In February 2018 Cathy and Peter Surgenor traveled to Colombia to spend a month accompanying Presbyterian Pastors and visiting churches in one of three Presbyteries of the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia.  Thank you, HRP, for your support from the Peacemaking offering! Cathy and Peter share more about their trip below.

Presbyterian Pastors are the most educated pastors in Colombia and have a long history of engagement in the search for peace in that troubled country.  Presbyterians from each Presbytery are members of the [National Peace Commission](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/content/colombia-accompaniment-report-ipc-voice-peace-and-reconciliation#.WucbAtPwb_Q).  On Feb 28th, as we were finishing our accompaniament, Presbyterians and World Council of Churches representatives were meeting with Colombian President Santos to recognize accomplishments and commit to further peace efforts.

We were accompanying pastors and churches in the Presbytery of Uraba which stretches north to south about a 6 hour [journey by bus or motorcycle](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/content/colombia-accompaniment-report-amazing-creative-mixture-two-centuries#.WucbP9Pwb_Q) in the northwest section of Colombia.  During our month in Colombia we visited 10 churches in 23 days.  We were guests in the homes of pastors and had immersion experiences lasting from [5 days to a few hours](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/content/colombia-accompaniment-report-many-visits-one-theme#.Wuca2dPwb_Q) in each place.  The presbytery includes a number of well established churches.  In addition pastors are in frequent contact with fellowship groups in many isolated communities.  Pastors are always busy with Bible Study experiences (lots of energetic singing and study), worship, family visitation, travel to visit far flung groups of Presbyterians and engaged in the peace process in company with the national government.  They are highly engaged in creating and supporting opportunities for education throughout the region.  They have supported the highly regarded Colegio Americano in the city of Apartado for over 30 years.

We also had the amazing opportunity to join a portion of the [Pilgrimage for Peace](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/content/colombia-accompaniment-program-world-council-churches-pilgrimage-peace-comes-apartad%C3%B3-honor#.WucZwdPwb_Q) sponsored by the World Council of Churches visiting Colombia this year.  We joined church folks and press from around the world to recognize lives lost in the fight for rights (in the 3 months before our arrival) and [islands of hope](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/content/colombia-accompanier-report-saving-church#.WucaFtPwb_Q) including a FARC Camp (for guerillas who had laid down their arms looking for peace).

A journey like this to a part of Colombia (or any country) where tourists or North Americans rarely visit is an adventure.  We met amazing people of faith.  We met and were served by persons who had been forced from ancestral lands by large agricultural MNCs and by competing armed forces.  We also celebrated with farmers who had been able to keep or recover a small piece of land for home and food.  Our last report is reflection on the [Surprises](http://presbypeacefellowship.org/content/colombia-accompaniment-report-surprise#.WucbbNPwb_Q) we encountered on this amazing journey.

All the links above take you to the reports we sent back to the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship during our Accompaniment.  We are more than willing to come share portions of this experience with a group or class in your church.

Rev Cathy Surgenor

Rev Peter Surgenor