

**WITNESS DIVISION
2012 YEAR END REPORT
January 26, 2013**

CAMPUS MISSION COMMITTEE

- Provided time on the Presbytery docket for Montreat College to present in April, Warren Wilson College to present in July, and Chair Rev. Allen Smith (Kenilworth) to present in October.
- Asked for names of students starting college in the Fall semester in order to help connect them with Presbyterian campus ministries.
- Rev. Jerry Beavers (Asheville First) attended and led a workshop at the Evangelism Church Growth 2012 conference (Collegiate Ministry track) in July.
- Encouraged churches to participate in NCPHEM's matching grant fundraiser by sending their funds for colleges/campus ministries through NCPHEM (North Carolina Presbyterian Higher Education Ministries Board).
- Explored and initiated an interdenominational ministry at UNC-Asheville called the Campus Faith Co-Op (Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian). Rev. Michael Isaacs (Westminster) was the Presbyterian Pastor involved. This came out of a Fund For Theological Inquiry Event in Asheville in March.
- Provided informational materials about the PCUSA's new UKirk designation for churches involved in college ministry.
- Provided scholarships to help Rev. Margie Boyd (Cullowhee) and students from Western Carolina University and Montreat College to attend the January 2-5, 2013 College Conference in Montreat. Supported a Fall retreat for WCU students at Black Mountain Home for Children for WCU, and a new student group at the Montreat Presbyterian Church.

EVANGELISM & NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Focused on the "Year of Evangelism" in 2012. At the January Presbytery meeting, Rev. Mike Sears (Waldensian), chair of Evangelism, encouraged churches and individuals to engage in one act of intentional Evangelism during the year. Whatever that Evangelism act might be, to plan for it, to do it, and to share about it afterwards. Before the April Presbytery meeting there was an overnight gathering entitled "Preaching/Teaching the Book of Acts" led by Dr. Lamar Williamson (Black Mountain) and held at the William Black Lodge. Churches in the Presbytery were encouraged to consider Preaching or Teaching through the Book of Acts during the summer months. At the April Presbytery meeting there was an Acts/Pentecost theme, and the upcoming PCUSA Evangelism Church Growth Conference was highlighted. At the July Presbytery meeting, those that had participated in the three year Acts 16:5 Initiative through the Vital Church Institute were recognized. About a third of the churches in the Presbytery had participated in the three year program that ran from 2009-2012, and many pastors had participated in the seven regional pastor cohort groups that met monthly. In July, Rev. Ann Aichinger (New Vision and Chair of New Church Development Committee), Rev. Frank Aichinger (New Vision), and Rev. Becky Stanley (Forest City First) attended the 2012 Evangelism Church Growth Conference in Florida. They participated in the New Church Development and Evangelism track conferences. The Aichingers led a workshop at Lets Celebrate about the Life Tree Café ministry program. At the October Presbytery meeting, Rev. Ray Jones from the PCUSA Evangelism Church Growth Office was the preacher for Friday morning worship and led three keynote presentations on Friday and Saturday.

Copies of the Engage Curriculum from the ECG office were on hand for those interested. The Aichingers also presented on the “1001 New Worshiping Communities” goal from the ECG office.

HUNGER COMMITTEE

2012 Souper Bowl of Caring: Fifty churches in the Presbytery participated raising \$24,466 in dollars and cans for their local food pantries, and the Presbytery’s Hunger Committee supersized these offerings with \$12,233 from Nickel-a-Meal funds raised in 2011.

One Great Hour of Sharing: A total of \$61,138.62 for the OGHS offering was collected by congregations within the Presbytery. This offering funds the work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, and the Self Development of People Program.

Nickel-a-Meal Offering: \$103,156.85 was the total received in 2012. Of this amount 55% is designated to International Grants, 40% to Regional Grants, and 5% to Education/Administration (which reverts to International Grants if unused). This was the first year of a “schedule shift in funding.” The committee used intentionally unallocated funds from 2011 to fund Spring 2012 Regional Grants, and then used funds received from January-June 2012 to fund Fall 2012 Regional and International Grants. The committee will then use funds collected July-December 2012 to fund Spring 2013 Regional grants. After receiving Nickel-a-Meal applications, making site visits, interviewing representatives, and receiving Administrative approval, checks were presented during the worship service at the Presbyterian Congregation that sponsored the Regional Nickel-a-Meal application.

SPRING REGIONAL 2012 Nickel-a-Meal Grants—\$15,177.55 (2011 funds)

- \$1,177.55 Catawba County HOPE [Help our People Eat] (Sponsored by Hickory First)
- \$4,500.00 Cherokee County Sharing Center (Sponsored by Hayesville)
- \$2,500.00 Dulatown Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (Sponsored by United)
- \$2,500.00 Pack a Sak of Gastonia (Sponsored by Third Street)
- \$4,500.00 StoreHouse Pantry (Sponsored by Rutherfordton)

SPRING SOUPERBOWL OF CARING SUPERSIZING 2012— \$12,233.45 (2011 funds)

FALL REGIONAL 2012 Nickel-a-Meal Grants—\$17,353.81 (Jan.-June 2012 funds)

- \$4,173.40 Clay County Food Pantry (Sponsored by Hayesville)
- \$1,632.00 HeartLife @ Pleasant View Baptist Church (Sponsored by Morganton First)
- \$3,825.00 LINC Home Meals (Sponsored by Lincolnton First)
- \$4,173.41 Loving Food Resources (Sponsored by Kenilworth)
- \$2,550.00 Swannanoa Welcome Table (Sponsored by Swannanoa First)
- \$1,000.00 Stop Hunger Now at Northminster (Sponsored by Northminster)

FALL INTERNATIONAL 2012 Nickel-a-Meal Grants—\$23,861.49 (Jan.-June 2012 funds)

- \$11,930.74 Nkhoma Hospital Pediatric’s Ward Food (Sponsored by PCUSA Mission Co-worker Dr. Barbara Nagy). Provides nourishing food to children who are patients in the hospital in order to aid their recovery.
- \$11,930.75 Nkhoma Orphan Care Project (Sponsored by PCUSA Mission Co-worker Dr. Barbara Nagy). Provides corn for orphans and vulnerable children who experience a critical food shortage in December 2012-March 2013. In addition to purchasing corn, part of the funding is used for buying fertilizer and corn seeds for families who care for orphans and Orphan Community Centers.

FALL ADMIN/EDUCATIONAL Nickel-a-Meal Funds—\$2,169.23 (Jan.-June 2012 funds) saved to help Supersize the SuperBowl of Caring in 2013.

Hunger Committee members: In July the committee selected the materials for the Reclaiming Christmas Alternative Giving cards and projects for the Presbytery: Guatemala Children's Scholarship program, Guatemala Children's Nutrition Program, Nkhoma Hospital general fund, Ebenezer School in Nkhoma, PWNC seminary students. Committee member, Cindy Moore (Rutherfordton), was supported to attend the PCUSA Hunger Action Enabler Training/Joining Hands Against Hunger Program combined event in August in Chicago. Margarette Kennerly also attended the event as part of her work with the National Presbyterian Hunger Program. The committee sponsored a workshop at the August Let's Celebrate Event entitled "Homegrown Food: From Finish to Start." Committee members Rev. Bill Heck (Swannanoa First), Wanda Woodby (Burnsville First), and Katie Adams (Kenilworth) led a three-part workshop on how to compost, preserve, and plant herbs and other food items from personal gardens or church community gardens.

The committee sponsored a week visit (September 15-24) with Mission Co-workers Jeff & Christi Boyd (Cameroon). Jeff is the Regional Liaison for Central Africa and Christi is the Joining Hands Against Hunger Facilitator for Cameroon. Christi works with the Food Sovereignty Program of Relufa in Cameroon and their Grain Banks, which were supported by the Presbytery's International Nickel-a-Meal funds in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Boyds spoke at eight churches: Shelby, Rutherfordton Youth Group, Forest City First, Morganton First, Swannanoa First, Kenilworth, Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering at Waynesville First, and Bryson City.

The committee obtained permission from the Administrative Board to invite A Unique Gift (Ten Thousand Villages store) to sell fair trade food items at the October Presbytery meeting as a way of raising awareness of Alternative Christmas giving.

In September Administrative Board renewed the Hunger Action Enabler (HAE) covenant relationship between the Presbytery and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program subsequently allocated \$5,000 towards 2013 salary support for a Presbytery HAE.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

- Commissioned the Malawi Mission Team at the April Presbytery meeting. Ten people went to Malawi May 21-June 6, 2012, carrying with them 24 Action Packers full of supplies for the Ebenezer School and Nkhoma Hospital. Supplies included curriculum that the school had ordered and a portable ultrasound that the Hospital needed. One ultrasound went with the team in May, and an additional one was sent with Carol Nagy in July. The cost for the two ultrasounds was \$15,033.21 paid for by generous donations from churches in the Presbytery. The Mission Team represented nine churches: Richard Greathouse (Northminster), Barbara Heilman (Waldensian), Rebecca Heilman (Waldensian), Agnes Horsley (Belmont First United Methodist), Tom Kilgore (Morganton First), Teresa Locke (Southminster), Dorothy McKenzie (Gastonia First), Brent Ramsey (Walnut Grove), David Robbins (Fletcher), Alice Salthouse (Rumple Memorial). A written report by Barbara Heilman was included in the July presbytery meeting packet. The next trip was schedule for May 20-June 5, 2013.
- Welcomed PCUSA Mission Co-worker Frank Dimmock (Lesotho) to the April Presbytery meeting. Frank gave an overview of his work as PCUSA Africa Health Coordinator, Coordinator of the

Christian Health Association of Africa, and Advisor to the Christian Health Association of Lesotho. His work requires him to travel to Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo

- Disaster/rebuilding work: Provided \$1,000 for building supplies for the Camp Grier Work Day on April 28. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance explored the Presbytery's shower trailer for possible use in the Northeast for Hurricane Sandy recovery work. The committee invited churches to collect supplies or assembly PDA Hygiene Kits at a variety of Presbytery events, including at Let's Celebrate and the October Presbytery meeting. There were also six church collection sites (Waynesville First, New Hope Asheville, Spruce Pine First, Forest City First, the Presbytery office, and New Hope Gastonia) where churches could take their already assembled Hygiene Kits. Mike Filips (Hickory First) provided transportation for the 913 PDA Hygiene Kits and also boxes of extra soap, washcloths, towels, etc. to the Presbyterian Disaster Center in Ferncliff, Arkansas. (Earlier in the year the committee explored the possibility of Tornado relief work in Murphy and also a work trip to Ferncliff PDA center, but was not able to do either.)
- Supported financially Dr. Don Woods' yearly Gobi Mission Trip (Mongolia) in April. Dr. Woods is a minister member of this Presbytery.
- Continued to support financially PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer Tricia Thompson, a member of Lincolnton First, as she finished her year in Kenya. Tricia spoke at the October Presbytery meeting about her experience and presented the Presbytery with a wooden "welcome" sign from Kenya.
- Dr. Barbara Nagy and her daughters returned in July in order for Barbara to attend the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. This is a two year degree program that will help her develop and improve the ten remote village clinics that Nkhoma Hospital oversees in Malawi. Barbara will stay at Mission Haven in Decatur, GA, speak at churches as her class schedule allows, and perhaps do field work during the summers in Malawi. At the July Presbytery meeting, Chair Rev. Bill Lowe (Cherryville First) shared about Dr. Nagy's plans, and in August, the Mission Committee sent a letter to all churches in the Presbytery that support Dr. Nagy financially to inform them about the details of this two year period and Barbara's continued need for salary support.
- Supported Dorothy McKenzie (Gastonia First) to attend the PCUSA Malawi Mission Network conference in Highlands Retreat Center in Colorado, August 23-26, 2012. The next conference will be held in Pasadena, California August 15-18, 2013 www.malawinetwork.org.
- Revised the committee structure to have one committee member (Tommy Burluson, Fletcher) serve as liaison from the Malawi Mission Taskforce and one committee member (Carole Ball, Trinity) serve on the Leadership Team of the Guatemala Partnership.
- The Guatemala Leadership Team (with the Presbytery's Presbyterian Women) welcomed PCUSA Mission Co-worker Amanda Craft (Guatemala) to the Presbytery for the week of November 25. She preached at Waynesville First and spoke at a variety of churches and PW groups around the Presbytery.
- Sent Christmas gifts to several PCUSA mission co-workers affiliated with this Presbytery: Barbara Nagy (Malawi), Becca Young (Indonesia), Amanda Craft (Guatemala), Frank & Nancy Dimmock (Lesotho), John McCall (Taiwan), Bill & Ann Moore (Japan), and Tricia Thompson (YAV Kenya).

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

- Supported financially the work of NC Council of Churches \$500, the Women at Risk program of the Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice in Asheville \$1,250, the Ministry of Hope Swannanoa Correctional Center Chaplaincy program \$700, Burnsville First Youth \$100 for an interdenominational fundraiser for Reconciliation House.

- Awarded six Peacemaking Offering grants from the **2011** Peacemaking Offering funds. The grants were for programs/projects that encouraged peacemaking. The recipients in 2012 were:
 - \$1,000—Camp Grier, Global Village and Garden
 - \$500—Franklin FPC, KIDS Place children’s advocacy center for child abuse victims/families
 - \$500—Grace Covenant, Immigration Forum and Community dinner
 - \$250—Marion FPC, Good Samaritan Clinic to use basement
 - \$500—Morganton FPC, Bullying Prevention Event (cyber-bullying) for youth & adult leaders in WNC
 - \$250—Swannanoa FPC—Mental Health forums
- Decided to designate the Presbytery’s portion of the **2012 Peacemaking offering** in two ways: \$250 to Oikocredit, and the rest to fund small grants (of at least \$250) to churches doing peacemaking work in the Presbytery. The deadline for grant requests was set for December 31, 2012, and will be decided at the January 2013 Peace & Justice meeting. When congregations collect the Peacemaking Offering, they are able to retain 25% for use with peacemaking projects they support. In 2012, churches forwarded on a total of \$11,040.79 from their Peacemaking Offering. Of this, \$2,428.97 is designated for our Presbytery’s peacemaking projects, \$1,214.49 is sent on to Synod and \$7,397.33 to General Assembly for their Peacemaking programs.
- Forwarded \$8,709.85 that congregations sent in for the **Pentecost Offering** which benefits PCUSA programs for child advocacy, youth ministry, and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities. When congregations collect the Pentecost Offering they first retain 40% for ministries they support which benefit children at risk, and then they forward the remaining funds.
- At the January Presbytery meeting, Rev. Lynn Michie (Chaplain) presented on Criminal Justice issues and the work of Ministry of Hope. She brought with her an inmate from the Swannanoa Correctional Facility for Women who shared her story about what led to her time in prison and about her faith that was sustaining and healing her as she approached her release date, with help from the Chaplains and programs of Ministry of Hope.
- At the request of the Administrative Board (forwarded from the Session of Montreat Presbyterian Church), prepared an informational flyer, display table, and presentation on the NC Marriage Amendment for the April Presbytery meeting.
- Requested time at the October Presbytery meeting for a twenty minute presentation on Immigration. Highlighted a Bible Study curriculum and DVD from the NC Council of Churches entitled “Becoming the Church Together: Immigration, the Bible and our New Neighbors”, as well as resources from the PCUSA Office of Immigration Issues. Created a display with various Biblical resources to help churches discuss the issue through the lens of Christian faith.
- Dr. David Kaylor (Black Mountain) served as the committees representative on the NC Council of Churches Board. Dr. James Aydelotte (Montreat) served as Israel/Palestine Mission Network Regional Educator. Jane Laping (Asheville First) was the committee’s connection to the Environmental Ministries Action Network (EMAN).

SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

The committee met three times by conference call: in April to orient the committee and share plans to highlight the One Great Hour of Sharing offering at their churches, in June to review the guideline for SDOP grants and begin searching for possible grant recipients, and in September to review grant applications and make decisions. The deadline for grant applications was September 1. The committee awarded one grant to Nuestro Centro in Asheville for \$9,369. John Laney (Warren Wilson Presbyterian) and Mamie White (Calvary Presbyterian) made the site visit and the check presentation. Nuestro Centro is a volunteer-run community center, by Latinos for Latinos, that serves the growing Spanish-speaking

community of Buncombe County. They seek to educate and support their community through Know Your Rights workshops, language classes, and community support. Over the six years since they opened their doors, Nuestro Centro has provided a safe common space to come together and respond creatively to the challenges facing Spanish-speaking communities in Buncombe County.

Chair Rev. Calvin Lewers (Love's Chapel Presbyterian) and Rev. Beverly Brock (Canton Community Kitchen) attended the Synod SDOP leadership gathering on behalf of the committee on Nov 2-3, 2012 in Charleston, SC.

SDOP Grants are funded through the SDOP's portion of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. A percentage of funds are set aside for each presbytery, and each presbytery SDOP committee can request them with appropriate paperwork from the National SDOP Office, www.pcusa.org/sdop. "Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting, and enabling. We participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. "

Presbytery of WNC Delegation to Malawi

May 20-June 5, 2013

GOALS OF THE TRIP:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world and bring us closer to each other;
- Learn their stories and share ours;
- Take Christ's love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Malawians and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between local congregations, Presbytery, the denomination and our international church partners;
- Create awareness of larger issues in the world;
- Raise support for the ministries related to our denomination in Malawi.

The trip dates **MAY NEED TO BE ADJUSTED** by one or two days depending upon ticket availability. Teams are generally 10-12 people.

The cost will be \$3,000, excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, immunizations, medicines, etc.). A deposit of \$2,000 must be sent with the application and received no later than **JANUARY 31, 2013**. Make the check out to "PWNC." If we are not able to accept your application, the \$2,000 will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits become non-refundable. The final payment of \$1,000 is due **April 15**.

This application, the \$2,000 deposit, and a letter of endorsement from your Pastor (or Clerk of Session if there is no Pastor) must be in the Presbytery office at the address below by January 31, 2013.

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. Describe your understanding of the purpose for mission teams.
2. Why do you think God is calling you to participate with this mission team?
3. In what ways do you think you might be able to strengthen your congregation because of your participation on this team?
4. What gifts of personality, skills, and experience will you bring to the team? (The team will need a broad variety to become a unit, so include anything you think might help ... first aid training, good humor, music, photography, good organizer, etc.)
5. Do you have any health problems or dietary restrictions? ____ What are they? (over)

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 working with my pastor and the session in order to develop a plan to help my congregation grow in faith and vitality** as a result of their involvement in this mission trip.
- _____ 2. **I will pray** regularly for mission team participants and their churches (including myself and my own), and those with whom we will be interacting in Malawi, that we will all be sensitive to God's leading.
- _____ 3. **I will attend** the following meetings:
- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>Orientation for First-time participants only:</i> | <i>February 9 (Presbytery office in Morganton)
Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 noon</i> |
| <i>Overnight retreat:</i> | <i>March 22-23 (in Morganton)
Friday night 6:00 pm-Saturday noon</i> |
| <i>Conference call:</i> | <i>Sunday May 5, 4:00 pm</i> |
| <i>Packing Day:</i> | <i>May 19 at Southminster PC (Gastonia)
Sunday at 4:00 pm, spend night near airport</i> |
| <i>Reunion/Debriefing:</i> | <i>July 21 in Morganton
Sunday 4:00 pm</i> |
- _____ 4. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip. (This will be given to first time participants in February.)
- _____ 5. **I will abide by the guidelines for the team.** I understand these exist for the well-being of the group and our relationship with Malawians.
- _____ 6. **I will keep a record of my experience and prepare to share my experience** with others in my church and in other congregations or groups within the Presbytery.

I pledge myself to do the above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail forms and deposit check to: *(Must be received by January 31, 2013)*

Malawi Mission Team
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
114 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655



SUPERSIZE

Souper Bowl Sunday ~ February 3, 2013

Join tens of thousands of other youth and collect food and money for a local agency serving those who are hungry and “food insecure” (at risk for hunger) in your own community.

The Hunger Committee of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will **SUPERSIZE** 50 cents on a dollar of your Souper Bowl Offering in 2013, by supplementing your offering with Nickel-A-Meal Funds.



Register at www.souperbowl.org before Super Bowl Sunday. There is a lot of information there to help publicize the collection within your congregation. On Super Bowl Sunday, youth stand at the doors of the church with soup pots and collect dollars and cans to deliver to a local agency. If you report your total on the Souper Bowl website by **February 28**, and let the Presbytery know of your collection at webmaster@presbyterywnc.org, the Presbytery will mail a check to your church the end of the month to give to the agency you chose.

**Also, consider joining the Service Blitz!
Check it out at the Souper Bowl Website.**

Contact the Presbytery Office if you have questions.
828/438-4217

What you should know

The Souper Bowl of Caring believes that youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but can also be the leaders of today. It is our hope that by equipping young people with knowledge about hunger and poverty, we are guiding them to a lifetime of service.



FAQ



What is the Souper Bowl of Caring?

A national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. Souper Bowl of Caring equips and mobilizes youth to positively impact their communities by collecting money or food on or near Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice.

What is the Service Blitz?

In addition to collecting the dollar donations, youth are encouraged to serve hands-on at the charity of their choice the Saturday before the big game.

How do I register for the Souper Bowl of Caring?

It's simple! Register on-line at the Souper Bowl of Caring website: www.souperbowl.org/. Fill out the registration form.



Why do I need to register?

Registered participants receive a resource kit including everything you need to plan and promote your event. Knowing who is going to participate before Souper Bowl Sunday will allow Souper Bowl of Caring organizers to offer better resources to help you make your event a success. It will also help make the reporting process easier for you, as you are less likely to have major changes to make to your contact information.

What do I do after my Souper Bowl of Caring event?

FIRST: Report your collection amount to Souper Bowl of Caring. Your total will be added to all of the other collections across the country so a national total can be reported to the media!

SECOND: Report your collection to the Presbytery by emailing webmaster@presbyterywnc.org.

THIRD: Donate 100% of your collection directly to the charity of your choice. Please remember to tell the receiving charity that your donation is part of the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Why do I need to report my totals?

Your collection, whether large or small, is important. One of the joys of the Souper Bowl of Caring is the cumulative effort of thousands of organizations across the country working together to fight hunger and poverty. Our efforts added together are making a huge impact!

How do I plan an event with other groups in my community?

Find other participating groups in your community by visiting our new [Interactive Map](#)! The Souper Bowl of Caring service_blitz offers a great opportunity to pair with other organizations to make a difference in your community.



**Presbytery of WNC Delegation to Guatemala
June 4 - 11, 2013**

GOALS OF THE TRIP:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in Guatemala and bring us closer to each other;
- Learn their stories and share ours;
- Take Christ’s love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Guatemalans and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the strength of our ongoing partnerships with churches and presbyteries in Guatemala;
- Foster communication and relationships between partner congregations.

The cost will be \$1,100 excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, immunizations, malaria pills, etc.). A deposit of \$700 must be sent with the application and received no later than **March 15, 2013**. Make the check out to “PWNC.” If we are not able to accept your application, the deposit will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits become non-refundable. The final payment of \$400 is due May 13.

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 March 15, 2013. (The recommendation form is on the presbytery website www.presbyterywnc.org, look in the “Mission Zone” and click on “Mission Forms/Apps”).

Name: _____ Age: _____ Congregation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ e-mail: _____

Name as it appears on your passport: _____

Passport number: _____ Birthdate: _____

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

6. Describe your understanding of the purpose of the Guatemalan Partnership.
7. Why do you think God is calling you to participate with this delegation?
8. In what ways do you think you might be able to strengthen your congregation because of your participation on this team?
9. What gifts of personality, skills, and experience will you bring to the team? (The team will need a broad variety to become a unit, so include anything you think might help ... first aid training, good humor, music, photography, good organizer, etc.)
10. Do you have any health problems or dietary restrictions? ____ What are they?
11. Do you speak Spanish? If so, with what proficiency?

(over)

P-12

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 working with my pastor and the session in order to develop a plan to help my congregation grow in faith and vitality** as a result of our involvement in this delegation trip.
- _____ 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 following meetings:
- _____ Informational Meeting, (date to be announced)
(location to be announced)
- _____ Team Building/Orientation, (date to be announced)
(location to be announced)
- _____ 4. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip. (This will be given to all participants at the Informational meeting.)
- _____ 5. **I will abide by the guidelines 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: _____

Mail forms and deposit check to: *(Must be received March 15, 2013)*

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