



# ELCA MISSIONARY PROFILE



## **Rev. Stephen Deal and Marta Girón**

Central America

### **EDUCATION**

B.A. Political Science  
M.A. Public Policy Studies

Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, N.C.  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

### **CALENDAR**

Stephen's Birthday  
Marta's Birthday  
Wedding Anniversary

Sept. 16  
April 12  
Feb. 22

### **CONNECT**

*Companion synods:* Sierra Pacific (2A), Southwest California (2B), Northeastern Minnesota (3E), Saint Paul Area (3H), Southwestern Texas (4E), Greater Milwaukee (5J), North/West Lower Michigan (6B), New England (7B), North Carolina (9B), Southeastern (9D)

*Home synod:* Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (8G)

### **CONTACT**

[Stephen.deal@elca.org](mailto:Stephen.deal@elca.org)

### **SPONSORS MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW**

Stephen began his service as an ELCA missionary in 1992 with the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala. He was ordained as a deacon pastor by that church in 1997 while serving marginal communities on the periphery of Guatemala City. His service as regional representative began in 2003. His current missionary responsibilities are concentrated in four countries: Costa Rica plus the Northern Triangle of Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras).

**Stephen** serves as Global Mission regional representative in Central America, where he works closely with the leadership of our companion churches to identify ways for ELCA synods, congregations and members to accompany their holistic ministry among the poor, the vulnerable and the excluded. Since 2014, he has been deeply involved with ELCA's AMMPARO strategy (see <http://www.elca.org/ammparo>), helping ELCA members understand the root causes behind the massive emigration of children, youth and families from Central America. He has also been building a network of relationships with ecumenical partners who are "welcoming the sojourner" and defending the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees.

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