

## The Companion Diocese Committee

Chair: J. Pete Ackerman

Co-chair: The Rev. Pedro Guzman

Members: Felix Estepa, The Rev. Emily Holman  
(Deacon), The Rev. Lisa Mitchell, Charles  
Nakash, The Rev. Francisco Pozo, The Rev. Dr.  
John Steed, The Rev. Margaret Sterchi, Hilary  
Thomas Dorer, Vincent Tortorella, The Rev.  
Scott Trull, The Rev. Mark van Sant.

The Committee would like to extend its heart-  
felt thanks to The Rev. Servio Moscoso for his  
unwavering leadership for the past 20 years.

The Companion Diocese Committee  
CDC  
Diocese of New Jersey  
and  
El Comite de Companerismo en Mision  
COCOREMI  
Diocesis de Ecuador Central



**In Companionship with...**



**and in prayerful partnership with...**

**Diocesis Litoral  
de Ecuador**

## The Mutual Mission

CDC and COCOREMI have agreed to work together in a mutual partnership to strengthen both our dioceses. The focus of the Diocese of Central Ecuador at this time is to establish the foundation upon which it may move towards self-sustainability. COCOREMI will participate in the development of a strategic plan and will identify projects in which the CDC and the Diocese of New Jersey can assist the Diocese of Ecuador Central in this goal.



Members of CDC and COCOREMI meeting in Quito in February 2009

Six members of CDC visited Ecuador in February 2009 to begin to forge a bond with COCOREMI and members of the Diocese. The group was invited to attend the 2009 Diocesan Convention in Quito and visited parishes in the capital and in the surrounding Andean provinces.

The CDC also welcomed to its November meeting missionaries, Deacon Chris and Mrs. Trish Morck who are serving in Ecuador Central.

### Plans for 2010

- The CDC, on behalf of the Diocese of New Jersey, is pleased to welcome The Right Rev. Fernando Ruiz, Bishop of the Diocese of Ecuador and Mrs. Dolly Mejia, the Chair of COCOREMI, to the Diocesan Convention of New Jersey, in March.
- A group of Deacons from New Jersey, led by CDC member Emily Holman, will visit the Diocese of Central Ecuador in March to investigate starting a vocational diaconate program in Ecuador Central. The group will visit ministry sites and offer a workshop for clergy and lay persons about the role and significance of the diaconate
- A Youth Trip is planned for July. Teens from across the Diocese of New Jersey are invited to apply.
- Adult trips to witness and work on partnership projects in Ecuador will be planned for 2011. In the meantime the two committees will work together to identify how best to work together and enhance our mutual goals.
- Fundraising will continue to provide laptop computers for students at the Episcopal Schools.
- Children from each Diocese have been asked to write autobiographical and pictorial stories that they can share with each other.



### The Diocese of Central Ecuador ...

is located in the Andean mountains and centered on Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Its cathedral and ..... churches and missions are located in and around the city. The Anglican community numbers some 2,000 and this population is growing, largely because of the burgeoning interest among the indigenous communities of Chimborazo Province in joining the Episcopal Church.

Some indigenous groups choose to retain the distinctive elements of a way of life that existed in pre-Columbian days including their language, Chechua which is spoken alongside Spanish. Land has been returned to them over the past 30 years and they are working determinedly to build strong, self-sufficient communities. The Episcopal Church offers an attractive alternative to these people and community members are emerging as both clergy and lay leaders in the Iglesia Episcopal de Ecuador.



Delegates from Chimborazo Province attend the Diocesan Convention in Quito, February 2009