

SUMMER 2024

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic July 7-14



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



MISSION



For over a decade, Comunidad Connect has worked to alleviate poverty and create sustainable change in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic. With our local partners, we create programs that improve community health, empower youth through sports, and support sustainable community development.

COST: \$1200 (adult), \$950 (youth)
Minimum age 14 w/ parent or guardian

DEPOSIT DEADLINE: \$200 by March 10 to guarantee a spot.

QUESTIONS: Scott Neely, Director of Mission & Community Connections
scott.neely@westpreschurc.org

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

Informational
zoom Meeting

**Wed., February 21
@ 6:00 pm**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Puerto Plata, July 7-14 Dominican Republic

A little History & Overview:

Comunidad Connect (CC) has partnered with WPC for a number of years, dating back to when CC hosted mission teams in Nicaragua. WPC helped Comunidad survive not only the social unrest in Nicaragua (2018) but also the global pandemic. In 2023, WPC provided funds to build a home in the community of Los Robles, Nicaragua. The home was constructed in September 2023 under the leadership of their country director in Nicaragua, Yarisleidy Cortez. This was a true community build with dozens of neighbors coming out to lend a hand.

WPC also provided flexible funding to support CC's development as a formally registered Dominican nonprofit organization in the D.R. Some of the funds covered legal fees for registration while the remaining \$2,000 allowed Yarisleidy to spend over a month in Puerto Plata researching our program strategy there and a few weeks in Constanza partnering with the WPC mission team that we hosted in July. Yarisleidy met with institutional leaders from both the public and private sectors, and grassroots community leaders, local families, and special needs patients. Her connections shed light on who CC should partner with in Puerto Plata and how our programs should be designed.

For 17 years, CC has connected thousands of families isolated by geography and economics with vital resources to improve their quality of life. This focus has brought them together with at-risk youth, special needs patients, single mothers, and the elderly. In the D.R., CC is targeting their work on similar isolated populations but also including the deaf community.

What will the mission team do?

CC plans to be in Puerto Plata for the foreseeable future. Just like last summer in Constanza, this year's team will also focus on infrastructure projects (accessibility, building bathrooms, etc.) while also tapping into their youth development initiative and collaborating with the Dominican, Haitian, and Deaf populations.

Flights:

We will do our best to fly out of Greensboro rather than Charlotte or Raleigh. However, flight itinerary options and price will dictate where we fly out of.



Puerto Plata, July 7-14

Dominican Republic

Schedule:

- Saturday: Fly into Santo Domingo (tentative). Jon Thompson will meet us at the airport. We'll hop on a bus and head to Puerto Plata - a good 4 hour drive.
- Sunday: Take the day to recoup from traveling, get to know the city and visit the worksites to get an idea of the specific work we'll be doing.
- Monday-Thursday: Working at individual worksites.
- Friday: Travel back to Santo Domingo and take a historic tour of the city.
- Saturday: Fly out of Santo Domingo to head back to Greensboro.

Where will the mission team stay?

Until CC builds their own housing in Puerto Plata, we will most likely be staying in a resort-type location for lodging. We will spend the last night in the historic district of Santo Domingo. At this time, staying at a resort in Puerto Plata is more economic, logistically efficient, hygienic and safer than the smaller independent hotels they used thus far. We will use it as a home base for the week.

What else should you know?

- **Packing** - We'll talk more about what to pack closer to the trip. We have found that packing everything in one carry-on size suitcase and a backpack really helps with travel logistics - both at the airport and space in the bus.
- **Passports** - Not a bad idea to make sure your passport has not expired or to contact **Guilford County Passport Services** NOW if you do not have a passport. It can take 3+ months to get a new passport finalized and in your hands.
- **Immunizations** - Talk with your doctor about what immunization you will need for this trip. This can take some time as well. So, sooner the better!
- **Flexibility** - Always a good idea to have an open and flexible mindset between now, while we are in the DR to when we arrive back home. International mission trip logistics can get a bit "tricky" at times!
- **Comunidad Connect Website:** comunidadconnect.org

Remember!



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