

# Sister Parish Guatemala Representatives Meeting

March 4-5, 2017



The March 2017 Guatemala Representatives Meeting was hosted for the second time by UPAVIM ([United for a Better Life](#)). UPAVIM was very excited to support the organizing efforts of the Sister Parish and facilitate the new Guatemala *Directiva* (advisory board) elections.

[See photos from the representatives meeting.](#)

## Attendees

Las Margaritas II:	Eusebio Chaman
Tierra Nueva II:	Clementina Gonzalez, Paul Quiroz, Evelio Mejía, Eluvia Morales
Tierra Nueva I:	Irelene Gil, Cynthia Trujillo, Rosa Bay, Auri Lemus, Miriam Vásquez
Chichipate:	Victor Chub, Juventino
Chontalá:	Tomas Tol
UPAVIM:	Dina Velásquez, Pahola Chumil Concepción Mateo, Carmen Guzmán, Estela, Celestina, Esperanza López, other UPAVIMas
San Andrés Itzapa:	Letti and Luis Talaoj
Sister Parish:	Carrie Stengel, Brian Tyler



## Sister Parish News and Events

This year we had the pleasure of welcoming new participants to the Guatemalan Representatives meeting. The participants reviewed last year's Southern Encounter, shared project updates, and news from Sister Parish communities. The group also took time to honor a number of Sister Parish members that have passed away this year. Sister Parish continues to feel the absence of Don Juan (from San Andrés Itzapa) and Doña Rhina (from Tierra Nueva 1). Please pray for their family members, spouses, and souls.

Representatives selected a new Guatemala *Directiva* (advisory board) that will serve for the years 2017-2019. The group also voted on location options for the September 2017 representatives meeting.

### **Guatemala Directiva 2017-2018**

**President-** Luis Talaoj

**Vice President-** Paul Quiroz

**Secretary-** Victor Chun Chub

**Treasurer -** Concepción Mateo

**Member at large -** Pahola Chumil

**Member at large -** Irelene Gil

### **Educational Topic: Climate Change**



The educational topic opened with a documentary *Home* that gave visuals to the dramatic shift in climate patterns and role of human activity in those shifts. Later, representatives shared their basic knowledge of climate change by reflecting on the documentary and changes in climate patterns in their own communities. Two volunteers from UPAVIM facilitated discussion and encouraged representatives to provide solutions that work in the context of life in Guatemala. The volunteers also

presented general information on climate patterns and reasons for those shifts in patterns.

### **Guatemala Directiva Meeting**

During the meeting, the Guatemala *Directiva* and representatives:

- Discussed plans for September 2017 representatives meeting
- Discussed ways to improve the *Directiva's* work for 2017-2019

### **Notes for Upcoming Events**

- The next representatives' meeting is planned for September 9-10, 2017. Representatives would like to explore the option of visiting Chichipate and, if that is not possible, then Tierra Nueva I/II.
- Carrie and Brian started to discuss plans for their respective leave time in June and July. They will also be in touch with northern churches soon to discuss communication plans.
- The Sister Parish U.S. Board of Directors will meet at the end of April in Decorah, Iowa. At least one member of the *Directiva* will participate in a call with the board during the meeting.
- The Sister Parish delegation calendar this year includes, 1 delegation in March, 2 delegations in July, 1 in August, and 2 in September (provided applicants from El Salvador and Guatemala receive visas).