

Mission Discovery Journey to Cuba

March 3-9, 2018

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Northeastern Jurisdiction

Young Adults ages 18-30ish are encouraged to apply. All participants will be trained to become United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Team Leaders during the course of the trip and will be equipped to lead teams of their own in the future. Maximum of 10 applicants will be selected.

Despite assumptions that Cuba is an atheist country or that it is populated solely with Roman Catholics, the Methodist Church in Cuba today has more than 42,000 members and a worshipping community of 65,000. It is vibrant and growing, especially among young people. The UMVIM Cuba program currently allows two volunteer work teams (up to 12 persons) from the United States to go to Cuba each month to work on a small list of designated projects.

We will be traveling on religious visas by special invitation of the Methodist Bishop of Cuba, Ricardo Pereira Diaz, and will spend the majority of our time in Havana at the Seminario Evangelico Methodista (Methodist Evangelical Seminary).

The purposes of the journey are fourfold:

1. To witness and learn from the revival and growth taking place in the Methodist Church in Cuba.
2. To worship and share with our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. To bring supplies and assist with improvements to the Methodist Theological Seminary in Havana. We will work along side skilled Cuban workers to build housing for the Methodist Seminary. Experienced or inexperienced are welcome; all skill levels will find a job.
4. To train up young, culturally-competent Volunteers in Mission Team Leaders from the Northeastern Jurisdiction who will learn to lead teams of their own.

The cost of the trip will be Cost for the 7 day mission is \$1200 PLUS airfare to Havana, Cuba (approximately \$500). Religious visa, flights, baggage fees, UMVIM insurance, transportation, translation, accommodations, meals and mission fee are included. UMVIM-NEJ will match all funds raised by successful applicants up to \$1800, cutting the cost per participant in half.

Accommodations are at the Mission Center of the Cuban Methodist Church with hot showers, delicious Cuban cuisine and incredible hospitality. An interpreter and transportation around the island are provided. We experience the Methodist revival worshipping with our Cuban Brothers and Sisters, see the sights of Havana, experience Cuban culture and even take a road trip to the beach.

Trip Coordinators: UMVIM-NEJ Coordinator Tom Lank

Deadline for applications is July 15, 2017. Contact Tom Lank for more details or to express interest - coordinator@umvimnej.org or 919-428-0461.