

El Salvador Partnership Report

In 2017 Holy Communion committed to partnership with the Anglican-founded non-governmental organization Cristosal, working for human rights in Central America. We pray for El Salvador every week in our prayers at church, and we help provide funding for Cristosal's important work in the country. Outside of the pandemic, we also alternate visits by year, either our church sending a group to El Salvador or bringing El Salvador to us. In 2022 the rector planned a small trip with our senior warden and invited other clergy for a "Global School" encounter focused on organizing for LGBTQ+ rights in the region. Unfortunately, due to illness and injury, only the rector was able to attend.

Major events in the region

2022 was a difficult year for Cristosal. Their work came under attack from the presidential administration in El Salvador. The president's party holds a supermajority in the national assembly (congress), and has worked to systematically replace judges in the Supreme Court. The government is undermining the work of the organization, even as Cristosal tries to fight for habeas corpus for people illegally detained under the "state of exception" order. In the midst of it all Cristosal has continued to fight for human rights, winning court cases for LGBTQ+ activists in Guatemala, accompanying families fleeing violence in Honduras, and continuing the work on the Mozote case, over an against the administration's objections.

Expanding the work of accompaniment: Welcoming "Marta"

In 2021 a group of volunteers including Scott Ferguson, The Rev. Martie Metzler, Poli Rijos, and Pat Redington, alongside our staff, helped to welcome an asylum seeker from the Northern Triangle who we are calling "Marta." (Using a pseudonym to protect her identity). We continue this work largely out of the sight of the congregation, due to security concerns for Marta. If you would like to get involved in this effort, we would welcome more team members. Now that Marta has formally applied for asylum, we are transitioning from an emergency team into a long-term accompaniment team. Speak with the Rev. Martie Metzler to get involved.

El Salvador Trip in 2024

At the December Board meeting, I was elected President of the Cristosal board. I hope to bring a group from the parish to El Salvador in 2024. If you are interested in joining, or in any work with Cristosal, email me.

The Rev. Mike Angell- Rector