



# MUIP – Methodists United in Prayer

**“A witness to the world of what God is doing in Cuba”**

## **Brief Overview of the MUIP Cuba Ministry**

Prior to the 1960's, Florida and Cuba were a single conference in the United Methodist Church. Soon after Castro took power, Cuba became a socialist country and the profession of religion became extremely difficult. Thus, the Methodist Church was forced to cut off the close relationship it had with the Cuban church and it became impossible to remain a unified conference. The Methodist Church in Cuba was divided from the rest of the world and faced many challenges but was kept alive over the next 30 years by a small contingent of faithful believers. In the 1990's, Cuba declared itself a secular country and religious restriction and pressure relaxed in Cuba. In 1997, the Florida Conference formed a covenant with the Cuba Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Since this covenant has been formed, many wonderful things have happened. God is doing amazing things through the Methodist Church in Cuba and is using the MUIP Covenant to do it. The Cuban people face many challenges each day including government limitations and oversight, poverty, hunger, and shortages of basic necessities. However, despite all of these challenges, the church is growing, lives are being changed, and thousands of people are experiencing the loving salvation that only Jesus Christ can offer.

### **Some info about Cuba**

- Cuba is a beautiful island – oceans, mountains, exotic plants, wildlife, historical buildings and structures
- For many Americans, it seems like time travel back to the 1950's – Cars, infrastructure, technology, etc.
- Life in Cuba is quite difficult for the people who live there
- Many families live on less than one dollar per day, pastors included
- Shortages are common – including food, medicine, toilet paper, basic hygiene products, clean water, etc.

### **The Methodist Church in Cuba**

- The Methodist church is one of the largest and fastest growing denominations in Cuba and is growing about 10% per year in number of members and about 15% in church attendance
- Today, there are over 400 Methodist churches in Cuba and over 800 mission congregations (future churches)
- Membership in United Methodist Churches in Cuba is more than 40,000
- Each week, over 60,000 Cubans join together in Methodist churches to worship Jesus Christ

### **The Methodists United in Prayer (MUIP) Cuba Covenant Ministry**

God has used the Methodist United in Prayer Ministry (formerly known as the Florida-Cuba Covenant) to help facilitate this explosion of growth among the Methodist churches in Cuba. This has been done primarily through the “Sister Church” relationships that have been created through this ministry. These Sister Churches form a covenant between a United Methodist Church in Florida and a United Methodist Church in Cuba to pray for one another, build interpersonal relationships, engage in the interchange of people, and share history, current events, culture, and spirituality. Money is not a part of the MUIP Cuba Covenant or a requirement to be a sister church, though many churches decide to donate and help a church or pastor in one capacity or another.

Over the past 15+ years - deep personal bonds have been created, many people have been prayed for, trips have been taken, much needed supplies have been delivered, churches and seminaries have been constructed and revived, lives have been shared, people have been drastically changed, and many have come to know and follow Jesus Christ.

**Interested in getting involved or learning more? Please contact your District coordinator at [www.flumc-missions.org](http://www.flumc-missions.org)**