

APPENDIX J

Report from the Administrative Commission for the Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church February 2019

Nueva Esperanza's congregation is warm and welcoming. They care very much for each other and their visitors. Since they had to move out of the deteriorating Normandy Boulevard building a few years ago, they have worshipped and held other events at the church property of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church. They have an average attendance of ten for their Spanish service. Their services are conducted by church elders with a pastor from the Salvation Army leading worship once a month. Their relationship with the members of Kirkwood is cordial with a special love for Pastor Hedrick and elder Kristie Hall.

The Administrative Commission for Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church began its work after a special Called Presbytery Meeting in 2017. The original members were Mary Brown, Larry Green, David Pierce and Cathy Sanders. Since the election of the commission, David Pierce has retired and transferred to another presbytery.

At the 2017 Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the Presbytery approved the Administrative Commission's recommendation that Nueva Esperanza apply to become part of the 1001 Worshiping Communities in the Presbyterian Church (USA). There were a number of meetings with the church family and the AC, which is also the session, during the next few months as we prepared to hire a Spanish-speaking coach through the 1001 Worshiping Communities.

In June of 2018 a coach was located, and a year-long contract signed. In July, Reverend Pablo Rivera joined us for a weekend workshop with the church members and the Administrative Commission. The weekend included a meet and greet on Friday, a Saturday breakfast followed by a day-long workshop, and worship and lunch on Sunday. Pastor Pablo is a dynamic, passionate, deeply committed Christian teacher who was well received by the church family.

Pastor Pablo continues to be in contact with the leadership team through emails, phone calls and teleconferencing. He sends a monthly report to the moderator of the AC and calls as needed. A second on-site visit is scheduled for the first weekend in February. The cost of the coaching is shared equally by the Presbytery of St. Augustine and Nueva Esperanza.

In the next few months, with the help of Pastor Pablo, a decision will need to be made as to whether NEPC will apply to transition to becoming a 1001 Worshiping Community.

Submitted by Cathy Sanders
Moderator of the Administrative Commission