

**Meeting Packet  
for the 503<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting  
of the Presbytery of Des Moines**



**February 13, 2016**

*Hosted by  
Ankeny Presbyterian Church  
Ankeny, Iowa*



## **C – COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT**

**February 13, 2016**

The Committee recommends that Inquirer Jennifer Peek (Grinnell, First) be enrolled as a candidate under the care of the Presbytery of Des Moines.

Jenny will be presented at the February 13, 2016 Presbytery meeting to read her statement of faith and be questioned for candidacy.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathryn Roblee, acting moderator

### **Statement of Faith**

Jenny Peek

I believe and trust in one living and true God, who is our  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
Thoughtful Creator and great Sculptor of humanity and life,  
Mysterious Intercessor,  
Loving Parent, and  
Sovereign Lord.  
God, who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, and omniscient,  
Is both one God and three distinct persons:  
God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, who  
Came down from heaven to  
Bring life, hope, joy, love, peace, and to  
Proclaim the reign and teachings of God.  
Christ, through his words and deeds,  
Teachings and healings,  
Blessing and forgiveness,  
Liberative work for and communion with all peoples, and his  
Death and resurrection,  
Transformed and is still transforming our world.

I believe and trust in the Holy Spirit, the giver and renewer of life.  
The Holy Spirit, through its constant, presence and movement,  
Speaks through Scripture and the Word proclaimed,  
Moves through nature and the human heart,  
Claims us in the waters of baptism,  
Nourishes us through the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and  
Binds us together, with all believers, in the one body of Christ, the Church.

I believe and trust in the Old and New Testaments, which are our unique and authoritative Scriptures.

I believe that Scripture witnesses to the works, heart, presence, and desires of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

I approach Scripture with an

An open heart,

An active mind,

A deep reverence, and

A longing to learn, discover, remember, and ultimately, to

Connect, and invite others to connect, with the Lord, Christ, and the Spirit.

I believe and trust in the power and authenticity of the sacraments:

The sacrament of baptism, which

Signs and seals our ingrafting into Christ,

Celebrates the renewal of God's covenant of grace, and

Receives the believer into the church to share in its life, ministry, and family.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which

Strengthens, nourishes and sustains us,

Reminds us of Christ's sacrifice for us, and

Celebrates the reconciliation of humanity with God and with one another.

I believe and trust in the Church, our universal body, which

Is entrusted with God's message,

Shares God's hands and feet in the labor of

Healing, transforming, and reconciling humanity with God, one another, and itself, and

Seeks to maintain connection with God's people in every time and every place.

**Amen.**

# K – COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT

## February 13, 2016

### Our Sister Parish News

February 2016



Your  
Mission Co-Worker:  
Rev. Katherine Pater



#### As Any Had Need

*All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts. [Acts 2:44-46a]*

Last week, a newly-organized committee of 30 families in the community of Las Delicias invited us to a meeting. Opening the doors of their beautiful community church, they served us juice and sweet bread: the hallmarks of Salvadoran hospitality. After a short prayer, their leaders informed us that they



convened this meeting in order to thank us for the small bag of fertilizer we gave them in 2015, purchased with proceeds from the Don Justo Coffee project. They lamented that much of it went to waste—most of the corn crop was destroyed by a severe drought brought on by a climate change-strengthened El Niño—but were incredibly grateful to us nevertheless. So grateful, in fact, that they had decided to donate a small portion of their already-small 2015 corn harvest to the Pastoral House, in the hopes that we could either sell it and use the proceeds to assist us with other projects or donate it directly as food aid to people who have none.

As Blanca always says, "There's always enough for everyone when we share," and the whole Pastoral Team of Berlin believes that. The first Christian communities believed it, too. These Salvadoran subsistence farmers in Las Delicias, most of whom lost 90-95% of their crop last year, also believe that.

We who have so much have so much to learn from people who have nothing. There will be enough for all when we all learn to share.

#### How can you help support the Our Sister Parish mission?



Would you like to become a sustaining member – helping to support the mission every month? Contact Betty Dyer at the Presbytery Office and she can get you the information. Currently, we have 19 monthly gifts that help support the mission. You can join that list to help your mission!

Be sure to read Katherine's blog: <https://womanbetweenworlds.wordpress.com/>

EQUIPO PASTORAL  
La Casa Pastoral  
Berlín, Usulután, El Salvador



#### Your Pastoral Team Members:



Margarita  
Idalia  
Jesús  
Baltimore  
Blanca  
Cecilia

#### Truck Fund Update

This past December, we were finally able to purchase the new Pastoral House truck, and this January, we were able to use it to transport members of a delegation (and some friends from their partner communities) for the first time! Many thanks to all who donated to our fundraising efforts. This truck will be useful not only for transporting delegations, but also for making deliveries to communities!



#### Planting Change with Rooted in Hope

After much of last year's corn crop was lost to the drought, the Pastoral Team and mission co-worker sought to partner with Rooted in Hope, an NGO that installs small-scale, low-maintenance, low-cost drip irrigation systems all over the developing world, helping subsistence agriculturalists adapt to climate change and grow food during the dry season. Katie and Zach, two representatives from Rooted in Hope, visited the communities of Los Yánez and Casa de Zacate in November. Stay tuned to future newsletters to learn more about what these communities have planted—and hopefully harvested!

#### "El ayuno que agrada al Señor"

We all know from Isaiah 58 that "a fast that pleases the Lord" must loose the bonds of injustice, let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke. But how do we practice this true fasting in our own lives? And what do our Salvadoran brothers and sisters who struggle every day against the death-dealing forces of systematic poverty, oppression, and injustice have to teach us about fasting, about Lent, and about God?

Our Sister Parish, with the help of the Pastoral Team and other religious leaders in Berlín, has composed a small booklet of Lenten reflections. It is available in the Presbytery Office for \$5.00 and all proceeds will help the communities of Berlín with fertilizer and food aid during the coming year. Based on the Revised Common Lectionary Readings for Year C, we hope that it will be a blessing and a resource both for preachers and to anyone looking to deepen their faith this Lenten season.

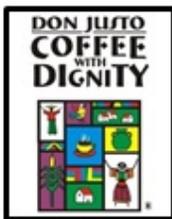


COMPAÑEROS  
Presbytery of Des Moines  
Urbandale, Iowa, U.S.A.

**K – COMPASSION, PEACE & JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT continued...**

**Don Justo Coffee with Dignity**

February 2016



**Are you drinking Don Justo Coffee?**  
Do you even know what Don Justo Coffee with Dignity is?

**Our Sister Parish**, the mission of the Presbytery of Des Moines, in Berlin, Usulután, El Salvador, has been working with coffee farmers in the Berlin area since 2002 to change the way coffee is sold. When you buy delicious coffee through this project, you (churches, organizations and individuals) can ensure:

- Fair prices for coffee growers and workers
- Environmental protection and biodiversity
- Profits are re-invested in Salvadoran communities
- Economic and Social justice

**TWO NEW FLAVORS!  
MOCHA MINT & AMARETTO**

Have you tried our two newest flavors? You should try them today. They are available in 1 lb. and 2 oz. packages – all ground.



**Who is serving Don Justo Coffee?**

We recognize the following list of churches for serving our coffee exclusively. A large thank-you goes to all who have made this commitment. New ones are underlined>.

1. Ankeny, IA – Ankeny Presbyterian
2. Atlantic, IA – First United Presbyterian
3. Babylon, NY – First Presbyterian
4. Brentwood, NY – Brentwood Presbyterian
5. Carlisle, IA – Scotch Ridge Presbyterian
6. Clive, IA – Heartland Presbyterian
7. Corning, IA – First Presbyterian
8. Dallas Center, IA – First Presbyterian
9. Des Moines, IA – Central Presbyterian
10. Des Moines, IA – Intentional Eucharistic Community
11. Des Moines, IA – First Presbyterian
12. Des Moines, IA – St. Catherine of Siena Catholic & Student Center
13. Des Moines, IA – Wakonda Christian
14. Des Moines, IA – Westminster Presbyterian
15. Dexter, IA – First Presbyterian
16. Earlham, IA – First Presbyterian
17. Grinnell, IA – First Presbyterian
18. Guthrie Center, IA – First Presbyterian
19. Indianola, IA – Trinity United Presbyterian
20. Knoxville, IA – First Presbyterian
21. Monroe, IA – Monroe Presbyterian
22. New Paltz, NY – New Paltz Reformed
23. Newton, IA – First Presbyterian
24. Ottumwa, IA – First Presbyterian
25. Ottumwa, IA – Westminster Presbyterian
26. Perry, IA – First Presbyterian
27. West Des Moines, IA – Covenant Presbyterian
28. Wichita, KS – The Well Coffeehouse, First Presbyterian
29. Winterset, IA – First United Presbyterian



Betty & Estelle  
September 2013

Betty & Maurice Dyer  
Our Sister Parish Coffee Coordinators  
Don Justo Coffee with Dignity  
515-971-8406  
[donjustocoffee@gmail.com](mailto:donjustocoffee@gmail.com)

**How does drinking Don Justo Coffee help?**

How are the proceeds from the Don Justo Coffee fund used? These things were purchased in 2015:

- Metal supports/roofing materials for evangelical church in Mediagua.
- 10 water tanks for Women's Group in El Jicaro.
- A food supplies basket for the school in Las Delicias.
- Fertilizer for 108 families in San Felipe Arriba and San Lorenzo.
- Fertilizer for 7 families in El Cedro.
- Fertilizer for 31 families in Las Delicias, 45 in El Zapote, 23 in Loma Alta and 2 in El Rescate.
- Fertilizer for 12 families in El Jicaro, 36 families in El Higuera, 66 families in Mediagua, and 52 families in San Felipe Abajo.
- Sugar, cups, and plates for a funeral vigil.
- Food packets for several communities in need of food aid due to the drought.
- Purchase of drip-irrigation systems from [Rooted in Hope](#).

Please consider purchasing this excellent coffee as a gift for friends and family so that we might continue our work here in Berlin!



Water tank delivery & fertilizer delivery



**How do you answer these questions?**

- Do you recycle?
- Do you consider yourself to be earth-friendly?
- Do you try to do your part to conserve water or energy?

If you do any of these things, we have just a few more questions...

- Are you taking a stand and making a difference?
- Are you lining the pockets of the big coffee corporations by purchasing their coffee?
- Or are you supporting your own mission - the Presbytery of Des Moines' mission by purchasing the coffee that makes a difference in the lives of the poorest of the poor folks in the Berlin, Usulután, El Salvador area?

If you'd like to learn more about the Don Justo Coffee with Dignity project, contact us.

**Regular Roasts:**  
Medium Ground  
Medium Whole Bean  
Dark Ground  
Dark Whole Bean  
French Ground  
French Whole Bean

**Decaf Roasts:**  
Medium Ground  
Medium Whole Bean  
Dark Ground  
Dark Whole Bean

**Flavors:**  
Snickeroo Ground  
Snickeroo Whole Bean  
Mocha Ground  
Mocha Mint Ground  
Amaretto Ground

**K – COMPASSION, PEACE & JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT continued...**

Joining Hands El Salvador / Our Sister Parish: Ministries of Mutual Accompaniment  
Kristi Van Nostran, PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
February 10, 2016

In John's gospel, the resurrected Christ reminds Peter that to truly love him is to "feed [his] sheep". It's no coincidence that the powerful metaphor that Jesus uses to convey the deep care and concern of God for God's children is that of keeping them well fed. As people of faith, we are likewise called to ensure that all people might enjoy both the physical sustenance of having enough to eat as well as the fullness of life and livelihood that result from just food systems.

It's within this context that the *Red Uniendo manos El Salvador (RUMES)*, the Joining Hands Network of El Salvador, is engaged in a global ministry working to address the root causes of hunger and impoverishment. By building relationships of solidarity between people in the global North and South, Joining Hands empowers people to **advocate, organize, and take action**, based on our belief that all people have the right to the abundant life that God promises.

A joint ministry of the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian World Mission, *RUMES* is a network of community organizations, grassroots groups, local churches and faith communities working in partnership with congregations and presbyteries of the PC(USA), and others, to promote food sovereignty at the local, national and international levels through advocacy and action in favor of the human rights to food and water, and agriculture free from agrottoxins. From its inception in 2010, *RUMES* has counted the Community Pastoral House/Our Sister Parish among our key in-country partners in this transformational development ministry.

The members of the Pastoral Team have been instrumental in strengthening the spiritual orientation of our work in partnership, and for the last three years, *RUMES* has benefited from the leadership and experience that the Pastoral Team offers through the active participation of Cecilia as a member of the *RUMES* Board of Directors. The bonds of solidarity and partnership between the ministries of Joining Hands and Our Sister Parish have afforded us opportunities to host Presbyterian delegations jointly, expanding the breadth of experience for trip participants as well as spreading the Good News of what God is doing through Presbyterian Mission in partnership in El Salvador.

As the name states, the work of Joining Hands is to bring people together around our common goal of *on earth as it is in heaven*. We give thanks to God for the work of the Our Sister Parish ministry, and we feel blessed to mutually accompany one another and the communities with whom we work. In closing, we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the Presbytery of Des Moines and your ongoing support and commitment to Presbyterian Mission, and your accompaniment and advocacy in solidarity with sisters and brothers in El Salvador. We have been called into partnership for such a time as this; and it is essential that we make this journey together!