



## Institutional Advancement: Promoting the Mission of Schools of Theology

Academic leaders are increasingly discovering the power of travel to places of great historical and religious significance as a way to advance the mission and work of schools of theology and seminaries. Bringing trustees, administrators, alumni and benefactors on international seminars builds bonds of collaboration and shared stewardship, inspires passion for the work and vitality of institutions, and creates opportunities to showcase faculty and programs with scholars-on-tour. Participants return home with a new sense of the relevance of the school for theological and pastoral training and a passion to support its programs and stature.

### Program Objectives

#### Building Relationships in Unique Settings

Overseas seminars, meetings and study tours create new bonds of collaboration and collegiality as leaders travel together and learn about the work and importance of their institution in unique and inspiring settings. Participants are often more relaxed and bring new insights and creativity to institutional planning and advancement. Travel to places where important change occurred in the history of the church inspires participants to foster ongoing change in their institutions to respond to the pastoral and theological needs of our age.

#### Showcasing Academic Scholars and Programs

International programs are a great opportunity to bring trustees and benefactors together with scholars to showcase their expertise and to see the value of new academic programs and initiatives. These programs can serve as continuing education programs for local clergy who, in turn, become supporters of the school and mentors for students.

#### Advancing the Institution with Benefactors

Invite alumni and friends of the institution to travel with scholars and trustees to learn more about the needs of the institution and inspire support. Reward those who have supported the institution and create new levels of support amongst prominent alumni.

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant— to become citizens of the world, *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life*. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery and exploration of cultures outside their own.

### Venues

#### The Holy Land

Programs to the Holy Land have particular relevance to schools of theology as trustees, leaders and alumni explore the people, places and events of the scriptures. Showcase scripture scholars, archaeologists and interfaith specialists in settings where their discipline comes to life.

#### Early Christian Venues

Explore the life and times of the first generations of Christians in Asia Minor (Turkey), Greece, Rome and other locations. Incorporate trustee or administration meetings in historical settings with on-site presentations by scholars-on-tour. Foster intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Create programs that integrate art, architecture, scripture, history, and other disciplines in settings that invite cross-disciplinary dialogue.

#### Medieval and Reformation Sites

Many schools of theology trace their heritage to formative events, movements, orders and people of medieval and Reformation times. International seminars and study tours underscore the connection between these events and the work and mission of the schools of theology.

#### Contemporary Cultural and Religious Sites

Some schools of theology have a strong missionary and/or intercultural focus. Illume collaborates with institutional leaders to create programs that foster greater awareness of how religion and spirituality are contextualized and how theological and pastoral education must take these contexts into consideration.

**Illume works with group leaders to create customized and unique programs with activities, visits and resources that support your vision and objectives. Call us to begin planning a program tailored to your constituency.**