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, New York City, & Northern Ireland.

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

• The “focus” is on **vocational exploration and reflection**.

• The program is sponsored by the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection at Furman University.
NORTHERN IRELAND

THE CONTEXT
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 with The Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle, a center that emerged from the work of Christian reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland. This will be our sixth FOCUS program at Corrymeela.

• The Cothran Center, and Furman, have connections in Ireland and the United Kingdom through previous programs and partnerships.
ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND

• Part of the United Kingdom (U.K.)

• Shares the Island of Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. It was partitioned in 1921 from Ireland.

• History of Conflict in Northern Ireland
  • Catholic and Protestant Christian 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.

• Population of almost 2 million
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 management, 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 presence and story
- **Join** in guided visits to cities like Belfast and LondonDerry
- **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?
APPLICATION PROCESS

• Completed application, including statement, video, or artistic piece AND reference letters, must be submitted by Tuesday, October 23rd.

• Group Interviews will take place between October 29th- November 9th.

• Notification of participation in the program on or before Tuesday, November 20th.

• Notify the Center of your participation by Monday, November 26th.

• Required orientation sessions for participants will be (almost) every other Monday in December 2018-March 2019 (+ Furman Engaged in April).
PROGRAM STRUCTURE

IT’S MORE THAN JUST A TRIP 😊
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) & Ireland*
• Debriefing Session
  • Group Reflection & Conversation
  • Exit Interviews
• Furman Engaged Presentation
  • Tuesday, April 9th
PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

WHAT DO PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS SAY?
QUESTIONS?

ASK QUESTIONS NOW...OR CONTACT US LATER!