

## Carmen Aracelis Melendez-Collado



Carmen Aracelis Meléndez is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as director of training, promotion, and interpretation of Give Ye Them to Eat, a ministry of the Methodist Church of Mexico in the State of Puebla. She was commissioned in October 2013.

Give Ye Them to Eat (GYTTE) serves an impoverished rural area, offering community-based and direct health ministries. It promotes ecological construction and agricultural development. It trains individuals in productive rural culture and offers retreats, camps, work experience, and support for Christian education.

Carmen was born in Panama and is a citizen of the United States. She is a member of the Ocala West United Methodist Church in the Florida Annual Conference. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez campus and a Master of Arts degree from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, San Germán campus. Her special emphasis in the latter was in teaching English as a second language.

While living in Puerto Rico, she worked for 10 years in private industry and for three years taught English in a primary school. From 2006 to 2013, she was a Spanish and ESOL teacher at Vanguard High School in Ocala.

Carmen became involved in the mission outreach of the Ocala church. She was initially reluctant to consider full-time mission work until she realized that God was in charge; she then signed on to the idea.

“A missionary speaker came to our church,” she recalls, “and explained in detail the need for people to work in the mission field and how greatly such people contribute help and hope. I felt a deep compassion I had never felt before in my spirit. I knew God was telling me something.” She acknowledges that her journey to mission service is guided by God’s spirit and grace.

Carmen is married to Alejandro Rodriguez, also a Global Ministries missionary, and they have been blessed with three amazing daughters.