

Presbytery of Baltimore

Guatemalan Task Force

Minutes of June 12, 2002

Present: Bob Ferguson, presiding, Tom Eastman, Bill Clarke, Bonnie Clarke, Millie Kreider, recording.

Partnership Document: Tom reported that he is waiting for a draft of a partnership agreement which has been used and is generally acceptable. He noted that there needed to be agreement on the document at the Baltimore Presbytery and the Presbiterio Kaqchikel. The group requested that Tom begin work on a draft without further delay. Tom noted that an agreement was necessary because the Presbyterian system requires one, and such an agreement gives authorization to raise funds.

Tom raised a question of structure, how will contributions flow? Contributions from within the Presbytery which are designated for Guatemala flow through the account which is in the Presbytery Office. The question of contributions from outside the Presbytery may need to be addressed in the Partnership Agreement. Heidi Calhoun, associate pastor of the PC Church in Seattle, Washington, who participated in the February 2002 trip sent a message that the Peace and Justice Committee at her church wishes to be involved in support of the partnership. Jim Richards, now pastor of Hanover PC (Indiana) reported to Bob that his church and Hanover College are interested in underwriting the costs of the technical school to be established in Chimaltenango.

Request from Stephen Howard: Bob reported on Stephen Howard's request for endorsement of a fact-finding trip to Guatemala to research the current status of the basic educational system for Mayan children. Stephen documented his concern that an adequate support system be in place for children who are supported in the educational scholarship program under consideration. The task force endorsed his effort, but asked that he keep in mind that the partnership is structured so that the Presbiterio Kaqchikel retains its autonomy, decision making and priority setting in matters of its own constituency. Stephen is to report back to the Task Force upon his return.

Website: Bill reported that (Seattle) Bob Coggins has established a Website and is waiting for information to be included on the site. Bonnie Clarke is sending the report she has written for her church paper. Bob suggested that thumbnail sketches be provided of all the villages in the Presbiterio Kaqchikel which are being assisted through the program. Tom will email pictures. Information on the website will be provided in English and Spanish.

Family to Family project: Tom Eastman asked about progress of the project. Millie reported that it is anticipated that Marguerita will identify children in the widows community in Tecpan and in surrounding villages who are eligible for assistance with educational costs. Tom volunteered to accompany the October Mission Tour group and take pictures of the eligible children. Bonnie will contact Marguerita to work out details at their end.

Task Force Assignments: were reviewed and renewed. Bob Ferguson will continue as Tour Coordinator. Bill Clarke will continue as clinic and financial oversight. Tom Eastman will continue with work on the Partnership Agreement, photography and getting the message out to churches. Bonnie Clarke will continue to work with getting the message out to churches and serve as corresponding secretary, particularly with the Mayan community. Millie Kreider will serve as recording secretary.

Meetings will be called as needed, the next one to be in July after Stephen's return to receive his report. The group noted that Ken Kovacs is slated to be the next Chair of the Global Mission Committee, and expressed a desire to meet with him to overview activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Kreider, Recorder