



2019 FALL STUDY TOUR
DAY 2 | Friday, October 25

Migration Panel

The issue of migration is a liquid issue, with challenges well documented in the U.S. and Mexico national discussions. Our regional responses are being echoed around the globe. For this panel we will hear from people on the ground, in open air, on the border, at an historic meeting place called Friendship Park.

The panel discusses the pressures that are placed on the citizens of adjacent countries when a physical barrier separates them. By its very nature a zone of enforcement causes extreme stresses on citizens of both countries. There are additional and quantifiable stresses placed upon our natural resources as well - rivers and watersheds are interrupted, and harmony between allies is impacted. It is within this context that we discuss the need for regional unity and propose a true bi-national park whose design and use will remind citizens of both countries that we must remain friends.

John Fanestil – moderator

Born and raised in San Diego, John Fanestil has worked for decades at the intersection of the church, the academy, and movements for social justice. At First UMC San Diego he leads the congregation's work in discipleship and leadership development for all ages.

Ordained in 1992, John has served as the pastor of United Methodist congregations in La Mesa, Los Angeles, Anaheim and Calexico, where he preached in both English and Spanish and fell in love with the peoples of the US-Mexico borderlands. Since November 2011, he has convened **El Faro: The Border Church**, a weekly gathering of people from both nations to celebrate the sacrament of communion at Friendship Park, the historic meeting place overlooking the Pacific Ocean on the border between San Diego and Tijuana.

John recently earned the Ph.D. in History from the University of Southern California, where he specialized in early American history. He is also a graduate of La Jolla High School, Dartmouth College, Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and the Claremont School of Theology.

[http://southbaycompass.com/border-activists-friendship-park-john-fanestil-provides-christian-services/
www.crostudio.net](http://southbaycompass.com/border-activists-friendship-park-john-fanestil-provides-christian-services/www.crostudio.net)



2019 FALL STUDY TOUR
DAY 2 | Friday, October 25

Migration Panelists

Pedro Rios is the Executive Director of the [San Diego US-Mexico Border Program](#) of the American Friends Service Committee, and a founding member of the Friends of Friendship Park Coalition.

Maria Teresa Fernandez, a native of Mexico and longtime resident of San Diego, has been photo-documenting changes on the border between San Diego and Tijuana for twenty years. She is a founding member of the [Friends of Friendship Park Coalition](#).

Paulina Olvera Cádiz, raised in Tijuana and now pursuing graduate studies at UC San Diego, is the Director of [Espacio Migrante](#), a shelter and cultural center serving migrants and refugees in central Tijuana.