

APPENDIX L-1

Update from the Administrative Commission of
Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church
February 2020

At the 2017 Fall Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, the presbytery adopted the recommendation of the Administrative Commission for the Nueva Esperanza Presbyterian Church (the AC) that the congregation move towards applying to become a 1001 Worshiping Community of the PC(USA) (NWC). (The stated clerk will provide a full text of that action for review at this meeting.)

The AC had already assumed original jurisdiction and was serving as the session of the church. It worked closely with the church and an NWC coach as described in more detail below. The Reverend Ricardo Green has agreed to serve the church as its part-time stated supply pastor, and that work has been approved by the Member Preparation and Call Commission and has begun.

The AC now recommends that the presbytery amend its action to provide that the congregation will remain a congregation of the PC(USA) and reestablish its own session. The AC further requests that upon the installation of the session, the AC be dissolved/dismissed.

The AC will complete the following in order to accomplish this action if it is approved by the presbytery:

Between February 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020:

1. A nominating committee will be elected by the congregation.
2. The nominating committee will be trained by Reverend Ricardo Green and Reverend Sandra Hedrick.
3. The nominating committee will present a slate of ruling elders to be elected. Once the session members are elected, Reverend Green and Reverend Hedrick will provide new elder training.
4. The AC will examine and approve the new elders for ordination/installation if the way be clear.
5. The elders will be ordained/installed, and the AC dismissed on that day.

By way of more background, the AC began its work after a called meeting of the Presbytery on April 6, 2017. After the presbytery approved the AC's recommendation concerning the way forward to become an NWC, the AC began a search for a bilingual coach from the 1001 NWC.

In June of 2018, a coach was located in Georgia, and a year-long contract was signed. Reverend Pablo Rivera began working with an appointed leadership team and the AC to formulate an action plan to determine the will of the congregation and the opportunities for ministry. Within the year, the membership of the congregation doubled, and it became apparent that the congregation wanted to remain as the church of Nueva Esperanza and not apply to become an NWC. However, it became apparent that this was not viable without a local bilingual pastor.

In 2019, Reverend Riviera attended a Hispanic pastors' retreat in Helen, GA. While there, he spoke to Reverend Ricardo Green, who was very interested when he heard about Nueva Esperanza's growth, ministry opportunities, and their need for a pastor. Reverend Green visited with the church family and was well received. He let the AC know that he sensed a call from God to move to Jacksonville and transfer his membership to our presbytery. The Member Preparation and Call Commission examined him and approved the part-time stated supply relationship (one year, with the ability to renew for longer or end earlier with 30 days' notice).

In October, Reverend Green became the part time pastor of Nueva Esperanza. He is also engaged in the life of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church (where Nueva Esperanza holds its services) through worship and fellowship. His presence is further strengthening the relationship between the two congregations.

Now that NEPC has a pastor, and in light of the other developments described in this report, the AC requests that the Presbytery amend its action of October 2017 and allow NEPC to reestablish its session. Once the session is restored, the AC asks to be dismissed.

Submitted by Cathy Sanders
Moderator of the Administrative Commission