

St. Luke's UMC Oklahoma City Site Visit

- St. Luke's web address is <http://stlukesokc.org> if you want to look around.
- The conference will provide transportation (airport and while in OKC) and breakfast and lunch for each day.
- Each participant will be responsible for travel and lodging costs
- As of yesterday, flying on Delta from ATL to OKC on Sept 11 and returning on Sunday evening, Sept 13 is about \$335. If individuals want to come back on Saturday, it's about \$400.
 - We are asking people to arrive in OKC around 1145am on the 11th
 - This is the flight our staff will be taking: Delta flight that leaves Atlanta [at 10:32 a.m. on Sept. 11](#) and arrives [at 11:41](#). Returning on Sunday, [September 13](#), there is a flight that leaves [at 5:57 p.m.](#) and arrives in Atlanta [at 9:05 p.m.](#) and costs \$334.20 round trip, that is the lowest fare available.
- We will be staying here: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/okcwa-waterford-marriott/>
 - If you book using the AAA rate, the cost is \$101/night (which is much cheaper and more flexible than if we get a room block)
- Here's the tentative agenda:

Friday

Tour of St. Luke's

Brief History of the church and current state of ministries

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Discussion Topics (with meals, breaks, and snacks as necessary):

Things that have made a Difference for Us:

Year of Gratitude - We encouraged our family of faith to write a thank you note every day for a year and we were all blessed beyond belief!

Staff Values & Church Mission Statement - Several years ago we adopted a church mission statement and utilized it in ways that every member would be able to remember. In addition, we decided upon staff values and guiding principles that would influence the way we carried out ministry. We discuss these at every weekly staff meeting.

Learning From Others - We have staff take regular trips to other churches and businesses to discover their best practices

Church Furnishings - On one of our visits to another church we brought back the idea of creating seating areas around the church. From the first day we saw great results!

Putting Worship First - From the very first Sunday after the land run in Oklahoma, worship has been the foundation of what we do.

Getting Staff in the Right Seat on the Bus - From moving our Bookstore Manager to the Director of Hospitality and a childcare worker to the Worship Leader - we believe in using people's gifts!

Multi-Site Ministry - We are glad to share our mistakes and successes with multi-site ministries. We have a childcare center in three locations, two missional congregations, and a satellite that is about to break ground on its building.

Missions that Make a Difference - From sister churches in Russia to a children's orchestra, we have learned what works and what doesn't for our church.

Knowing Our DNA - Defining who we are (and aren't) has been one of the most important things for our church in recent years.

Connection to the Community - Developing a presence in the community has been key for us.

Stewardship - We have learned that managing money well inspires trust in the congregation and allows the most resources for ministry.

Staff Structure - We make sure to hire the right people rather than simply filling positions. To do that, we have had to adopt an adaptable staff structure that pushes for effectiveness and efficiency.

Saturday - Tour of the Oklahoma National Memorial and Discussion of how the OKC Bombing Affected Ministry at St. Luke's

Sunday:

Worship Walk Through

Breakfast

Worship

Lunch and Discussion

Option of breakout sessions if people want to meet with specific staff and discuss any of the following - communications, hospitality, missions, worship, childcare, discipleship, theater, etc.

