

## Global Partners Timeline

Our Global Partnership is an official relationship between the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC), the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (DOC), and the United Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Venezuela (UEPV). Its purpose is to support each others' ministries.

**1995** – A joint committee is appointed to explore possibilities of a global partnership. Co-Chairs-Merv Bangert (UCC) and Tisa Anders, later Vickie Wright (DOC). Stuart Haskins, UCC Conference Associate Minister, Advisor

**1996** – DOC and UCC Annual Meetings vote to pursue a global partnership.

**1998** – Bill Crowl, DOC Regional Conference Minister and Bill Dalke UCC Conference Minister, with his spouse Sylvia, attend UEPV meeting in November and stay on to deepen the relationship. Merv and Danni Bangert asked to co-chair Global Partner Committee.

**June 1999** – UEPV Delegation of 5, led by Bishop Gamaliel Lugo attends UCC Annual meeting in Douglas, Wy. UCC votes to partner with UEPV. Afterward the UEPV spends several days at events hosted by the DOC.

**Spring 2000** – 4 DOC and UCC young adults, David Claypool leader, attend the UEPV Youth Conference in Venezuela.

**August 2000** – Stuart and Kat Haskins attend the UEPV Annual Meeting in San Carlos, Venezuela.

**October 2000** – A delegation of four DOC-UCC women attend the UEPV Women's Conference in Ospino, Venezuela. Rev. Carla Ficke asked to be DOC co-chair of GP Committee along with Bangerts

**June 2001** – Two Venezuelan young adults attend the Young Adult Conference at LaForet, the UCC Annual Meeting at First Plymouth and several DOC events.

**March 2002** – A 7 person mission construction project, led by Merv and Danni Bangert, helps build a retreat center for battered and abused women and children at the Finca (farm) in Ospino, Venezuela.

**August 2002** – A four person Education In Ministry Team, David Claypool leader, joins UEPV seminarians to study Latin American Reality, Ecumenism, Pentecostalism, and Theology. Joined by Kenn Leischner, UCC Conference Minister and his daughter, they attend UEPV Annual Meeting.

**November 2002** – A 7 person Medical Team of 6 adults and 1 teen, Diane Singh and Carol Matheis-Kraft co-leaders, participate in a UEPV organized in a Medical Mission organized by our UEPV partners in Ospino and Sanatorio. Activities included clinics, health education, first aid training, and the distribution of donated medical supplies.

**August 2003** – A five person construction team, co-lead by Joe Shaw (UCC) and Tom Hunter-Crump worked along side UEPV teams to further construction on the Women's Shelter at the Finca (farm) in Ospino.

**September 2003** – UEPV delegation scheduled to visit the Rocky Mountain area postponed until 2004. US Visas very difficult to obtain following 9/11.

**October 2003** – A Medical Mission Team of 7, led by Carol Matheis-Kraft working alongside our UEPV partners and local medical personnel participated in clinics with the Wyauu (indigenous peoples), taught health subjects to representatives from the Wyauu Churches, and worked on plans for 2004 trips.

**April 2004** – Combined Spec. Ed, Health Ed., & Construction team of 9 led by Carol Matheis-Kraft.

**June 2004** – First Youth Pilgrimage Team of 14 led by Rev. Ben Broadbent. Carla Ficke resigns as co-chair. Bangerts continue.

**August 2004** – UEPV requests Global Partners send an observer in election/referendum to recall President Hugo Chavez. Walter “Joe” Shaw goes as our representative.

**August 2004** – Stuart and Kat Haskins sent as conference representatives to the UEPV Annual Meeting. Kat developed a medical emergency in Venezuela shortly after arrival which hospitalized her and precluded their attendance at the conference

**September 2004** – UEPV visit to Rocky Mountain Area canceled due to their inability to obtain US Visas.

**November 2004** – Medical Mission team Co-lead by Alice Silver and Pat Smatla.

**April 2005** – Intergenerational Construction Mission Trip Canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

**June 2005** – Two UEPV Delegates, Rev. Ramon Castillo and Rev. Daniel Sevilla, visit UCC & DOC gatherings and attend UCC Annual Meeting in Grand Junction.

Since 1998, approximately 27 churches in the UCC and DOC Conference/Region have sponsored delegates and approximately 85 individuals have participated in short term mission trips, some several times.

For further information contact your GP Committee co-chairs: Merv and Danni Bangert,

By e-mail: [bangert@infionline.net](mailto:bangert@infionline.net)

By mail: 107 Deer Trail Rd., Boulder, CO 80302

By phone: 303-444-0350

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DKB