



A Message from Anne and Dave

We are grateful for the opportunity the PCUSA provides to be Peacemakers. We were first drawn to the idea of 'accompaniment' in West Bank of Palestine, but this opportunity in Colombia has called us now to service as we have returned to First Pres Normal, Great Rivers Presbytery and the 'wider' world.

We believe that it is God's desire that God's people have peace, and if we can help that happen, we will be grateful to be part of the process.

Please join us in prayer for the Iglesia Presbyteriana de Colombia and for those we may be able to bring a sense of support and peace.

We look forward to sharing our experience with e-mail reports to those who wish and to church and community groups upon our return.

*Joy and Just Peace,
Anne and David Eaton*

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For over 40 years, Colombians have suffered from a violent internal conflict exacerbated by the drug trade. At great personal risk, leaders in the Presbyterian Church of Colombia [IPC] have spoken our 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 Colombian 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 PCUSA World Mission and IPC to train over 100 volunteers, of whom 70 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.