

Journeys of Paul, Greece and Turkey International Study Cohort



February 18-28, 2025

The Clergy Growth and Renewal Fund has been established by The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas to provide financial support for Elders, Deacons, and Local Pastors under appointment in the Arkansas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to experience events that promote personal or spiritual growth and perfecting professional skills. Through this fund comes the opportunity for clergy members to participate in continuing education events called The International Study Cohort.

The Journeys of Paul to Greece and Turkey International Study Cohort will be a comprehensive international study experience comprised of fifteen pastors who will study overseas for the purpose of gaining knowledge and information that will strengthen their preaching in local congregations. The study/travel experience will be February 18-28, 2025. The trip will include five days in Greece visiting Thessaloniki, Neapolis, Philippi, Corinth, and Athens. Then the cohort will fly to Turkey and visit Sardis, Pergamum and Thyatira, Ephesus and Miletus, Smyrna, and Istanbul. The fifteen selected participants will be given pre-trip assignments, and each participant will be assigned a devotional while in Greece/Turkey. As a follow-up, each participant will provide the Foundation with a written evaluation of their experience and the effect on their preaching skills.

- The Cohort will be limited to 15 participants.
- Preference will be given to applicants that have not been to Greece and/or Turkey previously.
- Prior Foundation International Cohort participants may apply, but priority will be given to candidates who have not participated in an internal cohort.
- The Cohort is open to those who are appointed to preach on a regular basis.
- Each participant is expected to contribute \$1,000 to the cost of the Cohort.
- Each participant may have their spouse (or a family member) accompany them, but the spouse (or family member) will be asked to pay the regular Educational Opportunities cost of \$4,796.
- Attendance at all pre-trip meetings is expected. If you cannot make this commitment, please reconsider applying to participate.
 - All pre-trip meetings will be held at the Foundation's office in Little Rock from 11:30-1:00. Lunch will be provided. Dates include: Friday, September 13; Friday, October 4; Friday, November 8; and Friday, January 10. *In case of inclement weather, the meetings will be held on Zoom.*

To apply for the Journeys of Paul to Greece and Turkey International Study Cohort, send responses to the following questions to Rev. Mackey Yokem, Director of Leadership Ministries, at myokem@methodistfoundationar.org or (501) 664-8632. Applications are due by July 30, 2024.

**Journeys of Paul, Greece and Turkey
International Study Cohort**



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Application

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Church Appointment:

1. How will you commit to faithful study, participate in the pre-trip sessions, and lead a devotional in Greece and Turkey?
2. If you are selected to participate, what do you expect to learn, and how will you grow from this experience?
3. How will this cohort experience change your ministry and preaching?
4. How will you return this experience to your ministry setting to enhance your preaching and congregation?
5. Have you traveled to Greece or Turkey? If yes, when? And describe the nature of the trip.