

1986-2016



30 years
Transforming Lives

2016
ANNUAL
REPORT





Education that *transforms*
Romans 12:2



CEDEPCA is a member of
actalliance



Dear Friends of CEDEPCA

The two personal stories that we share in our 2016 Annual Report are just two simple accounts that give testimony on how CEDEPCA, through its different programs, transforms people's lives, families, churches and communities.

2016 was successful. We celebrated 30 years of life!

Since 1986, we have reached lots of communities. We have touched thousands of women and men that dream and work for a better world. We carry out our work taking the values of God's Kingdom as our guide; values that we practice, advocate and promote in all spaces. Over time, CEDEPCA has become an organization that has gained the respect of many people in different parts of the world. I am convinced that this is due in large part to the visionary leadership of our programs as well as our personnel and professors that are engaged with each one of our objectives.

Everything that we have accomplished in 2016 would not have been possible without prayers, visits and financial support of our friends who know that the stories, such as the ones we are sharing, are a symbol of a New Heaven and New Earth.

Let us continue walking together, holding God's hand, writing new transformative stories.

In Christ,

Judith Castañeda
General Coordinator of CEDEPCA

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2 (NRSV)



"HOPE IN THE EYES"

Joey boarded with a group from Queens University of Charlotte, the airplane that would take him to Guatemala without knowing what he would find in that country that seemed so tiny on the map and so wounded in its history. Joey never imagined that, one week later, he and many others in his group would return to their homes in the United States completely transformed. It was March, 2009.

Joey reflected that, "During that week, I was able to see true community throughout Guatemala. Yes, I observed many problems in that tiny country that still suffers from the atrocities committed during the thirty-six years that the internal armed conflict lasted. Nevertheless, I was also able to see the light of hope in the eyes of many people."

Two years later, Joey was on the plane that would take him to Guatemala again...

“From the first day I was in Guatemala, I knew that I had to return. The people in CEDEPCA made me feel at home; they received me as if I were part of a large family. In my second visit, I was able to discover more clearly the joy and hope that inhabited the hearts of the Guatemalan people.”

When Joey left Guatemala the second time, he felt challenged. He had more questions than the first time – questions to which he would only find answers with the passage of time.

Four more years would pass before Joey would return to Guatemala. Joey had changed; Guatemala had changed. The country was now living through one of its most intense political moments, but also one of its most hopeful. Joey returned to Guatemala in 2015, this time as a student of Union Presbyterian Seminary (Charlotte, NC). He had decided to respond to the call to dedicate his life to the Reign of God.

“The focus of my third trip to Guatemala was ‘Faith and Identity’; the faith experience was fascinating. It was marvelous to learn more about Mayan spirituality, its roots and its practices.”

“Each one of these journeys has had an enormous impact on my life. My perspective about migration, religion, poverty, economics, politics, and human rights were changed drastically by each minute that I lived in that beautiful country. I am very thankful for the opportunity to learn and deepen my faith during my time in Guatemala. I have learned that there is much that we can learn from one another if we give ourselves the opportunity to open our eyes, hearts and minds.”

The story of Joey and Guatemala did not end in 2015. The story continues to be written; the next chapter will be in 2017, when Joey returns as a guide/facilitator for a group of students from the same university with which he traveled to Guatemala for the first time in 2009. This time, Joey knows what to expect. He knows very well that, once again, Guatemala will teach him many things, and that it will challenge him to live in solidarity with each person in whatever place in the world he finds himself.



CEDEPCA

El Centro Evangélico de Estudios Pastorales en Centroamérica es una institución educativa que contribuye a transformar vidas y realidades a través de formar, acompañar y convocar a espacios de reflexión a mujeres,



“MENDING A PAIR OF SHOES, A TRANSFORMED LIFE”

Two years ago, in the midst of my daily routine, a transformation happened in my life. It was through a very ordinary action: mending a pair of shoes. You see, my wife’s favorite pair of shoes broke and she was sad. I suggested she go to the market, as I was sure she would find a cobbler who could fix her favorite shoes. She went to the market, and in fact, she found a cobbler that did more than just fix her shoes, he helped us to mend and transform our lives. The cobbler was also an evangelical minister, a newscaster, and student of Bible and Theology. While he was working on her shoes, the pastor listened to my wife’s concerns about our family’s condition.

My name is Rolando Hernandez Gonzales. I am 64 years old and a student at the Road to Emmaus Theological Seminary of CEDEPCA. Eight years ago I had a stroke that affected my life physically and emotionally and we were forced to face a series of family issues that only worsened my health. Our problems were so serious that I thought I was going crazy and sometimes I thought about committing suicide. However, my trust in God

held me even though at that time I was attending an evangelical church and wasn't receiving any pastoral support.

When the cobbler finished fixing my wife's shoes, he asked her to go and look for me so we could pray together. That is how our friendship began. He then encouraged me to study Bible and Theology at the Road to Emmaus Seminary.

At the beginning, I didn't want to do it because I felt I was disabled. I had difficulty walking and it was hard for me to read and write. Loud noises bothered me. Nevertheless, I started to attend classes even though I was afraid and ashamed. I even fell asleep! But I was strengthened to learn in an atmosphere of Christ and in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Now I am very happy when I go to study. This has been a wonderful time in my life.

To study Bible and Theology has been a therapy for my recovery. I have started to read and write again! I have recovered from most of my physical disabilities and my life has been transformed.

In one course, I learned about the jubilee year, and I think that God brought joy into my life as well as freedom and transformation. I have learned from my professor of Christology that you must not only read the Bible, but interpret it and then act on it. "Jesus is action."

Now, in spite of my physical barriers, I serve in my congregation in the discipleship ministry. I teach others and I think I do it with a knowledge and authority because of the preparation that I received through my studies.

I plan to continue studying in the Road to Emmaus Seminary and hope to finish the Biblical and Pastoral Institute Level and begin the University Level.

I pray and give thanks for the facilitators that come to teach us. But I also pray and give thanks for the donors of CEDEPCA so we can have the opportunity to learn. I ask that God will bless the CEDEPCA ministry because it was the door that God opened to transform my life and family.

MISSION

The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is an educational institution that works to transform the lives and situations of women and men of diverse Christian traditions, communities, and contexts through formation, accompaniment, and spaces for reflection.

In 2016, CEDEPCA worked with:

3715 Participants in CEDEPCA's workshops and courses



3577 People received psychosocial assistance and humanitarian aid such as: cash transfers, seeds kit for family gardens, food bags, personal hygiene kits and water filters

34 Faith expressions

6 Ethnic groups

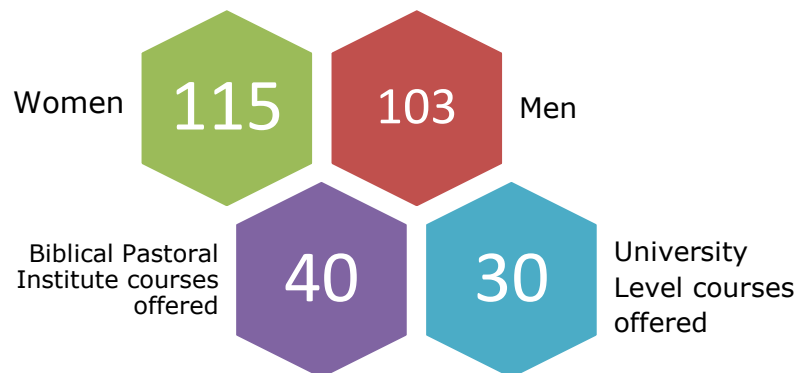


The Biblical and Theological Seminary is a space for reflection, research and theological education that seeks to teach people from churches and communities to respond to the challenges of the current context with a transformative pastoral practice. We are part of the Ecumenical Latin American and Caribbean Theological Community - CETELA [the network of institutions affiliated with the Latin American Biblical University].

OBJECTIVE: To encourage the formation of ecclesial, academic and/or community leadership prepared to analyze their contexts, to reflect biblically and theologically, and to engage in transformative actions in their churches, in the places where they teach, and in their communities.

In 2016, the Biblical and Theological Seminary Road to Emmaus taught:

 **218 Students**





Students in the workshop "Methodologies for Developing Socio-Pastoral Projects" with Dr. Angel Roman – University Level



Continuing education seminars for Biblical-Pastoral Institute students from Coban and San Cristobal

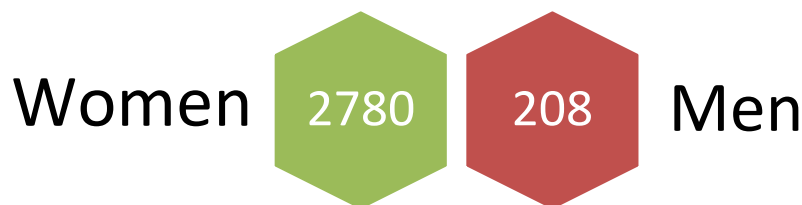


The Women's Ministry is a space that offers a liberating alternative and accompaniment to women of Central America and Mexico.

OBJECTIVE: To develop critical thinking in women so that, as empowered women, they can contribute to the deconstruction of patriarchal and androcentric structures, and to the construction of equal and equitable relationships in their surroundings.

In 2016, The Women's Ministry worked with:

2988 Participants in Central
America and Mexico



- 356** women in courses
- 516** women in workshops
- 1113** women in celebrations and commemorations
 - 85** women supported with psychological, legal and pastoral counseling
- 542** women attended the Anne Sayre Maternal Home, Cahabón. A.V
- 195** women in Prayer Shawl ministries
 - 28** women served as volunteer facilitators
- 153** women participated in different activities of training and in women's networks
- 208** men participated in workshops, celebrations and clinics



Graduating Class: Theology from Women's Perspective. Mexico City



Women participating in workshop about "What is domestic violence and women's rights."
Nueva Concepcion, San Juan Ostuncalco, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala



CEDEPCA's Disaster Ministry (PAD) is a training program that works to prevent, reduce and attend to the damage caused by disasters arising from natural phenomena. We work in high-risk, highly vulnerable communities with a holistic view of people's needs: physical, psychological and spiritual.

OBJECTIVE: To strengthen the capacity of individual and community resilience in order to lessen the physical, psychological and spiritual impact of humanitarian crisis.

In 2016, The Disaster Ministry provided:

A) Courses and workshops

293 Participants in courses, workshops,
and other psychosocial and
disaster preparation activities

Women

197

96

Men

B) Humanitarian aid:

3577 people received humanitarian aid

1385 people affected by drought received cash transfers

92 people received psychosocial assistance in emergencies

915 people affected by drought received seeds for family gardens in Quetzaltenango

175 personal hygiene kits were delivered in Cambray II at Santa Catarina
Pinula, Guatemala

835 people benefited with water filters in Pachaj, Quetzaltenango

175 people benefited with food bags at Cuilapa Santa Rosa. Bags included products
such as rice, black beans, sugar, corn flour, Incaparina, milk and salt



Julieta Chanchavac from Pachaj, Quetzaltenango received this ecofilter that will provide her family with purified water for 2 years



CEDEPCA's promoters in their annual training workshop about "Principles for Humanitarian Aid"

INTERCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS



Intercultural Encounters is a program that designs and facilitates experiences of encounter, reflection, dialogue and mutual service between people from the United States and Canada with Central American communities, aimed at the creation of a more just, tolerant and equitable world.

OBJECTIVE: To strengthen dialogue and cooperation between people from different countries and cultures for [the purposes of] prayer, mutual learning and the joining of efforts to create more just churches and communities.

In 2016, Intercultural Encounters hosted:



21 Groups visited CEDEPCA in 2016 (*7 for the first time in Guatemala)

Groups came from...

-  **9 Churches**
-  **7 Universities**
-  **4 Presbyteries**
-  **1 Medical**



UKirk students from Virginia Tech learning about "Education in Guatemala"



Participants from Mayfield Presbyterian Church applying fluoride to children's teeth in Pachaj, Quetzaltenango

1986 - 2016



CEDEPCA

30 years

Transforming Lives

30th Anniversary Celebration!
Saturday, September 24th, we celebrated our [#30YearsTransformingLives](#)



Activities to commemorate our [#30YearsTransformingLives](#)



Conference with Dr. Violeta Rocha, teaching "Memory, Territory and Claim for the Life: a Post-Colonial Reading of the Gospel of Matthew", and "Women in Jesus' Movement"



Course with Dr. Paulo Ueti, "Hermeneutics and Contextual Reading of the Bible"



"Introduction to Religious Fundamentalisms in Motion," with Rev. Delia Leal



Workshop with CEDEPCA's former student, Dr. Angel Roman.

Topics included:

- Methodologies for developing socio-pastoral projects to writing projects
- The importance of gender focus when writing projects of social and educational interventions in and out the church
- The role of religion in social processes and citizenship



CEDEPCA USA Board meeting at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. January, 2016



Celebrating our partnership with Presbytery of New Covenant in Texas: General Presbyter Mike Cole. June, 2016



Rejoicing with CEDEPCA's friends at the Presbytery of the Peaks in Virginia. November, 2016

**Thank You to our 2016 Donors –
This Work is Possible Because of YOU!**



How to contribute to CEDEPCA

Option 1 – *CEDEPCA USA is a 501(c) (3) U.S. tax exempt non-profit organization*

To make a tax-deductible donation online, please visit www.cedepca.us or mail a tax-deductible check payable to,

CEDEPCA USA
P.O. Box 920243
Norcross, GA; 30010

Option 2 – *CEDEPCA is a Global Mission partner of the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Individuals can send tax-deductible contributions to the **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** by indicating on the memo line the name CEDEPCA and the ECO number. Please use one of the following numbers:

CEDEPCA General Fund (ECO# E051648)
Biblical/Theological Training (ECO# E047879)
Women's Pastoral Program (ECO# E047880)

If an individual, Presbyterian congregation or presbytery, mail your check to:

PC(USA)
Remittance Processing
P. O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Contributions can also be made online to ECOs, via credit cards:

- General Fund: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give/E051648/>
- Women's Ministry: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E047880/>
- Biblical and Theological Education:
<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E047879/>
- Intercultural Encounters Facilitator, Leslie Vogel:
<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200483/>

If you have any questions about sending funds through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please contact Cristina Pitts in World Mission at cristina.pitts@pcusa.org or 502-569-5103

Option 3 – **Direct Deposits** from the USA to Guatemala for larger donations. If you are interested in this option, contact us for wiring instructions. Please note, wiring charges range from \$30 to \$75 depending on the bank.

For all contributions, please advise CEDEPCA General Coordinator, Judith Castañeda at jcastaneda@cedepca.org, or call 011-502-2254-1093, so she can acknowledge your gift.

Guatemalan Board of Directors

Carla López
 Ana Silvia Gómez
 Luis Morales
 Joel Ramírez
 Elizabeth Andrade

*Central Presbyterian Church
 Baptist Mission (El Salvador)
 God is With Us Christian Mission
 Full Gospel Church of God
 Prince of Peace Church*

President
 Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Member-at-Large



CEDEPCA USA Board of Directors

Cheryl Rowan
 Sunny Stautz
 Will White
 Mac Pence
 Judith Castañeda
 Kathy Carpenter, *Liaison*
 Robert Beach
 Sharyl Davis
 Stephen Earl
 Kevin Frederick
 Elizabeth Milford
 Erik Mjorud
 Bonnie Orth
 Anne Sayre
 Marcia Towers
 Mary Jane Winter

*President
 Vice President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Director of CEDEPCA Guatemala
 CEDEPCA Presbyterian Mission Network*

Kingwood, TX
 Gresham, WA
 Austin, TX
 Richmond VA
 Guatemala City
 Blacksburg, VA
 Galveston, TX
 Houston, TX
 Lynchburg, VA
 Valdese, NC
 Acworth, GA
 Lawrenceville, GA
 Gloversville, NY
 Atlanta, GA
 Lancaster, PA
 Richmond, VA

Jennie Southworth
 Judy Moore

CEDEPCA USA Staff
 CEDEPCA USA Staff

Richmond, VA
 Norcross, GA

2016 CEDEPCA Staff

General Coordination

Judith Castañeda	General Coordinator
Judy Moore	Communications Long Term Volunteer

Women's Ministry

Rev. Delia Leal	Regional Coordinator
Elizabeth Carrera	Guatemala Coordinator
Nora Montenegro	Facilitator / Professor, Nicaragua
Carmen Rendón	Facilitator, Mexico
Ana Silvia Gómez	Facilitator, El Salvador
Rebeca Cascante	Costa Rica Coordinator
Susana Hegarty	Baptist Mission Worker

Intercultural Encounters

Emerson Morales	Program Coordinator
Nancy Carrera	Logistics and Planning Coordinator
Rev. Leslie Vogel	Program Facilitator, PC(USA) Mission Co-worker

“Road to Emmaus” Seminary

Rev. Neli Miranda	Dean
Heidy Díaz	Academic and Library Registrar
Brayan Alvarado	Seminary Assistant
Priscila Barrientos	Librarian
Martina Fraanje	Icco & Kerk in Actie Mission Worker

Disaster Ministry

Luis Sarpec	Logistics Coordinator / Program Support
Ana Paxtor	Program Facilitator

Program Support

Antonieta de Morales	Administrator
Susana Noriega	Accountant
Diana Mijangos	Receptionist and Program Support
Jorge Ramírez	Messenger
Freddy Mejía	Driver
Dora Reyes	Hospitality
Juan A. Barahona	Gate Keeper and Gardener

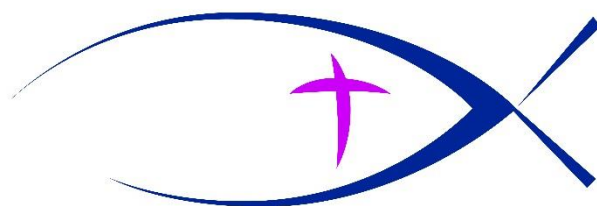
How to contact CEDEPCA

Our offices are at: 8a Avenue 7-57, Zone 2
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Telephone: (502) 2254-1093

For email, please contact:

Judith Castañeda	<i>General Coordinator</i>	icastaneda@cedepca.org
Rev. Delia Leal	<i>Women's Ministry</i>	dleal@cedepca.org
Betty Carrera	<i>Women's Ministry</i>	bcarrera@cedepca.org
Rev. Neli Miranda	<i>Biblical and Theological Seminary</i>	nmiranda@cedepca.org
Emerson Morales	<i>Intercultural Encounters</i>	emerson@cedepca.org
Antonieta de Morales	<i>Administrator</i>	amorales@cedepca.org
Rev. Leslie Vogel	<i>Intercultural Encounters</i> <i>PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker</i>	lvogel@cedepca.org
Martina Fraanje	<i>Seminary and Women's Ministry</i> <i>ICCO - Kirk in Actie, The Netherlands</i> <i>Mission Worker</i>	martina@cedepca.org
Judy Moore	<i>Strategic Communication</i> <i>Long Term Volunteer</i>	judy@cedepca.org



CEDEPCA

Education that *transforms*

Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America
8a. Avenue 7-57, zone 2, Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone (502) 2254-1093

www.cedepca.org || www.cedepca.us

Sign up for our bi-monthly e-newsletters at
www.cedepca.org

Published by CEDEPCA Guatemala.

January 2017
General Coordinator: Judith Castañeda
Editors: Judith Castañeda, Nancy Carrera and Judy Moore.
Design: Emerson Morales and Luis Sarpec
Photos: Priscila Barrientos, Heidi Díaz, Emerson Morales,
Elizabeth Carrera, Brayan Alvarado, Dennis Sevilla, Carmen
Rendon, Larry González, Carolina González and Luis Sarpec.



CEDEPCA
CEDEPCA USA
CASA MATERNA ANA SAYRE

CEDEPCA is a member of
actalliance