

Presbytery of WNC Youth Delegation to Guatemala June 23 - July 2, 2020

GOALS OF THE TRIP:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in Guatemala and bring us closer to each other;
- Experience the Spirit at work in Guatemala and giving witness to the Spirit at work in WNC;
- Provide opportunity for the Guatemalan youth and youth from WNC to share stories.
- Demonstrate the strength of our ongoing partnerships with churches and presbyteries in Guatemala focusing on the young people;
- Foster communication between partner congregations through the young people of each congregation so that the youth can lead the way for future relationships.

Youth must have completed 9th grade to be eligible for this trip. Due to limited space we will be accepting 8 youth for the delegation. The cost will be \$1,600* excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, immunizations, malaria pills, etc.). A deposit of \$450 must be sent with the application and received no later than Feb 1, 2020. Make the check out to "PWNC." If we are not able to accept you for the trip, the deposit will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits are non-refundable. The final payment of \$900 is due June 15.

*For all Presbytery Youth Delegates the Youth Ministry Committee and the Guatemala Partnership Team will be funding \$250 of the cost of your trip. Thus leaving individuals with the *help of their churches* to pay the balance of \$1350.

This application and the "Recommendation, Commitment, & Endorsement" form completed by your Pastor and your Session must be in the Presbytery office at the address below by Feb. 1, 2020.

Mail forms and deposit check to: *(Must be received Feb. 1, 2020)*

Guatemala Partnership Youth Delegation
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
114 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655

Name: _____ Age: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Cell: _____

e-mail: _____

Name as it appears on your passport: _____

Passport number: _____ Birthdate: _____

Please answer the following questions briefly on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Why are you feeling called to participate with this delegation?
2. In serving on a unique youth delegation what gifts would you bring to the table and what might you expect to bring home to the youth back in your church, on PYC and youth involved in Presbytery events?
3. In what ways do you think you might be able to strengthen your congregation because of your participation on this team?
4. Do you have any health problems or dietary restrictions? ___ What are they?
5. Do you speak Spanish? If so, with what proficiency? If you have taken Spanish in school what level classes have you taken? Do you have other experiences speaking Spanish?

All participants must make certain commitments before, during and after their mission experience. Please consider and initial these below and sign your pledge to pursue them. If accepted, you will receive an orientation handbook and other materials for reflection and study.

_____ 1. I commit myself to work with the Youth Ministry and Guatemala Partnership committees to develop a plan to strengthen the relationships among the youth in our three partner presbyteries.

_____ 2. I will pray regularly for all participants in our delegation and their churches (including myself and my own), and for those with whom we will be interacting in Guatemala, that we will all be sensitive to God's leading.

_____ 3. I will attend the Team Building/Orientation/Informational meeting (date and location to be announced - mutually agreed upon day and time in late spring or early summer - please list any dates that you would **NOT** be available between April 1st and June 1st.)

_____ 4. I will study the orientation booklet in preparation for the trip. (This will be mailed to all participants after the selection process.)

_____ 5. I will abide by the guidelines and policies for the team. I understand these exist for the well-being of the group and our relationship with Guatemalans.

_____ 6. I will keep a journal of my experience and prepare to share my reflections with others in my church and in other congregations or groups within the Presbytery.

I pledge myself to do the above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation, Commitment, & Endorsement of Applicant's Church

MISSION TEAMS:

Your congregation member, _____ has applied to participate in the Presbytery Youth Delegation Mission Trip. Mission teams are partnerships including Presbytery, churches, the individual team members, and the ministries visited. The involvement of all concerned is essential, so before the applicant can be accepted as a member of the team, your session must agree to the commitments below.

COMMITMENT OF SESSION:

The session has considered the commitments below and checks its pledge to pursue them.

_____ Our session will set up a "support team" in order to both support our participant AND find ways to strengthen our congregation's spiritual development and understanding of mission.

_____ We will pray regularly and intentionally for our member participant, the team, the visited ministry, and our own church, that all will grow in faith and vitality as a result of this experience.

_____ We will financially support our applicant and mission project as a congregation to the best of our ability.

_____ We will commission this applicant as our representative to the mission team.

RECOMMENDATION:

Mission teams are for those who want to be stretched spiritually, not those who appear to be "spiritual giants." Also, the committee recognizes that how one quests for his or her spiritual home in God varies from individual to individual, so there is no "perfect" participant. With these ideas in mind, please answer the following questions and anything else that you think might be important related to your applicant. Information is confidential.

1. What gifts will this applicant bring that are relevant to the team? These may be skills (for example, music or worship leadership), or gifts of spirit or personality (the ability to get along with all kinds of people, patience, flexibility, etc.)
2. How has this applicant participated in the life of your congregation? Do you believe he/she is committed to participating in plans to strengthen your church as part of this experience?
3. How do you think the applicant will work in a diverse group of people?

4. Do you have any reservations regarding this applicant as a member of this mission team? If so, what?

Name and telephone number of person filling out the RECOMMENDATION

_____ Phone _____

ENDORSEMENT

Our session endorses _____ as an applicant on a mission team.

Clerk of Session: _____

Date: _____

Presbytery Youth Mission Trip tentative plans (as the details for our time are finalized we will be sending each participant a final schedule)

Tuesday, June 23 - Wednesday, July 2, 2020

Arrive in Guatemala City

Finca (coffee farm) experience, orientation, cultural experiences

Youth to Youth (time with several of our sister Presbyteries to form relationships, learn about the partner churches and areas in which these host youth live)

Participation in the Youth Rally and overnight Retreat for sister Presbytery and WNC youth at the Seminary with Guatemalan youth (with both Sur and Suchi) sharing lives, stories, talents and leadership ideas.

Service work alongside youth from Guatemala.

Cultural and history exploration ongoing during the trip.