JOURNEY 2 MOSAIC

A BRIEF FOR LATINO CHURCHES

What does it look like to love your neighbor in a city where your neighbors come from everywhere? That's the question we want to explore with your students this November.

WHEN
November 20–22, 2026
Friday evening–Sunday

WHERE
Mill City Church
Minneapolis

COST
$30 per person
Held in English

WHO
High school students
with a leader from their church

A weekend of listening and following Jesus

Journey to Mosaic is a Friday-to-Sunday discipleship weekend for high school students from Northwest Conference churches. Together we explore the stories, histories, cultures, and communities that shape this part of the Northwest Conference, through the lens of following Jesus.

Through worship, Scripture, guided conversation, and time in the cities, students encounter both the beauty and the brokenness of our world.

The hoped-for fruit is humility, empathy, and courage, and a clearer sense of how the Gospel shapes the way we see and engage the people around us.

This is spiritual formation, not a history tour or service project. We come as guests and listeners, not tourists or fixers. A few values guide us:

- Jesus-centered discipleship
- Listening before speaking
- Learning through presence and relationship
- Honest reflection and thoughtful conversation
- Moving from awareness toward faithful response

Why this matters for Latino churches

The Journey to Mosaic is not complete without your story. Immigration, family, language, faith, and belonging are part of what students will be exploring, and for many of your students these are not topics. They are their lives.

That shapes how we hope your churches will be part of this:

Your students as full participants. They come to learn and be formed like everyone else, not to be asked to explain or represent their community for others.

Your students' voices matter. Where they choose to share, their perspective deepens the whole group's understanding of what it means to love our neighbors.

Your leaders as co-learners. Youth pastors and adult leaders take part alongside students, not just as chaperones.

Care for what students carry. Some conversations will touch close to home. We are building in time for processing and a plan to notice and follow up with students who are carrying something heavy.

We also know we have much to learn from Latino churches about faithfulness in this city. We would welcome your wisdom as the weekend takes shape.

What the weekend looks like

Students and leaders stay together at a Twin Cities host church (Mill City Church) from Friday evening through early Sunday afternoon. Each day weaves together worship, Scripture, small-group processing, and visits to places connected to race, culture, immigration, and community life.

Sites under consideration include Bdote/Fort Snelling, George Floyd Square, Hmong Village, Cedar-Riverside or other culturally significant neighborhoods. At each stop, the heart of the time is learning and listening to lived experience. Our J2M team is still working on a detailed schedule.

Cesar Castillijos serves as event director. Cesar is a long-time friend of the NWC. He has spoken at several of our youth events. He is also the director of Young Life's Servant Leadership Project so he knows how to work with high school students and hard topics.

Who we're hoping to meet

Journey to Mosaic is nomination-based, with room for 20 to 50 students and leaders from their church. We are looking for high schoolers who are spiritually curious, willing to listen and sit with hard stories, and ready to let what they encounter shape how they follow Jesus. They don't need to be the most outspoken or the most "churched" students in your group. Openness and a teachable heart matter more than polish. Ideally, a leader will come with them from their church so they can continue to help them process on site and back at home. (If this is not possible, let J2M know and we will see if we can partner your student(s) with another group.)

Ways to join us

- **Nominate students** – choose students you think would do well in this kind of setting and have them fill out an application form (coming soon). Also, bring them with an adult leader from your church.
- **Come as a co-learner** yourself, as a youth pastor or adult leader.
- **Share your wisdom** on stories, places, or leaders we should be listening to.
- **Pray with us** for the students, the leaders, and the communities we will be visiting.

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I'd love for your students to be part of this. Your church's story belongs in this mosaic.

If you'd like to talk it through, we would love to hear from you. Contact Ginny Olson, Director of NextGen Ministries: ginny@northwestconference.org