Since the late 1980s, the Urban Immersion Retreat Program of Bethel-Bethany United Church of Christ has been hosting groups in a rich exploration of urban ministry in Milwaukee, WI. We utilize a participation, action, and reflection model. Groups will connect with our partner ministries for a work project and experience cultural diversity through worship and hands-on experiences. Bethel-Bethany is located in Milwaukee’s Sherman Park neighborhood, which is a multi-cultural/multi-racial, urban community. These values and characteristics are also reflected in the congregation of Bethel-Bethany.

Many groups do two-day experiences (Friday to Saturday), but three-day experiences are also available, in which case groups can join us for Sunday worship at 10:00am.

**Here’s a Sample Schedule of a Two-Day Experience:**

**Friday**
- 4:00pm: Arrive at Bethel-Bethany UCC for Urban Immersion introduction
- 5:00pm – 6:30pm: Meal with guests of St. Ben’s Community Meal program and reflection with staff members
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm: Deliverance Service at Greater Mt. Sinai Church of God in Christ
- 9:30pm: Return to Bethel-Bethany for group reflection

**Saturday**
- 7:30am – 8:30am: Breakfast/Bible Study with Pastor Thad
- 8:30am – 9:30am: Purchase bag lunch items for The Guest House of Milwaukee
- 9:45am – 11:15am: Prepare bag lunches at The Guest House; tour and reflection
- 11:30am – 1:00pm: Lunch and reflection at the Milwaukee Public Market
- 1:15pm – 2:15pm: Tour, talk, and attend afternoon prayer at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee
- 2:45pm – groups drive home

**Arrangements and Guides:** Bethel-Bethany will provide experienced guides for your Urban Immersion experience, and we will provide resources that your own leaders may find helpful for facilitating reflection on the experiences you have.

As the schedule shows, we partner with several social justice ministries and religious groups. We will work with you to tailor an experience to your group’s interests and needs. The schedule may also change due to the availability of our partner organizations and Urban Immersion guides. You will receive a schedule specific to your group before arriving.
Housing: Bethel-Bethany is located on the corner of 54th and Locust in the Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee. Groups sleep in the church’s Fellowship Hall and Christian Education classroom. You will have access to:

- Elevator and Accessible bathroom
- Heat and air conditioning
- Cots and sleeping mats for up to 30 participants
- Monitor and DVD player
- Wi-Fi
- Full kitchen with refrigerator space for your group
- A shower (next door to church, which is unfortunately not accessible)

Ages: Urban Immersion experiences are open to middle schoolers, high schoolers, young adults, and adults of all ages. Younger children can be included if their parent or guardian is present on the trip.

Meals: A meal at St. Ben’s is included in your fees; all other meals are provided by your group. We often include off-site lunches in the Urban Immersion schedule as a way of experiencing various cultural cuisines in Milwaukee. These are optional and the expenses will be covered by your group.

Transportation & Parking: Groups are responsible for all their transportation needs—to and from Bethel-Bethany as well as the site visits. There is ample street parking around the church. Vans or busses with church decals on them are considered commercial vehicles and cannot park overnight on the streets. Please notify Bethel-Bethany as soon as possible so separate arrangements can be made.

Pricing: The fee is $50 per participant for a two-day experience and $75 per participant for a three-day experience. Longer experiences or service trips can also be designed in partnership with Urban Immersion leadership. Please talk to Pastor Thad if these fees are prohibitive for your group. The fees are used to cover donations made to partner organizations that participate in Urban Immersion, professional and church expenses related to Urban Immersion, and support of Bethel-Bethany’s ministry in our Sherman Park neighborhood.

A deposit of $25 per participant is due within two weeks of registration in order to confirm your dates.

The final payment is due no later than one month (30 days) before the scheduled date of the retreat. Final payments will be calculated based on your final participant numbers, so you can adjust them as needed up to this point.
*Deposits and fees will be refunded in full up to thirty days prior to the scheduled date of the retreat. No deposits or fees will be refunded within thirty days of the scheduled date of the retreat.

**Insurance:** Groups staying at Bethel-Bethany must provide a Certificate of Insurance coverage naming Bethel-Bethany United Church of Christ as an additional insured for the purpose of covering liability and property damage or accidents that might occur on church property. This is typically as simple as calling your insurance agent, making this request, and forwarding the certificate to Bethel-Bethany.

**Registration:** Please contact Pastor Thad Winkle by email or phone about available dates. After tentatively scheduling a date, you must complete the form on the next page and return it to Bethel-Bethany along with a deposit of $25 per estimated participant to reserve those dates.

**Contact Information:**
Rev. Thad Winkle
Church Phone: 414-442-1281
E-mail: PastorThadW@gmail.com or bethelbethanyucc@gmail.com
Urban Immersion Retreat Program
Bethel-Bethany United Church of Christ
2866 N. 54th Street Milwaukee, WI 53210

Organization Name: _________________________________________________
Organization Address: _______________________________________________

Date(s) of Retreat:        Arrive _____/_____/____   Depart _____/_____/____
Retreat length: Two-day (Fri-Sat.) ___ Three-day (Fri.-Sun.) ___ Other (approved by Pastor Thad) ___
Contact Person Name: _______________________________________________
Contact Person Phone: _______________________________________________
Contact Person Email: _______________________________________________

Is this your organization’s first Urban Immersion Retreat? ___Yes ___No
If No, date of last retreat: _____/_____/____

Number of Participants (estimate)
____  Middle School
____  High School
____  College
____  Adults
____  Total Participants

$ _______ Total Retreat Fee ($50 or $75 per participant)
- $ _______ Deposit ($25 per participant; due within two weeks of registration)
= $ _______ Retreat Fee Balance Due (due two weeks before your trip)

Please make checks payable to “Bethel-Bethany UCC.” Write “Urban Immersion” with the retreat dates in the memo field. Deliver or mail registration forms and checks to:

Bethel-Bethany UCC
2866 N. 54th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210

Questions? Contact Pastor Thad Winkle at 414-442-1281 or PastorThadW@gmail.com