

Anayda Diaz Herrera Visits National Capital Presbytery

Anayda Diaz Herrera came to Washington, D.C., June 28-July 5, 2006, en route to the Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY. She was hosted by The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and Church of the Pilgrims Presbyterian Church through a National Capital Presbytery Peacemaking grant. Anayda is director of Presbyterian Women of the Havana Presbytery, as well as an elder on the Session (consistory) of First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana and superintendent of its Sunday school.

Anayda's whirlwind visit to Washington included meeting with members of the Presbytery's Global Mission Network and Peacemaking Committee, and members of NYA's Cuba Working Group to discuss church partnerships; touring the National Capital Presbytery office and meeting with the Interim Associate General Presbyter, Rev. Carla Gorrell; and leading an adult Christian education class at NYA to discuss the church in Cuba and her experiences as a Presbyterian and Christian.



Ms. Diaz traveled to Capitol Hill to meet the staff of the PC(USA) Washington Office where she held a roundtable discussion that included NYA's Rev. Roger Gench and representatives of the Latin America Working Group and Washington Office on Latin America. She then met with Lance Walker, senior legislative aide to Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and the Cuba Caucus who reported the status of proposed legislation to ease travel restrictions with Cuba.



Anayda toured Mt. Vernon as the guest of Rachel Messman, moderator of Presbyterian Women of National Capital Presbytery, and then was hosted at Rachel's home for lunch with members of the Presbytery's PW Board. Anayda also was given a special tour of National Cathedral by a docent—and Commissioner to GA—from Knox Presbyterian Church, Paul Wackerbarth. She joined NYA's Presbyterian Women's Circle II for lunch on the rooftop terrace of The Washington Hotel where she had a beautiful view of the city.

Church of the Pilgrims Presbyterian Church hosted a pot-luck dinner for church members from NYA and Pilgrims, especially those who had visited Cuba this year on missions. Anayda presented a cross representing the church in Cuba to Pilgrim's Rev. Jeff Krehbiel and Elder Betty Rudolph. She also presented a cross to Revs. Gench, Spuhler-McCabe, and Jennings during the NYA's Sunday service.

Anayda had time to visit some of the Washington sites including the Cuban-American Friendship Urn, Library of Congress, FDR memorial, and the Kennedy grave at Arlington Cemetery. She attended a community Fourth of July parade in DC's Palisades hosted by Pilgrim's Betty Rudolph and culminated her visit with fireworks on the Mall celebrating July 4th before heading to the Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville.