



DRAFT (PWNC to vote July 28, 2009 Meeting)

COVENANT

Partnership of Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries (IENPG) and Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PCUSA)

Why We Are Partners

I. This partnership exists to:

Glorify God (Romans 15:5-6)

Testify and demonstrate to all the reconciling love of Christ
(Romans 12: 9-21)

Mutually encourage one another (Romans 1:12)

Help our pastors, churches and their members gain a better understanding of God's shalom and experience God's abundant life in all aspects of our lives.

Affirm our integral faith in Jesus Christ, declaring our intention to work as partners in support and mission in our respective countries, learning from each other, sharing our joys and pains in order to appreciate those gifts that each church offers for God's purpose.

II. Needs and gifts:

A. Needs to be addressed by the partnership:

In PWNC, we need to:

1. Better understand how to share our faith with others;
2. Offer the opportunity for our congregations to be in direct contact with Christians living and carrying out ministry in a different culture;
3. Foster greater awareness in our congregations of others' needs and appreciation of their abilities;
4. Gain a fuller understanding of the larger world in which we live; for instance, the impact of globalization and our personal lifestyles on the lives of others;
5. Learn how to better incorporate our Christian faith into all aspects of our personal and social lives in order that we may glorify God;
6. Define God's abundant life as other than "the good life;"
7. Encourage our churches to work together in ministry in order to become credible and effective witnesses to the unifying power of Christ;;
8. Learn better how to become multiracial congregations and become more culturally inclusive church families;
9. Continue to develop fellowship with the increasing numbers of Hispanics living within our bounds;
10. Learn to expect the miraculous;
11. Appreciate anew our reformed heritage.

In Suchitepequez we need:

1. Workshops in reformed theology;
2. Reformed teaching materials;
3. Education on how to develop a common bank, in order to strengthen the emergency fund;
4. Learn English in order to strengthen communication within the partnership;
5. Develop a library in each church..

In Sur Occidente we need:

1. Improve communication;
2. Prepare people in languages (a project in our presbyteries to learn English in Guatemala and Spanish in the United States);
3. A program to have our own means of transporting delegations that visit us;
4. Involve all the pastors in our presbyteries in the partnership;
5. The support of pastors in the different aspects of partnership; leadership and evaluation (workshops) with different representatives;
6. Share Bible studies;
7. Volunteers.

B. Gifts we bring to the partnership/opportunities for sharing:

PWNC has the following gifts, talents and resources to offer:

1. A commitment to prayer;
2. Leadership of men and women, both clergy and lay persons, in areas such as theology, church polity, administration, etc;
3. A hospitable Christian spirit;
4. Leadership and service gifts of retired persons, in areas such as health care, education, small business, etc.;

5. Experience in youth ministry and care of church professionals and seminary students;
6. Strong interest and some experience in the mission of the Church beyond our bounds;
7. Medical personnel, materials and facility resources;
8. Camp Grier with its facilities and program for children and youth;
9. Montreat Conference Center, with its variety of learning opportunities;
10. Financial resources;
11. Beautiful environment and concern for its preservation;
12. Experience in being in ministry ecumenically;
13. Many kinds of music;
14. Working together on common goals, in spite of strong differences (eg. support of missionary Barbara Nagy);
15. Our citizenship, a gift whose impact carries great responsibility;
16. Organizational skills.

Suchitepequez has the following gifts, talents and resources to offer:

1. Variety of professionals (teachers, medical personnel, pastors etc.)
2. Service;
3. A ministry of music;
4. Skill to organize: workshops, committees and other activities.

Sur Occidente has the following gifts, talents and resources to offer:

Human resources, including English speakers, those who can use the computer, teachers, doctors, nurses, musicians, laborers and “missionaries” (pastors, youth and women).

III. Priorities

- A. Christian Education
 1. Pastor training
 2. Develop materials
 3. Christian Education in the churches
- B. Secular Education for children, youth and adults
- C. Church to Church Partnerships
 1. Inform churches of the policies and norms
 2. Improve communication
 3. Focus projects on the communities
- D. Youth
 1. Involve youth together in partner church visits
 2. Have youth on each of the partnership committees
 3. Committees support the work of the youth
- E. Women
 1. Involve women together in partner church visits
 2. Have a representative of Presbyterian Women on each of the partnership committees and support the work of the women
 3. Receive reports of the mission of the women in each presbytery.

- F. Health Ministries
1. Integrate more health and partnership
 2. Hold Guatemalan sessions more accountable for the promoters and support them
 3. Involve everyone in the community
 4. Do more training of health promoters, leading to official certification of some health promoters, with a goal of having a medical kit in the Guatemalan churches with officially certified health promoters.
 5. Continue and improve the children's nutrition program

- G. Pastoral Support
1. Theological and secular education
 2. Sensitize Guatemalan sessions to their responsibility of economically supporting their pastors.

V. **Duration:** The fourth Partnership Covenant begins in January 2010, and ends in December 2014.

 Presidente, Presbiterio de Suchitepéquez

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 Presidente, Comité de Compañerismo

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 Presidente, Presbiterio de Sur Occidente

 Fecha

 Presidente, Comité de Compañerismo

 Fecha

 General Presbyter, Presbytery of Western North Carolina

 Date

 Chair, Partnership Committee

 Date