

Covenant of Agreement/Convenio de Acuerdo
By the Presbytery of Carlisle and Presbytery of Honduras
Por El Presbiterio de Carlisle y El Presbiterio de Honduras

Representatives from the Presbyteries of Carlisle and Honduras met May 20 through 24, 2019, to review the history of our shared ministry and to discern the leading of the Spirit as to how the partnership might move forward. Participants of these meetings were as follows:

1. Presbytery of Carlisle Representatives: Cheryl Galan, Vernon Gauthier, Anthony Lorenz, and Kimberly Wadlington.
2. Presbytery of Honduras Representatives:
3. Facilitators: Arne Kristensen (Red Viva), and Dori Hjalmarson (Presbyterian Honduras Mission Co-Worker).
4. Since it had been five years since this agreement was originally, written, in June of 2024, when Pastor Juan Rodas and Pastor Dori Hjalmarson from the Presbytery of Honduras were visiting in the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Covenant of Agreement was slightly revised to include more possibilities for hands-on projects than just building homes, especially projects proposed by the Buen Sembrador ministry in Honduras, which began in 2020.

Covenant of Agreement by the
Presbytery of Carlisle and Presbytery of Honduras

Proposal: The following is a proposed Covenant of Agreement submitted to both Presbyteries for approval. When approved, this covenant will provide guidance to both Presbyteries for the continuation of our partnership. The priority areas identified for our shared ministry going forward are:

- a. **Hands-On Partnership Projects.** To participate with our partners in hands-on projects that will improve lives in Honduras. This might include, but is not limited to, the following:

- i. **Home Construction.** We will continue to build houses, with the Presbytery of Honduras responsible to choose for whom and where the home is to be built. The Presbytery of Carlisle will continue to send teams to help with the building, and members of the Presbytery of Honduras will work with us in the home building. Both Presbyteries will provide funding as it is available.

- ii. **Visiting Migrant Shelters.** We will visit the migrant shelters in Honduras, with members of the Presbytery of Honduras, to distribute food and water to those now passing through Honduras.

- iii. **Church Repairs.** We will work to assist with church repairs that might be needed to Presbyterian churches throughout Honduras. Again, this will be done in cooperation with

members of the Presbytery of Honduras, with both Presbyteries providing money as possible.

iv. **Working with the Buen Sembrador Team.** We will work with members of the newly formed Buen Sembrador team, the social justice branch of the Presbytery of Honduras. We will participate in whatever projects they plan - food distribution, medical clinics, or any other outreach.

b. **Tending to our Relationship.** To make prayer, scripture study, and mutual learning central to our partnership, whether together or apart.

i. **Prayer.** While apart, this will most likely include the use of social media and will require coordination of one or more persons from each Presbytery to determine when particular congregations, persons, needs, and ministries will be prayed for, and how this information can be best disseminated. While together this will include time set aside for regular daily prayer among those actively sharing in ministry.

ii. **Study.** We will actively seek opportunities for members from both Presbyteries to engage in learning experiences based in Scripture and/or topical studies of mutual interest. These learning experiences may be designed for group study within each partner's own context. There may also be opportunities for groups from both contexts to come together to share insights from their study, to discuss implications for congregational leadership and/or ministry, or to engage in a project or activity that is a response to the study. With active assistance from both partners, the Mission Co-Worker would help identify what is to be studied, materials to be used, and the timeframe of the study with active assistance from both partners. She would also serve as a facilitator/translator when groups from the two Presbyteries come together for study.

c. **Leadership Training and Like Group Retreats.** To leverage the partnership as a resource for the leadership development/training and potential transformation of partners in the Presbytery of Honduras and the Presbytery of Carlisle.

i. **Leadership Training.** We will consider how the partnership may support and strengthen leadership training initiatives already underway in Honduras through the ministry of our Mission Co-Worker. Likewise, we will consider what the partnership may contribute to the development and training of leaders in the churches of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

ii. **Like/Affiliation Group Retreats.** It is mutually desirable for like/affiliation groups of both Presbyteries to have an opportunity to gather together for intercultural experiences. These experiences would bring groups of partners together around a mutual sense of call to strengthen their discipleship as followers of Jesus and to reflect the kingdom/realm of God in their calling to reach out to their neighbors/communities. We envision the potential for personal and social transformation as mutual support and cross-fertilization happens among groups such as youth, women, Ruling Elders, Deacons, Educators, Teaching Elders/Pastors. In a retreat setting, such groups will have the opportunity to build

relationships, find mutual support and encouragement for Christian leadership, and/or engage in projects together that meet a social/societal need, in the name of Jesus Christ.

d. Telling Our Story. To use many forms of communication to tell the story of the partnership, especially seeking to interpret how partners have experienced the presence and transforming power of God, and the impact it has had in their lives and/or the lives they've encountered through the individuals, groups and congregations of the partnership.

i. **Yesterday.** We will document the history of the partnership between the Presbytery of Honduras and the Presbytery of Carlisle, by writing a narrative of the beginnings of the partnership and how it has developed over time, including important dates, events, and people. This written history will give us an opportunity to acknowledge and express thanks for those who have given themselves to this ministry. It will also be a tool to help us as we seek to identify and engage the next generation of leaders in the partnership.

ii. **Today.** We will document the story of what God is currently doing through our partnership. We will elicit brief stories, testimonials, interviews and quotes from people of both Presbyteries, which may be shared in video form, on social media, or in printed form. We will curate photos and video clips showing the faces and activities generated by the partnership. We will seek to show who we are, what God is calling us to do, together, and how we are impacted by our partnership. As we tell our story, we will seek to invite others to join us in this partnership.

e. **Finance.** Responsibility for the financing of the shared partnership will continue to fall in large part with the Presbytery of Carlisle, with the Presbytery of Honduras contributing as they are able. The Presbytery of Carlisle will continue to invite its member congregations to contribute to both the Mission Co-Worker Support and Mission Partnership Funds along with adding financial support for our shared ministry with the Presbytery of Honduras in the annual budget. This will underscore the Honduras Partnership as a ministry of the whole of the Presbytery, funded through the shared mission giving of our congregations and implemented through the participation of our people.

Terms. This covenant is effective from the date of approval by both Presbyteries. Any changes to the covenant will be approved by both Presbyteries before they can be implemented. Either Presbytery may choose to unilaterally withdraw from the agreement by providing written notification to the Clerk/Secretary of the partner Presbytery. Both Presbyteries agree that they will make a good faith effort to work through disagreements and misunderstandings, including if necessary through an impartial third party that both Presbyteries agree on. This Covenant will be in effect for five years, at which time it will be reviewed and approved by both Presbyteries if they wish to continue in this shared partnership.