The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 27, 2026

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Florida Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

We remain deeply concerned about the hardships facing the people of Cuba, including limited access to food, medicine, electricity, and other necessities. We hold the people of Cuba in our prayers and remain committed to responding with compassion, generosity, and the love of Christ.

After prayerful consultation with our insurance providers, Risk Management, the Episcopal Office, and the Missional Engagement Office, the Florida Conference strongly encourages individuals and congregations to continue supporting our friends in the Methodist Church in Cuba while advising against travel to Cuba at this time. This guidance reflects our concern for the well-being of those who would travel amid severe fuel and power shortages, the political posture by the United States toward Cuba, recent threats of possible military action, and the resulting uncertainty. We do not offer this counsel lightly, knowing how deeply our churches support these relationships.

Please recognize that at this time Cuba has severe limitations related to food, medicine, fuel, and other necessities which when used by visitors cannot always be readily replaced. Refraining from travel at this time helps preserve these resources for those living in Cuba, especially those in greatest need. While citizens of the United States may be able to afford food and material in Cuba while traveling there, our consumption of such goods reduces their availability to those who live in Cuba.

Therefore, the Florida Conference is not currently sponsoring, organizing, or endorsing mission trips or other travel to Cuba. Any individual or group choosing to travel independently does so without the sponsorship, endorsement, or authorization of the Florida Conference. Travelers should not represent themselves as traveling on behalf of the Conference.

Our position on travel does not represent a withdrawal from our relationships. As we approach the 30th anniversary of our covenant relationship with the Methodist Church in Cuba, we give thanks for nearly three decades of shared ministry and faithful partnership. We look forward to celebrating this meaningful milestone and continuing our covenant relationship for years to come. During this critical time, we encourage individuals and congregations to consider directing funds that might otherwise be used for travel toward providing essential resources for the people and communities they support.

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Through trusted partners, we are working to provide food, medicine, financial assistance, and other essential support to the people of Cuba. The Missional Engagement Office can help individuals and congregations identify reliable ways to assist the people of Cuba and remain connected with partner churches and communities.

There are many ways to give to help the people of Cuba. This can be done via check or online.

Make check payable to "Florida Conference Treasurer" and send it to: Florida United Methodist Center Attn: Missional Engagement 450 Martin L. King Jr. Ave. Lakeland, FL 33815. Please write Fund 100070 on the memo line and include the purpose and designated church.

To donate online towards work in Cuba please visit https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/OnlineGivingCuba

We encourage continued prayer, communication, financial support, and coordinated assistance. By working together through established channels, we can help resources reach those who need them most while continuing to nurture our covenant relationships.

We will continue monitoring conditions and consulting with our insurance and risk-management partners. If circumstances change and travel can be undertaken with appropriate safeguards, we will provide updated guidance.

Please continue to pray for the people of Cuba, the Methodist Church in Cuba, and all those providing care and relief. This is a critical time to stand alongside the people of Cuba, offering our support, care, and resources in ways that respond to their greatest needs. May we remain steadfast in standing alongside our Cuban siblings and bearing witness to the hope and love of Christ.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Tom Berlin
Resident Bishop

Molly McEntire
Director of Connectional and Mission Ministries