

More about the Journey

PPNK invites you to the “Korea Peace Journey” 2025, led by Kurt Esslinger and Unzu Lee, Mission Co-Workers

“Have You Heard Our Cries?” “이 땅, 슬픔과 울부짖음의 이야기들” (한 강토 평화 여정)

Date: October 21 (Tuesday) – October 30 (Thursday), 2025

Cost: \$2,300 + Airfare (to Korea) / per person

(Fee includes roundtrip airfare from Gimpo to Jeju Island, transportation to/from Incheon Airport, and all transportation-related expenses in Korea. If you want a single occupancy, add \$500. Limited scholarships for those under 40, make inquiries to peacenetworkforkorea@gmail.com)

Tae Yang Tour and Travel, 213-252-9700.

(For international flight ticketing, please contact them if you are looking for a travel agent)

Registration Due: May 1, 2025

(Please submit your registration with an initial deposit of \$500. You can register at www.ppnk.net. And please send a check to PPNK, PO Box 3, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. The 2nd payment of \$1,000 is due on June 1, 2025 and the final payment of \$800 on July 31, 2025. Inquire more at peacenetworkforkorea@gmail.com)

Participants: 20 – 25 people (Registration closes when space is full)

Provisional Korea Peace Journey Schedule

Day 1 (10/21, Tuesday)

- Arrival in Seoul
- Welcoming Dinner with peacemakers from PCK, PROK

Day 2 (10/22, Wednesday)

- Schedule Overview & Brief Orientation on the Korean Peninsula Situation
- Visit to the War Memorial of Korea
- Opening Worship in collaboration with partner church participants
- Hearing stories of war’s effects on families
- Group processing and spiritual practice

Day 3 (10/23, Thursday)

- Arrival in Jeju
- Visit to the Jeju 4.3 Peace Park
- Silent Reflection Walk around the Perimeter
- Hearing stories of Jeju uncovering the truth of 4.3
- Group processing and spiritual practice

Day 4 (10/24, Friday) – Jeju Island

- Participation in the Gangjeong Village Peace Demonstration
- Hearing the stories of the Gangjeong Peace Village struggle
- Visit to sites related to historical victims
- Group processing and spiritual practice

Day 5 (10/25, Saturday)

- Departure from Jeju Island
- Re-gather in Seoul
- Group processing and spiritual practice

Day 6 (10/26, Sunday)

- Participation in Sunday Worship at PCK or PROK churches (split into two or three groups)
- Visit to Seoul's historic palaces

Day 7 (10/27, Monday)

- Visit to the Border Peace School
- Hike up the Soi-san Mountain
- Hearing stories of division and work for peace
- Group processing and spiritual practice

Day 8 (10/28, Tuesday)

- Visit to the Pyeongtaek
- Hear stories of Pyeongtaek villagers and resistance to military expansion
- Watch a video on THAAD deployment and resistance*
- Return to Seoul
- Group processing and spiritual practice

Day 9 (10/29, Wednesday)

- Closing discussions: What then, do we do?
- Optional Seoul tour
- Optional PPNK meeting with Korea Church partners for partnership strategy
- Closing Worship in collaboration with partner church participants

Day 10 (10/30, Thursday)

- Departure for the USA

Hotel Samples:

- Nine Tree Premier Rokaus Seoul
- Nine Tree by Parnas Hotel Insadong
- Orakai Daehakro Hotel (Jongro)

**We are hoping to invite Soseongri villagers to meet us in Pyeongtaek.*

(Schedule coordinated in consultation with the Peace Committees of PCK & PROK, guided by regional peace workers. Also, the schedule is subject to change depending on circumstances)

== We highly recommend visiting our website, www.ppnk.net and reading the novel "**We Do Not Depart**" by Han Kang, the winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature, before the journey. The novel focuses on the history of Jeju Island we are visiting. There may also be future opportunities to study related topics together. ==

Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea (PPNK), a mission network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), invites you to join a journey to the Korean Peninsula to hear the voices of those living under the shadow of war and explore ways to support peace efforts. For PPNK members, this journey aims to strengthen the capacity for peace on the Korean Peninsula by building alliances with partners in Korea. PC(U.S.A.)'s official partners are the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). The National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) also works in cooperation with us.

Historical Context

Korea has a very long history. Korea existed as one country from 676 until 1910 when it was colonized by Japan. After Japan's surrender in 1945, the U.S. and USSR divided Korea along the 38th parallel, each establishing competing structures that led to separate nations. Tensions between the two sides escalated, leading to the Korean War in 1950. The war resulted in 1 million military deaths and an estimated 2-3 million civilian deaths, with a 1953 armistice agreement halting the fighting. However, a peace treaty has not been signed to formally end the war. The U.S. maintains 28,500 troops in South Korea, and wartime operational control of South Korean military remains in U.S. hands.

The Journey's Purpose

The PPNK's peace journey aims to connect the U.S. to Korean peacebuilders, particularly those from partner entities such as the **Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)**, the **Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)**, and the **National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK)**. Key components of the journey will include listening, dialogue, reflection, networking, and strategizing. Participants will learn about the origins of the conflict, its effects on life in Korea and the diaspora, and ongoing peacebuilding efforts.

Key Locations & Activities

The journey will include visits to:

- **Jeju Island**, where one-third of the population was massacred in 1948 due to fears of permanent division.
- **DMZ**, a 250-kilometer-long buffer zone that separates North and South Korea. Established in 1953 as part of the armistice agreement that ended the Korean War, the DMZ is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world. It spans across land, air, and sea and is often seen as a symbol of the ongoing division between the two countries. It has also become a unique ecological space due to limited human activity, with rare wildlife thriving in the region.
- **Pyeongtaek military base**, the largest U.S. military base outside the U.S. Participants will engage with local people whose lives are affected by military presence and their peace efforts. Expect to walk extensively at conflict sites.

What Participants Need to Know

Participants should be prepared for physical exertion, including extensive walking (at least one hour each day, with possibility for hill walking). Optional sessions will be available to network with partners in Korea. Those participants who want to become a part of PPNK are strongly encouraged to participate in these sessions. All other sessions, including discussions and reflections, are mandatory. The goal is to grow into and be a learning community focused on God's work for peace and reconciliation.

Accommodation and Travel

The journey lasts **9 nights and 10 days**. Participants will stay in hotels, with a few nights on Jeju Island and the rest in Seoul. Rooms are typically double occupancy, with single rooms available for an extra charge. Early arrivals or extended stays are possible at the participants' own expense.

Cost

The cost covers meals, hotel stays, programs, tours, and in-country transportation. Participants are responsible for their own flights to and from Korea. Scholarships may be available for young adults (under 40 years old) or those experiencing financial hardship. Scholarship inquiries should be directed to peacenetworkforkorea@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea (PPNK)

PPNK is a mission network within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) comprised of Presbyterians and members of other denominations and communities committed to peace in Korea. It is not a formal program of the denomination, and participants do not need to be Presbyterian or Christian. The journey is open to anyone committed to working for a just peace in Korea through dialogue and trust-building in cooperation with faith communities.