**Sharing Items and Goods with People in Mexico:**

**Commonly Donated Items are Prohibited by Mexican Law**

Through our partnership with the Oriental Conference in Mexico and through other relationships, many congregations in West Ohio send mission teams to Mexico. As we seek to respond from God’s love and build relationships with people and communities in Mexico, it is important for us to know and remember laws that govern what we can and cannot bring into Mexico, even as charitable donations. The following information can be found on the US Consulate General’s website in Matamoros, Mexico. For more information, please go to their website. <http://matamoros.usconsulate.gov/service/travel-information/transit-through-mexico.html>

Items forbidden for international transit in accordance with annex 17 of the Regulations of General Character of Foreign Trade Matters include:

* \*Used clothing
* \*Shoes
* \*Diapers
* \*Suitcases
* \*Toys, plush animals or bicycles
* \*Hand tools such as screwdrivers or drills
* Textiles, fabric and sewing accessories
* Narcotics and certain other drugs without a prescription by a Mexican doctor
* Beer and cigarettes
* Coffee in any form
* Live poultry
* Dried beans
* Used tires for any kind of vehicle; new or used rims or their accessories
* Environmentally hazardous materials, pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic substances
* Arms, weapons, ammunitions or explosives
* Televisions, stereos, VCRs, tape recorders, radios or radio devices
* Plywood
* Out-of-date medications may not be imported for donation under any circumstances.
* The importation of all medicines and medical equipment for donation to charity must be approved by Mexican Customs in advance; failure to obtain the proper import permits will result in the confiscation of the medical supplies.

\*Individuals may bring these items for their own use. However, it is prohibited by law to donate any of these items to people or places in Mexico. The donor and the recipient would be open to legal charges by Mexican authorities.

*Carrying arms, weapons, cartridges, ammunitions or explosives is considered a crime, which could lead to detention and/or arrest.*

The list mentioned above is not complete, and is subject to change at any moment by Mexican Customs.  It is strongly recommended that travelers seek guidance from a Mexican customs agency before entering Mexico.  Travelers must declare all of the items in their possession, including those of personal use. Mexican laws apply to all people that have entered Mexico.  Bribery or the attempt to bribe a government officer in Mexico is a crime.  Mexican law is strictly enforced.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Dee Stickley-Miner, Director of Connectional Mission and Justice, at dstickley@wocumc.org; 800-437-0028.