



PowerPoint presentation and script prepared by Rev. & S.K. Duane A. Kemerley

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Pilgrim Ministers visiting The Lodge of the Holy City No. 4 in Jerusalem





KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

An investment
in Christian Ministry



It all began in 1972 with a visionary initiative set in motion by Detroit Commandery No. 1 and Damascus Commandery No. 2. This is a program designed to enhance Christian Ministry by sending Christian ministers on a study pilgrimage in the Holy Land. Since 1972, over 2,500 ministers have benefited from this educational and spiritual formation opportunity.

Our Mission: To send Credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical / cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise.



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By Credentialed we mean ministers or pastors that are Ordained, Certified, Licensed or have some sort of Clergy credential from their Denomination, Ministerial Board, or local church.



PURPOSE: To strengthen Christian ministry by providing an intensive travel and study program for credentialed ministers in the form of a study pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our experience tells us how much the opportunity to 'walk where Jesus walked' can positively affect the preaching, teaching, and spirituality of Christian ministers. It is our plan to immerse the Pilgrim ministers in the land, the sights, the sounds, the history, and the cultures of the Holy Land, past and present.



Please note that this program is for ministers who might not otherwise have this opportunity. Any minister who has previously traveled to the Holy Land would not meet this criterion. The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is intended for **first time pilgrims**, those who have not been to the Holy Land before. This pilgrimage is an 11-day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days. We average 5 – 7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces. Make sure your pilgrims are physically capable of fully participating in this trip.



The cost does vary some from year to year. The cost for the upcoming pilgrimage is sent out each April for the ministers' pilgrimage that will travel the following February. The amount due with registration covers the traveling ministers from JFK Airport in New York to Tel Aviv, Israel. This includes three meals daily, entrance fees, standard tipping, and travel insurance. (Also included: fuel surcharge and the airport tax.) **This fee does not include domestic flights from your area to JFK Airport (which are the responsibility of either your Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund or The Sponsoring Commandery).** Each state is encouraged to make their domestic flight arrangements with Gate 1 Travel to coordinate flight schedules.



Rev. Kenneth Blyth, 2019 Pilgrim Minister

One of the first things Ezra, our awesome guide, told us was this: “You are pastors, and you know the Bible; I’ll help you see the Bible in 3-D!” And he was true to his word. No longer were towns, cities and regions only names on a page; they were hills, valleys, rivers, synagogues, altars, streets, wells, gates, aqueducts, and markets that I could see with my own eyes, and can now picture in my mind and heart for the rest of my life. In this way, the pilgrimage enriched every aspect of my ministry and faith life, from prayer to Bible study; from preaching to teaching. You could say that walking in the footsteps of Jesus has helped me walk in the presence of Jesus.



Each Grand Recorder and State Pilgrimage Chairman receives a copy of the **Nomination Form** to be filled out for each pilgrim minister you select. (It would be useful for you to use this form for all ministers nominated in your state.) Also included in this mailing are the **Guidelines for Selection of Ministers, and a Certification form.** When you submit the materials for your pilgrim ministers, you will need to include three items: #1 Certification Form (signed by the Grand Recorder and the State Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman), #2 the Nomination Form (filled out completely by the pilgrim minister), and #3 the full fee (check made out to **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, INC**). **All of these items are due by September 30 every year.** We cannot guarantee there will be space available for those states who submit materials after the September 30 due date.



Each participating Grand Commandery should keep these items in mind:

- It is understood that fees may not be transferable, so that if your pilgrim does not travel at the reserved time, the sponsoring Grand Commandery may lose any money already spent on travel reservations and arrangements or there may be additional fees.
- It is understood that the pilgrim minister has cleared travel on this Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage with their denomination and local congregation or employer.
- It is understood that the pilgrim minister and the local congregation served by the pilgrim minister have made necessary contingency plans so that participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage will not be impeded.
- In certifying this individual for participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage we attest that they are fully informed of the necessary time and physical fitness requirements of this program.



No Applications Accepted

The Grand Encampment Committee does not accept applications for the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage from individual ministers or the general public. Local Commanderies of Knights Templar (affiliated with the Masonic Fraternity) select Christian ministers from their area to Nominate for the program. These Nominations may be processed locally and then submitted to the state committee on the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Ministers who may wish to be considered can express their interest in the program to members of the Masonic fraternity in their congregation or area and have them help you make contact with the nearest Commandery of Knights Templar. They can share with them their willingness to be nominated for the program. The decision whether or not to proceed with the nomination process is in the hands of the local Commandery of Knights Templar.



Rev. Matthew Randolph, 2018 Pilgrim Minister

When I was selected to go on the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, I saw it as an incredible gift. It was always a dream of mine to be able to go to the Holy Land. However, it was never the right time to go, either because of being a young father or never really having the means to go. So, the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage was a dream come true for me. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that has left a lasting mark on my life and ministry. Better understanding the biblical landscape has helped me to better understand the Bible itself, thus helping me to continually illumine the scriptures to my parishioners in new ways. I am ever grateful for the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage for their ministry to the universal church. I pray that the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage will continue to touch the lives and ministries of other ministers for years to come.



THE ANNUAL PROCESS

Local Commanderies of Knights Templar submit applications from local ministers of their choosing for the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage to the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage of the Grand Commandery of their state (from this point on listed as the State Committee).

Donations are received from local commanderies, divisions, auxiliary groups and others by the State Committee of the Grand Commandery and may be pooled to provide funding for the upcoming pilgrimage.

The State Committee reviews the applications and selects the number of ministers they will be sending based on the available funds, using the criteria listed in 'Guidelines for Selection of Ministers'.

Some local Commanderies or others choose to fully sponsor a minister and pay the entire fee. In the case of 100% sponsorship, the Commandery or Division often selects the minister for full sponsorship. The 100% sponsored ministers are expected to meet the spirit of the qualifications listed in 'Guidelines for Selection of Ministers'.

The list of those ministers selected from the application pool and the 100% sponsorships for each state are forwarded to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America who oversees the actual travel arrangements. Necessary documents include the Registration form signed by the Grand Recorder and State Pilgrimage Chairman, a copy of the completed Nomination Form, and the full payment for the program.

While some State Committees may follow other procedures, they still follow the process of sending the Application/Nomination Form, Pilgrim Certification Form and full payment for each of their Pilgrim ministers to the Grand Encampment Chairman of the Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage by the due date of September 30 each year.



Rev. Nathan Minnich, 2013 Pilgrim Minister

It was an immense joy to receive word from the commander of Harrisburg Commandery that I was chosen to travel to the Holy Land in 2013. That joy turned into humbling amazement, with wonderful clergy (some that became good friendships to this day), and the very capable leadership guiding our journey. I really did not think that much of anything could top that experience, except to have Duane ask me to train and become a host! Experiencing the magnificence of the Holy Land is a great joy each time, with newness around every corner, but greater still is to see the first-time reactions of those who travel with us. It is certainly an honor to have been chosen as a pilgrim minister, but more so to work for the cause as a host, and help to continue this great endeavor. If only every Christian minister could walk where Jesus walked!

-The Rev. Dr. Nathan Corl Minnich is a Past Commander of Pilgrim Commandery No. 11 and is serving as the Associate Grand Prelate for Pennsylvania.



The Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is intended to be an investment in current and active ministry. To help in achieving that, the following guidelines are recommended for the selection ministers to be nominated, selected, or sponsored.

THESE ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MINISTERS

The following are the selection criteria suggested for use in choosing ministers for the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. Please carefully consider these guidelines before inviting ministers to apply.

Ministers to be considered should:

- Have **never traveled to the Holy Land** before.
- Be in **good physical health** (if the idea of walking a brisk mile or more – uphill, non-stop, with steps - is a concern, this may not be the program from which this person would benefit). This is a physically rigorous program. We average 5 – 7 miles of walking each day. Many surfaces

are uneven, unpaved, with steps and some steep inclines. This is an important consideration. A person who is unable to fully participate will miss valuable parts of this experience.

- Be serving in some form of **Credentialed Ministry** (Ordained, Certified, Licensed, etc.) A copy of the minister's credentials (certificate or letter) is to accompany the nomination form.
- Be currently serving in a **leadership ministry**, with regular preaching responsibility. This means that they are employed by the church in a leadership role and that ministry is considered a primary source of income.
- Be mindful of the value of including **women and minority pastors** for consideration.
- Have **served at least one year** in full time ministry in a primary leadership role as pastor / minister.
- Have **at least ten years of full time service** remaining in their active ministry. This opportunity is intended to enhance the ongoing preaching, teaching and overall biblical understanding of the participant, and in turn, benefit those they serve.
- Be willing to travel with an **ecumenical group** of other ministers from many denominations and religious groups, both male and female ministers, and maintain a professional and courteous attitude toward all.
- Be willing to travel in a program sponsored by the **Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA**, an appendant organization of **Freemasonry**.
- Be willing to travel **without their spouse**. This is non-negotiable.
- Have the understanding that this is a **strenuous educational and spiritual study seminar / historical & cultural immersion experience** and not a vacation trip.



JUST IN CASE:

IF Covid-19 prevents us from travelling at our scheduled times in February 2022, we will immediately be rescheduling to the similar dates in February of 2023.

September 30 is always the due date for States to have their Pilgrim Ministers registered with the Grand Encampment Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, SK Emmett Mills PGC, KCT, KGCT, Jr. Chairman/Registrar.



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WEB SITE INFORMATION
ONLINE

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Click on Holy Land Pilgrimage

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www.KTHLP.com

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