

Basic Principles for Further Work Together in Health Care

1. We work together as members of Christ's church, in community.
2. Continued building up of the partnership relationship between the three presbyteries is vital.
 - a. Work should be kept within the bounds of the Partnership Covenant.
 1. Health education and health promotion (as opposed to medical care) should be areas of work.
 2. Health care is just one component of partnership work, and should proceed parallel to other areas of partnership work.
 - b. This is a long term commitment, requiring patience, love, knowledge, discernment, and unity of spirit.
 - c. Presbyterians in all three presbyteries (as well as appropriate staff and committees at the level of the national churches) need to be informed / educated regarding the nature and progress of this work.
3. The work in health care should be positively-directed, with attempts to decrease the risk of any harm.
 - a. Health work in Guatemala should be grounded in the churches of Sur Occidente and Suchitepéquez, so that the churches have voice and give direction to fit local realities.
 - b. Projects should be sustainable by the Guatemalan church. Advice and support should facilitate and empower, not create dependency.
 - c. Work should build on existing successful models and infrastructures (e.g. Diaconia, if possible), assisting, and not competing.
 - d. Education is a vital function. We recommend a participatory / non-formal model for health promoter training and community health education.
 - e. We understand health as broadly defined. Work in general and theological education, economic development, and social justice is necessary in order to achieve healthy communities in the presbyteries.