

Honduras Partnership Resource Team (HPRT) of  
the Maine Conference United Church of Christ

## WORKFORCE & MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

JANUARY 30 TO  
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

TO SUBIRANA, YORO, HONDURAS

Your Partnership Team is looking for a few folks from our conference to journey to work among our sisters and brothers in the hilly town of Subirana in the coffee growing region of Yoro. A number of years ago when Dr. Joyce Baker was a medical missionary working among the people in 3 poorer areas of Honduras, a few Connecticut and Maine churches helped to build a Subirana clinic facility that was staffed by Dr. Baker and personnel she trained plus visiting medical folk from the USA. Her retirement (early 2000's) and the gradual lessening of funding from USA and European churches meant the clinic was no longer staffed. The Evangelical and Reform Church of Honduras is committed to increase medical services to this underserved area. They have undertaken some repairs to the facility and have asked if we can continue the construction of a security fence to help keep the clinic and its furnishings and supplies safe. And they've asked for support from teams of doctors and nurses to help treat the people from this town and surrounding villages. We want to help with both on this trip.

Health care professionals will be led by Peter and Lisa deWolfe, experienced international volunteers. *We're looking for nurses to work with the deWolfs.* The construction part of the team is open to one who would like to help install a security fence and make minor repairs. We'll have translators and Honduras-savvy team members. Details follow!

++US Passport more than 6 months from expiration necessary for this trip.++

### COST

\$1,300 per person which will include virtually every basic expense from the time we leave Logan airport in Boston on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> until we return on the evening of Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Clearly souvenirs and special meals are above and beyond, but the housing and meals in Subirana and coming and going in Honduras are included.

### TRANSPORTATION

We will fly from Boston's Logan (leaving about 5 A.M.) to San Pedro Sula via either Miami or Houston. Once in SPS (not too long after noontime) we will rent a van and have access to the Conference's pickup truck "Lydia" to get us to Subirana. We will go that afternoon. These two vehicles will be our in-country transport.

### LODGING

Subirana has a small hotel where some of us will be staying and the rest will be staying with the local pastor and his wife. We will probably stay in San Pedro Sula the last night to make it easier to get to the airport the day of departure.

### MEALS

Meals in Subirana will be prepared for us by women in the town who will be organized by the pastor's wife. Honduran food is excellent.

### DAY OFF & Sundays

Each trip it is the hope that there is something nearby that is a good place to visit, either just to relax or to learn something about the people and/or place. Sometimes a ½ day is devoted to this, or sometimes a full day. And Sundays are still seen as days when at least the morning and evening are given to church-related activities, usually Sunday School in the morning and worship in the evening. Offerings are taken, FYI. And clean, neat clothing.

### SAFETY ISSUES

Our Honduran partners have promised that as long as we listen to our local hosts that we will be safe. We will cover this topic carefully often!

## PRE-TRIP MEETINGS

The Partnership recommends that the group gather at least once, and is possible two times before leaving to get to know one another and to discuss the myriad of details that experienced Honduran travelers know. We have HPRT members who have been to Subirana (Craigien & Bob Healy), and others who have spent a lot of time in the country who can help orient those who have not been.

## PURPOSE

There is a relationship between the Maine Conference United Church of Christ and the Iglesia Evangelica y Reformada (IERH) that goes back decades. The primary purpose of every trip is to build on that relationship. There are many tasks that we have helped with in building that relationship. It was given a huge boost when Hurricane Mitch devastated the country in 1998 and significant help was needed by the average Honduran to get back into basic housing. Since that time dozens of groups have gone to reinforce the relationship and work side by side with our sisters and brothers of the IERH. There have been many visits to Maine from IERH leaders, pastors and spouses, and youth. This trip will help us to continue this relationship which is so significant to our conference.

## PAYMENTS

The HPRT will give interested persons an application form to fill out and return as soon as possible (asap!). It will be evaluated quickly by the Team and if possible, an acceptance letter will be sent. A deposit of \$650 will need to be returned with the acceptance. Airline tickets are costing about \$720 at this point and will be ordered by mid-November. Once these are ordered, the deposit will be committed because tickets are ordered in a person's name. The other ½ of the money will be due in early January.

## SPENDING MONEY

Subirana is a town well away from urban areas in Honduras, so opportunities to spend a lot of money

are very limited. Getting a soda and a snack are probably close to the largest amounts of money a person might spend in the town, unless there are other shops. Hopefully on the "day off" and on the final morning in San Pedro Sula an opportunity to buy souvenirs might be possible.

## IGLESIA EVANGELICA Y REFORMADA DE HONDURAS

The Evangelical and Reform Church has connections with the one of the denominations that formed the United Church of Christ. This Honduran denomination dates back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century or even a little before. They are evangelically oriented churches and theologically more conservative than most Maine UCC churches. The people are warm and welcoming and glad for the opportunity to interact with their visiting Maine partners. ([www.sinodo.org](http://www.sinodo.org))



1-San Pedro Sula 2 – Subirana 3 – Yoro  
(You can find videos about/of "Subirana, Yoro, Honduras" on YouTube)

## CONTACTS

If you have questions about this planned trip, about the work of the Honduras Partnership Resource Team, about our coffee sales program that benefits CEVER, a vocational-technical school of IERH, please feel free to contact:

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