

# International Mission Pilgrimage to Nicaragua

## Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church

**Travel dates: January 6 – 13, 2009**

**Purpose:** Knowing that our visits to places outside our community can symbolize our solidarity with all peoples, we travel to Nicaragua to deepen our commitment to a more just and humane world in which all peoples may have a greater degree of freedom and sustenance. We embark on this adventure open to the possibilities of change in our way of life. We expect experiences that will enable global and mission education and interpretation, and look forward to learning from Nicaraguan Christians what God is doing in their lives.

**Coordinators in Nicaragua:** We are privileged to be working with CEPAD, the Council of Evangelical Churches of Nicaragua, which is the PC(USA) connection to Nicaragua. Based in Managua, CEPAD serves more than 70 poor communities through programs that promote justice, peace and equitable solidarity with the aim of empowering people to carry out their own development.

Seeking to provide educational experiences that create bonds of love, unity and peace, Doug Orbaker is our delegation coordinator and a PC(USA) Mission co-worker with CEPAD. Our itinerary will include opportunities to meet new friends and hear their stories, learn about Nicaraguan history and current political and social climate, visit churches, neighborhoods, schools and rural cooperatives, and much more.

**Who may participate:** Members and friends of FPC are welcome. Space is limited to 15 participants. Please note that CEPAD suggests participants to be 12 or older. FPC requires any travelers under the age of 18 to have a parent/guardian travel with them.

**Accommodations:** CEPAD provides lodging and meals at the Nehemiah Center in Managua. When we cannot walk to a destination, we will travel by van. CEPAD is experienced with visitors from the North and take great care to provide safe food and water and comfortable lodging for our enjoyment. Temperatures are expected to be in the 90's during the day.

**Approximate Cost:**

- + Airfare: Still to be determined, hopefully not much more than \$700
- + Tourist card and departure tax (no visa required) approx. \$40
- + Lodging, food, transportation, staffing (through Nehemiah House): \$60/day = \$420/ea
- + Personal spending money, souvenirs, etc. - ??

Note: A \$100 deposit will be due with your application in October 2008 to hold your place.

Additional Information:

- \* A Passport is required. If you need to obtain or renew one, do so immediately as long as delays in processing are possible.
- \* Completed trip application (available Sept. 2008) due to the church office in Oct. 2008. (Additional forms include waiver of liability and a sexual misconduct policy form are also required)
- \* Fluency in the Spanish language is NOT necessary. CEPAD will provide translation.
- \* Vaccinations/Medical issues: Please consult with your personal physician or health-care provider for the best plan for your particular situation.
  - tetanus and diphtheria boosters up to date (within 5 years)
  - possibly anti-malarial pills
  - Hepatitis B Series (3 shots; start 6 months before trip)
  - Hepatitis A Series
  - Please verify with your medical insurance provider that your policy provides coverage while traveling in Nicaragua. There will be limited coverage provided by the umbrella policy of First Presbyterian Church.
- \* Team building: Beginning in September 2008, trip participants will meet regularly to get to know each other, learn about Nicaragua, and share in spiritual reflection.
- \* Limited scholarship funds are available. A scholarship application is available. All Mission Team members are urged to participate in fund raising events as they are scheduled.
- \* A Commissioning of the Mission Team in the worship service will take place prior to trip departure
- \* Opportunities to share the experience with the congregation upon our return will be provided

For more information or to place your name on the list of participants, please contact the church office. (fpcoffice@sunflower.com) You may also speak to Barb Heeb, Sue Givens, Norm and Katie Roberts, or Carolynn Winters-Hazelton.

For more information:

CEPAD [www.cepac.org.ni/eng/who-is-cepac.htm](http://www.cepac.org.ni/eng/who-is-cepac.htm) (click on Nehemiah Program)

PC(USA) Mission Co-worker, Doug Orbaker  
[www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/orbakerd.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/orbakerd.htm)

Centers for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationNicaragua.aspx](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationNicaragua.aspx)