

Rev. Marta Pumtoy-Cordero is the Coordinator at the Tres Rios Border Foundation. I must say that she is always exceeding our expectations.

As our coordinator she oversees running meetings and working with our ministry partners. She plays a big role in helping to keep the 'Border Encounters' running smoothly. It seems that there is always a group going through. A border encounter is where 10 to 15 people spend three days learning about the border, the history of migration in the border area and how things are being done today. Participants also learn what our organization and other organizations are doing to help the migrants who are fleeing their homes and the problems there. Marta must keep us nimble and always changing because the policies at the border are changing almost daily and along with that, she is always on the lookout for where the migrant needs are today and making sure that we are in place to meet those needs. What we needed to do a month ago probably won't be what we need to do this month. She is in charge of making sure that everyone is prepared to do the task at hand.

She oversees preparing and leading worship with the groups and with the community members. This week she planned an ecumenical communion service on the border next to the wall. Participating were all the members of the downtown church leadership were participating, which obviously includes many denominations and faiths. She also leads and oversees community members who are trained to be courtroom observers while others participate in a prayer vigil in front of the courthouse where everyone including the judges and officers are uplifted in prayer.

Another part of her job description is to travel to churches throughout the country and present, sometimes with a sermon, sometimes just a lesson, to teach the congregants about how things are on the border. Understand that most of the questions she fields start with, "but that's not what the news says". Thus, one of her jobs is to broaden the understanding of the PCUSA churches and thus broaden the mission of these churches. She encourages them to share what they learn with others that they know.

Marta truly lives into our mission statement to inspire, equip, and connect.

As you can tell she takes her Calling very seriously and always goes beyond what is required to further God's ministry through the church.

In Christ,  
TRBF Board member  
Elder Bill Rose