

Join the Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray
and the Anderson District (SC)
The United Methodist Church
in partnership with



CRISPAZ: Christians for Peace in El Salvador
www.crispaz.org

for a life-changing journey:

CROSSING BORDERS: A journey toward solidarity with the people of El Salvador

June 14 – 21, 2016

Cost: \$1,375, including flight, room, board, program, and three pre-trip sessions
Trip limited to first 20 paid registrations. Deadline to register: September 15, 2015

To register, please fill out the form below along with a deposit of \$250 may payable to “Anderson District” and mail to Anderson District of the UMC, P.O. Box 1057, Anderson, SC 29622

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

Email address: _____

Passport number: _____

Passport expiration date: _____

Q & A

- What?** CROSSING BORDERS is a journey to El Salvador where participants learn from the Salvadoran people about their lives, histories and hopes for the future. A major focus of the encounter is to reflect on the meaning of working for justice rather than working for charity, understanding one's role as a global citizen and humanizing the different issues that are present in our societies.
- Why?** CROSSING BORDERS will give participants the opportunity to learn directly from the Salvadoran people about issues such as the impact of war, neo-liberal economics, U.S. foreign policy, migration, mining, the environment and a tradition of liberating faith. By spending time with persons in their homes and through a pilgrimage to holy places commemorating persons who offered their lives in Christian witness, our own faith will be strengthened and our solidarity with the Salvadoran people will change us.
- Who?** CROSSING BORDERS is designed for anyone wanting to have a better understanding of the people of Central America and the rich faith tradition of the Salvadoran people. Persons who want to understand more completely issues around migration in the United States will benefit from this journey.
- CRISPAZ?** CRISPAZ is a faith-based organization dedicated to building bridges of solidarity between the Church of the poor and marginalized communities in El Salvador and communities in the U.S. and other countries through mutual accompaniment. As an organization, CRISPAZ is politically non-partisan and committed to nonviolence.
- Is this a "mission trip?"** In a way, yes. The Salvadoran people will be in mission to us, teaching us what it means to live in Central America today and how policies and practices of the world's most powerful nations impacts lives around the world. Instead of painting a wall or building a room (there is no shortage of labor in El Salvador), we will be developing relationships that will speak to our own understanding of faith and life as Christian disciples where the world is our parish.
- Preparation?** The district superintendent will convene three pre-trip sessions to prepare us for the journey. These sessions will include overviews of the history of El Salvador, the significance of the church in the country's life and development, and information pertaining to the Christian martyrs who died during the country's violent civil war.
- Age limits?** Yes. We ask that you be at least 18 years of age by the date of departure.
- Safety?** It is true that there is quite a lot of violence in El Salvador due to gang-related activity. But CRISPAZ has hosted hundreds of delegations since 1984. From 2010-2012, CRISPAZ hosted 48 delegations, 25 delegations in 2013, and hosted 24 delegations in 2014. These CRISPAZ delegations have had no issues with violence or criminal activity. While no program can guarantee the total safety of its participants, CRISPAZ has always placed participants' safety as its top priority. In addition, it is enormously helpful that the leadership team is made up of Salvadorans who have an intimate understanding of their own country and are vigilant in obtaining current information about potential problem areas.
- More info?** Contact Rev. Keith Ray at keithr@clemsunmc.org or Jad Taylor at jadtaylor@clemsunmc.org