

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF MAM CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THE MISSION DEVELOPMENT UNIT OF THE NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY

The Association of Mam Christian Women for Development (Association) and the Mission Development Unit (MDU) of the New Castle Presbytery (NCP):

- ❖ Are guided by the transforming power of God;
- ❖ Seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed; and
- ❖ Affirm that all people are made in God's image and deserve love and respect, even though they are different in heritage, skills, income, gender, age, and nationality.

Moreover, through God's guidance, the Association and the MDU of the NCP:

- ❖ Share their love of Jesus through action that helps others;
- ❖ Articulate clearly defined visions and missions;
- ❖ Implement well-crafted programs to fulfill their ministries;
- ❖ Offer strong spiritual and practical leadership;
- ❖ Possess the capacity to meet emergencies; and
- ❖ Have already successfully forged activities together.

The Association and the MDU of the NCP believe that God has bestowed great blessings upon them. Building on their mutual strengths and their previous collaboration, they feel drawn to work together formally. They thus agree to enter into an ongoing relationship of support. Through the agreement, they commit to maintaining a nurturing and sustaining relationship. They will grow together spiritually. They will discern what joint activities God is calling them to do.

The foundation of the agreement is based upon I Corinthians 12:4-13 (NIV) that emphasizes the different gifts with which each person is endowed and encourages everyone to use these gifts to form one body in Christ:

*<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

*<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

*<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*

*<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

The mutual expectations of the Association and the MDU of the NCP are:

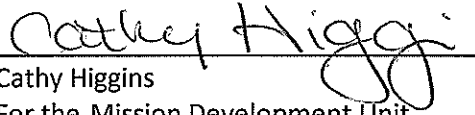
- ❖ Praying for each other;
- ❖ Sharing knowledge about their respective lives, both spiritual and temporal, and learning about one another's traditions and culture;
- ❖ Discerning how best to address the challenges facing communities and the world;
- ❖ Developing, nurturing, and supporting future leaders;
- ❖ Working on projects of common interest, including those affecting women, youth, and families; and
- ❖ Establishing formalized communication about exchange of resources.


The Association and the MDU of the NCP each bring different resources and experiences to the agreement. The MDU of the NCP will make available to the Association financial support of the Association's programs. The Association will host the activities. The MDU of the NPC and the Association will jointly decide yearly with God's guidance what activities to undertake. At the end of each year, they will provide each other with a one-page evaluation of the results. Every three years they will evaluate the relationship to decide whether to continue the agreement.

The agreement is in effect for years 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The Association and the MDU of the NCP signed four identical copies of the agreement, two in English and two in Spanish, each one of which is considered an original copy.

This agreement is entered into prayerfully and the Association and the MDU of the NCP ask God to bless their efforts.

  
Cathy Higgins  
For the Mission Development Unit  
Of the New Castle Presbytery  
Date: March 7, 2015

  
Felipa Méndez, President  
For the Association of Mam Christian  
Women for Development  
Date: March 7, 2015

