



Water is Eternal Life

Seeking Environmental Justice in a World of Extractives

Bolivia, the poorest country in South America, nestled in the Andes Mountains, is one that struggles with the blessing and curse of its natural resources, such as tin, silver, gold and zinc. Under the leadership of its first indigenous president, Bolivia's economy has grown exponentially over the past decade due to mining activity and other extractive industries. But, as is normally the case, while the economy prospers, the poorest communities, whose lands and water are affected by these activities, suffer. From melting glaciers to the drying up of lakes, Bolivia has not escaped the effects of climate change and the contamination caused by the extractive industries. The Bolivian Joining Hands UMAVIDA Network accompanies affected communities as they cry out for clean water, the source of their daily lives, and advocate nationally for a Water Law that would justly protect water sources with regulations and controls that presently do not exist. We follow the call to care for God's Creation and listen as it moves us to faithfully proclaim and act together that Water is Life.

Purpose: On this eight-day Reflection and Action trip, participants will learn about the systemic root causes of environmental injustice. They will visit communities impacted by the extractive industry; experience first-hand the effects of climate change and contamination on the people and environment; converse with leaders on mining in Bolivia; examine Bolivian law and its relevance in the U.S.; reflect on ethical and Biblical calls to care for God's Creation. At the end of the trip, participants will reflect and analyze together to identify strategies and further equip themselves to take action upon returning to the U.S.

Dates: July 22 - 29, 2017

Sign Up: May 1, 2017

Cost: \$800 plus airfare to/from La Paz

Includes: food, lodging and transportation in country

Organizers: Bolivia Joining Hands UMAVIDA Network

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Sites to be Visited Outside of La Paz

- **Puerto Pérez** - Village on the Bolivian *altiplano* (high plateau) for a water ceremony
- **Chacaltaya** - Witnessing a melted glacier of the Bolivian Andes range due to climate change
- **Oruro** - Visiting communities affected by mining contamination and fighting for clean water

Joining Hands is an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

