

**Update from the Administrative Commission
for the Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church
Jacksonville, Florida
September 2018**

The Administrative Commission for the 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 transferred to another presbytery.)

At the 2017 Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the presbytery approved the AC's recommendation that Nueva Esperanza apply to become part of the 1001 Worshiping Communities in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were a number of meetings with the church family and the AC during the next few months as we prepared to secure a Spanish-speaking coach through the 1001 organization.

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

In the weeks since Pastor Pablo's visit, we have held a congregational town hall meeting to process the information he discussed with us, a calendar of events has been written and a team has been elected to work in concert with Pablo with oversight by the AC. Communication will continue through email, phone, and video conferencing. It is possible for another on-site visit to occur in the future.

The Sunday worship attendance has increased at NEPC during 2018, and the commission and the congregation are hopeful for God's leading for its future. The congregation currently shares space with the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in the Argyle Forest area of Jacksonville.

Submitted by Cathy Sanders
Moderator of the AC