WHAT IS FOCUS?

- **FOCUS** (*Finding Our Challenges. Understanding Service.*) is a “service-learning” program with a travel component during 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**. Faith & social action, economic & social justice issues, and international humanitarian efforts are also three broad areas we consider.

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

THE CONTEXT
• 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.

• 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.)
- Population of almost 2 million
- Shares the Island of Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. It was partitioned in 1921 from Ireland.

- 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.

- Brexit (2016-present) introduced some new possible challenges.
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 peace building, identity, conflict management, understanding differences, Celtic spirituality, faith in action, 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 L/Derry
- Visit cultural and tourist sites, such as Giant’s Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Titanic Museum, 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: NI

A LOOK AT THE ADVENTURE
CIVIL RIGHTS
ONE MAN ONE VOTE
JOBS NOT CREED
ANTI SECTARIAN
APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW DO YOU APPLY?
APPLICATION PROCESS

• Completed application, including essay and reference forms, must be submitted by **Wednesday, October 18th**.

• *If selected* for an interview, the interviews will take place between **October 30th-November 8th**.

• Notification of participation in the program by **Friday, November 17th**.

• Notify the Center of your participation by **Monday, November 27th**.

• **Required** information and orientation sessions for participants will be **December 2017-March 2018 (+ Furman Engaged in April)**.
PROGRAM STRUCTURE

IT’S MORE THAN JUST A TRIP 😊
FOCUS PROGRAM STRUCTURE

• Orientation Sessions (December-March)
  • Group Building Activities
  • Topics for Program Preparation
  • Vocational Reflection Guidance
  • Logistics for Travel
• Travel Program (March)
  • In Northern Ireland (UK) & Ireland*
• Debriefing Session
  • Group Reflection & Conversation
  • Follow-ups & Exit Interviews
• Furman Engaged Presentation
  • Tuesday, April 10th
PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS
WHAT DO PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS SAY?
QUESTIONS?

ASK QUESTIONS NOW…OR CONTACT US LATER!