

Mexican Presbyterians cut ties to PCUSA over gays

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The National Presbyterian Church of Mexico has voted to end its 139-year relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in response to the U.S. church's decision earlier this year to allow the ordination of sexually active gays and lesbians.

According to Presbyterian News Service, the decision came on a 116 to 22 vote of the Mexican church assembly on August 19. It was feared that the action would jeopardize the work of 11 U.S. church mission co-workers in Mexico, including service along the U.S.-Mexican border and short-term congregational mission trips to Mexico.

Mexican delegates at the special three-day assembly also voted not to reestablish any relationship with the U.S. church unless the change is rescinded.

The delegates, representing nearly 2 million members, also reconfirmed the church's policy against the ordination of women by a resounding margin, 158 to 14. In addition, the assembly voted 103 to 55 not to allow any grace period for presbyteries that had, on their own, already begun ordaining women. That vote means that any presbytery which has already ordained women must immediately revoke those ordinations. —ENInews