

IMAGINE:

Life in the Margins






Bearing Witness to God's Work

Join us in

New Orleans, LA June 22-24, 2023

We'll explore, listen, and learn from ministry partners and communities operating at the intersection of systemic poverty, structural racism, and congregational vitality.

What's happening here? Let it inspire your ministries!

 Okra Abbey	Louisiana Just Recovery Network	 <i>rebuilding hope in New Orleans</i> <small>an outreach ministry of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church</small>	 Berean Community Center
	 Five Spiritual Practices to End Poverty	 YAV YOUNGADULT VOLUNTEERS <small>a year of service for a lifetime of change</small>	

**Engaging in Matthew 25 together to end barriers to
 Food Security Education Housing Employment**

Registration \$100

Includes meals and lodging Friday lunch not included

God spoke to Moses: “Send men to scout out the country of Canaan that I am giving to the People of Israel. Send one man from each ancestral tribe, each one a tried-and-true leader in the tribe.” When Moses sent them off to scout out Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and then into the hill country. Look the land over, see what it is like. Assess the people: Are they strong or weak? Are there few or many? Observe the land: Is it pleasant or harsh? Describe the towns where they live: Are they open camps or fortified with walls? And the soil: Is it fertile or barren? Are there forests? And try to bring back a sample of the produce that grows there—this is the season for the first ripe grapes.”

Numbers 13:1-2, 17-20 The Message

Who is Invited? Any member of the Synod of the Sun - congregation members, staff, volunteers, and anyone interested in learning more about poverty and the issues surrounding it.

What will we be doing? Based on the PCUSA Matthew 25 five spiritual practices for ending poverty, worship, learn, relate, act, and share, we will go out into the community to experience poverty and the work that is being done to alleviate its effects through listening to the stories they tell, learning about programs we can do in our local context, and serving through hands-on activities. We will have opportunities to listen and learn from various community organizations and time to brainstorm ideas for changes/new practices to put into place when returning to our home congregations and communities.

How do we get there? Travel arrangements are on your own to and from New Orleans, and to St. Charles. Please plan to arrive by 4 p.m. on Thursday and depart on Saturday afternoon. Early arrivals will have the opportunity to participate in a poverty simulation exercise.

Transportation during the event... will be by public transportation and may involve walking some distances. Please let us know when you register if you will need assistance with traveling and/or walking.

Where will we stay? We will be staying in dorm rooms at Loyola University, a short walk from St. Charles. Please note rooms may be shared. Please let us know if you have a roommate or if you are open to making new friends during your stay.

Sample Schedule

Thursday, June 22nd

Arrive at St. Charles Presbyterian Church by 4 p.m.

WORSHIP - LEARN - ACT - RELATE - SHARE

1:00 p.m.	Registration begins
1:30 p.m.	Early Arrivals Optional - <i>Poverty Simulation</i>
4:00 p.m.	LEARN - Orientation
6:00 p.m.	Sharing the Table - <i>Dinner at St. Charles</i>
7:00 p.m.	Listening & Learning - <i>Panel Discussion - exploring different ministries</i>
8:30 p.m.	ACT - Preparing to Serve - <i>Choosing your groups for Friday</i>
9:00 p.m.	Closing

Friday, June 23rd

7:30 a.m.	Sharing the Table - <i>Breakfast at St. Charles</i>
8:30 a.m.	ACT - Departing to Serve - <i>groups head out on public transportation to area sites</i>
10:00 a.m.	ACT - Serving Together - <i>area mission sites</i>
12:00 p.m.	Sharing the Table - <i>explore your neighborhood by seeking out local eateries</i>
4:00 p.m.	RELATE - our Experience - <i>return to St. Charles. Group discussions about what you saw, heard, and learned.</i>
6:00 p.m.	Sharing the Table - <i>Dinner at St. Charles</i>
7:00 p.m.	SHARE - Debrief
8:00 p.m.	Fun Options!

Saturday, June 24

800 a.m.	Sharing the Table - <i>Breakfast</i>
9:00 a.m.	ACT
10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP
11:00 a.m.	Wrapping Up
11:30 a.m.	Depart - <i>go out and love and serve the Lord</i>