

Agenda item for WDC Delegate Assembly – July 31, 2021

Introduction of Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Casa de Paz (House of Peace Anabaptist Christian Church) – Guatemala City, Guatemala

Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Casa de Paz is a congregation in Guatemala City, Guatemala, seeking affiliation with Western District Conference (WDC). Gilberto Flores is pastor.

The congregation first began meeting in June 2015 when Pastor Gilberto Flores and his wife Rosita returned to Guatemala, following Gilberto's retirement from serving as Associate Conference Minister in WDC.

The congregation of approximately 30 people is a community of faith based on a biblical approach and inspired by the Anabaptist-Mennonite peace church tradition, a voluntary community committed to following Jesus in life and bearing witness to others of the good news of the kingdom of God. Before the pandemic, they met at the facilities of the SEMILLA Anabaptist Seminary, and during the pandemic they have maintained online worship and communications.

In the years since the congregation began, Pastor Gilberto and WDC leaders have been in conversation about a relationship between Casa de Paz and WDC, and the potential for mutual sharing of resources, Anabaptist witness, learning and growth.

In May 2021 Casa de Paz sent a formal letter of intent to the WDC Executive Board, expressing their desire to affiliate with WDC. The Executive Board has affirmed moving forward to introduce Casa de Paz at the 2021 WDC delegate assembly.

During the coming year, we will seek ways to get acquainted and establish relationships between WDC and Casa de Paz; and Casa de Paz will prepare additional documentation according to WDC's constitutional process for admission into membership, with the intention of receiving Casa de Paz into membership in WDC at the 2022 delegate assembly.