



NEW ENGLAND
YEARLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS
QUAKERS

Puente de Amigos Committee

Procedures for Approval for Visitors to Cuban Friends

This document summarizes the steps to be taken for approval of travelers from NEYM to Cuba through the Puente de Amigos process. Legal as well as spiritual aspects of the process must be followed for right order. Careful spiritual discernment is important. Puente Committee maintains several other more detailed documents which are equally important to the inter-visitation process.

1. Letter of interest from traveler to Puente Committee and request for clearness from monthly meeting (MM), including the spiritual intent of the journey.
2. Puente clerks inform the Permanent Board (PB) of the general information (meeting, timing, etc.) and request approval in advance of individual clearness and Puente approval.
3. Monthly meeting Ministry & Counsel committee (or other committee as appropriate) considers each traveler and if deemed clear, forwards to MM meeting for business. MM clerk forwards minute of approval and letter of introduction for each approved group to Puente Committee and to quarterly meeting(QM).*
4. QM (or clerk of QM) approves each traveler.*
5. Puente Committee further discerns clearness of each traveler and, if approved, provides orientation/advice to prepare for the trip.
6. Puente Committee seeks Cuba Yearly Meeting approval, formal invitation and visas for travelers.
7. PB clerk or presiding clerk of NEYM approves travelers, signs clerk's letter, creates transmittal letter(s) as needed for donations and forwards list of approved travelers to PB.
8. Upon their return, travelers return signed letter of introduction or travel minute to Puente Committee, MM, QM, and PB.

*Quarterly meeting approval is required only for those with a travel minute.

Approved by Permanent Board, September 19, 2019