



Holy Encounters: Preachers on Pilgrimage
A 2-week Spiritual Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago, North route
May 29-June 12, 2024

Join us for a life-changing, pilgrimage experience! Our journey takes us across the Northern coast of Spain on the ancient Camino de Santiago northern route, also known as The Way of St. James. As we journey towards the purported resting place of the remains of St. James the Apostle, we will disconnect from the modern world and journey inward towards a deeper awareness of our self and our faith. As clergy, spiritual leaders, and preachers, you need time to invest in your own personal growth and faith development. This pilgrimage will facilitate opportunities for you to make space in your mind and soul for holy encounters, to explore the edges of your comfort zone, and to engage your spirituality in an embodied way. Morning devotions and reflections will be offered for spiritual growth, evening group processing of your experiences will be offered for emotional growth, and gentle stretching and restorative yoga will be offered for physical growth.

Preachers will be guided by two experienced pilgrims, walking 7-15 miles per day, and staying in semi-private rooms. We will begin our Camino, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in the beautiful and autonomous Basque region of Spain for the first week, hiking along coastal cliffs and through small, quaint villages. After a day off in the large city of Bilbao, we will transfer by bus to Vialba, in the Galicia region, to finish the final 100 kms, ending in Santiago de Compostela. There we will tour the Cathedral of St. James where the Apostle James' remains are believed to be located, attend a special pilgrim's mass, and receive your pilgrim's Compostela, the official pilgrimage certificate of completion.

Itinerary:

Wednesday, May 29:	Day 1, Arrive in San Sebastian, Spain
Thursday, May 30:	Day 2, hiking, San Sebastian to Zarautz, 22 kms (13.7 m)
Friday, May 31:	Day 3, hiking, Zarautz to Deba, 21 kms (13 m)
Saturday, June 1:	Day 4, hiking, Deba to Markina-Xemein, 24 kms (15 m)
Sunday, June 2:	Day 5, hiking, Markina-Xemein to Gernika, 25 kms (15.5 m)
Monday, June 3:	Day 6, hiking, Gernika to Lezama, 20 kms (12.5 m)
Tuesday, June 4:	Day 7, half day of hiking, Lezama to Bilbao, 11 km (6.8 m) -Afternoon off, tour Bilbao on your own

Wednesday, June 5:	Day 8, Day off, take bus to visit Cathedrals beach, sleep in Vialba
Thursday, June 6:	Day 9, hiking, Vialba to Baamonde, 19.5 kms (12 m)
Friday, June 7:	Day 10, hiking, Baamonde to A Roxica, 24.9 kms (15 m)
Saturday, June 8:	Day 11, hiking, A Roxica to Sobrado do Monxes, 15.5 kms (9.6m)
Sunday, June 9:	Day 12, hiking, Sobrado dos Monxes to Arzua, 22 kms (13.7 m)
Monday, June 10:	Day 13, hiking, Arzua to A Rua, 19.3 kms (12 m)
Tuesday, June 11:	Day 14, hiking A Rua to Santiago de Compostela, 21 kms (13 m) -Visit cathedral, attend pilgrim's mass, get credentials
Wednesday, June 12:	Day 15, Fly home

Apply now! Spaces are limited!

Your pilgrimage includes:

- 14 nights' accommodations in semi-private rooms
- 2 meals per day
- Guided hiking from experienced pilgrims
- Luggage transport from town to town during pilgrimage
- Transportation on day 8 to move locations
- Visit to Cathedrals Beach
- Pilgrim's credential
- Morning devotion and prayer time with a preaching professor
- Evening group processing with a psychologist
- Daily guided stretching, yoga, and/or meditation
- 16-week training plan for physical preparation
- Private Facebook group for training and aftercare support
- Quarterly, virtual discussion groups for 1 year with your group and guides

Not included:

- Airfare, transportation to/from airport, visa (if needed)
- Snacks, laundry, personal bus or taxi use
- Compostela fee (optional)
- Travel insurance (required)
- Optional activities (e.g., museums, tours, etc.)

*****Deeply discounted pricing of \$1499*****

(other pilgrimages cost \$2800 or more, and do not include food, guides, or spiritual and emotional growth components)

Is this pilgrimage a good fit for me?

As clergy, we know that who you are as a person impacts who you are as a preacher. YOU are an essential component of compelling preaching. This pilgrimage is for those of you who are struggling to find joy in your work; feeling weary, burnt out, or just plain empty; feeling pulled in too many directions; struggling to find time to care for yourself or your personal relationships; or feeling stagnant in your own spiritual life. The Camino de Santiago pilgrimage is about embarking on a physical journey to facilitate a spiritual journey of holy encounters.

This is not a vacation—it is a physically, emotionally, and spiritually challenging pilgrimage. We will journey by foot through the northern coast of Spain, confronting our fears and seeking holy encounters with the divine and each other as we follow in the footsteps of St. James. Through this facilitated spiritual adventure, you will be guided to seek renewal through a deep examination of your own power, by experiencing awe in the natural beauty of countryside villages and large cities, remaining embodied in challenging conditions, and participating in diverse spiritual practices. We will explore our physical and emotional needs and wants, increasing our self-awareness, and deepening our spiritual practices—all with a supportive, inclusive, group of clergy who are on a parallel physical and spiritual pilgrimage.

This is a physically demanding experience. There will be portions where we are in rural areas or in nature, without access to public transportation. By applying, you agree you are physically able to walk up to 15 miles per day carrying a light daypack.

To be eligible for this pilgrimage, you must be:

1-an active clergy member (as determined by your denomination)

2-serving in a protestant church

3-able to walk/hike up to 15 miles per day

4-who preaches regularly in your ministry context

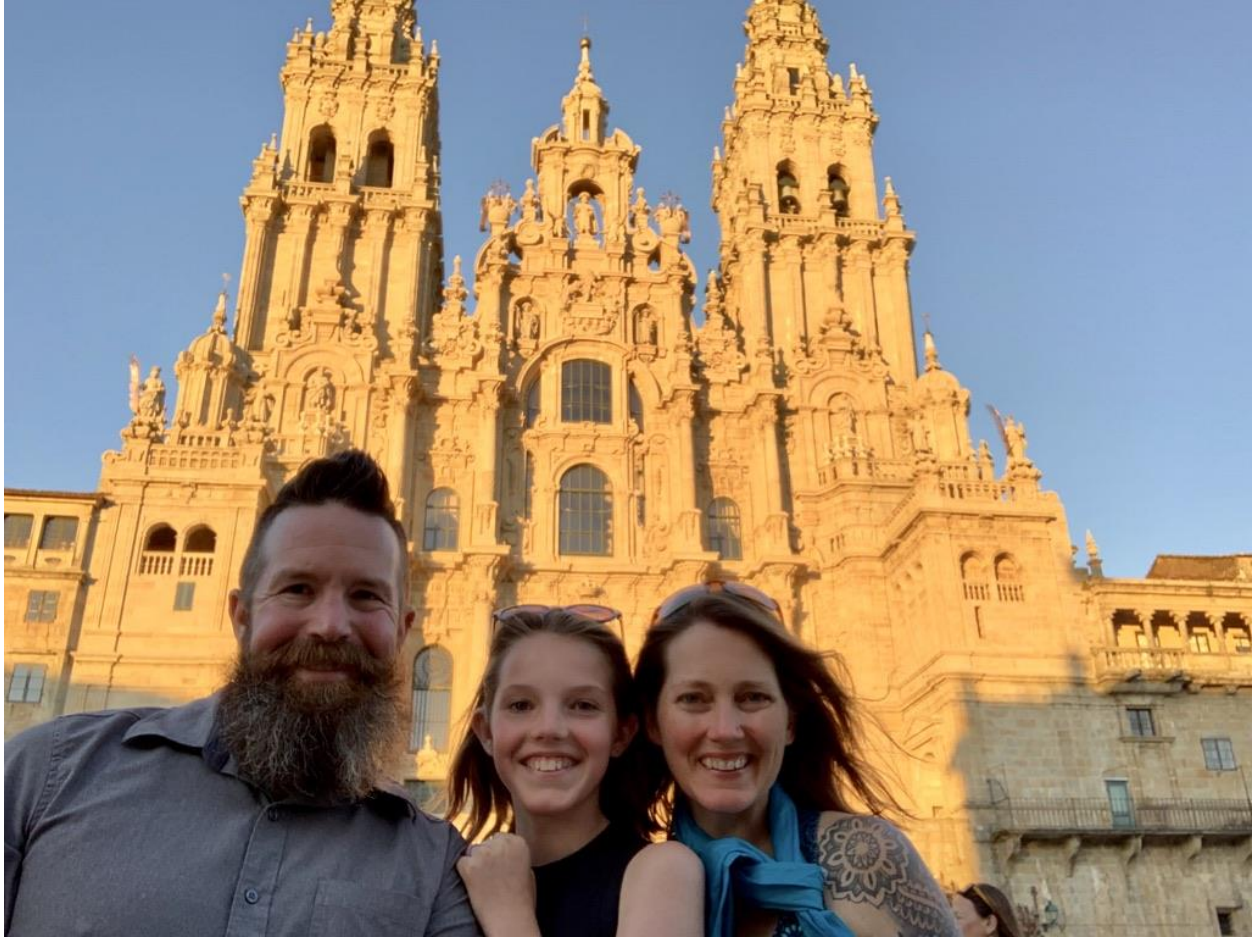
**Preachers from all ministry settings are welcome!*

The mission of the Columbia Preachers Studio for Renewal is to cultivate practices, provide resources, and facilitate holy encounters to help preachers proclaim the gospel in postmodern contexts in more compelling, effective, and faithful ways.

Columbia Preachers Studio for Renewal shares the mission and vision of Columbia Theological Seminary. *Columbia Theological Seminary is committed to promoting the goals of diversity, equity and inclusiveness in all aspects of its theological and education enterprise. We seek to acknowledge and respect the differences and gifts of all as we work toward becoming a more just and relational community.*

Click [here](#) to apply. A 15-minute zoom interview with the facilitators will be scheduled after we receive your application (***please do not book travel until you receive a confirmation***):

Meet Your Guides!



Dr. Abby Myers is a licensed psychologist with two decades of clinical experience in a wide variety of settings, and the owner of [Healing Connections Counseling and Consulting, LLC](#). She is a certified yoga instructor and is board certified by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. Abby volunteers internationally with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship providing membercare support to missionaries, and locally with the Decatur Emergency Assistance Ministry. Abby believes our mental health is an essential part of our overall health, and that all our emotions serve a purpose in our life. She is passionate about holistic health, moving our bodies in meaningful ways, exploring new cultures through travel, cooking delicious and nutritious food, and sharing those experiences with others. Abby walked over 500 miles on the Camino Norte in 2019 with her husband, Jake, and 12-year-old daughter. She is excited to guide you on this spiritual pilgrimage through a process of reflection, challenge, and growth that hopefully leaves you feeling inspired and empowered!

Rev. Dr. Jake Myers has served on the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary for 9 years and is an Associate Professor of Homiletics. He is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). Jake is the author of dozens of scholarly essays and has authored or co-authored 6 books. His latest release is [Stand-Up Preaching: Homiletical Insights from Contemporary Comedians](#). Jake is an international speaker in both academic and ministry settings. He has worked on staff in churches in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. Jake is also known as [The Preaching Doctor](#), providing virtual preaching consultations to pastors wanting to take their preaching to the next level. Jake is a certified yoga instructor and loves being able to connect his mind, body, and spirit in his yoga practice. He is passionate about teaching preaching and loves sharing that excitement with others. Jake completed the Camino de Santiago, North route, in 2019 with his wife, Abby, and 12-year-old daughter.

