



*Sunday School Children at La Fernanda Presbyterian Church, Havana, Cuba*

## **Index to Resources for the Pastors for Peace Faith Project**

People of many faiths agree that a better world is possible and our siblings in Cuba are remarkable for their struggle in “making a way out of no way” to bring that world into being. Although they continue to suffer under the harsh blockade imposed by the US government, they are partners in our shared struggle for what our faith assures us is possible. Their commitment to health care, education, housing, and provision of basic needs is instructive for us.

Since the Cuban Revolution, people of faith in the US who have understood the values of the Revolution to be consistent with their faith have supported Cuba. Strategies have included political advocacy, travel, congregational partnerships, delivery of aid, and more.

This packet includes ideas and resources for faith groups to encourage their organizing efforts for justice for Cuba.

And please sing along with us a hymn you’ll hear often in Cuba.

**HIMNO “La Mano de Dios”**

1.- La mano de Dios en nuestro mundo está, actuando con gracia y con poder; la Iglesia debe ver el gran acontecer de la poderosa mano de Dios.

2.- La mano de Dios en nuestro mundo está, derribando estructuras de opresión, he aquí la destrucción de toda explotación por la poderosa mano de Dios.

3.- La mano de Dios en nuestro mundo está creando una nueva sociedad, con paz, con hermandad, justicia y libertad, por la poderosa mano de Dios.

4.- La mano de Dios en nuestro mundo está, mostrando su modo de vivir; servir, también sufrir; por todos aún morir sostenidos por la mano de Dios.

5.- La mano de Dios en nuestro mundo está, forjando una nueva humanidad. Tenemos que luchar y juntos trabajar con la poderosa mano de Dios.

6.- La mano de Dios en nuestro mundo está, obrando con juicio y con amor, la Iglesia sin temor se une con valor a estas obras de la mano de Dios.

1.- The hand of God in our world is, acting with grace and power; the Church must see the great happening of the mighty hand of God.

2.- The hand of God in our world is, breaking down structures of oppression, here is the destruction of all exploitation by the powerful hand of God.

3.- The hand of God in our world is creating a new society, with peace, brotherhood, justice and freedom, by the powerful hand of God.

4.- God's hand in our world is showing his way of life; to serve, also to suffer; for all to die supported by the hand of God.

5.- The hand of God in our world is, forging a new humanity. We have to fight and work together with the mighty hand of God.

6.- The hand of God in our world is, working with judgment and love, the Church fearlessly joins these works of the hand of God.

## **Index of Resources for the Pastors for Peace Faith Community Organizing Project**

## **1. Cuba for Beginners, Answers to your Frequently Asked Questions FAQ's** *(found in toolbox folder)*

## **2. What's going on in Washington?**

IFCO/Pastors for Peace has its roots in the justice-seeking U.S. faith community, and religious persons of all traditions have been a part of the Cuba Friendshipment aid caravans and IFCO's other solidarity activities from their beginning.

There are now two Bills in the Senate, the U.S.-Cuba Trade Act of 2021 and the Freedom to Export to Cuba act. There are also many actions President Biden can take using the power of executive order. These represent an opportunity for people of faith to speak out for a just policy. The U.S. Congress listens to heartfelt, informed advocacy from people of faith! Let your legislators hear your voice and that of your fellow believers.

Please use the links below to help you in writing your own letters to your Senators and Congresspersons. You'll find:

- \* examples of resolutions voted by U.S. religious bodies in support of ending the U.S. embargo against Cuba
- \* reports from U.S. religious delegations who have visited Cuba
- \* a recent statement produced by the Latin America Working Group and signed by major U.S. religious bodies along with Cuba solidarity organizations
- \* an example of an advocacy tool prepared by one denomination for use among its congregations

[Freedom to Export to Cuba](#) *(full text)*

[U.S.-Cuba Trade Act of 2021](#) *(full text)*

## **3. Letters you can use to introduce yourself** *(found in toolbox folder)*

One page Introductory Letter  
More Extensive Introductory Letter  
Sample Letters to Clergy Colleagues  
Invitation letter in English and Spanish

## **4. Video and Print Resources** *(found in toolbox folder)*

## **5. How our Faith Partners in Cuba responded to the COVID pandemic**

On the Second Sunday of COVID by Rev. Hector Mendez (toolbox folder)

Dr. Patricia Ares on Anxiety: (toolbox folder)

## **6. Organizing Tools and Examples from US Faith groups and denominations.**

*Joint Statement from the National Council of Churches and the Cuban Council of Churches, March 27, 2020 [here](#)*

*[Letter to President Biden](#) from Faith and Solidarity Groups Urging the Normalization of U.S.-Cuba Relations May, 2021  
(IFCO made a petition from this letter and collected almost 700 signatures)*

*Latin America Working Group on Cuba [here](#)  
[Petition to President Biden](#) from IFCO's Medical Advisory Committee: *Let Cuba Breathe**

*[Petition to President Biden](#) from the Latin American Working Group,*

Sample letter asking for Legislative Advocacy (in toolbox)

Sample letter from Presbyterian Cuba Partners Network (in toolbox)

## **7. Statements about Cuba from US Faith Institutions**

This list is not exhaustive; these are only a few examples. Find out from your own faith community's/denomination's social justice or international mission arm whether they have voiced policies regarding the blockade of Cuba, and whether partnerships with Cuban believers may also be in place.

*Alliance of Baptists [here](#)*

*American Baptist Churches [here](#)*

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [here](#)*

*Presbyterian [here](#) and [here](#)*

*Rabbi Berel Simpsen about Jewish Religious Liberty in Cuba (in folder)*

## **8. Statements from Cuban Faith Institutions**

*Religious Liberty in Cuba, statement from the Cuban Council of Churches (in folder)*

## **9. Some successful examples from IFCO's Network -- how to educate your local community**

**The Rev. Thomas I. Warren and Kimberly G. Miller: End the suffering in Cuba.**  
Greensboro, NC News and Record. June 21, 2021 [read the article here](#)

**Judy Kreith: Cuba: End the embargo.** Letter to the Editor Boulder CO Daily Camera, June 21, 2021 ***(NOTICE AND FOLLOW her format for the three magic steps in a letter: 1. a short personal statement on why YOU care; 2. Short description of what's happening. 3. Short statement on the change you want.)***

Cuba saved my Jewish family from the Holocaust during World War II, and I so want to help Cuba now! I want to see an end to the cruel and anachronistic embargo and find a way to normalize Cuba/U.S. relations. The Cuban people are struggling to find basic needs for survival, especially food and medicine.

On June 23, the United Nations General Assembly will again vote to end the decade-old failed embargo. In the past the vote in the UN from countries around the world has been almost unanimous to end the embargo. The only countries voting to uphold it have been the U.S. and a few allies. This year, I send my deepest hope that the Biden-Harris administration will abstain from the vote (the way the U.S. Ambassador to the UN did in 2016 during the Obama administration) thereby signaling their plan to uphold their campaign promise to open up and normalize our relationship with Cuba.

Let us put an end to the cruel choices placed on Cuba. End the Embargo ¡No Más Bloqueo! Help the Cuban People Now!

**Judy Kreith**

*Boulder*