

A Response to the end of the PCUSA- INPM Partnership

We stand in support with the 11 mission co-workers as they discern their call and desire to remain with the work they have been called to in Mexico. Additionally, we unite with any congregation or individual who has mission partnerships with our Mexican brothers and sisters and may this witness more fully contribute to the abundant life that God promises to all people.

Theologically and biblically, partnership is based on the fundamental belief that God's love for the world is greater than any one church can possibly comprehend or realize. The Presbyterian Church USA declares that wherever one of us is engaged in God's mission, all are engaged. Whenever and wherever one engages in that mission, all bear witness to the saving love of God in Jesus Christ. Through this love, empowered by the Holy Spirit, all are made one. This unity is a gift of God's grace that extends across all barriers within the Body of Christ and across the human family, even those barriers that divide us.

As Christians, we understand mission partnerships to be God's work for the sake of the world God loves. This work is made real through the active and leading power of the Holy Spirit. Recognizing our human limitations and because of our fundamental unity in Jesus Christ, we are called to mission through the discipline of partnership. By doing mission in partnership we broaden our awareness of how interconnected God's mission is at all levels, including incarnational relationships. Partnership relationships call us to recognize, affirm and respect all partners and through the unique context of our partnerships we should expect that these relationships can be transformed.

The actions taken by the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico on August 19 to end its 139 year old relationship with the PCUSA puts the status of our 11 PCUSA missionaries in jeopardy and countless (official and unofficial) relationships in limbo. These relationships have not only been built on the foundation of a partnership between two National churches but between individual, congregations, Presbyteries, and Synods. And while PCUSA World Missions cannot "encourage these visits," it is imperative that above all we continue to respond to which we are called, which is God's mission. Relationship has broken between two governing bodies, and while we respect that leadership, it does not lead to a breakdown in relationship or kinship in Christ with our brothers and sisters in Mexico. Personal relationships, mutual ministries, vital partnerships will and should continue. The desire is not to be disobedient to our respective governing bodies, but to respond to our higher calling.

In spite of theological disagreements on both sides of the border we claim the responsibility to continue the mission and work of the church. Now is not the time to disengage from our partnerships with our Mexican brothers and sisters; it is even more important to live our faith and show Christ-like inclusiveness.