

**Recommendation for the Use of  
The Mission Partnership Portion of the Genesis Fund  
November 2011**

The Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia identified three priority projects in July 2011.

- 1. Reviving Saiza (located within Urabá Presbytery)**
- 2. Leadership Training for Urabá Presbytery**
- 3. Evangelization and Formation of New Worshiping Communities**

In October 2011 the Rev. Diego Higueta met with the Presbytery Council to discuss the potential direction of the mission partnership portion of Winnebago's Genesis Fund (\$5,225). Mr. Higueta indicated that any of the three projects would be appreciative of support, but the number 1 priority is reviving Saiza.

**MOTION:** That Presbytery direct the mission partnership portion, \$5,225, of the 2012 Genesis Fund Grant to the Reviving Saiza project of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC).

**RATIONALE:** (Excerpted from the full IPC Priorities Report-July 2011) Copies of the Full Priorities Report will be available at the Presbytery meeting.

Saiza survived various guerrilla attacks and confrontations between the army and the guerilla, only to reach its worst crisis from illegal armed groups (paramilitaries) in the 1990s. On July 14, 1999 a group of paramilitaries attacked the community, burning houses and massacring people, and giving a three-day ultimatum to vacate the region. Between July 15-18, two hundred families were displaced to different areas in Antioquia and Córdoba while 750 families remained in the jungle reappearing only later in the municipal seats of Carepa and Tierra Alta. The displacement in this region of the country has been one of the largest ever registered.

Because the IPC has been a pioneer in spiritual care and social development in this community, there is a duty to support and seek support for the strengthening of the population that is daring to return. It is important to highlight that after a time, some families were willing to attempt their return if the Presbyterian Church was able to accompany them and support them. It was such that PCUSA aid to displaced people, through the Presbytery of Urabá, was used to help these families by offering aid for basic elements as they returned in 2001 and 2002. Upon their return they found that their homes and the church were totally destroyed, but the families that have returned are asking the church to be their spiritual accompanier. The church building itself is a sign of faith and hope. It is on this basis that we ask for support.