

Minnesota Conference UCC Mission Trip to
Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi
January 29 – February 11, 2017

We are starting to accept reservations for volunteers to who want to travel to Biloxi, Mississippi for one or two weeks from January 29 – February 11, 2017 to work with Back Bay Mission.

Here are the details:

Who: It is open to anyone age 14 or older. We have 30 spaces each week, but it is possible we can request more. Churches who want to bring a group can reserve the number of slots they want for a given week and we will hold that for them until the Minnesota Conference UCC annual meeting in June 2016. We will then need firm commitments and deposits.

What: Back Bay Mission provides a variety of services to the community. We will be working on projects connected with construction, either building new or rehabbing, assisting low income families to repair their homes or building new homes for those who need them. Skills are not necessary, but a willingness to learn and help others is key. Our group will also help at the food shelf, work with the homeless at the Micah center, and serve food at Loaves and Fishes. There is something for everyone and age is not an issue. We had two volunteers over 80 on our mission trip in February 2016.

Accommodations: Volunteers will stay in either dormitory type rooms, any upgraded Pilgrim Point style space with two rooms with 22 beds each, for \$75/week or there is an extended stay motel just 2 miles from the mission, where a room for two people cost about \$250 - \$280 for the week, in 2016. We will prepare most of our meals. Everyone will be asked to help with meal preparation and/or cleanup each day.

Leaders: Bob and Barb Peterson- for 25 years they have led groups of volunteers from Minnesota UCC churches to Coahoma County Mississippi to help build houses through Habitat for Humanity. They are now focusing on leading groups to Back Bay Mission.

Costs: Each person will be responsible for raising the following amounts of money for their share of the trip. It is hoped that churches and others will donate to help cover the costs:

1. \$75 for housing/per person/per week in the Dorm. (See - Extended Stay Motel Option)
2. \$100 Back Bay materials fee/per person/per week.
3. \$50 per person/per week for food, paper products, and washing detergents, while at Back Bay (This assumes that members will bring snacks and cookies and bars to share at break times and after our meals).
4. In addition each person will need to pay for their travel costs to Biloxi, which can include air fare, or hotel, food and gas expense for those who drive. Efforts will be made to help participants make car pool arrangements. Those who fly to Gulfport airport will be picked up, so you do not need to rent a car, unless you want one for your own travel around Biloxi to learn more about the area. Estimated cost for participants, who drive down and back, including one stop each way at a motel, is about \$250, assuming 4 people per car. Estimated round trip flight - \$625. A lower priced airline is scheduled to start service from the Twin Cities to Gulfport in 2016, so this cost might go down.
5. Optional: \$30 for a Minnesota UCC Conference/Back Bay Mission Trip Sweatshirt.
6. Additional Mission Goal: To have the churches collect the various items needed by Back Bay, and fill a trailer that we will take to Biloxi. In 2016 churches collected over 600 pounds of food and clothing that we transported to Biloxi.

Back Bay Mission Web site for more information about Back Bay Mission – www.thebackbaymission.org

If you have questions contact- Bob Peterson- rpeter446@aol.com, or 1-715-549-6798.