



**MISSION
DELEGATION
MANUAL**

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OVERVIEW

Frontera de Cristo is one of four ministry sites of [Presbyterian Borderlands Ministries](#) (PBM). PBM's sites from west to east along the 2,000-mile US/Mexico border are—

- Compañeros en Misión, Nogales, Sonora/Nogales, AZ
- Frontera de Cristo, Agua Prieta, Sonora/Douglas, AZ
- Pasos de Fe, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua/El Paso, TX
- Puentes de Cristo, Reynosa, Tamaulipas/Hidalgo, TX

Although each site responds to the unique needs of its particular location, all Presbyterian border ministries share the same goals—

- Engage in ministries of compassion and empowerment
- Promote mission education so that Presbyterians in both Mexico and the United States experience joint mission on the border
- Be a collaborative ministry between Presbyterian churches in the US and Mexico, working together at all levels
- Collaborate with and support existing border churches
- Develop new churches with the Presbytery of Jurisdiction
- Promote justice always, raising a prophetic voice wherever the Kingdom of God is being proclaimed on earth.



FRONTERA DE CRISTO

Frontera de Cristo engages in several broad areas of ministry such as mission education, family and health ministry, and church and community development. We partner with—

- Presbyterian churches of Sonora and the US in developing church leadership through our binational internship ministry
- Health professionals on both sides of the border to provide access to health services in underserved communities including the migrant community
- A women's cooperative that provides opportunities to learn skills that enable them to better provide for their families
- A drug rehabilitation center providing material, moral, and spiritual support to persons who are seeking to overcome their addictions to "live again"
- Churches on both sides of the border in helping people of faith grapple with issues of immigration and respond in faith and not fear
- Coffee farming communities in southern Mexico to provide economic alternatives to immigration
- Law enforcement, elected officials, business persons, other faith organizations, academics and human rights groups from across the border to work toward a healthier border for all.

A great deal of energy and prayer is directed toward leading mission delegations across borders to build relationships and understanding and to witness to the power of the gospel to tear down walls that divide humankind. Mission teams come to be in *mutual mission* with their Mexican brothers and sisters, sharing their gifts and talents as well as receiving.

WHY PARTNER IN MISSION?

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) works in partnership with Christian communities, other faith organizations, and secular entities around the world. The earliest confessions of the Reformed Tradition can be held as the guide for the faith and practice of the church today. The Second Helvetic Confession in 1566 stated, “... there is only one church ... We, therefore, call this Church catholic because it is universal, scattered through all parts of the world, and extended unto all times, and is not limited to any times or places.” (Book of Confessions, 5.126)

The Book of Order, the second part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), emphasizes the need to manifest unity in the midst of diversity. “Because in Christ the Church is one, it strives to be one. To be one with Christ is to be joined with all those whom Christ calls into relationship with him. To be thus joined with one another is to become priests for one another, praying for the world and for one another and sharing the various gifts God has given to each Christian for the benefit of the whole community.” (Book of Order, F-1.0302a)

The Presbyterian Church seeks to open itself up to new movement of the Holy Spirit. Being in partnership with people in other cultures and participating in God’s mission in the world helps individuals to be more faithful in their quest to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CULTURE

The local Presbyterian Church in Agua Prieta is a primary partner in hosting our mission delegations. One of the exciting aspects of cross-cultural experiences is cultural difference. Mexican Presbyterians are different from US Presbyterians in many respects—economically, linguistically, socially, and politically.

History. The first Presbyterian missionaries arrived in Mexico in the early 1870s. The Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico was established in 1872 with the church forming a General Assembly in 1947. In 1972, the Mexican church requested a ten-year moratorium on US activity in Mexico. At the end of that period, the two denominations established a new relationship of mutual mission. Today the Presbyterian church in Mexico comprises more than 6,000 churches with an estimated 2.8 million members.

Discipleship. Mexican Presbyterians live out their lives of discipleship differently than most US Presbyterians. Many Mexican sisters and brothers choose to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages, smoking, dancing (with the exception of folk dance), and playing cards. They do so in order to witness to their faith and to be identified as Christians in their culture. US mission delegations come to the border to participate jointly in mission with their brothers and sisters in Mexico. It is not expected that everyone agree with the theological and moral decisions of their sisters and brothers to abstain from these activities; however, it is expected that delegations respect the Mexican way of living out the gospel. As an extension of the congregation’s witness in Agua Prieta, we ask that you adhere to the *no dancing*, *no drinking*, and *no smoking* policy while in Mexico.

MISSION EDUCATION MINISTRY

Frontera de Cristo receives delegations for immersion experiences that last from one day to about two weeks. The primary goal of Frontera de Cristo is to build relationships and understanding across borders, and groups that are in town for longer than a day will spend time with Mexican families in their homes. These visits give delegations and hosts the opportunity to share and learn from each other from both sides of the border.

Goals of the Mission Delegation Program

- Form relationships between US and Mexican brothers and sisters
- Build understanding of our spiritual, political, and economic connections across borders
- Challenge participants to understand the realities of life on the border
- Provide participants the opportunity to share their talents or gifts and discover new abilities
- Provide participants with enough knowledge of Frontera de Cristo to be able to interpret the mission and ministry of Frontera de Cristo and our partners.

Reflecting Biblically and as Persons of Faith. Groups coming from faith organizations will also have the opportunity to participate in the worship life of border congregations during Sunday worship. Integral aspects of this part of the mission experience include:

- Reading the Bible and praying corporately
- Reflecting on mission activities biblically
- Listening for the voice of God speaking through the Scriptures, people, and experiences on the border
- Waiting expectantly for God to reveal a deeper sense of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Returning from the border with renewed vigor in the life of discipleship.

Sharing a “Minute for Mission.” It is requested that each team present themselves to the congregation during worship, describing the ministry and mission of their home church. Teams may also share a song, short drama, etc. with the congregation—this is always appreciated.

MISSION DELEGATION ACTIVITIES

A variety of learning experiences are available. Most teams participate in a combination of the following activities:

Seeking Understanding. FDC tries to provide learning experiences that will help delegations understand life in the borderlands. Activities may include a border infrastructure tour; a visit to the Border Patrol station or a conversation with a Border Patrol agent; a visit to the children’s enrichment ministry at New Hope Community Center; lunch at the women’s cooperative at Douglaprieta Trabaja and a tour of their community garden; a tour of Café Justo and a cup of coffee at Café Justo y Mas; a cross-planting led by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, to honor migrants who have died crossing the desert; a visit to CATPSIC (a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center), to CAME (a migrant shelter), or to the Migrant Resource Center (a short-term shelter); dinner with a family in Agua Prieta; and perhaps even a desert hike.

For delegations who wish to experience the economic realities of the border, shopping and eating for a day on a maquila worker’s salary are informative experiences. Groups that wish to have a more in-depth understanding of a particular aspect of life on the border can arrange a conversation with a member of the FDC staff. Examples include the economy on the border, maquiladoras, the Presbyterian Church in Mexico, health issues on the border, children’s education, recovering from addiction, migration and immigration, or other aspects of life in Agua Prieta.

Spiritual Practices at Frontera de Cristo. Spiritual practice is central to FDC’s ministry and life-giving as we build relationships and understanding across borders.

Morning Devotions. Each day our staff leads the delegation in devotional time first thing in the morning that includes Scripture reading, silence, and prayer. On some days, biblical reflection and prayer is held at the border wall.

“Healing Our Borders” Prayer Vigil. Delegations that are in town on Tuesday evenings participate in the “Healing Our Borders” Prayer Vigil. This is a weekly event during which we remember those who have died on the desert in their search for safety and asylum and pray for their families. The Vigil has been held at the US-Mexican border every Tuesday for more than 20 years.

Biblical Reflections. Delegations in town on Wednesday morning are invited to join FDC ministry leaders in their biblical reflections, prayer, and singing at Café Justo y Mas. As we sit in a circle, Scripture is read in both Spanish and English. Then, using a conversation technique called “mutual invitation,” participants are invited to share their observations and insights about the reading, and to comment on how the Scriptures inform their experiences and how these experiences shed new light on reading and understanding the Scriptures. Participants are invited to request or offer prayers, to which we respond “Escúchanos, oh Dios” (“Hear us, oh God.”) And we sing—in two languages and often simultaneously!

Cross-Plantings. Occasionally, desert pilgrimages are held to remember migrants who have died in the desert in Cochise County, Arizona. In this ceremony, which was begun by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, we plant commemorative handmade wooden crosses near the places where migrants have died. The ceremony includes hiking to the place of death on the desert, planting the cross in concrete, praying, burning incense, and playing drums and other ancient musical instruments to honor both the indigenous tribes from which migrants may have come and the indigenous lands on which they died, and to acknowledge that we are all children of God. [Listen and watch the description of this event.](#)

Spreading the Word: Bible Schools and Evangelism. Teams also have the opportunity to participate in evangelism with members of the Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church congregation and the FDC staff. Teams may assist with Vacation Bible School or go with members of the local congregation to invite individuals to church. Teams may also teach stories in a Saturday Bible School; lead an evangelism project in cooperation with the youth or members of the congregation; share the Gospel in song or drama, etc. If teams conduct Bible School, they work in partnership with the congregation and the FDC staff. Teams provide material for and lead the activities while church members and FDC staff members provide teachers for the lessons.

Construction Projects. Many mission delegations come with the desire to do something physical such as build, paint, or repair a house, church building, community center, or clinic. Over the last 30 years, our ministry focus has changed. Delegations now do very little construction. Rather, our focus is on getting to know people in ministry and building relationships. For groups interested in construction, we can arrange for the delegation to support an ongoing project with a local church or community organization; however, construction will always be a secondary activity and will usually take no more than a few hours. FDC also occasionally holds work days for congregations located within a few hours of the border.

Visit Another Border Ministry Site. Take a one- or two-day trip to Nogales, Sonora, and visit with one of our sister ministries: Compañeros en Misión, La Casa de la Misericordia (House of Mercy), and/or the Kino Border Initiative. Although it's a nearby neighbor, Nogales has its own distinct character. Learn about another Mexican border town and how our sister ministry is engaged with the community. There is a tourist market in Nogales with an abundance of artisan shops representing many regions.

Enjoying God's Creation. Some groups plan a day during their mission experience for a recreational activity outside of Agua Prieta/Douglas. Arizona has a variety of nature conservatories and national forests. Within an hour of Douglas, there are a number of hiking opportunities in the mountains, including the Chiricahua National Monument and the Coronado National Forest. Nearby Bisbee is a unique southwestern town with copper mine tours as well as arts/crafts and antique stores. Tucson has beautiful recreational areas as well. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum located just west of Tucson is a wonderful place to learn about the animals and plants of the Sonoran Desert. Or perhaps visit nearby Cuenca Los Ojos, in Pearce, where their mission is protecting and restoring the biodiversity of the US/Mexico Borderlands.

SAMPLE SCHEDULES

Sample One-Day Mission Delegation Schedule

| | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 am | Overview of binational ministry |
| 10:00 am | Brief Border Infrastructure Tour |
| 11:00 am | Reflections at the border wall |
| 12:30 am | Tour of community garden and lunch with DouglPrieta Trabaja |
| 2:30 pm | Visit CATPSIC |
| 3:30 pm | Visit with Café Justo & Café Justo y Mas |
| 5:00 pm | Biblical reflections and prayer at the border |

Sample Three-Day Mission Delegation Schedule

Monday

| | |
|----------|--|
| Morning | Arrival and welcome |
| | Biblical reflections and prayer at the border |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch and conversations with local pastors and church leaders |
| | Migration and the churches' responses |
| 2:00 pm | Orientation to the Migrant Resource Center |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner at CAME Migrant Shelter |
| 8:00 pm | Possible late-night shift working at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) |

Tuesday

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast at the community center or home stays |
| 9:00 am | Checking in and biblical reflections |
| 10:00 am | Tour of Border Patrol Station |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch with Just Trade Center developer |
| 2:00 pm | Visit with Café Justo |
| 5:15 pm | Healing Our Borders Prayer Vigil |
| 7:00 pm | Dinner with vigil leaders |
| | Possible late-night shift at MRC |

Wednesday

| | |
|----------|--|
| 7:30 am | Breakfast at Café Justo y Mas |
| 8:00 am | Biblical reflections at Café Justo y Mas |
| 10:00 am | Visit and prayer with CATPSIC (drug rehabilitation center) |
| 12:30 pm | Lunch and conversations with DouglaPrieta Trabaja |
| | Permaculture, community gardens and food security |
| 3:00 pm | Farewell at the border wall |

Sample Weeklong Mission Delegation Schedule

Saturday

Welcome, expectations, hopes and fears
 Biblical reflections at the border
 Dinner with members of Frontera de Cristo

Sunday

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast at church |
| 9:30 am | Biblical reflections |
| 12:00 pm | Worship with Lirio de los Valles congregation |
| | Lunch with leadership of church |
| | Dinner at community center |

Monday

| | |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 am | Biblical reflections |
| 9:30 am | Border Infrastructure Tour |
| 10:00 am | Shopping on a maquila salary |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch with DouglaPrieta Trabaja |
| 3:30 pm | Walk, reflect, pray |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner on maquila salary |
| | Watch documentary and have a discussion with local community |

Tuesday

| | |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am | Biblical reflections on the Sonoran desert |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch in the desert (maquila salary) |
| 5:15 pm | Healing Our Borders Prayer Vigil |
| 6:30 pm | Dinner with vigil leaders |

Wednesday

| | |
|----------|--|
| 7:30 am | Breakfast at Café Justo y Mas |
| 8:00 am | Biblical Reflections at Café Justo y Mas |
| 9:30 am | Tour of facilities and conversations with Café Justo |
| 11:00 am | Visit Migrant Resource Center |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 pm | Border Patrol Station tour |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner at CAME Migrant Shelter |

Thursday

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 am | Biblical reflections |
| 10:30 am | Tour of a maquiladora |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch with members from church who work in maquiladoras |
| 4:00 pm | Walk, reflect, pray |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner with members of congregation |

Friday

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| 8:00 am | Breakfast |
| 8:30 am | Biblical reflections |

LOGISTICS

To ensure the success of your experience, planning and organization are vital. The following pages should be helpful to you as you plan, prepare, and make appropriate arrangements.

Group Makeup and Size. Mission delegations vary in their makeup. For logistical purposes, the preferred maximum number of team members is 14, including leaders. If you wish to bring a larger group, please speak with a member of the Frontera de Cristo staff in advance in order to discuss the possibilities. **Please note:** For youth groups, one adult leader is required for every four youth. In addition, if both male and female youth are in the group, then both male and female adults must accompany them. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult relative.

Expenses. You can expect the following expenses during your mission delegation experience. This does not include the required \$50 non-refundable group registration fee.

Per person Fees (effective 11/02/2023):

Multiple-Day Trip: registration, translation, local transportation, honorariums, logistics and program fees, 3 meals a day, and lodging (unless you choose to stay in a hotel). Two partial days will be considered one day for cost purposes (e.g. arriving in the afternoon the first day and departing in the morning on the last day).

\$105 per day

\$95 per day *

One-Day Trip: registration, translation, local transportation, honorariums, logistics and program fees. This rate does not include an overnight stay.

One-Day Trip with One Meal:

\$85 per day

\$70 per day *

One-Day Trip with Two Meals:

\$90 per day

\$75 per day *

*This partner discount is offered to churches and organizations that currently support the work of Frontera de Cristo, Café Justo, and/or the Migrant Resource Center.

Identification and Passports. According to the Department of Homeland Security, a valid passport is required for international travel. The state-issued “REAL ID” is intended only for use within the US for accessing Federal facilities, for entering nuclear power plants, and for boarding commercial aircraft, not for crossing the border by land into or from Canada or Mexico. More information is available at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/real-id-faqs>.

The states of Vermont, New York, Michigan, Minnesota, or Washington can issue an [Enhanced Driver’s License \(EDL\)](#), which is valid identification for crossing back into the US.

Although it is possible to cross back into the US using your regular driver’s license, that decision is often up to the Customs and Border Protection agent on duty at the port of entry. We recommend getting a passport rather than trusting that your driver’s license will be accepted. For more information on applying for a passport, go to <https://travel.state.gov/>

There are specific identification requirements for children under the age of 19. Please refer to the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection web site](#) (“Traveling with Children”) and follow their instructions regarding copies of birth certificates and notarized letters.

Transportation and Insurance. Delegations will have access to the FDC 15-passenger van on a first-come, first-served basis. The van is needed to transport delegations between the ministry sites in Agua Prieta, and it will be reserved for you when we receive your Group Registration Form and fee.

Frontera de Cristo can arrange to pick up and drop off your delegation at the Tucson Airport for a fee of \$400 round trip, or at the Phoenix airport for \$600 round trip.

In the event the FDC van is not available, groups must provide their own transportation while in Mexico. For groups flying into Tucson or Phoenix, vehicles must be rented prior to arrival in Douglas. Mexican liability insurance must be purchased for all vehicles crossing the border into Agua Prieta.

Drivers of personal vehicles should check their individual insurance companies to see if they are covered while driving into Mexico. Frequently, US insurance companies will cover vehicles staying within a short, specific distance of the border. If the insurance company does not cover the vehicle in Mexico, the purchase of additional liability coverage is strongly encouraged. Insurance may be purchased at a daily rate from Farmers Insurance Group in Douglas, Arizona. *Information regarding insurance and rental agencies is included in the Appendix.*

Lodging. For reasons of solidarity, a more complete immersion experience, and simpler logistics, all mission delegations staying overnight will stay on the Mexican side of the border.

Lily of the Valley (Lirio de los Valles) Presbyterian Church. Delegations may stay in dormitory rooms in the church building in Agua Prieta. Here, delegations have access to a full kitchen, women’s and men’s bathrooms and showers, and air conditioning/heat. Delegations choosing this option sleep in bunk beds, with separate rooms for men and women. Sheets, pillows, blankets, and towels are provided. Plan to bring your own toiletries. The cost is included in the daily delegation fee.

Home Stays. One of the best ways to immerse oneself in a culture is through home stays. Frontera de Cristo can occasionally arrange for home stays for one or two nights in the homes of members of the Lirio de los Valles congregation. (Note: During the COVID pandemic, home stays are not currently available.)

Motels. Delegations may choose to stay in one of the hotels in Agua Prieta, all of which are within a relatively short distance of the community center and the church. The cost of the hotel is not included in the daily delegation fee, and is payable separately, directly to the hotel. *See the Appendix for details.*

Meals. The best food on the border is prepared by the members of our community. All meals are included in the fees. Delegations may use the church kitchen to prepare snacks and other ad hoc meals. Some delegations have asked to prepare a meal for the congregation and/or community with whom they interact during the week. There is a supermarket in Agua Prieta as well as in Douglas. Mexico has convenience stores, too—look for the “Oxxo” signs.

Changing Money. U.S. dollars are accepted everywhere, but few merchants have change for bills larger than \$5. It may be wise to change some money to pesos. For one-day delegations, there is not usually a need for pesos. For groups staying longer than a few days, arrangements can be made for a trip to the bank. Café Justo y Mas accepts dollars and gives change in pesos. They also accept credit/debit cards. The Women's Co-op at Douglas Prieta Trabaja accepts dollars as payment for their handicrafts, and exact change is appreciated.

Safety & Security. The Frontera de Cristo staff is committed to providing a safe environment for each mission team participant. As missionaries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, FDC's staff has received security training through Crisis Consulting International. In addition, the US and Mexican coordinators have lived with their families in Agua Prieta for many years and they know the community very well. In more than 30 years of ministry, Frontera de Cristo has facilitated mission encounters of thousands of participants with no security problems or untoward incidents. Still, all participants should be aware of the realities faced by their Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ. Participants should—

- Be conscious of where they leave their belongings, just as they would when traveling anywhere. They should keep personal items with them unless they are left in an area that is locked. Items of value such as jewelry should not be brought on the mission trip.
- Never go anywhere alone.
- Not enter any home while in Mexico unless it is the home of a known church member or participant.
- Never walk around the neighborhood at night unless in a group of at least three people.

Participants (and parents of participants under 18 years of age) may wish to visit the website of the U.S. State Department: [Mexico International Travel Information \(state.gov\)](https://travel.state.gov). If you would like to register your presence in Mexico with the Department of State, you may do so at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

Medical Needs. If the need for medical care arises, there is a 24-hour urgent care facility in Douglas, as well as 24-hr hospitals in nearby [Bisbee](#) (under the auspices of Copper Queen Community Hospital) and Sierra Vista ([Canyon Vista Medical Center](#)). Frontera de Cristo staff members know where these are, and they will get you prompt medical care.

HELPFUL TIPS

Pandemic Precautions. The Frontera de Cristo Board of Directors approved our resuming mission delegations beginning in August 2021. Because Frontera de Cristo has a responsibility for the health and safety of our ministry partners, visiting delegations are requested:

- to have been fully vaccinated against COVID and be able to provide proof of vaccination;
- to take a COVID self-test before leaving home and have a “negative” result;
- to bring and wear masks that cover the nose and mouth during all indoor group activities (meals excepted) and while traveling in the Frontera de Cristo van (this requirement changes depending on the current status of COVID outbreaks); and
- to practice social distancing during their visit wherever practical.

Flexibility is key. Sometimes things do not work out as planned and last-minute changes may be necessary. The daily schedule should be viewed as a guidepost to your experience.

Language. We work hard to avoid the use of certain words that have become commonplace in American culture. Sometimes these words and concepts have crept into our vocabulary and we are unaware of the negative impact they may have. In addition to not using derogatory terms that have historically been used to identify people of other cultures or people of color, we never call a person “illegal.” A more correct term may be “undocumented person,” if we are talking about someone who doesn't have an American visa. And even though the term “alien” is biblical, we prefer “migrant” or “immigrant.”

Beware of the heat. On the Sonoran Desert, humidity is low and the elevation is high. Water loss occurs rapidly even in spring, fall, and winter. During the summer months, mid-afternoon temperatures are *well over 100°F*.

Drink plenty of water and take breaks as needed. Carrying a water bottle is advised. If you run out of water, the church and Café Justo y Mas can provide you with purified water, or you may buy more at a convenience store.

Dress. Dressing in layers is advisable. In the winter, temperatures near or below freezing are possible. In summer, temperatures can climb to over 100°F. In the fall, there can be a difference of 40 degrees between daytime and nighttime temperatures. Layers work best. Dress in Mexico tends to be more conservative than in the US. In worship, for example, men never wear shorts and women generally wear long skirts or pants. See also “Weather and Clothing” (download from Frontera de Cristo web site).

Shake hands. In Mexican culture, people shake hands when greeting someone and when saying goodbye. During worship, there is a time to greet one another and it is not unusual to shake hands with everyone. Please ask FDC leaders about greeting protocols during the COVID pandemic.

Verbal greetings: Adults in the church congregation call each other *hermano* (brother) and *hermana* (sister). *Dios le bendiga, hermano* (God bless you brother) or *Buenos días, hermana* (Good morning, sister) are appropriate ways to greet one another.

Use Spanish. Don’t be shy about speaking Spanish, no matter how rusty it may be. Individuals you will meet in Agua Prieta will appreciate such attempts and will be more likely to strike up a conversation.

Interpretation. If you don’t speak Spanish well, you may have the opportunity to speak to someone through an interpreter. In these situations, remember to speak directly to the person you’re speaking with, not to the interpreter. This shows respect for the person you’re talking with, and helps you connect with them as a human being regardless of the language barrier.

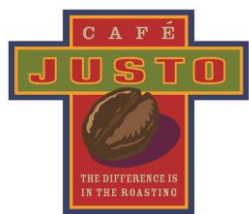
Don’t wander alone. Always travel in groups of three or more.

Don’t tempt your neighbor. Cameras, jewelry, and tools have a very high value. Please do not tempt anyone to steal by leaving valuables unattended—leave laptops and iPads at home.

Don’t flush the toilet paper. Mexican plumbing and water pressure cannot handle paper products. Toilets will clog if toilet paper is flushed. Please deposit toilet paper in the trash can next to the toilet.

Help us keep it clean. Please keep restrooms and common areas clean and picked-up. Also, be considerate by leaving the building cleaner than you found it.

MINISTRIES AND MINISTRY PARTNERS. You will enjoy meeting some of our ministry partners:



Café Justo/Just Coffee. The Café Justo Cooperative was formed in 2002 by coffee growers in the state of Chiapas. Their first pound of coffee was roasted, ground, packaged, and sold to market that year. Talk with Daniel Cifuentes, one founder and dreamer of Café Justo, a cooperative that can be sustained for lots of families. The vision that Café Justo has is to increase economic sustainability in coffee growing regions, which will allow families to stay together and decrease the number of persons migrating to the US.

Café Justo y Mas is a coffee shop that is a partnership of Café Justo, CATPSIC, and Frontera de Cristo. Its purposes are to provide:



- 1) an avenue to increase local sales of Café Justo and spread the economic impact;
- 2) a safe meeting/hang out space for adolescents and youths as part of FDC's new prevention and intervention ministry;
- 3) opportunities for job training/a reintroduction to society for folks from CATPSIC;
- 4) space to hold community artistic events such as open mic nights, poetry readings, and art shows;
- 5) a space for CATPSIC graduates and other graduates of drug and rehab centers to have open AA/NA meetings and community educational opportunities about addictions;

- 6) a bigger space to receive visiting delegations and to have weekly FDC/Café Justo reflections and meetings.

Lily of the Valley / Lirio de Los Valles is the oldest Presbyterian Church in the entire state of Sonora, Mexico. A small and welcoming church, it was founded by Frontera de Cristo in 1985 and is an independent church now. Its members come from the north and south of Mexico and it is especially known in the community as a church that welcomes persons with special needs. Several years ago, the church lost its pastor to an untimely death due to complications of diabetes, and for one year, the pastor's wife served as "la pastora," and then for 3 years the elders provided leadership as they finished building their sanctuary and fixed their manse. They called Pastor Ramon Garcia to be their pastor in 2019.



CATPSIC. Head out to the desert with our CATPSIC partners. CATPSIC is a drug rehab center of "addicts helping addicts." They have partnered with us since 2004 in the Agua Para La Vida Ministry. Spend time working with local members of this group to put fresh water in the desert for migrants who are crossing the border. Walk in the footsteps of migrants who have traveled this path before. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the desert with our friends from CATPSIC/Water for

Life. CATPSIC is known locally as Casa de Vida 'Raul Garcia,' named for a beloved leader who died a few years ago.

Shalom House. Jack and Linda Knox are a Mennonite couple who moved to Douglas in September of 2012. They have created "Shalom House" as a place of hospitality for those who are in need of a safe place to be while transitioning to a more stable situation.



New Hope Community Center/Centro Comunitario Nueva Esperanza is an innovative ministry which is a collaboration between Frontera de Cristo and the Nuevo Progreso Community. The purpose of the community center is to improve the quality of life in this outlying community of Agua Prieta by providing educational, cultural, and development activities for the community.

The **Migrant Resource Center (MRC)** is located in Agua Prieta, next to the Raul Castro Port of Entry on the US/Mexico border. The MRC provides immediate attention to the needs of migrants deported daily from the United States. The MRC offers them food, water, Café Justo, first aid and other medical attention, and access to a shower, a change of clothes, and a place where they can rest before continuing their journeys. They are given directions to bus stations, money exchange facilities, and other ministries and programs that can help. Since opening its doors in 2006, the MRC has welcomed more than 200,000 women, men, and children.



C.A.M.E. (Centro de Atención al Migrante Exodus or "Exodus" Migrant Assistance Center) is a hospitality center for migrants, staffed by volunteers and located at La Sagrada Familia church in Agua Prieta, Sonora. It was founded in 2002 as a collaborate project of the parish, the Archdiocese of Hermosillo, and Catholic Relief Services to address the needs of the vulnerable poor who cross the border to seek a better life in the U.S., or who are being deported back to Mexico. Many migrants arrive after spending several days in the Sonoran desert without food, water, a place to stay, or other resources. Recently, CAME has been providing support for persons from Central America who want to present for asylum at the US Port of Entry.

DPT/DouglPrieta Trabaja promotes sustainable economic development and self-sufficiency models for individuals and families living in the poor neighborhoods of Agua Prieta, Sonora. DouglPrieta Works (DPW) cultivates an ethic of mutual aid among community members and offers practical solutions to reduce dependency on weak job markets, government assistance programs, charity, and border crossing.





Healing Our Borders Prayer Vigil is an interfaith group based in Douglas, Arizona. They organized in December of 2000 in response to the growing number of migrant deaths in Cochise County, which has become the most popular entry point for undocumented migrants along the entire U.S.-Mexico border. Healing Our Borders has four main areas of focus: organizing a weekly prayer vigil, education, humanitarian aid, and advocating for legislative change. The weekly prayer vigil takes place every Tuesday evening along Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona. Participants gather to remember and pray for those who have died crossing the border through Cochise County.

City of Douglas. Frontera de Cristo worked with the city of Douglas in the wake of SB1070 (Arizona's anti-immigrant law) to declare itself a "Welcoming City."



PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Planning and preparation for a mission delegation are crucial for the *enrichment of mutual mission*. In the months prior to departure, the delegation leaders and pastor(s) of the church should equip the team for cross-cultural mission. This will take a commitment of time. While the Holy Spirit can and does work despite our lack of preparation, there is a notable difference between teams who arrive having had ample preparation and teams who just "show up" on the day of departure. Those who arrive having invested time, energy, reflection, and prayer prior to the experience tend to be more attentive to the movement of the Spirit and generally have a richer experience.

In the following paragraphs, you will find suggestions for various components of preparation that you may engage in with your prospective team. The Web sites, books, and videos listed here provide excellent introductions and helpful information in preparing for your visit. There are numerous ways your congregation can be involved in your team's mission experience.

Web Sites and Facebook Pages

- Frontera de Cristo — www.fronteradecristo.org and <https://www.facebook.com/fronteradecristo/>
- Café Justo — www.justcoffee.org and <https://www.facebook.com/Caf%C3%A9-Justo-116646248346467>
- Café Justo y Mas coffee shop — <https://www.facebook.com/CafeJustoyMas/>
- Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Home Page — <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-mark-adams-and-miriam-maldonado-escobar/>

Books

- Adams, Mark and Tommy Bassett. *Just Coffee: Caffeine with a Conscience*. Just Trade Center, 2009. (available on Amazon.com for \$14.50 or from Frontera de Cristo for \$10)
- Adams, Mark, Minerva Carcaño, Gerald Kicanis, Kirk Smith, and Stephen Talmage. *Bishops on the Border: Pastoral Responses to Immigration*. Morehouse Publishing, 2013.
- Bobrow-Strain, Aaron. *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story*. New York: Picador (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), 2019.
- Farrell, Hunter and Balajiedlang Khylllep. *Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility, and Co-Development*. InterVarsity Press, 2022.
- Miller, Todd. *Build Bridges, Not Walls: A Journey to a World Without Borders*. City Lights, 2021.
- Regan, Margaret. *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Borderlands*. Beacon Press, 2010. Chapter 2.

Videos and Documentaries

- Frontera de Cristo. Our most recent video (9 minutes) by Steve Zeoli gives a current overview of Frontera de Cristo and some of our ministries. <https://vimeo.com/259047331/e91b1cb489>
- La Bestia (The Beast) by Pedro Ultreras (2011). “La Bestia” is the nickname for the train that many Central Americans ride on through Mexico in their attempt to evade Mexican authorities, bandits, criminal gangs, and deadly falls en route to “El Norte:” the United States. DVD available for purchase on Amazon.com.
- Crossing Arizona (2006, 2010). This 90-minute documentary examines policy changes that have brought us to the point where we are today in our struggle to understand the forces of migration. It introduces persons on both sides of the border who are responding to the complexities of immigration and the border. Available for purchase on Amazon or free with Amazon Prime.

Congregational Participation in Mutual Mission. A mission partnership is a continual activity that does not begin and end with the exchange of mission delegations. A variety of gifts and skills are necessary to maintain the quality of the partnership. It is necessary not only to have a large number of members participate in the partnership, but also to have them participate in areas in which their gifts and skills can be best utilized. The following two pages are a gifts list that may be used to help members of the congregation discern how their gifts can be used in the partnership. The survey can be sent out to all members of the congregation for prayerful consideration. Following an adequate, but not lengthy, period of time, the mission committee can arrange to pick up the surveys and respond to any questions the members might have. This process will be time intensive, but will bear witness to the importance of the partnership and will bear much fruit.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT SURVEY

Our church is in partnership with Frontera de Cristo and partner churches and organizations in Agua Prieta, Mexico. We are seeking to utilize all of the gifts of our congregation in order to enhance our mutual ministry in the service of our common Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider the gifts that God has given you and how you can enhance our partnership. If you have gifts that match the needs listed below, please check the space provided. If you have gifts that you believe would be helpful for the partnership but are not listed, please write them in the blank space provided and let the mission committee know. A member of the mission committee will contact you within a week to set up a time when they can meet with you, answer any questions you might have, and to pick up this survey.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Prayer

- _____ I will commit to praying weekly for the ministry, members, session, and Frontera de Cristo and the community in which they minister.
- _____ I will commit to pray daily for the ministry, members, session and pastor of our church and our community.
- _____ I will commit to pray daily for our partnership.
- _____ I will commit to pray daily for economic justice.
- _____ I will commit to pray daily for the mission team.

Spanish

- _____ I will commit to teaching a conversational Spanish class weekly to the staff and all members interested in learning Spanish.
- _____ I will commit to teaching a five-week conversational Spanish course to the mission delegation.
- _____ I will commit to translating correspondence that arrives in Spanish.
- _____ I will commit to being a translator if a mission team comes from Frontera de Cristo

Communication

- ☐ I will commit to preparing a display showcasing our partnership with Frontera de Cristo.
- ☐ I will commit to writing a letter to Frontera de Cristo describing what our partnership means to me.
- ☐ I would like to establish a “pen pal” relationship with a brother or sister in Mexico.
- ☐ I will commit to keeping abreast of the news that affects our sister church (i.e. immigration, NAFTA, the devaluation of the peso, the elections in Mexico, relations between the U.S. and Mexican government especially as it is related to the issue of drugs) and keeping them posted in the church.
- ☐ I will commit to writing an article in our church newsletter about the importance of our partnership to me.

Organization (if a mission delegation visits from Lirio de los Valles)

- ☐ I will commit to organizing the transportation for our mission team.
- ☐ I will commit to organizing the lodging for the mission team from our partner church.
- ☐ I will commit to organizing a joint youth service project while our partner delegation is here.
- ☐ I will commit to organizing evangelism opportunities for the joint youth choirs.
- ☐ I will commit to organizing mission notebooks/journals for our mission delegates.

Hosting/Hospitality (if a mission delegation visits from Lirio de los Valles)

- ☐ I will commit to hosting three youth and an adult from our partner church in my house for a week.
- ☐ I will commit to hosting two persons from our partner church for a week.
- ☐ I will commit to hosting a joint youth picnic/dinner (serving around 30).
- ☐ I will commit to leading a joint youth hiking excursion/ other recreational activity.

Teaching

- ☐ I will commit to participating in the following mission delegation preparation sessions and leading the discussion (1 hour) on that days topic:
 - ☐ Overview of Mexican history with particular emphasis on issues of conquest and the formation of the present border between the U.S. and Mexico
 - ☐ Cultural differences between persons from the U.S. and persons from Mexico
 - ☐ Religion in Mexico with particular emphasis on the Catholic/Protestant tensions
 - ☐ Mexican economy with emphasis on its interrelatedness with the U.S. economy
 - ☐ Immigration

Ways in which you would like to be involved in our mission partnership with Frontera de Cristo that are not listed above:

Before you come:

- ### Bring with you:

- Suggested content of permission letter:**

We may be contacted at the following phone numbers: _____

(home, work, and cell recommended)

Signatures:

FORMS

The following forms must be completed and submitted to Frontera de Cristo prior to the mission delegation experience. The Delegation (Group) Registration Form must be returned with a non-refundable registration fee of \$50 in order reserve dates for the delegation. Individual Registration Forms (or scanned copies) for each group member should be mailed or e-mailed to Frontera de Cristo at least two weeks' prior to the prospective arrival date so that we may plan meals and events, and so that we have emergency contact information.

DELEGATION (GROUP) REGISTRATION FORM

| DELEGATION INFORMATION | | |
|--|------------|----------------|
| Name of Church or Organization: | Telephone: | |
| Address: | E-mail: | |
| Name of Delegation Leader: | Telephone | Home: Work: |
| Leader Address: | E-mail: | |
| Desired Dates for Delegation: | | |
| DELEGATION SIZE AND MAKEUP | | |
| Number of Adults | Male _____ | Female _____ |
| Number of Youth | Male _____ | Female _____ |
| Number with Spanish Proficiency: Some _____ Moderate _____ Fluent _____ | | |
| On a separate sheet please provide the names and home addresses of all members of your delegation. Please provide additional information such as age, career background, special interests, skills, etc. Please note that if your youth group includes both males and females, they must be accompanied by both male and female adults. | | |
| MISSION STATEMENT | | |
| Please write your delegation's mission statement for this trip. | | |
| TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS | | |
| We will need round-trip transportation from the airport. ____ Yes ____ No [NOTE: We understand that you may not yet know which airport you are flying into. The round-trip charge from Tucson International Airport is \$400. Round-trip from Phoenix Sky Harbor is \$600. As soon as you book your flights, please let us know of your arrival and departure times so we can reserve the van for you and schedule the trips.] | | |
| We would like to stay in the dormitories at the church: ____ # of nights (Cost included in daily fee.) | | |
| We will stay in a hotel in Agua Prieta : ____ # of nights ____ # of rooms required. (Cost <u>not</u> included in daily fee.) | | |
| MEALS | | |
| All meals are included in the participant daily fee. Please note here whether anyone in your group has food sensitivities, and be sure to note it on their individual registration form. | | |

EXPERIENCES: All delegations will visit Café Justo and Café Justo y Mas, and the Migrant Resource Center (listed below). In addition, delegations that are in town on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will participate in the "Healing Our Borders" Prayer Vigil and Biblical Reflections at Café Justo y Mas (which are not listed here). Please indicate which additional experiences your delegation may be interested in.

- | |
|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visit Café Justo and Café Justo y Mas |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visit the Migrant Resource Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late-night stint volunteering at the Migrant Resource Center (helping to prepare food for migrants, cleaning the facility, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Centro de Atención al Migrante "Exodus" ("Exodus" Migrant Assistance Center) (CAME) at La Sagrada Familia Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit and prayer with CATPSIC Drug Rehabilitation Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the Women's Co-operative at DouglPrieta Trabaja |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experience the Sonoran Desert and Migrant Trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the Health Ministry at New Hope Community Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship with Iglesia Presbiteriana Lirio de los Valles (Lily of the Valley Presbyterian Church) in Agua Prieta (Sunday only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in Children's Enrichment Ministry at one of their three sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour a maquiladora (Foreign-owned factory in Mexico) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn to make tortillas or tamales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conversations with Mexican Consulate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tour of U.S. Immigration/Customs Facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conversation with U.S. Immigration/Customs Agents or Border Patrol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area (roost site for Sandhill Cranes from November to end of February) or other local site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Study Focus (please note specific topics you'd like to study) |

Check enclosed for:

Group Registration Fee (\$50)

Team Member Fee(s)

Other

TOTAL:

| |
|-------|
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |

Please return this completed application along with your check to:

Frontera de Cristo

PO Box 1112

Douglas, AZ 85608

FRONTERA DE CRISTO INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM *for group delegations*

| PERSONAL INFORMATION | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Name: | Telephone: |
| Age (if 18 or under) : | |
| Address : | E-mail: |
| Name of Church or organization: | Passport #: |
| MEDICAL INFORMATION | |
| Do you have any medical or physical constraints or disabilities that may require accommodation? (If yes, please describe) | |
| List critical prescriptions medications (and dosages) that you must take while on this trip: | |
| Allergies | Blood Type |
| SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS | |
| Food Allergies | |
| Dietary Restrictions (vegetarian, gluten-free, diabetic, etc) | |
| Accessibility needs: (wheelchair access, etc) | |
| LEARNING OBJECTIVES | |
| Please briefly describe what you would like to learn on this trip: | |
| EMERGENCY CONTACT | |
| Name: | Phones (indicate home, work, cell): |
| Relationship: | Email: |
| Address: | |

Check attached: \$ _____

Check number: _____

Mail to: Frontera de Cristo
PO Box 1112
Douglas, AZ 85708

APPENDIX

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Frontera de Cristo | Office | (520) 364-9257 |
| Jocabed Gallegos | U.S. Cell | (864) 517-4799 |
| MX Coordinator | Mex. Office | 011-52-633-121-2299 |
| | Mex. Cell | 011-52-1-633-103-2191 |
| | E-mail | jocabed@fronteradecristo.org |
| Mark S. Adams | Home | 011-52-633-331-2944 |
| US Coordinator | Cell | (520) 226-1524 |
| | E-mail | mark@fronteradecristo.org |
| Café Justo | Office | (866) 545-6406 |

RENTAL CAR, INSURANCE COMPANIES

Tucson:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Enterprise Airport | (844) 370-9821 (7-passenger minivans largest that can cross into Mexico) |
| Adobe Transportation | (866) 965-8195, (520) 745-5940 (15-passenger vans that can cross into Mexico) |
| Avis | (520) 294-3662 (may ring a long time) (12-passenger vans largest that can cross into Mexico) |

Phoenix:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Phoenix Car Rental | (602) 904-3490 (15-passenger vans that can cross into Mexico) |
| Budget Sky Harbor | (602) 261-5950 (12-passenger vans largest that can cross into Mexico) |
| Enterprise | (602) 225-0588 (7-passenger minivans largest that can cross into Mexico) |

Farmers Insurance in Douglas - (520) 364-3446

HOTELS IN AGUA PRIETA, SONORA

La Frontera: Avenida 42 and 43 and Hwy 2
Telephone: 011-52-633-331-1766
Price Range: \$45-\$60

Hotel Ruiz: Av 6 500, INFONAVIT 1
Telephone: 011-52-633-338-2499
Price Range: ca \$45-\$60

La Hacienda: Calle 1 at 6th Avenue
Telephone: 011-52-633-338-0621
Price Range: \$50-\$60

Maria Bonita Suites: Calle 12 at Avenida 11
Telephone: 011-52-633-338-0502
Price Range: \$50-\$70

DRIVING DIRECTIONS**To Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church and Café Justo (Calle 11 & Avenida 19):**

- 1) Cross the border.
- 2) Continue straight on Avenida 3 and go through the arch.
- 3) Go 4 more blocks and turn left on Calle 6 (one-way street).
- 4) Continue for 16 blocks. Note: traffic signals have precedence over stop signs.
- 5) Turn right on Avenida 19.
- 6) Continue for 5 blocks (stop signs at every block -- look both ways).
- 7) Café Justo y Mas will be on your left. The church will also be on your left, across Calle 11 from Café Justo.
- 8) You may park on either side of either building.

To New Hope Community Center:

- 1) Cross the border.
- 2) Continue straight on Avenida 3 and go through the arch.
- 3) Go 4 more blocks and turn left on Calle 6.
- 4) Go 3 blocks and turn right on Avenida 6.
- 5) Continue on Avenida 6 about 20 blocks to Highway 2. (Landmarks: at the stop sign at Highway 2, on your left you will see a statue of Luis Donaldo Colosio and an AutoZone store).
- 6) Turn left on Highway 2. Go through 5 stop lights (at Avenidas 10, 18, 20, 29, and 33). As soon as the divided 4-lane highway becomes 2 lanes, take the next right onto Avenida 40. The community center is 3 blocks down on the left.

To DouglaPrieta Trabaja:

- 1) Cross the border.
- 2) Continue straight on Avenida 3 and go through the arch.
- 3) Go 4 more blocks and turn left on Calle 6.
- 4) Go 3 blocks and turn right on Avenida 6.
- 5) Continue on Avenida 6 about 20 blocks to Highway 2. (Landmarks: at the stop sign at Highway 2, on your left you will see a statue of Luis Donaldo Colosio and an AutoZone store).
- 6) Turn right on Highway 2.
- 7) Turn left on the second exit ramp at Avenida 2nd Industrial (just east of the white Chrysler auto dealerships on the south side of the highway)
- 8) Keep straight on Ave 2 industrial until the first stop sign.
- 9) Turn left and keep straight until you get to the school (Sor Juana Inés)
- 10) Turn left and DPT will be on your right.

