

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 6, 2018

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY AND EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN IRELAND

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The Rev. Andy Gans invites you to join him in Ireland for an inspiring journey into the Celtic roots of Christianity and the influence of this history on our own Presbyterian heritage. We will have an opportunity to visit sites of great historical and religious significance, learning more about the evangelization of Ireland and the institutions and practices that arose there. Ireland is a land of immense natural beauty. We have created a unique itinerary that weaves together visits to magnificent coastlines, ancient monastic sites, and medieval town centers. Local expert guides will help us make sense of both ancient and contemporary events – including efforts to foster peace and social justice between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. Throughout our program, we will be treated to Irish culture, food, storytelling and music. Our program includes visits to Dublin, Armagh, Londonderry/Derry, Giant's Causeway and the nearby Corymeela Center, Belfast and nearby Downpatrick, traditional burial site of St. Patrick. Come join us for this rich program!

Program Highlights

Fri Sep 28: Depart Houston for Dublin.

Sat Sep 29: Arrival Dublin. Meet the tour manager and transfer to the hotel in the city center. This afternoon, enjoy a walking orientation of the city center. Go on a guided visit to Trinity College and see the Book of Kells. Have a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Dublin.

Sun Sep 30: Breakfast. This morning, visit Monasterboice to see the high crosses and learn about early Christian monastic settlements and Celtic spirituality. Have a possible liturgy here or at a nearby church. Stop briefly at the Hill of Slane to learn about the legendary story of St. Patrick challenging the Druids here. Continue to Kells, where there is a round tower and several crosses in the ruins of the monastery that produced the Book of Kells. Depending on time or interest, visit nearby Loughcrew Cairns to see Neolithic passage graves, and several Castlekeeran to see some high crosses. Return to Dublin for the evening at leisure. Overnight Dublin.

Mon Oct 1: Breakfast. Travel to Armagh. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour of the town center, the two Cathedrals, and St. Patrick's Fold. Learn about the pre-Christian importance of this site and its later development as a center of Christian learning. Overnight Armagh.

Tues Oct 2: Breakfast. Travel to Londonderry/Derry. Stop first at the Navan Center and Fort, just outside of Armagh. This is an interesting Bronze Age site with a visitor center that explores much of the Celtic and Pre-Christian world. After arrival in Londonderry/Derry, go on a walking tour of the walled city section, as well as the Bloody Sunday monument - with an explanation of the history of this day. Enjoy dinner this evening at a restaurant or the hotel. Overnight Londonderry/Derry.

Wed Oct 3: Breakfast. Go on a scenic drive along the coast to see the Giant's Causeway and to visit the Corymeela Center. Continue to Belfast for overnight.

Thu Oct 4: Breakfast. Begin with a guided visit to Donegall Square, City Hall, Church

House (the head of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland), and St. Anne's Cathedral. Continue with visits that focus on Christians and Protestants, and the history of the Troubles, ceasefires, and the peace process. This afternoon, meet with the director and members of the Forthspring peace group, established as an interfaith community in 1996. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local pub with music. Overnight Belfast.

Fri Oct 5: Breakfast. Travel to Downpatrick and visit the Cathedral (the legendary burial place for St. Patrick, St. Colmcille, and St. Brigid). Depending on time or interest, take some free time to explore and get lunch independently. Continue with a visit to Saul – and the Church dedicated to St. Patrick's landing here, perhaps with liturgy. Afterwards, visit Struell Wells, a popular pilgrimage destination from the 1600s. Return to Belfast for a festive farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Belfast.

Sat Oct 6: Breakfast. Transfer to the airport for the return flight to Houston.

Inclusive Features

Roundtrip air from Houston to Dublin and Belfast to Houston, 7-nights accommodations in central 3-star superior hotels, breakfast daily, 4 dinners, a full time tour manager, guided visits with local experts per the itinerary, and local transportation via deluxe motorcoach

Travel Resource Center

Visit www.travelillum.com/trc/obk for details and registration information.

With questions please contact:

Rev. Andy Gans
andy@pinespc.org
713-467-2234

Complete Program Prices

Includes group airfare and airport transfers

\$4,165 per person based on double occupancy (includes \$575 estimated airline taxes, airport fees, security fees - which are subject to change)

\$525 supplement for single occupancy

Land Only Program Prices

Excludes all airfare and airport transfers

\$3,615 per person based on double occupancy

\$525 supplement for single occupancy

Please note: Single rooms for single use are limited to 10% of the total number of rooms reserved. Should additional single rooms be requested, hotels may impose a higher supplement for all single rooms of \$700. If you have selected double occupancy but no roommate is available due to uneven numbers or if your roommate should cancel you will be in a single room and responsible for the single room supplement.

All prices listed are discounted for payment by check. When paying with a credit card you will be charged the standard base price which is 5% higher.

All program prices are based on availability of services at the time registration material is received; currency exchange rates in effect February 7, 2018—and on 2018 land and air tariffs—and are subject to change. All services are provided subject to Illume's Conditions and Clauses.

The program prices will be reviewed before the invoices for the final payment are mailed, and will reflect the current prices.

Travel Protection

Illume suggests that you purchase travel insurance to help protect your trip and your investment from unexpected circumstances. Please read the Illume Conditions and Clauses attached to the Program Registration Application to review the charges that will apply in the event that you cancel your program participation. Illume offers you the option of purchasing a Group Deluxe Travel Protection Plan for your program. If you wish to purchase the plan, **the premium should be paid with your initial deposit on the same check.**

Travel Protection Rates

Group Deluxe

\$276 per person – double occupancy

\$319 per person – single occupancy

Group Deluxe – Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)*

\$414 per person - double

\$529.50 per person – single

*CFAR coverage is 75% of the nonrefundable trip cost. Trip cancellation must be 48 hours or more prior to scheduled departure. CFAR is not available to residents of New York State.

This Travel Protection Plan is provided by Travel Insured International. All questions concerning covered reasons for cancellation, coverage while traveling, benefits and filing claims can be best answered by calling Travel Insured. Travel Insured International's customer care phone number is **1-(844)-440-8113**.

To download the Plan Document, please visit the "Travel Protection" link on your program's Travel Resource Center.

Program Registration

Complete the Application and forward with your **\$800.00** deposit per person (and travel protection payment, if purchasing) by **April 2, 2018** to:

Rev. Andy Gans
Pines Presbyterian Church
12751 Kimberley Lane
Houston, TX 77024
andy@pinespc.org
713-467-2234

Registrations will be accepted after April 2 on a space-available basis. Additional costs may apply. Contact Illume for pricing and availability after April 2.

Checks should be made payable to Illume.

A second non-refundable deposit of **\$1800** per person due not later than: **May 15, 2018**

Balance of payment due not later than: **June 30, 2018**

Note: Any changes to the program will be outlined in the final documents which you will receive one month prior to departure. If changes are made that affect the program price, you will receive an invoice or a credit accordingly.

Program No. 18.10475