

Is God Calling You to Colombia?

“What has moved all of us is the fundamental defense of life as a right for all people.” — **Rev. Diego Higuera, IPC**



For over forty years, Colombians have suffered from a violent internal conflict exacerbated by an illicit drug trade. At great personal risk, leaders in the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC) have spoken out in faith against human rights violations and supported families who have been displaced by decades of war. The IPC has much to teach us about being the church in a time of conflict.

The Colombia Accompaniment Program began in 2004 at the request of the IPC, in the midst of harassment and threats of violence to their prophetic ministry. They ask us to serve as international accompaniers to

provide a measure of safety as they carry out the work to which God has called them.

In response to their request, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has worked with PC(USA) World Mission and the Presbyterian Church of Colombia to train over 130 volunteers, of whom 90 have been deployed as short-term mission workers to Colombia.

Community accompaniment is what we practice, a ministry of presence with the church and with the displaced communities and human rights leaders with whom they work. Our primary goal is to be a nonviolent presence of Christian support and solidarity with our church partners, to “see and be seen,” and to share the story with churches and communities in the U.S. through prayer, education, and advocacy efforts.

Requirements for Accompaniers Include:



- Mature faith and a strong commitment to the theory and practice of faith-based, principled nonviolence
- Demonstration of backing from your faith community
- Ability to raise funds from family, friends, and your church community to support yourself as a volunteer
- Ability to speak Spanish is preferred but not required
- 21 years of age and a valid U.S. passport

Accompaniers spend at least one month in a ministry of presence in Colombia. To begin the discernment process:

- Apply Short-Term IPC accompaniment volunteer online at www.pcusa.org/onedoor
- AND
- Contact the Accompaniment Coordinator at colombia@presbypeacefellowship.org

To find out more about the accompaniment program, visit www.presbypeacefellowship.org/colombia

There you will find:

- recent stories, photos and reports from accompaniers
 - ways to take action for Colombia
 - frequently asked questions
- program details and training dates

Accompaniers Speak

“For the Colombian church, the work of the church is a process of walking with each other — finding where people are in their lives and meeting them there.”

—**Kori Phillips**

“The job is to ‘be present,’ living in solidarity with our Colombian sisters and brothers. As North American witnesses, we have a special capacity to embarrass violators of human rights.”

—**Britt Johnson and Danna Larsen**

“Over and over I am reminded that God is at work among the poor and weak.”

—**Bob Leslie**

“It is my plan to continue advocating with the U.S. government to modify U.S. policy toward Colombia. When nearly 5 million people are suffering, it is hard to be patient.”

—**Liz Branch**

“It is a powerful and humbling experience to recognize our deeply held beliefs about God’s presence, the call to love our enemies, to forgive, to build peace, lived out in joyous and profound ways in difficult places and circumstances, and at great cost.”

—**Phyllis Stutzman**

Send a Gift

The Colombia Accompaniment Program depends on generous support from individuals, congregations, presbyteries and other groups. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Checks may be written to

“Presbyterian Peace Fellowship” with “Colombia Accompaniment” in the memo line and mailed to:

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Stony Point Center
17 Cricketown Road
Stony Point, NY 10980

If you prefer to donate online with your credit card, visit www.presbypeacefellowship.org/giving for instructions. Designate your gift for the Colombia Accompaniment Program.

Denominational entities may follow regular remittance procedure and send contributions payable to “Presbyterian Church (USA)” with a note for “ECO#051763 — Accompaniment Fund.”

For more information about giving, contact
Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo at
svanceocampo@yahoo.com.



**Thank you
to all of our
generous
donors!**

Colombia Accompaniment Program

www.presbypeacefellowship.org/colombia



“The program provides an umbrella of safety which extends far beyond the Presbyterian Church... it helps all of us who seek to improve the lives of the poor and oppressed.”

—**Colombian human rights worker**

