

**No. 0902**  
**Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries**

*Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries*  
*Mrs. Gloria Feliciano, Administrative Associate*  
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**I. Mission:**

The Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries' (CPOHM) mission is threefold: to offer pastoral care to Hispanic ministers and congregations; to advice and counsel the different manifestations of our denomination about Hispanic ministries; and to be an advocate for Hispanic people, congregations and issues.

**II. Personnel**

During 2008 the CPOHM experienced a change in personnel. Mrs. Hilda M. Robles resigned as Administrative Associate effective October 18, 2008. CPOHM hired Mrs. Gloria Feliciano as Administrative Assistant beginning on October 13, 2008.

**III. Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries Members (08-9)**

The members of the Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries are:

**Manuel Collazo**  
*Moderator, National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship (NHBF)*

**Lyndon Rogers**  
*Past Moderator, NHBF*

**Xose Escamilla**  
*Moderator Elect, NHBF*

**Jairo Garcia**  
*First Vice-Moderator*

**Rafael Rivera Rosa**  
*Second Vice-Moderator, NHBF*

**Rosy Castillo-Ricart**  
*Secretary, NHBF*

**Joel Saucedo**  
*Pro-Secretary, NHBF*

**Waleska Acevedo**  
*Representative at Large*

**Jose Cisneros**  
*Representative at Large*

**Manuel Collazo**  
*Moderator, SE Convention*

**Alicia Rodriguez**  
*Representative, SE Convention*

**Vanessa Rivera**  
*Moderator, MW Convention*

**Vacant**  
*Representative, MW Convention*

**Johnny Escobar**  
*Moderator, NE Convention*

**Irma Diaz**  
*Representative, NE Convention*

**Silvia Tiznado**  
*Moderator AZ Convention*

**Francisco Alonso Rosas Hurtado**  
*Representative AZ Convention*

**Rogelio Martinez**  
*Moderator Pacific Convention*

**Rose Garcia**  
*Representative Pacific Convention*

**Wanda Alejandro Gonzalez**  
*Moderator SW Convention*

**Ely Dorado**  
*Representative SW Convention*

**David Vargas**  
*Honorary Member*

**General Board Representatives**

**John P. Mobley**  
*Regional Minister, NW/FL Alabama*

**Catherine Hubbard**  
*Regional Minister, Canada/Ontario Area Minister*

**Linda Hernandez-Williams**  
*Pacific Southwest Region*

**Ruben Cruz**  
*Illinois-Wisconsin Region*

**Luis Ferrer**  
*Representative of the Pastoral Commission to the General Board*

**Ex-Officio Members**

**Sharon Watkins**  
*General Minister and President CCDC in USA and Canada*

**Huberto Pimentel**  
*National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries*

**IV. Youth**

CPOHM asked Rev. Samuel Robles Jr. to write a proposal for promoting leadership and fostering the call to ministry to Oreon E. Scott Foundation. The Foundation approved CPOHM a grant of \$13,000 for the Event. CPOHM budgeted \$ 6,000 and DHM committed to a \$9,600 scholarship. This Youth & Young Adult Leadership Seminar is the first step towards developing leadership and involving the youth

in our next two main Assemblies: The General Assembly of 2009, and the Hispanic Bilingual Assembly of 2010 which will be dedicated to the Family and to the Youth. The Theme of the Young Adult Leadership Seminar was the Hospitality in Ministry. CPOHM awarded scholarships to 24 youth and young adults from all the Hispanic Conventions. Other General Units like DOM and HELM contributed to this event by sponsoring meals and speakers. The Florida Region also sponsored a lunch and the Regional Minister spoke about the Regional Ministry within the CCDC. This event was celebrated with great success in January 16 to 19 of 2009.

## **V. Theological Education**

*CPOHM in joined partnership with Brite Divinity has celebrated the following program:*

CPOHM co-sponsored the 2008 session of the Brite Institute for Latino/a Ministries, which was held on June 1-6, 2008. Over 95 students participated in this event. One important goal in the Summer Latina/o Program is to better equip lay pastors with theological and practical pastoral studies that will help them comply with the new study requirements for all licensed pastors in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This is a four day and three hour class module. Students will accumulate in one class a total of 12 hours of continuous studies. The Summer Latino Program was structured in 3 courses opportunities in the morning session and 2 courses opportunities in the afternoon session.

*CPOHM is committed to grant scholarships for M.Div seminarians*

CPOHM has allocated \$12,000 for scholarship support. Each seminarian under the care of a Commission on Ministry is granted \$40.00 per credit hour in an ATS Seminary. There are 23 Hispanic Seminararians studying in Disciples Seminaries and other ATS Seminaries where there is no Disciples Seminary presence.

## **VI. The CPOHM & the Church-at-Large**

CPOHM supported the goals and vision of our Church:

1. Pro-Reconciliation: The National Pastor is part of the Reconciliation Commission. We will be in dialogue with the Reconciliation Minister, Rev. April Johnson of the OGMP, to explore the possibility of a meeting event for Hispanics in 2009. CPOHM has designated funds for a Reconciliation activity.
2. New Church: CPOHM supports the growing number of Hispanic new congregations and networking with New Church Ministries. We are requesting from NC Ministries a conversation on how to improve and make clear the transition of new Hispanic Churches to the Obra Hispana.
3. Transforming congregations: The different educational ventures of the CPOHM seek to empower and transform our existing congregations, particularly by helping our ministers to be better pastoral leaders.
4. Forming and reforming leadership: CPOHM continues its emphasis on leadership development, as demonstrated by the programs developed in 2008. CPOHM also organizes and resources ministerial retreats, workshops and assemblies for Latino and Latina ministers. Many of these workshops and Seminars take place during Hispanic Convention Assemblies and others during pastoral visits from the National Pastor where some Hispanic churches group together for a Saturday Workshop.

## **VII. Audited Annual Financial Statements**

CPOHM contracted the services of Blue & Co; LLC to audit the financial statements of CPOHM for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The 2006 and 2007 audits were completed in 2008 and the Pastoral Commission Board received and approved the audit reports from Blue & Co. at their December 2008 meeting. Those parties interested in the financial statements of CPOHM attach the 2007 audit for review.

Since 2006 was the first audit of the CPOHM, the audit management letter addressed several internal control concerns mostly due to the few employees in the Hispanic office to do all the financial functions. To correct the internal control concerns addressed in the 2006 audit, CPOHM contracted with the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) to provide financial and accounting services for CPOHM. In June 2008, DOM began to take over the financial aspects of CPOHM and to establish the internal controls and accountability for financial reporting of CPOHM. The changes in internal controls will be reflected in the 2008 audit scheduled for May 2009. It is anticipated that the 2008 audit will reflect an improvement in the financial process of the CPOHM. Some of the auditor's recommendations that will be reflected in the 2008 audit are: a written conflict of interest policy, a gift acceptance policy, an accounting and procedure manual and a system of checks and balances to insure the assets of CPOHM are properly reported and accounted for.

CPOHM is committed to financial integrity and accountability to the whole church. The audits have used a significant amount of the CPOHM operating budget. In 2008, \$12,000 was spent on the 2006 and 2007 audits. The 2008 audit is projected to cost the CPOHM \$8,000 of the 2009 operating budget. For an office that receives less than \$300,000 a year for operations, this is a significant commitment to insure the financial integrity of CPOHM.

#### **VIII. Conclusion**

CPOHM is committed to serve the growing Hispanic Disciples constituency. We are confident the changes in leadership will energize our ministry, enabling the CPOHM to better serve our Church as a whole.

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The General Board reviewed report No. 0902  
of the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries.  
The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion.  
No action is required. (Discussion time is 12 minutes)

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