

Hamline UMC
Volunteer In Mission
Puerto Rico Response - Respuesta a Puerto Rico
November 10-17, 2018

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR's) efforts to support its partner, the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR), as they work to rebuild after Hurricane Maria. UMCOR has received a formal invitation from Bishop Hector Ortiz of MCPR requesting volunteers to support reconstruction following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Our mission, at the request of the MCPR, is the re-construction of houses & Sanctuaries. We will be notified of our group site location and project(s) two weeks prior to our arrival. Please, be aware that changes may occur. Patience and flexibility are essential.

All volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

Accommodations:

Depending on the assignment and group size (we are planning for 12-14 people), the group will be staying at a Retreat Camp or a local church.

There will be bunks at the retreat sites. Please bring appropriate linens.

Teams staying at a local church will sleep in the sanctuary either on pews or on the floor. Please bring a small air mattress or crash pad, sleeping bag – depending on your needs.

There is no internet or wi-fi available in any of the camps.

Power and water:

To this date the three Retreat Camps have tap water. (Only for washing)

Bottled Water for drinking will be provided.

There is no power. The camps have a small generator for the fridge and fans. The generator is turned on from 6am-10am and from 6pm to 10pm. Be prepared to use your flashlight and shower with cold water.

Do not bring any electric appliances. (ie. Hair dryers.) The sites cannot accommodate electrically assisted medical devices.

Meals:

The site kitchen will provide 3 meals and a snack each day for the group.

Meals are not made to order, there can be no changes in the menu or special order – except for medical concerns.

If a volunteer requires a special diet because of a medical condition, please let the team leaders know so that we can make the request at least 4 weeks prior to our arrival. All team members must eat together.

The team may eat at a local restaurant if one is available at our own expense. These arrangements must be made ahead of time with the Site Coordinator.

Medical:

Team members must be in good health and prepared for relatively heavy work in warm temperatures and higher elevations.

Immunizations- Current Tetanus Shot

Everyone should travel with Medical (\$50,000), Accident, and Repatriation Insurance (Submit documents three weeks before departure.) Verify your coverage with your provider.

We will be purchasing temporary Insurance from UMCOR. This is required for all participants. It will cost \$11 per person.

We will be provide a list of nearby hospitals. In case of an emergency, there will be a vehicle on site at all times.

All team members will sign a liability waiver for their Conference prior to departure and a liability waiver upon arrival in Puerto Rico.

Itinerary: (Flight schedules are tentative)

- Saturday, November 10- Leave MSP airport at 5:00 AM, arrive San Juan 2:23 PM (1 stop- 1h 18m Charlotte, NC). Travel to site.
- Sunday, Nov. 11- Orientation and attend the local church worship service.
- Monday-Friday- Work and get to know the people and community.
- Saturday, Nov. 17- Leave site (time TBD)- Depart from San Juan 3:55 PM, arrive MSP 10:07 PM (1 stop- 1h 43m Chicago)

Luggage:

Please keep personal items to a minimum. One checked bag (50 lbs) and one personal bag per person. (Space is limited)

Tools will be carried in additional bags.

Clothing: Men and Women

Temperatures will be mid to upper 80s during the day and low 70s at night.

- Work pants or jeans on project site. No Shorts Please
- Always t-shirts on work site – “cami-shirt” or “spaghetti strap shirt” for women or sleeveless shirts for men are not allowed
- If a volunteer has heat sensitive skin, long sleeve shirts are recommended for work.
- A Hat
- Construction Boots or vibram-sole hiking shoes (Be conscious of the danger of nails in the floor)
- Appropriate outfit for church attendance: men-slacks, women-skirt, dress or long pants
- Comfortable clothes for evenings
- Little or no jewelry
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Don't wear any tight or shorts. Long Bermuda-type shorts can be worn at the camp site.
- Flip-flops for shower
- Bathing suit (one piece)

Personal items:

- Linens: Twin Bed sheet set (bunk bed)
- Pillow
- Towel

- Small wash basin
- Water bottle
- Light blanket
- Sleeping bags-those staying in a Church. Bring only if told to
- Hygiene items/toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight and batteries
- Sun block
- Work gloves
- N-95 dust masks
- Detergent for hand laundry
- Do not bring hair dryers or irons – there is no electric power at camp sites

Optional:

- Tea Bags (If you do not drink coffee)
- Money for buying non-budgeted items such as specific snacks, soft drinks or personal items

Tools:

Follow your team leader's instructions. We will receive more specific information a couple of weeks prior to departure.

Plan to bring hand tools (hammers, pry bars, screw drivers, etc..) and cordless drills and saws.

Consider a donation of your tools to the site to be used by other groups in the reconstruction of PR. This will help build up our inventory.

Finances:

Estimated cost per person: \$55.00 per person/ per day for

Lodging

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

1 snack

Plus:

Transportation 15 passengers van for one week = \$1,100 per van / per week

Van for transporting group luggage 2 days (Day In/Out) from \$440

Translator/Team host - \$300.00 /week

Total estimated cost per group / per week = \$1,840 / 14 people = **\$131.43/person**

NOT INCLUDED: Gas and insurance for the van, toll expense

Lodging and Meals: \$55 per person/day x 14= \$6,160 per person= **\$440.00**

UMCOR Insurance \$.75/day + \$5.00 registration **\$ 11.00**

Flights **\$585.00**

Est. Total \$1,167.43

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES
Culture, Religious, and Local Customs:

All teams will receive a general orientation after arriving at their host site

DO:

- Recognize that survivors own their own recovery and have ultimate decision-making regarding their residence.
- Have confidence that the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico has done a thorough assessment to identify the needs and available resources.
- Shake hands when greeting someone and when saying good-bye. A kiss on the cheek, or an “abrazo” (hug) is not unusual.
- Take time for polite conversation; don’t just jump right into “business.”
- Give gifts **only** through the local pastor, District Superintendent, or Volunteer Coordinator.
- Learn as much Spanish as you can and use it every chance you get.
- Expect to participate in charismatic-style worship.
- Smile! Smile! Smile!

DON'T:

- No drinking of alcoholic beverages
- No smoking
- No shorts to attend church
- Do not give money to individuals
- Please do not make judgments or promises.
- Do not proselytize.
- Don’t take pictures of the owners, specially children, of the house you are working in, except with their permission.
- Don’t drink untreated water.
- Don’t wear expensive-looking jewelry and flashy clothes.
- Don’t smoke or drink alcoholic beverages at any time or place while in Puerto Rico. Puerto Rican culture in church context is more conservative.
- Don’t wear any tight pants or shorts. Long Bermuda-type shorts can be worn at the campsite, but NOT to a church service. Slacks for men, and skirt/dress or long pants for women, should be worn for church activities.
- **DO NOT** give gifts to **anyone**. **Any private or collective gifts**, should be given through the local pastor or the Puerto Rico Volunteer Coordinator.