

JUSTICE

Journey to

FREEDOM

Civil Rights & Social Justice in the South



Travel Seminar Information Sheet

Dag Hammarskjöld's famous quote, "For all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!" frames the approach for a deep examination of Civil Rights and Social Justice then and now. This domestic travel course will leave from Charlotte and take a journey of "thanks" to Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, New Orleans, Angola, Jackson, and Memphis. We will walk with humility and gratitude in the steps of those whose brave witness paved the way for the hoped-for end of Jim and Jane Crowe laws, desegregation, and a separate but not-so-equal way of life for African Americans in the Deep South. We will critically engage the history and scholarship of the struggle for freedom and the claim God's justice has on people of faith, the Church. We will pursue the "Yes!" as we must, even now, live into the struggle and work of justice, which continues. Our final stop of this journey will be in Nashville with the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf and the SALT: Schools for Alternative Learning and Transformation. This participatory educational community in Nashville, Tennessee beckons us to grapple with the ways in which we live in the "already but not yet" of our call for social justice and the work of civil rights for all God's people that is ongoing.

Dates

Monday, **December 29, 2025** leave Charlotte Campus no later than 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, **January 6, 2026** return to Charlotte Campus by mid-afternoon

We invite **students, staff, alumni/ae, community members** and **spouses** to join in this Travel Seminar and Learning Community.

Registration Fees (Includes chartered motorcoach bus, hotels, tickets, entry fees, program costs and at least two meals a day.)

Students	\$750.00 (double room)
Students	\$1000.00 (single room)
Alumni/ae, Staff and Spouses	\$1000.00 per person, single room
Individual Community Members	\$2000.00 per person, single room
Community Couples	\$3000.00 per couple

Transportation

We are chartering a 56 passenger Executive Motorcoach with Champion Coach. It is professionally driven, includes spacious and comfortable seating, Wi-Fi, power outlets, entertainment center, lavatories, safety and enhanced cleaning protocols.

Lodging

Each night's stay is in a Hilton or equivalent property. Single rooms are included for everyone except students who choose to share a double room.

Meals Registration fees includes two meals a day. Participants will be responsible for seven meals.

Additional Expenses Participants are responsible for incidentals, tips for housekeeping, books and resources. An opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the bus driver’s tip will be offered.

Free Evenings Most programming will occur during the day. However, free evenings are built into the trip. Free evenings in the following cities: Montgomery, New Orleans, Jackson, Memphis and Nashville.

Programming Dr. Rebecca Davis and Dr. Rodney Sadler will provide educational occasions, processing experiences and experiential engagement. Students will make presentations on relevant topics to enhance our collective understanding. Reading, documentary, music and movie suggestions will be provided for all participants.

Academic Credit Students seeking academic credit will be responsible for tuition, the registration fee as outlined above, a \$100 non-refundable deposit due no later than October 15, 2025, successful completion of all required readings and assignments. Credit for this course will be given in Spring 1 2026 semester. A detailed syllabus with reading and assignments will be provided by the professors. There will be no class meetings after the conclusion of the trip. Students will be excused from classes missed because of this travel seminar; however, you are responsible for making up work that you missed in other classes.

Registration Process All participants are asked to

- Complete the *Letter of Intent* no later than October 15, 2025. bit.ly/45TBZSk
- Submit deposit no later than October 15, 2025 to reserve your space. (see deposit fee schedule below.) The deposit is non-refundable.
- Complete *Participant Information Form* no later than December 1, 2025
- Half of the registration fee is due by November 29, 2025. Refunds are based on our ability to cancel room and program costs.

Deposits fee schedule - per person

Students	\$100.00
Alumni, spouses, and staff	\$300.00
Community Members	\$500.00

Final Payment – may be made in a single payment or installments.
The remainder of the total registration fee is due no later than December 15, 2025.



Travel Seminar Website

Itinerary

Monday, December 29th, 2025

- Leave from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus @ 8:00 a.m.
- Atlanta, GA
 - National Center for Civil and Human Rights
 - A museum and human rights organization in Atlanta that inspires people to tap their own power to change the world around them. The Center's iconic exhibitions feature the papers and artifacts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the history of the US civil rights movement; and stories from the struggle for human rights around the world today.
 - The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change
 - A global destination, resource center and community institution for over a quarter century. Both a traditional memorial and programmatic nonprofit, the King Center was envisioned by its founder to be "no dead monument, but a living memorial filled with all the vitality that was his, a center of human endeavor, committed to the causes for which he lived and died."
 - Ebenezer Baptist Church, Dr. Tony McNeill (*invited*) – Songs that Fueled the Movement
 - Music, particularly traditional African-American Spirituals transformed into Freedom Song, sustained much of the Civil Rights Movement. They sang for inspiration, for motivation, for solidarity and to strengthen resolve in the face of fearful situations. Dr. Tony McNeill, accomplished musician, choral director, professor and expert in worship and music arts, will lead us through a time of education and signing of the music of the civil rights movement at the history Ebenezer Baptist Church where Martin Luther King, Sr. was once its pastor and the Reverend Dr. Senator Raphael Warnock is now the Senior Pastor.
 - Dinner at Paschal's
 - The historic restaurant and rallying place for strategizing much of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Spend the night in Atlanta metro area.

Tuesday, December 30th

- Birmingham, AL
 - Birmingham Institute for Civil Rights
 - An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, it is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of civil rights developments in Birmingham.
 - 16th Street Baptist Church
 - Site of the Sunday, September 15, 1963 11:00 a.m. bombing that killed four young girls (14-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and 11-year-old Cynthia Wesley, were killed. Addie's sister Susan survived, but was permanently blinded.)
 - Kelly Ingram Park
 - Names for a firefighter in 1932 this park hosts 7 statues of major figures and events in the Birmingham struggle for Civil Rights. Liturgy will be written as we communally walk and pray our way through the grounds including Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Fred Shuttlesworth, the four girls who lost their lives in the bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church and other prominent leaders who furthered civil rights.
 - Selma, AL
 - Walk across the Edmund Pettis Bridge
 - Now a National Historic Landmark, was the site of the brutal Bloody Sunday beatings of civil rights marchers during the first march for voting rights. The televised attacks were seen all over the nation, prompting public support for the civil rights activists in Selma and for the voting rights campaign.
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- Drive the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
 - After Bloody Sunday, protestors were granted the right to continue marching, and two more marches for voting rights followed. The route is also designated as a National Scenic Byway/All-American Road. A guide will be provided during the drive for the significant sites along the 54 miles trail and take part in the trails' year-round special events.
- Evening devotions at the Alabama State House in Montgomery.
- Spend the night in Montgomery, AL

Wednesday, December 31st

- Montgomery, AL
 - Freedom Monument Sculpture Park
 - EJI's newest legacy site explores the legacy of slavery and the lives of enslaved people through contemporary artworks, first-person narratives, and historical artifacts, is generating growing excitement with glowing reports from national and international media.
 - Equal justice Legacy Museum
 - Employs unique technology to dramatize the enslavement of African Americans and the evolution of racial terror of lynchings, legalized racial segregation, and racial hierarchy in America. Relying on rarely seen first-person accounts of the domestic slave trade, EJI's critically acclaimed research materials, videography, exhibits on lynching, and recently composed content on segregation, this museum explores the history of racial inequality and its relationship to a range of contemporary issues from mass incarceration to police violence.
 - National Memorial for Peace and Justice
 - The nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.
 - Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and Parsonage
 - Evening prayers will end the day in the where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. first preached his message of hope and brotherhood. This church was also a center point of the Montgomery bus boycott. The restored parsonage of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church appears as it did when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his family was the pastor. It was bombed several times during the fight for civil rights.
- Drive to New Orleans.
 - Free evening in New Orleans or
 - Watch Night Service
 - Also called Freedom's Eve, is a worship service held on New Year's Eve celebrated in many African American churches, as a way of giving thanks and praise for Emancipation Proclamation (enacted January 1, 1863.)
- Spend the night in New Orleans, LA

Thursday, January 1st 2026

- New Orleans, LA
 - Teach-In and Traditional New Year's meal
 - We will spend an evening sharing a meal and hearing about the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi.
 - Check-In
 - A time to communally process and touch base with one another at mid-point on the journey.
 - Spend the night in New Orleans, LA
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Friday, January 2nd

- Wallace, LA
 - Whitney Plantation
 - Whitney Plantation is committed to accurate historical tours touching on the culture, life and operations of New Orleans plantations, along with the history behind the Atlantic Slave Trade makes our tours powerful and immersive for our tour guests.
- Angola, LA
 - Louisiana Prison Museum and Cultural Center
 - Louisiana State Penitentiary, once known as “America’s Bloodiest Prison,” is the largest maximum security prison in the nation. The penitentiary’s storied history of instability and reform serve as a reminder of the progress made within corrections and the possibilities of rehabilitation.
- Spend the night in Jackson, MS

Saturday, January 3rd

- Jackson, MS
 - Mississippi Civil Rights Museum
 - Explores the movement that changed the nation with special attention to the Mississippians like Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer and Vernon Dahmer—as well as those who traveled many miles to stand beside them, come what may, in the name of equal rights for all. The museum promotes a greater understanding of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and its impact by highlighting the strength and sacrifices of its peoples
 - Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument
 - We will stand in the place where civil rights activist, Medgar Evers, was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson, MS and give thanks for his, and his wife Myrlie’s, witness.
- Spend the night in Memphis, TN

Sunday, January 4th

- Memphis, TN
 - Worship
 - National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel
 - The site of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. this museum offers artifacts, films, oral histories, interactive media and external listening posts that guide visitors through five centuries of history — from the beginning of the resistance during slavery, through the Civil War and Reconstruction, the rise of Jim Crow, and the seminal events of the late 20th century that inspired people around the world to stand up for equality.
 - Spend the night in Nashville, TN
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Monday, January 5th

- Nashville, TN
 - S.A.L.T. (Schools for Alternative Learning and Transformation) and Riverbend Prison Riverbend Maximum Security Institution
 - We will spend time with the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf, author of *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*. A UMC clergywoman, a member of the National Council of Elders from the Civil Rights Movement, former Director of the Children's Defense Fund's Haley Farm and Nonviolent Organizing Team and a retired faculty member at American Baptist College/Seminary and Vanderbilt, Dr. Wolfe has dedicated her life to the work of justice. We will hear from those who were formerly incarcerated, learn of the Schools for Alternative Learning and Transformation that works with inmates in the general population and those on death row. We explore the ways in which the Cradle to Prison Pipeline and the disproportionate number of incarcerated black and brown men is the new Jim Crow and the ways in which the Church is called to continue the struggle for Civil Rights today.
- Spend the night in Nashville, TN

Tuesday, January 6th

- Return to Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus by 4:00 p.m.

For more detailed questions, contact
Rebecca Davis (rebecca.davis@upsem.edu) or
Rodney Sadler (sadler@upsem.edu)
