



Pray Learn Engage



Join Episcopal Migration Ministries
for prayer, education, reflection,
and discernment.



Fall 2019: Adult Christian Formation



episcopal
MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Pray, Learn, Engage

Adult Christian Formation

Fall 2019

An Offering from Episcopal Migration Ministries for the
Partners in Welcome Learning Community & Ministry Network



PARTNERS
in welcome

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Introduction

The start of a new academic year, even if you're not a student, can feel like a time to begin again. To start something new. To re-focus and center yourself.

For people of faith, it can also be a time to deepen your prayer life, learn something new, and engage in the work of social justice in new ways.

Fall 2019 *Pray, Learn, Engage* series invites individuals, study groups, congregations to join EMM's *Partners in Welcome*, learn from our online courses (Learning Modules), and participate in our growing online learning community and ministry network.

Kick-Off: The series begins with an optional Zoom webinar on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 4:00pm Eastern where you can meet the EMM *Partners in Welcome* team, get an overview of the program, and discern whether to participate as an individual or with a group. Register for the Kick-Off Meeting [here](#).¹

Pray, Learn, Engage: The curriculum is broken up into Four Sessions that can be covered over the course of 8 weeks. In each session, we pray, learn, and engage with one another.

The curriculum can be used at any time, so don't worry if Fall 2019 is not the right time for you or your congregation. Whenever the time is right, we welcome you to use this curriculum, individually or with a study group.

Debrief: The course concludes with an optional Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 4:00pm Eastern to discuss our learnings and experiences, and discern what our own individual - and possibly collective - next action steps might be. Register for the Debrief conversation [here](#).²

We look forward to praying, learning, and engaging with you this Fall 2019. In such a time as this, when immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are increasingly vilified, when policies dehumanize, and when the need is so great, it is so important to 1) center in prayer, 2) learn the facts, 3) engage and discern with one another, and most importantly - take action to support and welcome the sojourner as neighbor and friend.

¹ To register for the Kick-Off Zoom Meeting: <http://bit.ly/fall2019kickoff>

² To register for the Debrief Zoom Meeting: <http://bit.ly/fall2019debrief>

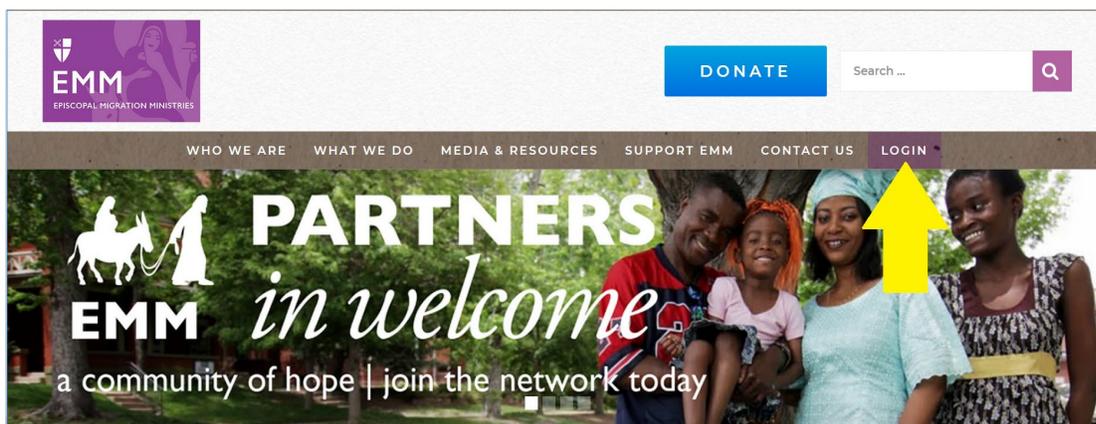
Getting Started

Thank you for deciding to go on the *Pray, Learn, Engage* journey with us. We look forward to learning together.

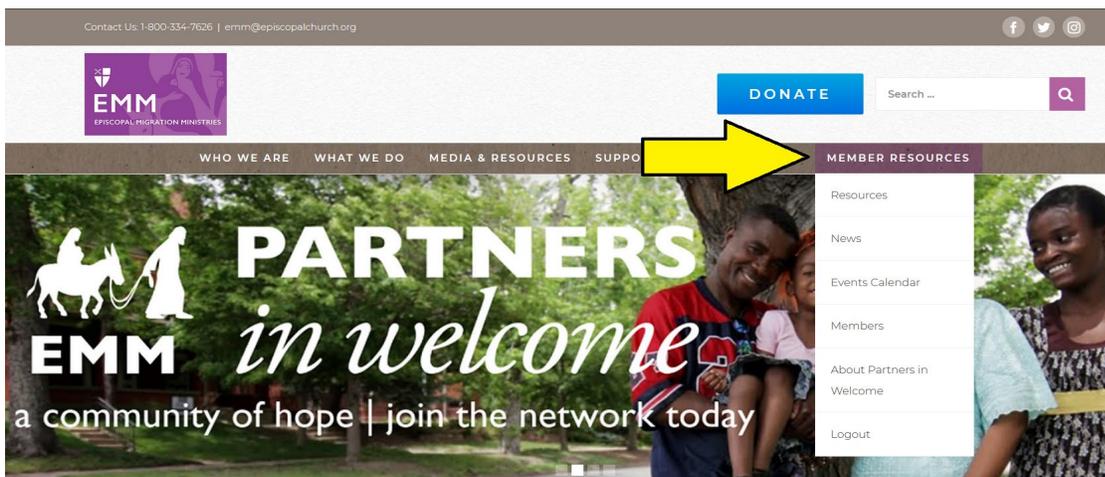
To use the *Pray, Learn, Engage* curriculum, the first thing to do is to join the *Partners in Welcome* community.

The process is simple.

1. **Join *Partners in Welcome*.** Visit www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/partnersinwelcome to apply³ to join the community. We will approve your application quickly!
2. **Login to the *Partners in Welcome* portal.** After your application is approved, [login](#) by clicking the “LOGIN” button on the menu of the EMM website.

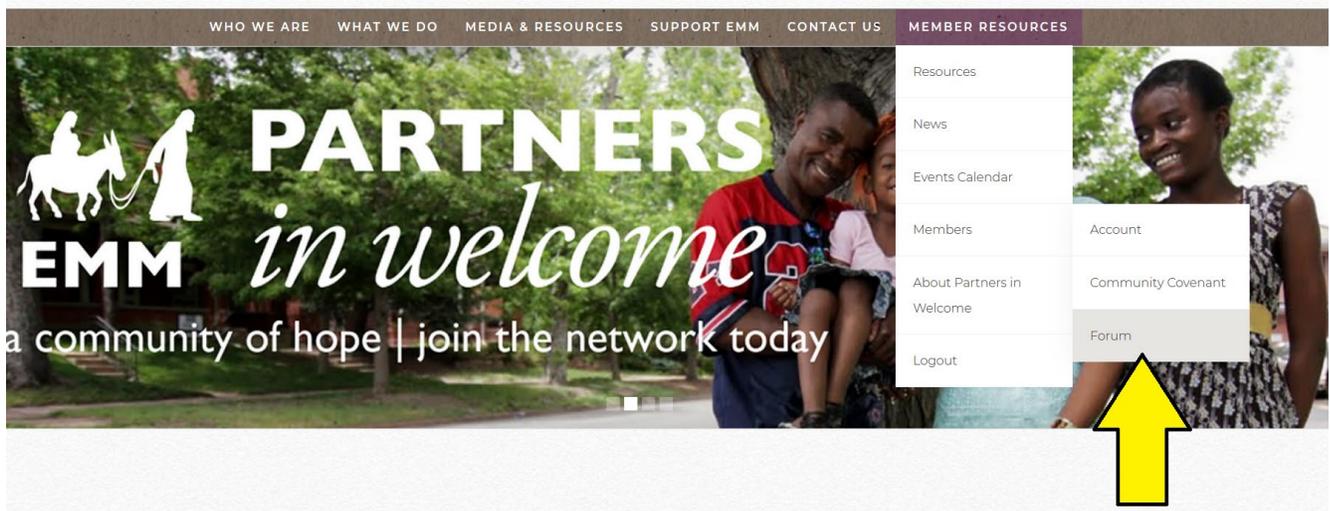
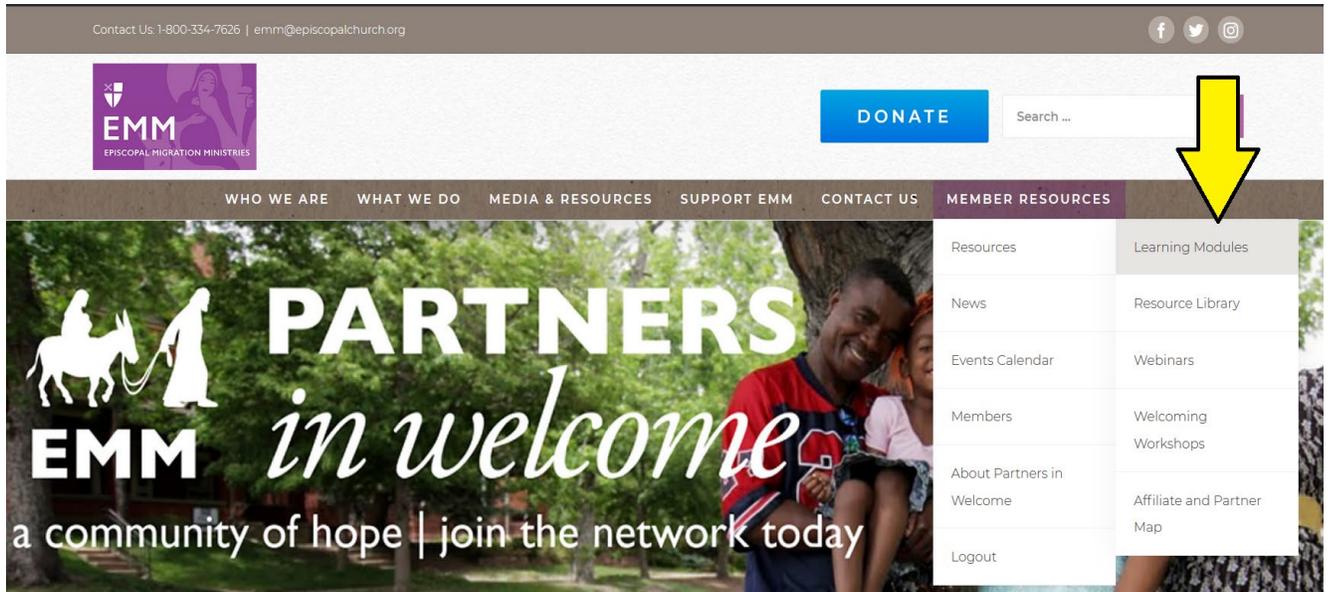


3. **Explore the Member Resources.** Once you are logged in, a new menu drop-down will appear, called “Member Resources.”



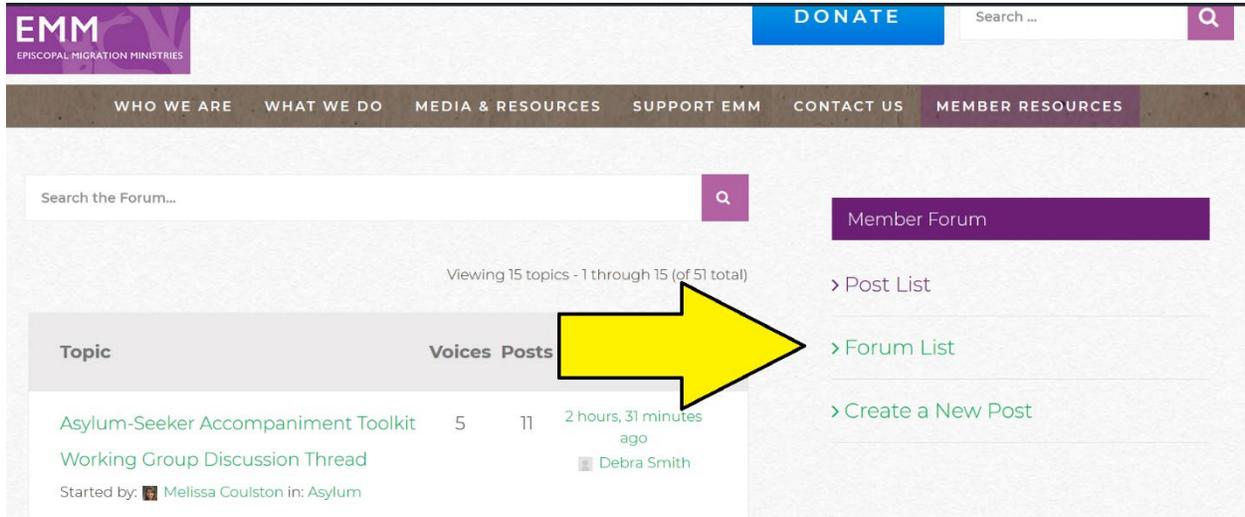
³ Why an application? We screen each application to ensure that individuals with negative intentions do not gain access to the *Partners in Welcome* portal.

4. **Find the Learning Modules and the Forum.** We encourage you to familiarize yourself with all areas under Member Resources. The primary areas you will use in the *Pray, Learn, Engage* course are Resources/Learning Modules and Members/Forum.



Finding the Relevant Discussions in the Forums

Once you click “Forum” on the drop-down menu and the Forum page opens, the default view will be “Post List.” On the right side of the page, click “Forum List” to view the various discussion forums, and then click “Learning Modules” to find the relevant discussion thread.



The screenshot shows the EMM (Episcopal Migration Ministries) website interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the EMM logo and a blue 'DONATE' button. Below this is a navigation bar with links: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, MEDIA & RESOURCES, SUPPORT EMM, CONTACT US, and MEMBER RESOURCES. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a search bar labeled 'Search the Forum...' and a 'Member Forum' section. A yellow arrow points to the 'Forum List' link in the right-hand menu. Below the menu is a table of forum topics.

Topic	Voices	Posts	
Asylum-Seeker Accompaniment Toolkit	5	11	2 hours, 31 minutes ago
Working Group Discussion Thread			Debra Smith
Started by: Melissa Coulston in: Asylum			

Troubleshooting & Guidance

Any questions? Please let us know! We’re here to help.

Contact us via www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/contact-us/.

REMEMBER: To access all the course materials for *Pray, Learn, Engage*, you must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* member account.

Overview

Pray, Learn, Engage is a curriculum for individuals or groups built around the Learning Modules that EMM developed for *Partners in Welcome* in late 2018 and early 2019. Annually in the fall, EMM will release *Pray, Learn, Engage* curricula using new and updated Learning Modules.

For the 2019 program, we recommend organizing your study into either four or eight sessions:

Session 1: By This They Will Know and EMM: A Heritage of Welcome

Two-session option:

Session 1: By This They Will Know

Session 2: EMM: A Heritage of Welcome

Session 2: Intro to EMM and Refugee Resettlement 101

Two-session option:

Session 3: Intro to EMM

Session 4: Refugee Resettlement 101

Session 3: Reframing the Narrative & Advocacy 101

Two-session option:

Session 5: Reframing the Narrative

Session 6: Advocacy 101

Session 4: Pathways to Protection & Next Steps

Two-session option:

Session 7: Pathways to Protection

Session 8: Next Steps

Structure

Each session is structured in the same way.

- Pray the Opening Prayer or another prayer
- Learn using the Learning Modules
- Engage in discussion with your fellow learners in a study group and on the *Partners in Welcome* forum

TIP: If you choose to break the material up into eight sessions, we encourage individual learners and group leaders to identify an Opening Prayer for the additional sessions.

Make the Most of *Pray, Learn, Engage*

To make the most of your *Pray, Learn, Engage* experience, we encourage you to engage with the EMM team and one another in the *PiW* Forum (<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/forum/learning-modules/>; hyperlinks also provided in each session). Share resources and articles, ask questions, and express your thoughts through reflections and prayers.

Session I: By This They Will Know and EMM: A Heritage of Welcome

Opening Prayer

For an Exile

When you dream, it is always home.
You are there among your own,
The rhythm of their voices rising like song
Your blood would sing through any dark.

Then you awake to find yourself listening
To the sounds of traffic in another land.
For a moment your whole body recoils
At the strange emptiness of where you are.

This country is cold to your voice.
It is still a place without echoes.
Nothing of yours has happened here.

No one knows you,
The language slows you,
The thick accent smothers your presence.

You sound foreign to yourself;
Their eyes reflect how strange you seem
When seen across a cold distance
That has no bridge to carry
The charisma in which your friends
Delight at home.

Though your work here is hard,
It brings relief, helps your mind
In returning to the small
Bounties of your absence.

Evening is without protection;
Your room waits,
Ready to take you
Back like some convict
Who is afraid
Of the life outside.

The things you brought from home
Look back at you; out of place here
They take on lonely power.

You cringe at the thought
That someone from home
Might see you now here,
In this unsheltered room.

Now is the time to hold faithful
To your dream, to understand
That this is an interim time
Full of awkward disconnection.

Gradually you will come to find
Your way to friends who will open
Doors into a new belonging.

Your heart will brighten
With new discovery,
Your presence will unclench
And find ease,
Letting your substance
And promise be seen.

Slowly, a new world will open for you.
The eyes of your heart, refined
By the desert time, will be free
To see and celebrate the new life
For which you sacrificed everything.

- John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

Session Description

In Session I, you will explore and reflect upon two Learning Modules: *By This They Will Know: A Community of Welcome and Hope* and *Episcopal Migration Ministries: A Heritage of Welcome*.

Learning Modules

[By This They Will Know: A Community of Welcome and Hope](#) provides an orientation to *Partners in Welcome*, and invites learners to reflect upon questions about what it means to follow Jesus in such a politically divisive time, how people of faith are called to respond to forced displacement, and how we can support and stand in solidarity with our refugee and immigrant brothers and sisters.

[Episcopal Migration Ministries: A Heritage of Welcome](#) provides an overview of EMM's history in relation to the history of U.S. immigration restrictionism, as well as how The Episcopal Church's ministry of welcome has responded to immigration and refugee admissions policy throughout the years.

Engage

During and after you view the Learning Modules, we invite you to reflect upon the following questions and engage with other learners in discussion in the Forum.

By This They Will Know [FORUM](#)⁴ and Discussion Questions:

Opening Questions

- (1) Jesus said, "By this they will know that you are my disciples, that you love one another." In such a politically divisive time, what does it mean to follow Jesus?
- (2) How are we, as people of faith, to respond to forced displacement?
- (3) How do we support and stand in solidarity with our refugee and immigrant brothers and sisters?

Next Steps Questions

- (1) What questions are you bringing with you, into Partners in Welcome?
- (2) How might you like to be involved/what gifts do you have to share?
- (3) What ideas are you interested in discussing? Any projects you might like to explore, in collaboration with others?
- (4) What is your prayer this day?

Episcopal Migration Ministries: A Heritage of Welcome [FORUM](#)⁵ and Discussion Questions

Opening Questions

- (1) As you were listening and learning during this presentation, what were you thinking and feeling? What surprised you? What did you learn that you didn't already know?
- (2) We hope this module has inspired you learn about your own community's, congregation's, and/or your own family's history of welcoming refugees. What is that story?

⁴ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the By This They Will Know Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/by-this-they-will-know-a-community-of-welcome-and-hope>

⁵ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the EMM: A Heritage of Welcome Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/emm-a-heritage-of-welcome/>

Session 2: Intro to EMM and Refugee Resettlement 101

Opening Prayer

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Session Description

In Session 2, you will explore and reflect upon two Learning Modules: *Introduction to Episcopal Migration Ministries* and *Refugee Resettlement 101*.

Learning Modules

[Introduction to Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) provides an overview of EMM's refugee resettlement work.

[Refugee Resettlement 101](#) provides a close examination of the process a refugee must go through to be resettled and how the United States' resettlement program operates.

Engage

During and after you view the Learning Modules, we invite you to reflect upon the following questions and engage with other learners in discussion in the Forum.

Introduction to Episcopal Migration Ministries [FORUM](#)⁶ and Discussion Questions:

Opening Questions

(1) What important activities are carried out through the programs that are discussed in the module? What needs are met?

(2) What activities aren't covered in these programs? What else might be needed to make a newcomer family feel welcome and connected?

⁶ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the Introduction to EMM Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/intro-to-episcopal-migration-ministries/>

- (3) What role can you, your congregation, or your community play in welcoming, in building relationships, and in the longer term process of integration? Or, what good work is already happening?
- (4) How do refugees and immigrants already meet some of your own needs in Maslow's hierarchy? How could deeper relationship with newcomers enrich your life, the life of your community, even more?
- (5) What gifts, skills, and assets are present in your congregation or community that could be offered in the work of welcome? What gifts, skills, and assets do your newest neighbors bring? How could these be brought together to build a stronger, healthier, more vibrant community?

Refugee Resettlement 101 [FORUM](#)⁷ and Discussion Questions

- (1) After you view the Learning Module, do a bit of internet research. What is the current state of the US Refugee Resettlement Program? What is the latest on resettlement policy from the federal government? What is the latest statement or information from EMM and the other resettlement agencies?
- (2) If refugee resettlement used to happen or is still ongoing in your area, what is the status? How can you help your local refugee resettlement organization?

⁷ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the Refugee Resettlement 101 Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/refugee-resettlement-101/>

Session 3: Reframing the Narrative & Advocacy 101

Opening Prayer

A Moment for Grace: A Prayer for Refugees

God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
“Will you let me in?”
Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us
with that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.
Amen.

-Catholic Relief Services

Session Description

In Session 3, you will explore and reflect upon two Learning Modules: *Messaging: Reframing the Narrative* and *Advocacy and The Episcopal Church*.

Learning Modules

[Messaging: Reframing the Narrative](#) provides messaging themes that work, how to write an op-ed and letter to the editor, and principles of telling your story.

[Advocacy and The Episcopal Church](#) provides an overview of the Office of Government Relations and how The Episcopal Church advocates at the federal level.

Engage

During and after you view the Learning Modules, we invite you to reflect upon the following questions and engage with other learners in discussion in the Forum.

Messaging: Reframing the Narrative [FORUM](#)⁸ and Discussion Questions:

- (1) How can you reframe the narrative?
- (2) What story do you have to tell?
- (3) Where and how do you tell it?

Advocacy and The Episcopal Church [FORUM](#)⁹ and Discussion Questions:

- (1) How do you see federal government policies impacting your family or congregation or community?
- (2) What are you engaged with in your congregation (and community) that it would be useful for elected officials to know?

⁸ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the Messaging: Reframing the Narrative Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/messaging-reframing-the-narrative/>

⁹ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the Advocacy and The Episcopal Church Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/advocacy-the-episcopal-church-the-office-of-government-relations/>

Session 4: Pathways to Protection & Next Steps

Opening Prayer

Prayer for courage

Courage comes from the heart
and we are always welcomed by God,
the Heart¹⁰ of all being.

We bear witness to our faith
knowing that we are called
to live lives of courage,
love and reconciliation
in the ordinary and extraordinary
moments of each day.

We bear witness, too, to our failures
and our complicity in the fractures of our world.

May we be courageous today.
May we learn today.
May we love today.
Amen.

Amen.

- Pádraig Ó Tuama, *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community*

Session Description

In Session 4, you will explore and reflect upon the Pathways to Protection Learning Module and begin to discern your next steps and possible actions.

Learning Module

[Pathways to Protection](#) examines the different pathways that are available to a person who seeks to enter the United States. You will learn the differences between the primary pathways to protection in the U.S., as well as how the pathways to protection have been changed and constricted in recent years, especially under the Trump administration.

¹⁰ In the original prayer, found in *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community*, Heart was *Croí* (pronounced 'Kree'), which means heart. *Croí* "is the name of the chapel space in Corrymeela."

Engage

During and after you view the Learning Module, we invite you to reflect upon the following questions and engage with other learners in discussion in the Forum.

Pathways to Protection [FORUM](#)¹¹ and Discussion Questions:

As you were listening and learning during this presentation, what were you thinking and feeling? What surprised you? What did you learn that you didn't already know?

Next Steps and Possible Actions [FORUM](#)¹²

This is our last session in the Fall 2019 *Pray, Learn, Engage* Series. Whether you've followed this series as an individual or with a group, we invite you now to reflect on the following questions through quiet introspection, group dialogue, and/or a writing exercise. We encourage you to share your written reflections in the Forum.

- Write your three main takeaways from the *Pray, Learn, Engage* Series. This could be things you learned, things that troubled or inspired you, or a theme that came up in your prayer life.
- What questions do you have now?
- What next steps are emerging for you - as an individual, or with your group?

Group Activity Suggestion

For each of the three questions above, provide participants with permanent markers and sticky notes and invite them to write their responses on the notes (one takeaway per note; one question per note; one next step per note, etc). Place large newsprint or poster-sized sticky notes on the walls in the room, labeled "Takeaways," "Questions," "Next Steps." Encourage participants to place their sticky notes on the posters, and then walk around and read other participants' responses for 5-10 minutes. Afterward, engage in conversation with one another about what you noticed, what surprised you, and discern together any future directions as a group.

EMM is here to support you

Episcopal Migration Ministries is here to support each person who participated in *Pray, Learn, Engage*, especially as you discern next steps and possible actions you may take.

EMM can support you by:

- Offering virtual or in-person presentations, workshops, and multi-day trainings on faith-based public policy advocacy, asset-based community development, positive messaging, supporting refugees and asylum seekers, and more
- Connecting you with volunteer opportunities in the interior and along the US southern border

¹¹ You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the Pathways to Protection Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/pathways-to-protection/>

¹² You must be logged in to your *Partners in Welcome* account to access the Next Steps & Possible Actions Discussion Forum: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/forum/topic/pray-learn-engage-next-steps-possible-actions/>

- Coaching and guidance for existing ministries and discernment around creation of new ministries
- More! Reach out to us and we'll be in touch: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/contact-us/>.

Pray, Learn, Engage Debrief Zoom Meeting

We invite you to gather with other *Pray, Learn, Engage* participants in our debrief Zoom meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 4-5:30pm Eastern Time. Register at <http://bit.ly/fall2019debrief>.

Conclusion

Thank you for being part of this Fall 2019 *Pray, Learn, Engage* series. We would love your feedback on this series so we may improve future offerings.

Participant evaluation: <http://bit.ly/fall2019evaluation>

We sincerely hope you will continue to engage with Episcopal Migration Ministries through the *Partners in Welcome* community (www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/partnersinwelcome). We are continually working with *Partners* members to create new content, organize virtual workshops, train EMM ambassadors, support local ministries, equip advocates for refugees and immigrants, and much, much more. If you have a question, an idea, a ministry model to share, let us know! Contact us via www.episcopalmigrationministries.org/contact-us/.