**FAQ Cuba Partner Mission Trip - June 6-14, 2019**

*(FPC High School International Mission Trip)*

# How many participants?

Including trip leaders, Robyn Michalove and Josh Stewart, we are planning to put together a team of 20 people for this trip: 14 high school youth (currently in grades 9-12) and 6 adults sponsors.

# When will we go?

Our group’s plane tickets are booked for June 6-14, 2019.

OUR FLIGHT ITINERARY:

* *(One June 6, all trip participants meet at DFW Airport at 7:00 a.m.)*
* Depart DFW Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 8:50 am on Flight 1276 to MIA
* Arrive 12:46 pm MIA
* Depart MIA Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 3:35 pm on Flight 1345 to HAV
* Arrive 4:50 pm Havana
* Depart Havana Friday, June 14, 2019 at 11:45 am on Flight 1334 to MIA
* Arrive 1:05 pm MIA
* Depart MIA Friday, June 14, 2019 at 3:35 pm on Flight 2550 to DFW
* Arrive 5:39 pm DFW

# Where will we stay? What is the weather like in June?

We are working with our Cuban partners, and we are planning to stay at a Cuban hostel in Matanzas (air conditioning is NOT guaranteed). The weather is VERY hot and humid this time of year. We cannot emphasize the weather enough. Very hot. Very humid.

# How will we get around?

We will fly from DFW to Miami on American Airlines. After a layover in the Miami airport, we will fly to Havana. In Cuba, a school bus from Pastors for Peace will transport the group.

# What will we do?

We are in conversation with our Cuban partners as to an exact itinerary. This is a “partner” trip and the emphasis is on building relationships with our sisters and brothers in Cuba. We will visit our three partner congregations and worship with them. We will meet church members at various events for the elderly and young. We will learn about the Presbyterian Church connection in Cuba.

# Will we have free time?

Yes, we will be able to go to the beach for half a day and also tour in Havana for at least one day. We will have at least one designated time to purchase souvenirs.

# How much will it cost?

The price depends on where we end up staying as well as the price of airline flights. The trip will be approximately $2000 per person, and the church is planning to subsidize half of this price. This includes the price of a round trip airline ticket on American Airlines, one baggage fee, accommodations, food and transportation in Cuba and the price of a religious visa to enter the country. This does not include the cost of obtaining your own passport BEFORE March 1, 2019 (and the passport MUST have an expiration date of December 14, 2019 or later). As always, need-based scholarship opportunities are available for those in need (contact Josh Stewart for a scholarship application).

# Do I have to have certain skills to go?

It is helpful to speak Spanish but not required. Other helpful skills include working with children and youth; flexible outlook and a desire to engage in relationship. Trip participants must attend pre-trip meetings.

# What is the application process?

All youth and adults wanting to participate on this trip are being asked to fill out an application. Applications and essays are due by Wednesday, January 16. After a team reviews the applications and essays, we will announce who received spots by February 1 by contacting those participants and their families; in order to accept your spot, a $100 deposit will then be due by February 16 (at the latest) to confirm your spot on the trip. If applying, please start thinking about applying for a passport early. For those who receive a spot on the trip, your passport number is due NO LATER than March 1.

# Cell phones and screens?

Adult sponsors will be allowed to bring cell phones in order to communicate with families when needed and to take any needed pictures. Youth participants need to be aware that they are not allowed to bring cell phones and screens on this mission trip (any needed pictures may be taken by adult sponsors at appropriate times and, then, later shared with youth and families). An important purpose of this trip (and all our youth trips) is to build relationships and friendships (in particular on this trip, with our new friends in Cuba), and cell phones and screens often find sneaky ways to distract us from this purpose (even when we don’t realize ourselves that they are distracting). Plus, as you will see, there is limited cell coverage and Wifi connections in Cuba. Cameras that are not part of a smart device may be allowed at appropriate times on the trip.

# All What else do I need to know?

Cuba is a safe country. That said, use precautions as you would anywhere else. Cuba has limited Wifi and generally no cell coverage. As always, we have emergency contacts via phone and email in the event that we need to reach home or vice versa. Our hosts provide our food and we have never had safety problems on four trips. Typical breakfast is fruit, eggs, bread and ham. Typical lunch/dinner is pork/chicken, salad, fruit, yuccas (like potatoes) rice and black beans. They can usually accommodate dietary necessities. It is, also, an important sign of respect to accept hosts’ meals and eat them especially in foreign countries; therefore, everyone (picky eaters in particular) will need to search their hearts in this regard and be prepared to receive and eat simple food gratefully and with respect. Physically, a lot of walking is required in Havana and throughout this trip, so physical health and ability to do this is of paramount importance. Finally, be aware that restrooms in Cuba are much more basic than U.S. restrooms (i.e. no toilet seat, toilet paper goes in the trash can, etc.).

# Intended Outcomes/Goals of this Cuba Partner Mission Trip?

* Youth involvement with our congregation’s Cuba partnership
* An experience of mission work as relational ministry
* International trip in a Spanish speaking country
* Youth experience on a trip with Robyn Michalove, our Associate Pastor of Mission and Family Ministries
* The opportunity to drink Cuban coffee :)

“Sharing God’s Mission Together”

Partnership Agreement Between the

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Union de Reyes,

and their mission congregation, Cidra Presbyterian Church, and

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

Purpose

1. To affirm the unity we have in Jesus Christ; above all else, we are the body of Christ.
2. To create a partnership between the churches in order to share our faith. The partnership is a three year commitment, which the churches will evaluate for renewal at the ends of the three year term.
3. To inform the churches about critical situations in our societies and in our congregations.
4. To promote the idea that the principal purpose of this partnership is to build and maintain mutual relationships which strengthen our faith.

Shared Dreams

1. To pray and work as brothers and sisters in order to enrich and improve the mission and the vision of the Church as the body of Christ.
2. To share (at least once a month) things that celebrate our unity in Christ (for example, specific prayer concerns, children’s art work, and congregational news via email, bulletins and photographs).
3. To share delegations from and to both countries with a balanced program including visits to churches, church meetings, seminaries and social and cultural areas, etc.
4. To share meditations or studies of the annual IPRC (the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba) unifying biblical text.
5. Continue partnership activities between our churches resulting in spiritual growth and reduction of the materialism of our times.
6. Promote interest in this partnership through various projects in our churches (for example, a prayer partner program).

On Behalf of the Congregations

May 20, 2018

Buen Pastor Session:

PP. [Liz Eleyne Capó Lima](https://www.facebook.com/lizeleyne.capolima)

Adeladia Alvarez Fernandez

[Rosmery Rodríguez Hernández](https://www.facebook.com/rosmery.rodriguezhernandez.3?fref=pb&hc_location=friends_tab)

On Behalf of FPC Session:

Jacqueline Bender

Grant Garlington

Russell Haddock

Sarah Haddock

Rev. Robyn Michalove

Cheryl Mireles

“Compartiendo Juntos la Misión de Dios”

El Acuerdo de Hermanamiento entre

La Iglesia el Buen Pastor en Unión de Reyes,

Y su iglesia dependiente, La Iglesia Presbiteriana en Cidra, y

La Iglesia Primera Presbiteriana en Fort Worth

Propósito:

1. Afirmar la unidad que tenemos en Jesucristo: por todo eso, somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
2. Crear un hermanamiento entre las Iglesias para compartir la fe. El hermanamiento es un compromiso de tres años. Las iglesias evaluarán para renovación al fin de su término.
3. Informar las Iglesias sobre situaciones críticas en nuestras culturas y en nuestras iglesias.
4. Promover la idea que el propósito principal de este hermanamiento es para construir y mantener relaciones mutuas paraedificar nuestra fe.

Sueños Compartidos:

1. Orar y trabajar como hermanos para enriquecer y mejorar la misión y la visión de la iglesia como el cuerpo de Cristo.
2. Compartir (a lo mínimo cada mes) cosas para celebar nuestra unidad en Cristo (por ejemplo, oraciones específicas, dibujos de niños, y noticias de la congregación por e-mail, boletines y fotos.
3. Compartir delegaciones desde y hacia ambos paises con un programa balanceado de visitas a Iglesias, reuniones, seminarios, social y cultural, etc.
4. Compartir meditaciones o estudios bíblicos del texto del año de IRPC.
5. Continuar encuentros fraternales entre nuestras iglesias que faciliten el desarrolo de la espiritualidad, contrarestando los efectos del materialismo de nuestros tiempos.
6. Promover interés en este hermanamiento con proyectos diferentes en nuestras iglesias (por ejemplo, parejas de oracion entre las congregaciones).

Representantes de las Congregaciones

20 de Mayo 2018

El Consistorio de Buen Pastor:

PP. [Liz Eleyne Capó Lima](https://www.facebook.com/lizeleyne.capolima)

Adeladia Alvarez Fernandez

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Representantes de Fort Worth:

Jacqueline Bender

Grant Garlington

Russell Haddock

Sarah Haddock

Rev. Robyn Michalove

Cheryl Mireles