



June 14, 2021

Dear friend,

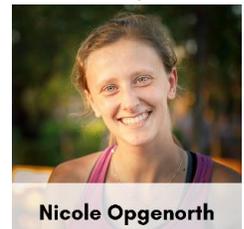
Grace and peace to you. I am writing to announce a transition in Phil and Olivia Iekel's roles serving in Nicaragua. Olivia has begun wrapping up her time with the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD) and will be joining the staff of EMI Nicaragua, where Phil currently serves, at the end of July.



Phil and Olivia Iekel

Through your faithful support and prayers, Olivia has been an integral part of the CEPAD team for five years, developing the volunteer/intern program, connecting RCA churches and individuals with CEPAD's ministry, and has filled a variety of roles during the pandemic. Olivia is extremely grateful for your partnership and she is excited about the new opportunity God has provided for their family. Phil has recently accepted the role as the EMI Nicaragua director and Olivia will transition to leading the EMI Nicaragua team with him, still in partnership with RCA Global Mission.

I am excited to share that Olivia has been training a Nicaraguan who will take over her position at CEPAD. It was always our goal to transition this work to a Nicaraguan staff person, living into RCA Global Mission's mission principle of sustainable empowerment. In addition, the RCA's connection to CEPAD will remain strong as one of the volunteers Olivia hosted, Nicole Opgenorth, is now raising support to be a long-term RCA missionary with CEPAD. We are all happy to see Nicole assume Olivia's role as liaison for RCA churches, especially after they have worked together for several years.



Nicole Opgenorth

I hope you will consider joining RCA Global Mission in a new chapter of mission and ministry in partnership with CEPAD through Nicole's leadership and the role of the new Nicaraguan staff member.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at lruiz@rca.org or 616-541-0850. To make changes to or to renew your Partnership-in-Mission share(s), please contact Kathy DeKock at kdekock@rca.org or 712-737-4952. Your support will automatically transfer to Nicole Opgenorth if we do not hear from you otherwise by September 30.

Thanks again,

Rev. Luis Ruiz

RCA Global Mission Supervisor of Mission in North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean

P.S. I want to invite you and your church to schedule a virtual conversation with myself, the Iekels, and Nicole to further discuss the opportunities to stay involved. Please send your request for a date and time to oliviaiekel@rca.org. We are hoping to schedule all virtual meetings over the summer.