

RE-ENGAGING AND RE-ENERGIZING OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE ILAG

SUMMARY OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Guatemala Friends Meeting

May 1, 2023

Question #1 How do we re-engage with our partner communities and ILAG?

- ❖ Prayers
 - Ask for specific partner prayer concerns
 - Provide our prayer concerns
- ❖ Delegation visits
 - St. Michael's – Currently in Guatemala
 - Gloria Dei –July 14-23, 2023
 - Augustana – Aug 3-11, 2023
 - King of Kings – Oct 18-24, 2023
 - Grace, Apple Valley – Nov 24-Dec 2, 2023
 - Spring Garden -Jan 26-Feb 4, 2024
 - Como/Lutheran Church Resurrection – March 2-10, 2024
 - Our Savior's Stillwater/Christ the King Durango – June 26-July 3, 2024
 - Our Savior's Circle Pines – Aug 5-12, 2024
- ❖ Explore and utilize technology available in community (Zoom, WhatsApp, etc.):
 - Small virtual meetings
 - Augustana-6 people Global Mission Committee with La Esmeralda via Zoom
 - View important events
 - Our Saviors Circle Pines- witness dedication of kitchen via WhatsApp
 - Interact with community
 - Gloria Dei- CLAG-Sunday School Kids color fish and send back via Zoom (Gloria Dei and Augustana working together to partner with school)
 - Share videos of SPAS people engaging
 - Share video messages
 - Next visit: bring videos to your partner congregation and record videos to bring back to your MN congregation
- ❖ Write letters
 - from council to council
- ❖ Banner/quilt worked on by both congregations
 - Handprints from both groups
- ❖ Hymn share/song share
- ❖ Exchange pictures of gardens

Question #2 Covenant Renewal

- ❖ Review
 - Understand what it means.
 - Check to see if we met our goals.
 - Consider how our congregation has changed.
 - Consider what shared partnerships mean for renewal.

- ❖ Renew
 - Present at a council meeting.
 - Sign during a worship service.
 - Sign during a service on a delegation visit.

Question #3 How do we build awareness/re-engage /re-energize our partnership within our congregation?

- ❖ Travel
- ❖ Book studies
 - The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong by Karen Gonzalez
- ❖ Adult Forums
- ❖ Special focus Sunday (hosted by Global Mission Committee or organized by coordinator)
- ❖ Topics or activities to include in forums or on dedicated Sundays:
 - Music
 - During worship service include songs in Spanish
 - Play typical Guatemalan music
 - Food
 - Guatemala cooking night- class with updates (Augustana) 40-50 people in January to kick off
 - Cook Guatemalan meal-people learn to cook and invite congregation to eat
 - Fundraising
 - Sell goods
 - Education regarding projects, i.e. water
 - Congregational photo booth with greeting signs in Spanish
 - Photos and testimonials from people in village/program who have benefitted from support
 - Interviews
 - Share artwork

Question #4 What is the role of Coordinator?

- ❖ Special Sunday focus-see ideas above
- ❖ Consistent messaging-how ILAG wants it presented
- ❖ Trip Summaries-distribute to other coordinators for helpful hints
- ❖ Invite more people to participate

How can the Guatemala Committee support your efforts?

- ❖ Share information
- ❖ More awareness of covenant
- ❖ Recruit and focus on Health Workers/Promotors
- ❖ More involvement with school, Milagro, leadership, health
- ❖ 7 health min delegation
- ❖ Synod resources
 - Get pastors
 - Water project-theme
 - Art and music
 - Spanish language opportunities
 - Book study