

# **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

## ***For the Pilgrimage to the Site of Sand Creek Massacre***

**June 20, 2014**

### **Rocky Mountain Annual Conference**

*June 20 will be an all-day Pilgrimage to the Sand Creek National Historic Site in Eads, Colorado, in the company of Arapaho and Cheyenne descendants of the Massacre, followed by a community meal in the evening at the Pueblo Convention Center.*

As we embark on this journey of healing, we want to provide information on the most frequently asked questions.

#### **1. Why are we having this Pilgrimage?**

We are going to the site of the Sand Creek Massacre because God is at work there and has invited us to be part of the work.

150 years ago Cheyenne and Arapaho people died in a bloody massacre at the hands of cavalry troops led by a Methodist minister. Native people know this history. Methodist people do not.

We are taking this pilgrimage because descendants of the survivors of the massacre have invited us to learn our shared history, to understand the Church's role in westward expansion that benefitted settlers at the expense of indigenous peoples. And to join them in healing the generational and cultural wounds caused by the Massacre.

#### **2. What is the agenda for the day? (Please click here to see the schedule)**

1. How long will the bus ride take?
  - a. Bus ride from Pueblo Convention Center to Sand Creek: 3 hours
  - b. Bus ride from Pueblo Convention Center to Eads: 2 hours
  - c. Bus ride from Sand Creek to Eads: 1 hour
2. At the site: 1 ½ -2 hours
3. At the Eads community center: 1 ½ hours

#### **3. Are bathrooms provided on the charter buses?**

Yes. However, there are no bathrooms on the buses that are accessible for those with disabilities.

#### **4. What arrangements will there be for lunch?**

Box lunch, water and snacks will be provided on the bus.

#### **5. What will happen at the Site?**

It is going to be a time of spiritual reflection.

## **6. What facilities are provided at the site?**

### **1. Are bathrooms provided at the site?**

Yes, There are 4 toilets available. We will add 4 more for our pilgrimage.

### **2. Is potable water available at the site?**

Yes, a drinking fountain and drinkable tap water are available inside the ranger station.

### **3. Can I smoke at the site?**

Smoking is allowed only in designated smoking areas due to extreme fire hazards.

## **7. What type of clothing and footwear should we have while visiting the park?**

Park staff strongly encourage wearing sturdy leather boots or shoes, full length pants, head coverings, and weather resistant outer garments.

## **8. Is it appropriate to wear shorts?**

No, long pants or modest skirts are more fitting to the solemn purpose of the pilgrimage.

\*\*\* The NPS website states:

Weather conditions at the park vary considerably. Temperatures range from over 100°F in summer to under 20°F in winter. Visitors can expect blowing dust and sand year-round, especially during infrequent storms. Some of these storms produce violent tornadoes or large blizzards, so prepare accordingly. Visitors often state that sunscreen, bug spray, windbreakers, and sunglasses make the park more comfortable.

<http://www.nps.gov/sand/planyourvisit/things2know.htm>.

## **9. Can persons other than annual conference delegates participate in the Pilgrimage to Sand Creek?**

Yes. In order for non-delegates to participate, they need to register as a guest. Please register at the following website.

<http://rmcumc.org/new/component/content/article/104-2014/414-registration.html>

If you are registered as a guest and only come to the pilgrimage, please meet at the Pueblo Convention Center where the buses depart. The departure time is listed on the Annual Conference block schedule. The Acts of Repentance and Healing involves the pilgrimage to Sand Creek and All Conference Meal (Community Meal) The bus departs at 7:00 am on June 20th and returns between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm. The Community Meal starts at 6:30 pm as posted on the schedule and will continue through 9:00 pm.

## **10. Are there informational materials available for distribution?**

Yes. The information flyer is posted on the 2014 Annual Conference website. To download, please click:

[http://rmcumc.org/new/images/stories/annual\\_conference\\_sessions/2014/pilgrimage/finalbrochure02272014.pdf](http://rmcumc.org/new/images/stories/annual_conference_sessions/2014/pilgrimage/finalbrochure02272014.pdf)

## **11. Will there be educational sessions?**

### **1. Pre-Conference education**

- 1) Bishop Elaine has a blog on Sand Creek.
  1. <http://www.mountainskyumc.org/sand-creek-massacre-journey.html>
  - 2) Also, we are posting reflections, letters and documents on this subject on the AC website. Please check:
    2. <http://rmcumc.org/new/component/content/article/104-2014/421-pilgrimage.html>

### **2. Education at the Annual Conference**

June 20 will be an all-day Pilgrimage to the Sand Creek National Historic Site in Eads, Colorado, in the company of Arapaho and Cheyenne descendants of the Massacre, followed by an honoring meal in the evening. (See the attached information brochure.) Education about the Massacre and preparation for the Pilgrimage will occur on the opening day of the Conference, June 19.

## **12. I have accessibility needs, can I still participate?**

We are trying to make it possible or as many people to participate as possible. We have 2 charter buses that are accessible for those with disabilities. If you need special accommodation please call Youngsook Kang at 303-389-9466 well in advance to determine whether this is an appropriate activity for you.

## **13. Would someone be permitted to join the Pilgrimage if they drove themselves to the Sand Creek Site?**

We strongly encourage people to register as a guest and ride the bus unless they have health issues that prevent them from riding the bus. This historic pilgrimage is designed to be a community act of healing. As stated above education on the bus in the company of Sand Creek descendants is a critical part of the pilgrimage. There will be very limited parking space for individual cars in addition to charter buses at the Sand Creek Site.

If you drive your own vehicle for health reasons, please contact us at [Youngsook@rmcumc.com](mailto:Youngsook@rmcumc.com) so that we are made aware that you are driving yourselves. Also, if you drive your own car, please park your car in the lower parking lot by the Ranger Station.

## **14. Is there going to be childcare provided on the day of Pilgrimage?**

Yes, childcare will be provided at the Pueblo Convention Center. In case of emergency, there will be cars available to take parents back to the Convention Center.

**Other Information:**

A schedule for Annual Conference can be found here:

<http://www.rmcumc.org/new/component/content/article/104-2014/420-schedule.html>

All other Annual Conference information can be found here: [www.rmcumc.org/ac14](http://www.rmcumc.org/ac14)

If you have any further questions, please contact Youngsook Kang at [Youngsook@RMCUMC.com](mailto:Youngsook@RMCUMC.com) or 303-389-9466.

April 10, 2014