

Presbyterian Church/USA International Peacemaker Program



Leaders from partner denominations and organizations around the world visit the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) each year to interpret issues of peace and justice. These visits inform Presbyterians, open hearts and minds, touch lives, establish relationships and inspire new ministries. By sharing stories of their work and witness, the peacemakers help us understand peace and justice concerns around the world and provide insights that can inspire us to greater faithfulness. Their visits broaden our sense of God's inclusive family and help equip us to build a culture of peace and nonviolence for all God's children. Since 1984 more than 350 International Peacemakers from 60 countries have been hosted through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

Presbytery of Grand Canyon Hosts Peacemakers

The Peace and Justice Network of the Presbytery has hosted an International Peacemaker for more than 10 years. The Peacemaker is present in the Valley for a week during which many events are held, including workshops, visits to local organizations and schools, and participation in worship services. This year's International Peacemaker is Mia Umana from Costa Rica. She will be in the Phoenix area from September 30 – October 7, accompanied Interpreter Karla Koll.

Costa Rica

Mía Umaña



For 30 years, Mía Umaña has been working to support vulnerable communities in comprehensive and empathetic ways. She has focused on strengthening resilience in communities, using tools such as the creation of Peace Communities. With specialties in conflict resolution and trauma care, Mía trained with the Lutheran World Federation in Brazil and holds a diploma in Risk Management in Natural Disasters (CEPEPCA ACT ALIANZA).

Most recently, Mía finished her course work for her bachelor's degree in Theological Sciences and is in the process of preparing her thesis at the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamérica (UBL) in Costa Rica. She also earned an International Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith. She currently provides pastoral accompaniment and support to migrants with particular focus on gender violence, femicide and environmental justice. She works to strengthen relational networks while providing support to migrants at Casa Adobe.

A resilient and faithful woman, mother and grandmother, Mía lives in Montecito – a high elevation, wooded area in the province of Heredia, Costa Rica.

Interpreter – Karla Koll

Karla Ann Koll, a Mission Co-worker with the PC(USA), serves at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) in San Jose, Costa Rica as professor of history, mission and religions. She previously served in theological education in Nicaragua and Guatemala. In addition to courses in mission and the history of Christianity, she teaches a course on eschatology and climate change. Karla is a member of Pueblo Presbytery.