

## The USA Mission Experience at a Glance

The U.S.–Mexico border stretches almost 2,000 miles. That border includes some natural barriers (rivers, dense brush, rocky and mountainous terrain) and roughly 700 non-contiguous miles of fence or wall, with 50 ports of entry/legal crossing points.

In addition to time in Phoenix and Tucson, the USA Mission Experience went to Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Mexico, to visit Frontera de Cristo's strong and varied ministries with people living in and passing through the borderlands. The region is a microcosm of the migration realities that every state, and likely every community, experiences.

### What Can I Do?

#### Personal Action

Continue learning. Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/usame](http://presbyterianwomen.org/usame) for a list of book recommendations, links to organizations visited during the USA Mission Experience and action suggestions:

- ❖ Pray to end suffering and division regarding immigration. Pray for safety, well-being and opportunity for all of God's children.
- ❖ Order coffee from Café Justo ([justcoffee.org](http://justcoffee.org)), a farmer-owned co-op that ensures living wages for coffee producers in Mexico and Guatemala.

- ❖ Advocate for immigration reform. The Southern Border Communities Coalition ([southernborder.org](http://southernborder.org)) promotes policies and solutions that improve the quality of life of border residents. In addition to creating a new border vision, they provide updates on proposed legislation and suggestions on communicating with congressional representatives.

#### Local Action

Find the needs in your community. Remember that individual migrants, refugees and asylum seekers will have their own unique needs and circumstances. Building relationships that allow their desires to be expressed will be the most helpful, and the relationship itself will be a blessing to everyone involved.

- ❖ Search online with the name of your city, county or state and "immigrant or refugee."
- ❖ Ask your pastor, mission or justice committee if your congregation is already working in this area.
- ❖ Check with presbytery and/or synod leaders about existing programs or committees that are dealing with immigration.
- ❖ Follow local and state news.

The USA Mission Experience participants are ready to share what they've learned about faithfully responding to the realities of migration. Consider inviting the representative from your synod to give a presentation at your next in-person or online PW or church event, offer a minute for mission during worship, write for your newsletter or share what she encountered in other creative ways!

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