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Cuba Partners Network

New Regional Liaisons for the Caribbean!



Photo by Kathryn Threadgill

Greetings, Friends!

The Cuba Partners Network is proud and excited to announce that **Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri** and the **Rev. José Manuel Capella-Pratts**, have recently been named by Presbyterian World Mission as our new PC(USA) Regional Liaisons for the Caribbean!

In this role, they will work with several partner programs in the Western Caribbean, including the Cuba Partners Network, as well as facilitate relationships and activities with other World Mission partners in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti *and* provide support to the Caribbean and North American Council on Mission (CANACOM). This joyous announcement to the Network comes now that both Vilmarie and José Manuel are fully onboard, meeting with our IPRC partners in Cuba earlier this month.

Married for 25 years, both Vilmarie and José Manuel have deep and abiding connections to the Presbyterian Church and to the Caribbean:

Vilmarie, ordained for over 25 years as a Presbyterian Ruling Elder, has served the PC(USA) at the session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels, having most recently served as the first Hispanic Latina and first Puerto Rican to be elected Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018). A life-long Educator, with a B.A. in Education (ESL) and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Teaching, and years of experience in the classroom, Vilmarie commented to PC(USA) World Mission that "I felt some time ago, before serving as co-moderator, that the Holy Spirit was leading me away from the regular classroom to another type of classroom, one that provides a safe space for dialogue, for learning, for conversation, for connecting, for bringing down barriers."

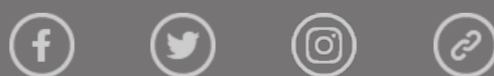
José Manuel, ordained as a Minister of the PC(USA) in 1996, has also served at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly levels, and as a parish pastor for 25 years. José Manuel received a B.A. in Psychology, an M.Div. from Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, and graduate studies in Pastoral Care of the Family, Leadership, and Preaching. His most recent call was as Pastor of First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL, an 11-year call just completed in December, 2021. Looking forward, José Manuel said to PC(USA) World Mission that he views this post as "part of my whole vocation as a pastor . . . I am excited about the possibility to connect different parts of the body of Christ with each other and engage in mission together."

José Manuel and Vilmarie express their shared hopes to the Network:

"We are looking forward to our ministry together as we serve our siblings and partners in the Caribbean region and as we begin scheduling those long-awaited virtual visits with the church and ecumenical partners in the Caribbean and the U.S. We are grateful for your prayers as we continue to learn and live into this new call."

We welcome Vilmarie and José Manuel to this next adventure with a heartfelt "¡bienvenido!" and look forward to our work, worship, and partnership together!

*Read more about Vilmarie and José Manuel's story here,
in an article from Presbyterian Mission Agency:
["A New Call to Connect Different Parts of the Body of Christ"](#)*



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