

Plan of Action for the MAJUP Youth Praise Band for Peace Coming to our Area--Summer 2018



The Presbytery of the Miami Valley, working through its churches and Networks, anticipates and **awaits the visit of the nine members of the MAJUP Youth Praise Band from the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Cartagena, Colombia to our area during the months of July/August 2018.**

MAJUP (Ministerio de Alabanza Juventud Presbiteriana, or Presbyterian Youth Praise Ministry) is a praise band consisting of seven youth and two adult leaders from the Cartagena Church. They have made the focus of their ministry both praising God through lively music in Spanish and English, and seeking wider awareness of the decades-long conflict in Colombia and efforts to bring a lasting peace. Our presbytery is prepared for MAJUP to come as a group to be with us in Ohio and possibly to travel to Michigan as well.

The expected duration of the MAJUP visit is about 4-5 weeks, taking place between early July and early August 2018. Current planning anticipates the group's arrival about July 3 and departure about August 6, pending their receiving visas. During that time, we plan the following activities:

- A concert tour highlighting possibilities for better understanding of efforts for peace in Colombia and solidarity with Christians working for peace in the U.S. and in Colombia through music and public awareness.
- Time for the group to spend at Kirkmont Center in Zanesfield, Ohio being part of a week-long (July 15-20) youth camp experience (***Camp Paz y Alabanza***) that features sharing Spanish language,

Hispanic/Latino culture, and the rhythms and powerful message of praise music.

- Participation in Vacation Bible Schools and other special events at churches and in cities in our area.
- Chances to develop strong personal connections between youth in our presbytery's and synod's churches and the MAJUP youth through relaxing and thoughtful time together.
- A workshop where MAJUP could come alongside area churches interested in developing or deepening a praise music team, in which the Colombian youth will explain their church's model of how to grow their church and engage new youth leaders by sharing musical knowledge gained from their adult mentors.

Support for the group's airfare, lodging, food and other necessities, concert expenses and instrument rental, local transport and tourism, and other costs comes from the Presbiterio de la Costa, College Hill Community Church, other area churches that sponsor concerts and events, the Colombia Partnership Network and the Peacemaking Fund of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, and private donations. We anticipate continued fundraising.

Members of the College Hill Church and other presbytery volunteers will accompany the band members, providing language interpretation, transportation, and logistical support. MAJUP's members will primarily be housed with College Hill or other church members except when at Kirkmont Center or in other cities.

The Iglesia Presbiteriana de Cartagena—MAJUP's home church—is the sister church of the College Hill Community Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, one of the 49 member churches in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. That presbytery has a strong partnership of more than 20 years' duration with the Presbiterio de la Costa in Colombia, of which the Cartagena Church is a member. During that time colleagues from Colombia have regularly come to the U.S. for stays of weeks or months, and delegations from our area have gone to Colombia to visit our brothers and sisters in faith in their own homes and churches.

For questions or to discuss a booking for MAJUP, contact Larry Hollar at 937-643-3168 or larryhollar@gmail.com.