

## PLANNING PARTNERSHIP VISITS TO THE PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN CUBA (IPRC)

1. **Establish dates** for a trip with the pastor connected with your Cuban church host.
2. **Visit calendar**. Once dates are approved by the Cuban host pastor, send the following information to Jack Kern, CPN Ministry of Pastoral Solidarity Coordinator, at [jackckern@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jackckern@sbcglobal.net)
  - Traveling US church entity
  - US church contact name
  - US contact email address
  - Destination in Cuba
  - Outbound and inbound travel dates

Jack updates the visit calendar which is always available at [Current Cuba Visit Coordination Calendar](#). IPRC asks that there be communication and coordination between the many Presbyterian groups they host in Cuba. Some US partners often have items or other aid for the IPRC which others can take for them; and, of course, we can all do the same by checking the [Current Cuba Visit Coordination Calendar](#) for upcoming visits by others.

3. **Religions visa application**.
  - A) **Photos of the first page of each traveler's passport** must be submitted to your Cuban host pastor **at least 90 days** in advance of travel.
  - B) In addition to the photos of page one of each passport, we are requested to continue to send a list of travelers with the following typed information for each traveler to your Cuban host pastor **at least 90 days** in advance of travel.
    - Full name, exactly as on passport
    - Sex
    - Passport number
    - Passport issue date
    - Passport expiration date (**must be more than 6 months after entry date**).
    - Citizenship
    - Birth place
    - Date of birth
    - Profession

Timely submission of the above photos of passports and information sets of a number of steps within the local church, presbytery and IPRC synod levels, the Cuban Council of Churches, and the Cuban government Office of Religious Affairs. The actual visa will be given to you when you arrive at the airport in Cuba, before you pass through Immigration. The IPRC tramitadora will email copies of the visas for the members of your group before you leave home. Keep these copies with you - if there is any confusion in Cuba, that will help the officials to identify your actual visas. It is a good idea to have a copy of your visa and a copy of your passport with you in the event of the loss of either or both. Bring color printed

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copies of each visa to submit to airline and Cuba Travel Services personnel at the US gateway departure gate.

4. **Funds for visas:** As of summer 2022: 155 Euros. Try to send these funds in advance with other traveling US partners.
5. **US government authorization to travel.** We currently travel under an OFAC general travel license requiring our travel be for the full time purpose of engaging in religious activities.
6. **Cuban government authorization to travel.** Religious visitor visas are required to visit and stay in churches in Cuba
7. **Taking Aid to Your Cuban Partners.** According to US policy, “gift parcels may be sent or carried by an authorized traveler to an individual or to a religious, charitable or educational organization in Cuba, the combined retail value of all non-food items in the parcel must not exceed \$800.” Note that this allows each traveler to take as much as \$800 in aid. The content of such aid is limited to “foods, vitamins, seeds, medicines, medical supplies and devices, hospital supplies and equipment, equipment for the handicapped, clothing, personal hygiene items, consumer communication devices, veterinary medicines and supplies, fishing equipment and supplies, soap-making equipment and certain radio equipment and batteries for such equipment.” It is always a good idea to be in communication with your Cuban partner well in advance to ascertain what is most needed.
8. **Remittances** to religious organizations in Cuba that are used in support of religious activities are authorized under §515.570(c).
9. Cuban Customs. Passengers must complete a "D'Viajeros" form before departure. This will generate a QR code which must be presented upon departure and arrival. Click on this link: [dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu/inicio](https://dviajeros.mitrans.gob.cu/inicio). It is much easier to complete this form on a desktop or laptop at home than on a phone at the airport.
10. Return to USA. Remember that only artwork may now be brought into the US from Cuba.