

Minutes, New Castle Presbytery Guatemala Group  
August 27, 2014

The Presbytery Guatemala group convened with prayer on August 27 at the Presbyterian Church of Dover at 3:00 pm. Those attending in person were Linda Williams, Sue Miller, Sally Cordrey, Bill Reed, Jim Moseley. Cathy Higgins and Susannah Tulloch attended by speakerphone.

1. The group agrees that the relationship with the Mam Presbytery has run its course and should officially be ended. Bill Reed agreed to draft an appropriate motion to transmit to MDU to be brought before an upcoming presbytery meeting.
2. The group had a consensus that it should remain as a presbytery level entity, that it should continue to make a request to the presbytery for funding each year. Reed will draft that request and attach the recent report from Cindie Moore listing the activities of the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development (Women's Association). Since we feel reasonably good about the Mam Seminary we will consider a donation to the Seminary in 2015. We will also consider some support for the PCUSA mission co-workers who are working in GT.
3. We discussed whether the group should request that the presbytery enter into a written agreement with the Association, committing to prayerful and financial support for an extended period. Some felt that this really would not be that necessary. Higgins agreed to prepare a draft of such an agreement to be considered by the group at a future meeting.
4. Moseley mentioned that the Presbytery FIRST program will soon be hiring a recently ordained pastor named Edwin Estevez. He will be working on developing multi-cultural ministries, working for a half time salary. He is originally from the Guatemalan Highlands. So we will want to be in touch with him.
5. We discussed the relationship of the Georgetown church with two Guatemalan groups that meet in their facilities. Reed, Miller attended a luncheon event there last March. Williams indicated that there really is no need for any presbytery funding to support this work. Of course, they love for folks from the presbytery to attend any events, these groups of Guatemalans seem to be able to pay their own way.
6. The recent MDU budget worksheet shows that \$6,175 has been spent so far this year. This includes support for a new microloan group - \$3,500, \$1,000 for the ClincaMaya, some help with travel for a trip earlier this year. The remaining \$1,825 is available to help with purchasing plane tickets for the March 2015 trip, hopefully, those tickets could be purchased by the end of 2014. Cathy has a list of 3 definite, 2 strong maybes, 4 less strong maybes for the trip. We would be reluctant to exceed 8 persons on the trip. It is hoped that people can make decisions by October 1. We believe that the general pattern of 1/3 presbytery, 1/3 church, 1/3 individual should be followed. It seems that the \$1,825 mentioned above and approximately \$2,000 from the 2015 presbytery budget should be sufficient to pay the presbytery portion of the travel expenses. The trip will visit a number of the microloan groups that we have help to fund, will view ClinicaMaya, will view a number of the in-home water filters.
7. There was consensus that the group should submit a request for funding to the Presbytery budget for 2015. We would request \$8,000 again. That would be roughly \$2,000 travel, \$1,000 for the seminary, the balance of \$5,000 to be divided among PCUSA mission co-workers or activities, or women's association contingency. Reed will work on this.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 2, 2014 by conference call. Higgins will work on setting it up. The meeting adjourned with prayer at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, William M. Reed, Recorder

## Draft Motion

### Background:

In 2009, NC Presbytery entered into a relationship for prayerful and financial support of the Mam Presbytery of the IENPG (the Guatemalan Presbyterian denomination). Since that time there have been various trips to the area which featured meetings with persons involved with that presbytery. Support has been provided to refurbish a dorm-like structure known as the Mam Center, to help with purchase/translation of Mam language scriptures, to purchase equipment for a sewing center, to purchase books for a bible school type institution which they refer to as a Seminary. Contact has proven to be difficult in recent years. It has proven to be much easier to remain in contact with a group known as the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development. Once upon a time, the women's association was closely associated with the Mam presbytery, but that relationship has frayed, and it is now independent of the presbytery. The Presbytery Guatemala group and the Mission Development Unit feel it should concentrate future efforts with the Women's Association. Finally, the original agreement with the Mam Presbytery was for a term of three years which has run its course.

### Motion:

That New Castle Presbytery gives thanks for its past relationship with the Mam Presbytery, and declares that the official relationship has now ended. Appropriate persons in the IENPG and PCUSA structure should be informed of this decision.