

Jay Alanis, LSPS Pilot Project, 2019

Description of the Three Pilot Sessions:

March 7, 2019:

Session I: Living in Third Spaces

The U.S. - Mexico border states can be defined as a third country. These states are a “third space” between two nations with diverse cultures, languages and theological traditions. The people who inhabit the borderlands experience liminality as a threshold for Sacred encounter. In this session we will examine the concepts of “third space” and liminality which frames the historical experience of native and Latinx peoples of the borderlands. This examination will provide a lens to understand the current immigrant experience of exile and diaspora. The session will equip the participant with a biblical and theological lens that offers a life-affirming perspective and response to cultural violence in the third spaces of our ministries.

March 21

Session II: Borderland Perspectives on Diverse Worldviews

In this session we will examine the iceberg model of culture. We will study the external and internal, conscious and unconscious characteristics and symbols that speak to the heart of a people. We will review in depth the cultural and theological differences between the Spanish and indigenous worldviews at the time of the conquest of the Americas and how these continue to influence the way we experience the sacred in our daily encounters with the peoples of the borderlands. We will aim to answer the question: What constitutes cultural and theological violence across borders? The session will equip the participants with a theological response that promotes a culture of welcome and hospitality for the displaced peoples of the borderlands.

March 28

Session III: Theological Perspectives from the U.S. - Mexico Borderlands

This session will cover the biblical history of migration and displacement of our ancestors of faith. We will examine how this history informs the experience of immigration today. The session will offer theological perspectives from the U.S. - Mexico Borderlands that will assist the church in her ministry to displaced migrants. We will aim to answer the question: What is my ethical duty in response to the love of God received and claimed in baptismal grace? The session will equip the participants with a framework for discipleship living grounded in the love of God for native and displaced neighbors.