

FORM A – CUBA MISSION TRIP APPLICATION

Hyde Park United Methodist
500 W. Platt Street, Tampa, Florida 33606
813.253.5388

Country _____ Trip Dates _____

FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL. PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

Title (Circle) _____ Name _____
Mr. Mrs. Miss _____
Rev. Dr. Other _____
Last (Family) _____ First (Given) _____ Middle Initial _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address (print plainly): _____

Birth Date (Month/Day/Year): _____ Birth Place: _____

For Visa Application

Father's Name: First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Mother's Name: First _____ Middle _____ Maiden _____ Last _____

Current or last Employer (if student, name of school): _____

Name on Passport (your name must be shown exactly as written on your passport): _____

Passport #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

If not a U.S. citizen, list citizenship country: _____

Country/State/City of Issue: _____ Social Sec. No. _____

Marital Status: _____ If married, spouse's name: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

Are you a member of Hyde Park United Methodist Church? How Long? _____

Name and phone number of a church member who knows you well: _____

If not a Hyde Park United Methodist Church member, please list your church name, pastor, and name of a person who knows you well (include contact information):

In which ministry areas of the church have you served?

Please describe the extent of your Christian education, if any – i.e., Sunday School, Confirmation, Disciple Bible Study, Fresh Start, Companions in Christ

Why do you want to serve on this mission?

Why do you believe God has called you to serve on this particular mission?

Do you have any difficulty working with Christians who may have doctrinal viewpoints different from your own?

Describe your cross-cultural living, training and/or travel experiences. What did you learn? What types of difficulties did you experience?

Do you speak a language other than English? If so, please list:

List countries and dates of previous overseas volunteer experiences:

Please describe your strengths, your ministry gifts and skills:

Please describe areas in which you desire growth in your personal and spiritual life:

How do your immediate family members feel about your going on this mission trip?

Have you ever been denied a travel visa or had a travel visa revoked? If so, for which country and what were the circumstances?

Do you have difficulty receiving and following direction from a team leader? If so, how do you propose to overcome this?

Do you anticipate having to raise funds for this trip? Please describe how you plan to raise the additional funds you will need. Do you need any scholarship assistance?

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this completed form at least 90 days prior to the departure of the trip for which you are applying, along with a completed and signed copy of:

- Application (Form A)
- Mission Trip Covenant (Form B)
- Photo Release Form (Form C)

UMVIM Forms

- Medical Information & Release Form
- International Missioner Profile and Release of Claim

Please also include:

- Copy of passport

Return to: **Hyde Park United Methodist Church**
500 W. Platt Street
Tampa, Florida 33606

This application will not be considered until all of the fully completed materials listed above are received. Upon receiving these materials, and prior to accepting the application, Hyde Park United Methodist Church may review all pertinent information (including that provided by references) relating to the applicant's interest in serving on a particular mission trip. Additionally, if the Missions Team has any questions regarding the applicant's responses or physical ability to serve on a specific trip, a personal interview may be requested. The Missions Team will make the final decision regarding an application, if there are any questions or concerns.

Once an application has been accepted for a specific trip, the applicant will be notified of the acceptance promptly via letter, email or phone call. If, for any reason, an application is denied, the deposit will be refunded in full.

Form B – Cuba Mission Trip Covenant

Hyde Park United Methodist
500 W. Platt Street, Tampa, Florida 33606
813.253.5388

Country _____ Trip Dates _____

As a member of this team I agree to:

- Remember that I am representing Hyde Park United Methodist Church and, more importantly, Jesus Christ. I will seek to model Jesus in my behavior and attitude.
- Be in prayer for my teammates, team leaders and for those with whom we will be in contact.
- Remember that I am a guest visiting at the invitation of my hosts. I will respect their culture without judgment.
- Remember that I have come to learn as well as to share. I will resist the temptation to inform our hosts about “how we do things.” I’ll be open to learning about other people’s methods and ideas.
- Respect others’ view of Christianity in the context of their culture. I recognize that Christianity has many faces around the world, and that the purpose of this trip is to share the love of God and to experience faith lived out in a new setting.
- Dress modestly, and only bring luggage and possessions that are appropriate for the service needs of the mission and the country’s culture.
- Develop and maintain a servant’s attitude toward all Nationals and my teammates. I will demonstrate that I am there to serve others and share Christ, while learning and developing relationships.
- Respect the thoughts and ideas of my hosts and team members. I will not dominate conversations or interrupt others when they speak, and will be patient and respectful of differing opinions.
- Respect my team leader(s) and respond positively to his/her decisions.
- Refrain from criticism and gossip about our host(s) and teammates.
- Refrain from complaining, as I recognize that travel can present unexpected and undesirable circumstances; instead of complaining, I will be flexible, constructive, and supportive.
- Remember not to be exclusive in my relationships and make every effort to interact with all team members.
- Refrain from any activity that could be construed as a special or romantic interest in a National or teammate.
- Watch my language, refrain from discussing politics or other sensitive subjects, and avoid references to the military and to other religious groups or practices.
- Refrain from teaching or practicing any belief that is not supported by the United Methodist Church.
- Attend the mandatory mission team building meetings.
- Participate actively in meetings as well as in mission, through sharing opinions, assisting in finding alternatives when necessary, assuming responsibilities and honoring decisions.
- Keep confidential discussions and personal information shared among team members.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FORM C – CUBA MISSION TRIP PHOTO RELEASE

Hyde Park United Methodist
500 W. Platt Street, Tampa, Florida 33606
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Release and Consent

Participant Name (print name) _____

I authorize and grant Hyde Park United Methodist Church, Inc., its employees, agents, licensees, independent contractors, successors and assigns (collectively "Producer") the right to record my name, likeness, image, voice and statements (collectively "Appearance") digitally or on film, tape or otherwise for use in a planned video production and any other programming (collectively the "Programming".) I understand and agree that my Appearance may be edited and otherwise altered at the sole discretion of the Producer, and used and re-used by Producer, in whole or in part. I also understand and agree that my Appearance may be used and re-used for any and all broadcasting, advertising, digital distribution, or exploitation of any type, whether audio or visual, or for any purpose in any manner or media (whether now known or hereafter devised, and including but not limited to, Internet broadcast and home media products), including use for advertising or commercial purposes or purposes of trade. I further understand and agree that these rights are granted to Producer in perpetuity and throughout the world. By signing this agreement, I understand that I have no rights to the Programming or any other uses or re-uses, and no right to receive any compensation or consideration for any uses or re-uses of all or part of the Programming or my Appearance.

I also consent to the use of my Appearance in connection with the broadcast, distribution, exploitation or promotion of the Programming, as well as other uses and re-uses, as may be edited by Producer, its employees, agents, licensees, independent contractors, successors or assigns.

If the participant named above is a minor child, I represent and promise that I am the child's parent or legal guardian, and that I have full and sole authority to sign this agreement on my own behalf and on the child's behalf. I agree to all the terms of this agreement on my own behalf and on behalf of the child.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT.

Participant signature _____ Date _____
(or signature of minor child's parent/guardian)

Address _____

Phone _____

UMVIM APPLICATION

All Cuba UMVIM team members are required to sign this sheet as part of the application process. As United Methodist we will be expected to abide by these guidelines during the entire time we are in Cuba. In keeping with my commitment to be a witness for Christ during my time in Cuba, and in solidarity with our Cuban Methodist brothers and sisters, I promise to follow these guidelines:

1. I agree to wear shorts covering the knee on worksite and while visiting tourist sites. *Most Cuban Methodists do not wear shorts. Dresses/skirts (again knee length or longer) or nice slacks to be worn by women for church services. Men may wear nice slacks and collared shirts for church services. No spaghetti strap shirts or camisoles to be worn by women without a covering. No t-shirts with derogatory language and or gestures that would be offensive to the church to be worn by male or female. Closed toed shoes must be worn on the worksite by all.*
2. I will refrain from smoking and from drinking alcoholic beverages while I am in Cuba. ***Smoking or drinking even when Cuban Methodists are not present is not acceptable. Our Methodist hosts will hear about it from non-believers who may use our behavior as an excuse to disdain the Gospel. I understand that the Team Leader and the VIM Coordinator at their discretion have the option to send me back to the US for behavior not consistent with the requirement of this mission trip.***
3. I will show my Christian commitment and Christian witness through the way I dress, speak, and act while in Cuba. *We go as Christian volunteers, not tourists. Non-Christians in Cuba consider UMVIM volunteers to be representatives of both the church in the USA and the Methodist Church in Cuba.*
4. I will not take food into Cuba. I will eat what is offered, and I will not ask or hint for anything not offered (Luke 10:8). I will try not to waste food, and will not make disparaging comments about the amount or quality of what is served. Remember, *our Cuban brothers and sisters experience hunger daily, and give us more and better food than they themselves can obtain.*
5. To safeguard my health, I will be sure to drink a sufficient amount of safe drinking water, especially at the work site. *We sometimes forget that in a tropical country we need much more water than at home.*
6. Except for drinking water, I will use water sparingly, knowing it is not always easily available. *It is amazing how refreshing a cold sponge bath can be in the late afternoon. Cuban custom is to bathe before supper.*
7. I will do my shopping only on the sight-seeing/shopping day in Havana that is offered to most teams; I will not give money to individuals; I will not make a show of having dollars; I will not exchange money on the street. ***IT IS ILLEGAL TO EXCHANGE MONEY ON THE STREET, and to do so may jeopardize all future teams. It is insensitive to spend dollars buying things most Cubans cannot afford.***

8. I will not attempt to bribe customs officials or anyone else in Cuba or elsewhere. *Doing so can cause serious problems for our own team and for future teams.*

9. If I want to give gifts, I will do so only through the Cuban pastor or district superintendent, not directly to individuals. I will not hand out gifts of any kind, not even candy and gum to children. *In a country where few goods are available, gifts to individuals can cause dissension in the congregation and/or community. Our gifts are church-to-church, not person-to-person, except for small personal gifts for a host family or close friend. Gifts we take may be distributed after our team has left, and may be used for a different church and community than the one we go to.*

10. In the interest of furthering Christian fellowship, I will seek to include our Cuban brothers and sisters in all our activities—work, worship, and leisure—and accept their leadership. *Our major reason for being in Cuba is not to do construction, but to interact with our Cuban brothers and sisters. We should graciously do whatever the Cuban Methodist leaders request, even when we do not agree with their decisions.*

11. I will participate in the worship services, expecting that they will be very different from my accustomed style of worship. *The Methodist Church in Cuba is much more charismatic than most Methodist churches. This attracts great numbers of young people to the church and to the Lord, but it can be unsettling to us.*

12. I understand that it may not be possible to telephone my family and friends at home except in an emergency. *In most places where we will be, international telephone calls are not an option.*

13. I will cooperate fully at all times with my team leader and other team members, and will stay with the team and participate in all team activities. *Having one's own agenda and doing things apart from the team is often interpreted by the Cubans as wanting to be a tourist rather than a member of a group committed to Christian solidarity and witness.*

Signed: _____ Date: _____