

Diocese of Western Massachusetts Mission to the Dominican Republic and Haiti

Summer of 2011

Basic plans for the mission:

A team of 16 will travel to Jimani, Dominican Republic, a community located on the border with Haiti. The team will stay at a Diocese of the Dominican Republic (DR) conference center currently under construction. Lead Vacation Bible School (VBS) with local Dominican Episcopalians for 100-400 children for one week teaching biblical stories and the Christian faith. Many of these local children will be Haitian immigrants.

In addition to a VBS, team members will participate in a building/repair project to be determined in the Diocese of Haiti (in the Croix des Bouquets area) to help that diocese and country recover from the disastrous earthquake of January 12, 2010.

This trip will be co-led by the Very Rev. Jim Munroe, Christ Church Cathedral and The Rev. Peter Swarr, St. Mark's, East Longmeadow

Basic Information:

Length of trip: 10 days including travel

Possible time frame: June 24- July 3, 2011 (these dates may well change based on team member availability, airfare, and logistics on the Island of Hispanola)

Age Requirements: Entering high school students and older (we hope to have a multi-generational team)

Number of Team Members: 10-16 (this size leads to optimal team building and a greater ease of transportation once we are on the ground in the DR).

Cost: We are asking participants to pay for their airfare, entrance visa (20 dollars), ground transportation, and personal shopping (gifts, etc). This cost should be around 700 dollars (based on 450 for airfare, 170 for ground transit, 20 for visa, and 60 for personal spending). Please understand that this cost is dependant on airfare. We also want to make it clear that inability to pay for this cost does NOT disqualify people from participation. The Diocese has granted 2500 dollars to help create scholarships for people who are unable to pay.

Team Commitment: Regular and consistent participation in every-other month planning and team meetings. This will include cultural education, missional training, fundraising, prayer, worship, and planning.

Prayer and Worship: Commitment to actively participate in the worship life of your local congregation and intentionally pray for the people of Haiti, the DR, and mission team members. Keeping a journal is also highly recommended.

Spread the News: Write a letter/email to send to friends, family, and fellow parishioners to tell them about this mission and ask for their prayers and support, financial or otherwise.

Apply today for this trip as space is limited! Applications are available by contacting Fr. Peter Swarr

Next Meeting: August 29, 5:00 PM at Christ Church Cathedral

For further information or answers to questions please contact The Rev. Peter Swarr at rector@stmarksma.org or 413-525-6341

To learn more about the Diocese of the Dominican Republic please check out <http://episcopaldominican.org/intro-page.html>

To learn about the Diocese of Haiti please check out <http://www.egliseepiscopaledhaiti.org/>
Be advised, this website is nearly entirely in French.