

Dear Presbyterians,

I had the joy and privilege of walking alongside the Reverend Marta Pumroy Cordero during her ordination journey. I served as her Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) liaison and I was thrilled when she felt called to attend Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as I knew from personal experience she would thrive in that community. During her time there she served on student council and as president of the student body. Every time our CPM would meet with Marta I felt a renewed sense of energy and joy in my own calling as hers was so contagious.



Most recently, I had the privilege of witnessing Marta in her first call as I traveled to El Paso, Texas and Juárez, Mexico where she serves as the Border Coordinator with the Tres Rios Border Foundation of Tres Rios Presbytery. I saw firsthand how she is valued and treasured by her colleagues and I was moved by how they trust in and rely on each other as they do the challenging daily work of border ministry. Each day brings something new and unexpected. She told me every time they visit Juárez it is a new adventure and they never quite know what to expect but that God most assuredly shows up in whatever work they are doing and in whomever they encounter that day.

It was a true gift to be able to experience, even if only for a few days, the work that is taking place on the border. It is powerful and impactful work. It was impossible to leave El Paso without a changed narrative of immigration and migration after hearing so many individual and personal stories. Marta stresses that each individual has an important story to share. During our time Marta led us through a Theology of Immigration workshop where she discussed migration through a scriptural lens as well as guiding the group in thinking about immigration by using our Book of Confessions and Book of Order. It was such a gift to see Marta in this ministry that seems to fit her gifts and passions so well.



Marta is truly a gift to the church. I know that if this co-moderator call would come to pass she would shine a light on immigration issues while also listening, hearing, and genuinely advocating for issues at the heart of all of us. She is a shining light and brings positivity and joy wherever she goes. One of the sayings at the border is “Border Joy.” To me that means being able to live in joy while also witnessing and experiencing the very real hardships of life at the border. I experience that joy with Marta and I know you will too!

With much joy,
Rev. Sarah Feltman Hegar
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