

Creating Community with the City's Poor

Denver Urban Ministries – Denver, Colorado

May 31 – June 6, 2009

This event in the mile-high city will give experiential learning opportunities to those interested in issues of poverty and urban life. Participants will deepen their understanding of hunger and poverty as they engage low-income and homeless communities by walking alongside vulnerable people in Denver. This event will be hosted by Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM). Started in 1981 by United Methodist clergy and laity, DenUM's mission is "to nourish the spirit of community and cultivate awareness of urban life."

The event will be an opportunity to reflect on faith and justice related to the experiences of those who struggle to get by in our communities. The group will hear from a speaker who has experienced poverty and homelessness in order to better understand some of their causes and challenges. Participants will tour the streets of Denver's "Colfax Corridor" an area of downtown now experiencing a systematic revitalization. Examine this revitalization through the eyes of the homeless and get an insider's understanding of how it is impacting community members' lives. During this event, there will be an opportunity to prepare and share a meal with Denver's homeless. Through a dialogue with Interfaith Voices Against Poverty, Primetimers will also examine the federal and state structures in place to alleviate poverty and hunger. After touring the capitol building where state policy is made, use your voice to advocate for those living in poverty. Participants will have the opportunity to serve in mission with those struggling on a daily basis by sorting and bagging food at DenUM and/or the regional food bank, serving food to the homeless at one of several UMC-led meal programs, working with homeless youth, or childcare at a transitional housing program. Enhance your own ability to engage with and advocate for those living on the margins in your home community.

On Wednesday, a trip is planned to scenic Colorado Springs. The group will travel through the Garden of the Gods - a unique geological formation just west of the city. This will be followed by lunch and a little shopping in the historic and picturesque village of Manitou Springs. Before coming home, an ice cream treat will be enjoyed at *Michelle's* – a gourmet ice cream shoppe that has been featured in several national magazines. At the discretion of the individuals, evening events can be arranged.* These events might include visits to Elitch Garden's Amusement Park, Colorado Rockies Baseball game, Denver Performing Arts, and more!

Primetimers

A Mission Volunteers Program of the General Board of Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church

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Creating Community with the City's Poor

EVENT CODE: 1DEN

EVENT HOST:

Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM)
1717 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80218
www.denum.org

EVENT DATE:

May 31 – June 6, 2009

EVENT COST PER PERSON:

\$740.00 – Double Occupancy Room; [includes housing, meals, local transportation, supplemental accident insurance, entrance fees, and a GBGM administrative fee]. Participants are responsible for the cost of their transportation to and from the event. (*Note: Any special evening activities as well as the cost of food, gifts, etc. on Wednesday will be the responsibility of the participants.)

ROOMS:

Participants will be housed at the University of Denver. Rooms are air-conditioned suites. Each double room shares kitchen and bathroom facilities with one other room.

MEALS:

The first meal of the event will be dinner on Sunday, May 31 and the last meal of the event will be breakfast on Saturday, June 6.

TRANSPORTATION:

Participants should not make travel arrangements until instructed to do so by the Event Coordinator. Participants who are flying to the event should use the Denver International Airport (DIA). Participants will be picked up and dropped off at the airport by event leadership on the 31st & 6th.

ESTIMATED PHYSICAL DEMANDS OF THE EVENT:

Description of terrain: High altitude (5280'), dry climate

Amount of walking per day: Average: 30 minutes. Maximum: 1 hour (with breaks)

(Optional activities in Colorado Springs may involve more walking)

Number of flights of stairs per day: 2-4

Requirements for entering/exiting transportation: 1-2 steps into/out of van or shuttle

Distance participants will have to transport their luggage: 50 ft.

*Denver is the mile-high city. The altitude can be difficult to adjust to, but health effects are easily avoidable if participants stay hydrated and take breaks as necessary.

REGISTRATION:

The registration deadline for this event is: **February 28, 2009**

Please send completed registration and deposit to:

**Primetimers, Mission Volunteers, General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1400, New York, NY 10115**

REGISTRATION LIMIT:

Min: 10 participants Max: 15 participants

EVENT COORDINATOR:

Amanda Barrett, Community Relations, Director, DenUM
Telephone: (303) 355-4896
Email: amanda@denum.org

SHEPHERDS:

Betsy Keyack
Herb Bowman