

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN CEDEPCA AND NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY

The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) and New Castle Presbytery (NCP):

- ❖ Are guided by the transforming power of God;
- ❖ Seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed; and
- ❖ Affirm that all people are made in God's image and deserve love and respect, even though they are different in heritage, skills, income, gender, age, and nationality.

Moreover, through God's guidance, CEDEPCA and NCP:

- ❖ Share their love of Jesus through action that helps others;
- ❖ Seek to transform lives through education and spiritual growth;
- ❖ Articulate clearly defined visions and missions;
- ❖ Implement well-crafted programs to fulfill their ministries;
- ❖ Offer strong spiritual and practical leadership;
- ❖ Possess the capacity to meet emergencies; and
- ❖ Have already worked together successfully.

CEDEPCA and NCP believe that God has bestowed great blessings upon them. Building on their mutual strengths and their previous collaboration, they feel drawn to work together formally. They thus agree to enter into an ongoing relationship of support. Through this Agreement, they commit to maintaining a nurturing and sustaining relationship. They will grow together spiritually. They will discern what God is calling them to do as partners.

The foundation of this Agreement is based upon I Corinthians 12:4-13 (NIV) that emphasizes the different gifts with which each person is endowed and encourages everyone to use these gifts to form one body in Christ:

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

The mutual expectations of CEDEPCA and NCP are:

- ❖ Praying for each other;
- ❖ Sharing knowledge, resources and skills;
- ❖ Discerning how best to address the challenges facing communities and the world;
- ❖ Developing, nurturing, and supporting future leaders;
- ❖ Maintaining regular communication and reporting;
- ❖ Extending hospitality; and
- ❖ Working on projects of common interest, including those affecting women, youth, and families.

CEDEPCA and NCP each bring different resources, gifts, and experiences to this partnership.

Specifically, CEDEPCA agrees to:

- ❖ Receive at least one group from NCP annually via their Intercultural Encounters Program;
- ❖ Send at least one delegate to the United States each year to visit NCP and member churches;
- ❖ Provide insight and guidance to NCP, as NCP maintains and nurtures its relationships with other partners in Guatemala (primarily with the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development);
- ❖ Support smaller delegations from NCP during additional relationship-building trips to Guatemala, assisting travelers with transportation, translation, and other logistics when possible.

Specifically, NCP agrees to:

- ❖ Provide financial support to CEDEPCA;
- ❖ Send at least one group annually to Guatemala via CEDEPCA's Intercultural Encounters Program. Groups may consist of adults, youth, clergy, staff, and laypersons of NCP and member churches;
- ❖ Promote the work and mission of CEDEPCA within NCP and beyond, with the intention of garnering additional interest and support from churches and individuals.

This Agreement is in effect for years 2019, 2020, and 2021. After this three-year term, the parties will re-evaluate the relationship and decide whether to continue this Agreement.

CEDEPCA and NCP have signed two identical copies of this Agreement, each one of which is considered an original copy.

This Agreement is entered into prayerfully and CEDEPCA and NCP ask God to bless their efforts.

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CEDEPCA (Guatemala)

Date: _____

Rev. Jessica MacMillan
Stated Clerk & Connectional Presbyter
New Castle Presbytery

Date: _____

Flor de Maria Cox
President, Board of Directors
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Date: _____

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Moderator
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