

Minutes
New Castle Presbytery Guatemala Group
August 17, 2015

The Guatemala group met by conference call on August 17, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Those participating were Bill Reed, Cathy Higgins, Carrie Saathoff, George Hall, Cindie Moore, Sue Miller.

Cathy Higgins opened with prayer.

Cindie Moore had provided an update via email earlier in the day. That report took the information on her last report and provided brief updates as follows:

1. The micro-loan group, La Cruz, for which we provided funding earlier this year, is already at work. Each of the 15 group members has now purchased a cow or bull.
2. Construction has begun on a sewing school. The association attempts to ensure that all materials come from Guatemalan merchants.
3. We hope that Linda Williams can recruit a new prayer partner to replace our beloved Sally Cordrey who has passed away.
4. A number of Women's association members have received training on cattle vaccinations from Heifer project personnel.
5. Cindie and Cathy have touched base with Edwin Estevez about the planned Guatemala trip by folks from his Riverfront church. Edwin's group will hopefully visit a related group, the Mam Christian Youth for Development.

Bill Reed and Cathy Higgins reported on the Big Tent meeting. More detailed summaries had been circulated by email. There was a fair amount of interesting info on the overall situation in Guatemala, not directly related to our work. Bill and Cathy did get to spend some time with several of the PCUSA Guatemalan mission co-workers, Amanda Craft, Leslie Vogel and Sandi Thompson-Royer. They seemed content for us to continue in the work which we have been pursuing.

Cindie mentioned that the bags that had been purchased to help with the sale of soap did not work too well and we are not pursuing that idea any further. There was some discussion of the fact that we might help with the development of a logo for the Women's association.

There was discussion of continuing efforts at strengthening the prayer partner ministry, a minute for mission at community, work on an additional group at Dover, Cathy perhaps saying a few words at a presbytery meeting.

Bill mentioned that MDU members have been assigned to meet with persons from groups that are getting MDU money. As part of that, he had lunch with MDU member, Grace Howard, and mostly reviewed the recently updated information on the NC Presbytery website.

We believe that a few hundred dollars remain in our MDU budget line item for 2015. We will discuss how to deploy that during our next conference call. Cathy/George will double check the amount. We will also discuss our strategy for requesting 2016 funds.

The next conference call will be Monday, September 21 at 6:00 pm

Carrie Saathoff closed the meeting with prayer at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Bill Reed, Recorder

