**One Great Hour of Sharing Programs Progress Report/Overview on**

**PROPOSED COLLABORATION OF OGHS MINISTRIES AROUND THE FIDEICOMISO PROJECT**

This is a progress report/overview on conversations held in April by the three One Great Hour of Sharing ministries:Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**,** Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP). The following participated in the April 10 Meeting:

John Etheredge (SDOP, South Task Force Chair)

Andrew Kang Bartlett (PHP - Associate for National Hunger Concerns)

Jim Kirk (PDA - Associate for National Disaster Response)

Margaret Mwale (SDOP - Associate for Community Development and Constituent Relations)

Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo – (PDA – Hurricane Maria Consultant for Puerto Rico)

Alonzo Johnson (SDOP – Coordinator)

Wayne Steele (SDOP South Task Force member & Chair elect)

**ABOUT THE FIDEICOMISO**

The Fideicomiso describes itself as: **…“**a private, non-profit community land trust with independent juridical personality.  Through the Fideicomiso, its members collectively own approximately 200 acres of land, which are managed for the benefit of all District residents.  This innovative community land trust was designed by the communities to regularize land tenure and avoid gentrification as an unintended consequence of the Caño Martín Peña Ecosystem Restoration Project.  As part of its mission, the Fideicomiso seeks to overcome poverty by recapturing the increase in land value and reinvesting in the communities. The Fideicomiso regularizes land tenure of approximately 1,500 families living in informal settlements through collective land ownership and individual surface rights, preventing gentrification. …community participation and member engagement are crucial for implementation and management of the organization.”

**MANDATES OF THE OGHS MINISTRIES:**

**PDA** – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which:

* Focuses on the long-term recovery of disaster impacted communities
* Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods
* Works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith based responders
* Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others

**PHP** – Presbyterian Hunger Program’s mission is to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes: When the world tolerates the vicious suffering of hungry people, the church is called to speak out and share all that we have. When powers and principalities regularize exploitation, the church stands with the exploited and witnesses to the fullness of life God intends for all. When people are made poor and vulnerable or reduced to objects of pity, the church builds relationships of dignity and equality among all. Even at the risk of losing its own life, the church is called to point beyond ourselves to the new reality in Christ. Praying and working with Presbyterians and other partners, that it may be “on earth as it is in heaven” the Presbyterian Hunger Program helps the church respond to the violence of hunger and poverty.

**SDOP** – The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) assists the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in carrying out its global commitment to work toward the self- development of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people, who own, control, and benefit directly from projects that promote long-term change in their lives and communities. The mandate was established by the 182nd General Assembly of the former United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. in 1970, and reaffirmed and approved by the 199th General Assembly (1987) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**PREVIOUS OGHS COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE EFFORTS/PROPOSED IDEAS**: These have been both place-based and resource based and included a possible focus on New Orleans, the OGHS Engagement Map (developed in 2016 and updated each year), Detroit (Presbytery of Detroit initiated the idea of a possible collaboration), and development of a OGHS ministries bookmark and ad for the 2016 General Assembly in St. Louis (both were completed). The three sister ministries have continued to engage in conversations on possible collaborative initiatives that would entail each remains faithful to its ministry mandate.

**WHY OGHS COLLABORATES**: When Presbyterians see how the sister ministries are involved and engaged collectively in the US, they may be excited/energized about the efforts and provide more support for the OGHS ministries. It is also a good opportunity to show how the three sister ministries work together as a unified whole, the narrative is both developmental and theological. There may also be a greater collective impact in working together.

The site visit by SDOP has been completed by the South Task Force on the Fideicomiso project submitted to SDOP and the Task Force would like to fund this project. The next step will be to propose funding the project for the requested amount of $15,000 to National SDOP which will vote on whether or not to fund this project and others at its May meeting.

PHP: The PHP Advisory Committee, at its April 2018 meeting, approved a grant of $5,000 towards the Fideicomiso project grant, pending National SDOP approval of the $15,000 grant in May 2018.

PDA: The ministry would like to work with the Presbytery of San Juan for a $5,000 grant request to participate in the SDOP grant to Fideicomiso. San Juan Presbytery would need to initiate a grant request (for $5,000) which PDA would like to go towards Fideicomiso. In addition, PDA is interested in exploring other potential partnership opportunities between itself and the Fideicomiso and has separately reached out to the organization. PDA staff recently met with the Fedeicomiso leadership pertaining to their roofing project related to Hurricane Maria. PDA expects to receive a grant request from them through the Presbytery of San Juan and that grant will be related directly to the hurricane.

SDOP could pay the $15,000 and then PDA and PHP could be journal vouchered. Payments could be done in thirds of $5,000 each. A similar example is of the international OGHS West Africa Initiative where each program puts in a certain dollar amount.

There was firm interest expressed in working together on the above domestic collaboration idea in Puerto Rico which has gone through so much with the recent hurricanes. Interest was also expressed in a conversation directly with Fideicomiso by meeting participants to learn more about the most recent hurricane’s impact on it and the organization’s ability to do its work. The team will be looking to SDOP for guidance on next steps. There was also interest expressed in exploring future OGHS collaboration ideas and brainstorming around possible joint OGHS promotion

Following the interest expressed in a follow up meeting with the Fideicomiso, it was set up for April 24. Those participating included:

Mariolga Julia (Fideicomiso – Special Projects Manager)

Natalie Colón Arroyo (Fideicomiso Americorps Vista)

David Myers (PDA-Senior Advisor)

John Etheredge (SDOP)

Alonzo Johnson (SDOP)

Margaret Mwale (SDOP)

Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo (PDA)

* The Fideicomiso shared that around 75 homes within its vicinity were destroyed in the hurricane’s immediate aftermath and about 1000 homes left inhabitable. A lack of electricity made the situation even more challenging.
* Large amount of debris destroyed homes and flooding.
* Severe mental/psychological/physical medical needs abound.
* Public Health issues, for ex. Mosquito breeding grounds are common as result of flooding and mold and vermin are causing disease.
* The Fideicomiso has been helping distribute mosquito nets and repellant to its residents and to the community in general
* Lack of Technology continues to be a problem.
* Solar related donations were received which helped to restore electricity and the Internet in Community Centers, so people could complete online applications for help. Initially residents were on their own without FEMA or other government help. FEMA came about 3 weeks later.
* Electricity continues to be sporadic and is still a big need.
* People are still living under Tarp, roofs are needed.
* Transportation is also an issue.
* Food insecurity abounds. There are a few very small community gardens that are not even close to meeting the food needs of the Fideicomiso residents.
* PDA will be in Puerto Rico next week and will explore the possibility of meeting with Fideicomiso staff and community residents to discuss options of how it can further assist through its volunteers.

NEXT STEPS:

The next steps will be based on the outcome of the SDOP National Committee as it votes on projects (including the Fideicomiso project) to be funded at its May meeting, as well as on the upcoming May 18 meeting about Puerto Rico responses to Hurricane Maria.

Respectfully,

OGHS Collaboration Team

05/08/2018