



Commissioning of the Mutual Mission Cuba Team

St. Augustine Presbytery

February 4, 2023



SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE (John 13:34-35)

One: Jesus said: I give you a new commandment. Love each other.

All: **Just as I have loved you, so also you must love each other. This is how everyone will know you are my disciples when you love each other.**

CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP

The church is called to demonstrate Christ's love in tangible ways. Beginning in 2018, our presbytery has developed meaningful friendships and connections with the good people of Cuba, particularly in the Matanzas Presbytery. We continued to hold them in prayer during the pandemic and celebrate the opportunity to reunite in-person. On behalf of the Mutual Mission ministry of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, we present the following individuals for commissioning. Those to be commissioned who are present here, please come forward now.

COMMISSIONING QUESTIONS

[To the Team]

One: The Presbytery of St. Augustine celebrates you and your devotion to the tasks ahead of you as you join hearts and hands with our brothers and sisters in Cuba. Through the gift of your service and its example of love, you show others the infinite love God has for everyone everywhere. This is both a privilege and a responsibility, and we ask that you now publicly affirm your commitment to this work. Will you respect and honor the people of Matanzas Presbytery as you worship and work together to make Christ's love visible?

Team: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you seek to work in glad cooperation and mutual support with other workers, being sensitive and helpful according to the needs presented to you?

Team: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you conduct yourself in a manner that will demonstrate your love of Christ and the churches you represent?

Team: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Do you sincerely believe that the work you are about to undertake is truly the work of God within our world?

Team: **I do believe so.**

[To the Presbytery]

One: Do you, members of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, promise to pray for this team and the work they will do on your behalf, asking God's blessings on them during their trip and bringing them safely home?

All: **We do.**

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Holy God, look graciously upon these persons now to be commissioned. Endow them with your spirit, enrich them with your grace and strengthen them for the tasks which lie ahead, that through their work, your name may be glorified. AMEN.

THE COMMISSIONING

One: Mary Alderman, Amy Camp, Priscilla Durkin, Joe Medearis, Susan Rose, Martha Shafer, Michael Sullivan, Peter and Debbie Williams, on behalf of this presbytery, I commission you to share the love of Jesus Christ with your gift of service to the people of Matanzas Presbytery in Cuba. Go as representatives of Christ and his church. I now commend these individuals to the presbytery for love, care, prayers and support for the work they will perform on our behalf.

ALL: We rejoice, recognizing you as representatives of this presbytery, and thank God for your dedication and heart for service. We send you forth with our prayers and our support, and we renew our commitment to God and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray God's blessings for you and our brothers and sisters in Cuba. AMEN.

The Team: Arlington and Peace: Joe Medearis; First, Fernandina: Peter and Debbie Williams; Hodges Blvd: Mary Alderman and Martha Shafer; Lakewood: Michael Sullivan; Memorial: Amy Camp, Priscilla Durkin, Susan Rose

Mutual Mission Cuba Team Statement of Purpose:

We Believe...

- *that our presbyteries, its churches and members and will be strengthened with an agreement of collaboration between our presbyteries;*
- *that we are called to be a living expression of the unity of the church which crosses all natural boundaries;*
- *that in growing relationships with one another we will know one another better in the context of our lives, churches and presbyteries, we will better understand and execute the complete work of God for the world and be enriched to carry out that work mutually and cooperatively in our geographic regions;*
- *that in relationship with one another, God will show us new ways we can grow spiritually and further serve our communities and people;*
- *that in carrying out mission activities together we will give testimony to those who don't know Christ and the great love of God that crosses all national, political and economic boundaries;*

Therefore... We the members of the Presbytery of St Augustine and the members of the Matanzas Presbytery of Cuba Agree to...

- *Pray, communicate, listen, learn and work with one another collectively as the body of Christ on a personal level to include executives, staff, pastors, lay leaders and members;*
- *Travel to each other's presbyteries and local churches to serve together and support the mission and programs of our churches;*
- *Provide personal and spiritual support to each other in mission outreach and ministry programs;*
- *Share our gifts and resources with one another to strengthen the witness of our presbyteries and churches and so reflect the love and commands of Jesus Christ;*
- *Bring the love of Christ to the church, un-church and the needy;*
- *Assist each other in the making of disciples in carrying out the Great Commission;*
- *Establish priorities and engage strategic planning to create a schedule for partnership activities.*