WHAT IS THE COTHRAN CENTER?

• The Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection encourages students to reflect upon their lives, particularly their “calling,” and offers programs and resources to support that reflection.

• We initiate opportunities for thoughtful and open dialogue as we explore these 3 essential life questions:
  • Who am I – most authentically?
  • What do I believe – most deeply?
  • What does the world need – from me?
WHAT IS FOCUS?

- **FOCUS** (*Finding Our Challenges. Understanding Service.*) is a travel program that occurs over spring break. In years past, groups have traveled to Cuba, Mexico, and New York City.

- This program is designed for *sophomores* at Furman.

- The “focus” is on *vocational exploration and reflection*. While visiting Northern Ireland, students hear stories from those involved in justice and reconciliation efforts in the area, visit cities and communities, and participate in personal and group vocational reflection sessions and discussions.
WHY NORTHERN IRELAND?

• The topic of historic conflict in Northern Ireland and ongoing peace, understanding, and reconciliation efforts provide a great point of study for our program.

• We have a connection and partnership with The Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle, a center that emerged from the work of reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland. This will be our seventh FOCUS program at Corrymeela.
ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND

- Population of almost 2 million
- Part of the United Kingdom (U.K.)
- Shares the island with the Republic of Ireland. It was partitioned from Ireland in 1921.

History of Conflict in Northern Ireland
- Protestant and Catholic communities
- Unionists/Loyalists and Nationalists/Republicans
- Intertwined conflict amongst these and other communities

- The Good Friday Agreement (1998) brought greater freedom and hope for the area in regard to relationships between the sides.
THE CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY
MISSION OF THE COMMUNITY

Corrymeela's mission is: embracing difference, healing division and enabling reconciliation. Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable society based on social justice, positive relationships and respect for diversity. The Corrymeela Community strives to embody these values in every aspect of our lives.
A VIDEO INTRODUCTION

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7rKlzuC8Ou
WHAT WILL WE DO IN NORTHERN IRELAND?

• Participate in sessions on topics such as team building, identity, conflict resolution, understanding differences, artistic expression, etc.
• Learn about the work of The Corrymeela Community
• Listen to stories from those involved in peace and reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland
• Set aside time to reflect, both individually and in community
• Share in community through optional worship experiences and opportunities to engage with others at meal times
• Join in guided visits to cities like Belfast and London Derry
• Visit cultural and tourist sites, such as Giant’s Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, *Game of Thrones* sites, etc.
WE WILL NOT . . .

- Spend time as volunteers, doing hands-on work, with organizations/charities
- Be on a “mission trip”
- Be on vacation, with tons of “free time”
- Spend time attached to our digital devices (i.e., mobile phones, laptops, tablets)
- Receive academic credit for the program
- Consider group activities and day travel optional (we participate in the entire program)
PHOTOS FROM FOCUS

A LOOK AT THE ADVENTURE
APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

http://www2.furman.edu/academics/center-for-vocational-reflection/Our-Student-Programs/Pages/FOCUS.aspx
APPLICATION PROCESS

• Completed application, including personal statement, video, or artistic piece AND recommendation letters, must be submitted by Wednesday, October 16th at 5:00 pm.

• Group Interviews will take place between October 21st - November 8th.

• Notification of participation in the program on or before Friday, November 15th.

• Notify the Center of your participation by Friday, November 22nd.

• Required orientation and debriefing sessions for participants will be (almost) every other Monday in December 2019-March 2020 (+ Furman Engaged in April).
FOCUS PROGRAM STRUCTURE

• Orientation Sessions (December-March)
  • Get to know one another
  • History and Topics for Program Preparation
  • Vocational Reflection Guidance
  • Logistics for Travel
• Travel Program (March)
  • In Northern Ireland (UK)
• Debriefing Sessions
  • Group Reflection & Conversation
  • Exit Interviews
• Furman Engaged Presentation
  • Tuesday, April 7th
PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

WHAT DO PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS SAY?
QUESTIONS?

ASK QUESTIONS NOW...OR CONTACT US LATER!