

## **Westminster Presbyterian Civil Rights Road Trip April 14 – April 18, 2025 (Holy Week)**

This five-day trip will be an unforgettable experience—a journey through the heart of the Civil Rights Movement that will open your eyes to racism in our country and challenge you to be more aware of racial inequities that persist in our city, our state and our nation.

The package includes:

- Travel in a comfortable charter bus that includes reclining seats, DVD monitors, Bluetooth stereo, air conditioning
- A 4-night hotel stay including continental breakfasts
- Dinner reservations for meals by local chefs (meal cost not included)
- Paid admission to six historic sites

**Double Occupancy: \$1190 per person      Single Occupancy: \$1470 per person**

- \$595 deposit 12/18/24
- \$595 final payment due 1/17/25
- \$735 deposit due 12/18/24
- \$735 final payment due 1/17/25

### Monday, April 14: Grand Rapids to Birmingham

Depart WPC 7:30 am; stop in **Nashville** for dinner; arrive **Birmingham** 8:00 pm CDT. Check in at *Hampton Inn & Suites, Downtown Tutwiler*.

### Tuesday, April 15: Birmingham to Selma and Montgomery

In Birmingham, walk through **Kelly Ingram Park** featuring powerful sculptures and monuments commemorating the pivotal role Birmingham played in the Civil Rights Movement. See the **16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church** and visit the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute** with exhibits of the segregated city of the 1950s, a replica of a Freedom Riders bus, and the jail cell where Dr. Martin Luther King penned his famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail.”

In Selma, visit **Historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church**, the starting point for three marches to Montgomery that began on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, and ended on March 24, when marchers finally reached the capitol in Montgomery. Walk across the **Edmund Pettus Bridge**, where peaceful protestors were confronted by law enforcement and driven back on their first and second attempts to make the 54-mile journey on foot.

Check in for two nights at *Double Tree Montgomery Downtown*.



### Wednesday, April 16: Montgomery

Visit two powerful sites with immersive experiences created by the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit that aims to end mass incarceration and racial injustice. In the words of its founder, Bryan Stevenson, *“We all need to be willing to step up, to be proximate with injustice and to put ourselves in uncomfortable situations if we want to make a difference.”* Spend the morning at the **Legacy Museum**, which traces 400 years of American history from enslavement, to racial terrorism, segregation and mass incarceration. After lunch at **Pannie George’s Kitchen** visit the **National Memorial for Peace and Justice**, a six-acre outdoor site dedicated to the victims of racial terror lynchings.



### Thursday, April 17: Montgomery to Memphis

Take a 15-minute boat ride along the Alabama River to reach **Freedom Monument Sculpture Park**, EJI’s newest site exploring the lives of enslaved people in America. The sculptures were commissioned by internationally known artists to animate an incredible journey and symbolize the resilience and determination of those who fought for equality and justice.

Check in to *Hyatt Place Memphis/Wolfchase Galleria*

### Friday, April 18: Memphis to Grand Rapids

See the **Mason Temple Church**, where Dr. Martin Luther King preached his famous “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech on April 3, 1968, the night before he was assassinated. Visit the **National Civil Rights Museum**, located in the Lorraine Motel, which includes exhibits that trace civil rights from the early days of slavery to replicas of the rooms where Dr. King spent his last night.

Depart Memphis at 1:00 pm; box dinner on the bus; return to Grand Rapids, 12:00 am

Reservations must be made by December 14, 2024.

Questions? Contact Susan Jennings at [susanj@wpcgr.org](mailto:susanj@wpcgr.org) or (616) 717-5542.