

# Engage Difference! Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry

## March 20-24, 2023: Paris Ontario

### Program Logistics

#### COVID Health Precautions

The 5-day program includes the building of a learning community in which we care for, support, and provide a safer space for each other. This includes a commitment to each others physical well being. Toward that:

- Participants will be asked to do a rapid COVID test on arrival and the third day of the program. Additional tests will be available if needed.
- We recommend participants wear masks covering mouth and nose when possible. Masks will be provided.
- There will be mechanical hepa air filters in the meeting space.
- Any person experiencing COVID type symptoms are asked to excuse themselves from the program.
- There will be a no questions asked full refund of program fees for participants withdrawing due to a positive COVID test for COVID symptoms.

As COVID-19 circulation in the community changes these guidelines will be reassessed closer to the program dates.

#### Travel to the Program Site

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the program site.

**Directions:** The Program will be held at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Center, 1 Bethel Road, Paris, ON. N3L 3E3 <https://goo.gl/maps/4soJtyPU3N1cB2o86> Please see the map and directions on the Five Oaks website: <https://fiveoaks.on.ca/directions/>

**Car-pooling:** Prior to the program participants will be connected to each other to organize their own car-pooling.

**Brant Transit:** operates a shared ride program. They have fleet of vans where rides can be booked in advanced. Groups can also be booked. This option will deliver people right to Five Oaks. Information at: <https://www.brant.ca/en/roads-parking-and-transit/transit.aspx>

**Brant Taxi:** <https://branttaxi.com/#rates>

**GO Transit** – From Toronto or London or Waterloo to Brantford: <https://www.gotransit.com/en/>

**Flixbus** – Economy bus transport from London to Brantford, also Hamilton and Toronto: <https://www.flixbus.ca/>

**Vial Rail** – London, Ottawa, Toronto.... To Brantford: <https://www.viarail.ca/en>

**Air:** Hamilton International Airport (YHM) is 35 kms (30 minute drive) away and Toronto Pearson Airport (YYZ) is 115 kms (typically between 1 hour 15 minutes to 2 hours drive depending on traffic)

## **Accommodation and Meals**

**Accommodation:** Each person will have their own private simply furnished room with twin sized beds and shared washrooms. Bedding is provided. There is free Wi-Fi in the Main Building. If you and another person wish to share a room (there are two beds in each room) please contact the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning prior to the program. There will be a reduction in program fees for shared accommodation.

**Additional Accommodation:** A room can be booked for the night of Sunday March 19 including breakfast Monday morning for a fee of \$99. Click this option when registering or contact the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning prior to the program to book.

**Meals:** Monday lunch through Friday lunch and mid-morning and afternoon coffee/snacks are all included in program fees. Meals are “family style” in the dining hall. There may be a meal off-site as part of a program excursion.

Please indicate any food requests or allergies when registering. We will consult with Five Oaks, and if needed with you, to ensure your food needs are met.

**Meeting Space:** Most of our program time will be spent together in a large meeting hall with more casual time in a common fire-side room. Five Oaks also offers a beautiful outdoor setting which, depending on weather, we will use for some program activities. During the limited free time you will also have access to the outdoor space at Five Oaks.

## **Program and Preparation**

Plan to gather by 9:00 am on Monday to settle in for a 9:30 start. Sessions will begin at 9:00 am each day. There will be two evening program sessions and two optional evening activities. The program will end by 4:30 pm on Friday. The week will be intense and full, but the activities will be varied to accommodate a variety of learning styles.

It is important to set aside the time for the program. Except for emergencies it is best to arrange for time away from home or work commitments during the scheduled program time. For your learning and that of all the participants please plan to be at all sessions.

Prior to the program, participants will be asked to look over a draft program itinerary. The program is designed so that you will learn from each other and be able to apply the content to your ministry setting. As you look at this outline of the content, consider:

- What piques my interest? What sessions am I most looking forward to?
- What questions might I bring to each session?
- What resources do I have for this content that I could bring to share?
- How does this content look in my context or ministry setting?

**Pre-program reading:** Participants in the DUIM program often ask if there is reading they should do before the program. There is no assigned pre-program reading as the primary document will be you, your experience and your context. During the program you will be introduced to documents and activities you may want to look at after the program.

**The most important preparation is to bring your 'self', your experiences, and your willingness to engage and learn.**

## **What to Bring**

Please dress comfortably and informally.

As the area around Five Oaks might be muddy in March please plan to have separate footwear for inside (can be socks) and outside. Pack comfortable walking shoes for outside activities.

Please also dress for the weather. Depending on the weather that week, our sessions will be both indoors and outdoors and during break time you may wish to spend time on the grounds and trails of Five Oaks. Southern Ontario weather in March is unpredictable. Typically, temperatures are between -5 and + 5 Celsius but can swing between colder and warmer as well as between sunny, rainy, or snowy.

Bring pens, notebook, and a Bible. You will also be given a participant's binder which will include outlines of the content and space to write notes.

Bath and shower rooms are shared so you will want to have presentable night clothes and shower shoes. Bedding and towels are provided. You will need to bring your own toiletries.