visiting a precinct, speaking with law enforcement involved in the community and in schools.
- Sentencing level: visiting a courthouse, learning how sentencing laws and the "war on drugs" has contributed to the current crisis, speaking with victim advocacy groups and how we view offenders.
- Incarceration level: visiting a variety of detention centers and jails, speaking with "returning citizens"/ex-offenders, hearing from family members of those incarcerated.
- Re-entry: visiting and speaking with re-entry programs.

This is a very general overview. We are still working at finalizing our schedule for the learning tour and look forward to engaging the issue that we hope will compel us as believers to engage in addressing the ills of mass incarceration in meaningful ways.

Q: Learning Tour cost and what is covered?

A: \$350.00 which includes lodging, onsite travel, meals, tour activities, honorariums.

Q: What types of lodging will be provided?

A: Lodging for August 4-9 is included in the Learning Tour total cost. We have reservations for all tour participants at the campus of Goshen College, 1700 South Main Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526.

Q: What types of transportation will be provided?

A: All onsite travel will be provided including transportation to/from the South Bend airport if it is within the period of the tour. (South Bend airport is about 45 minutes from Goshen.) Once you have made your air travel arrangements, please send them to JuanPacheco@mcc.org.

Tour participants are welcome to stay longer in Indiana, but if they come early or stay later they are responsible for arranging their own transportation and lodging outside of the August 4-9 tour dates.

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