General Secretary of Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba Visits NCP

Rev. Francisco Marrero, General Secretary of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba and Dean of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba visited National Capital Presbytery, June 29-July 6, 2009. Rev. Marrero's visit to Washington,D.C. was sponsored by a grant from NCP Peacemaking Team, and he was hosted by The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church which has a partnership with the First Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Havana and a long-standing relationship with the seminary.

Rev. Marrero's schedule was packed with a range of opportunities to meet Presbyterians and other church groups across the Presbytery. He began with an interview for the PBS edition of *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly* that was aired on TV and computer broadcast the Sunday he was here. He continued with a visit to the PC(USA) Washington Office and a presentation and roundtable discussion on "The Presbyterian Church in Cuba" with an inter-denominational and non-governmental organizations audience. Although he was scheduled to meet with NCP pastors and NCP Presbyterian Women officers in Alexandria that had to be cancelled, he still was able to have a tour of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA.

On July 2, he traveled to Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA with Rev. Frances Gench, Professor of New Testament at Union, for a tour and meeting with Union's Dean, John Carroll. Discussions on future possible ties and exchanges between Union and the Evangelical Theological Seminary (a Presbyterian-founded seminary) will continue between the Deans.

On July 3, Rev. Marrero met with NCP General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Wilson Gunn, and they also discussed possibilities for future relationships and exchanges between the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba and NCP.

Members of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church squired Rev. Marrero around Washington, D.C. for July 4th celebrations and a gathering at a member's home for a July 4th brunch. On Sunday, Rev. Marrero led an Adult Christian Education class and presented a Minute for Mission at NYA before doing last minute tours of Washington prior his departure the next morning.

Submitted by Marilyn Seiber of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.