

Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries

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www.obrahispana.org

2007 Year-end Report

I. Mission:

The *Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries* (CPOHM) 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, congregation and issues.

II. Personnel

Central Pastoral Office has two employees: The National Pastor, Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel since 2006, and Hilda Robles the *Administrative Associate*. In addition, we have the volunteer financial services of Enrique Ocasio that helps the CPOHM in the bookkeeping and reconciliation of the bank statements account.

III. Programs

During 2007 the CPOHM sponsored and help developed the following programs:

1. The CPOHM co-sponsored the 2007 session of the *Brite Summer Program for Latino/a Ministries*, held June 10-15, 2007. Over 110 students participated in this event. The courses offered were:
 - a. *Transcultural Ministry and Mission*, by Dr. Carlos Cardoza - Orlandi
 - b. *History of the Liberation Theologies in a Globalize World*, Dr. Carmelo Alvarez
 - c. *Theology, Methodology and Practice*, Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez
 - d. *Human Sexuality: A Pastoral Point of View*, Dr. Jorge E. Maldonado
 - e. *Pastoral Counseling with persons with alcohol and drugs addiction* – Rev. Luis Bernard
 - f. *Bi-cultural and Bilingual Ministry with the Youth*, Dr. Elizabeth Conde- Frazier

One important goal in the Summer Latina/o Program is to better equip the 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 structure in 3 courses opportunities in the morning session and 2 courses opportunities in the afternoon session.

2. The translation in Spanish of the Ronald Osborn book *The Faith We Affirm* was finished and our office has been sending copies to some pastors as well as promoting it in our website. This will be another great resource for the Disciples Polity class or as a required reading for licensing lay pastors in the Region's.
3. Still pending for publication is the special publication of a Disciples History book in which the *Constituencies* perspective and context will be included (Afro-American, Asian, and Hispanic).
4. The CPOHM incremented the distribution by \$6,000 dollars in congregational and pastoral support aid during 2007.
5. The *Domingo Rodríguez Scholarship Fund* supported 28 Hispanic seminarians, providing then a \$40 per credit allowance each semester. We made a decision to overpass the existing budget from \$6,000 dollars to \$12,000 dollars in 2007.
6. The CPOHM has three Permanent Funds with the Christian Church Foundation. *Ferdinand García Permanent Fund* (For the General operation of the CPOHM), and the *Rev. Domingo Rodríguez Permanent Fund* (For the ministerial students at Seminaries) and the *Hispanic Women's Ministries Permanent Fund*.
7. The CPOHM will be using the services of our *Communication Ministries* to change our existing website incorporating more information and resources. Our URL is: www.obrahispana.org. The Webmaster of this resource will be Chris Higgins.

IV. Pastoral Work

1. During 2007 Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel participated in 95 acts of ministry as *National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries*: 85 *pastoral activities* (such as sermons, lectures, and pastoral visits, among others); 53 administrative meetings; and one inter-denominational events.

V. The CPOHM & the Church-at-Large

The CPOHM supported the goals and vision of our Church:

1. Pro-Reconciliation: The National Pastor is part of the *Reconciliation Commission*.
2. New Church: The CPOHM supports the growing number of Hispanic new congregations and networking with *New Church Ministries*. We actively participated in NCM events.

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: The CPOHM continues its emphasis on leadership development, as demonstrated by the leadership workshops developed in 2007. The CPOHM also organizes and resources ministerial retreats, workshops and assemblies for Latino and Latina ministers.
5. Presenting to our past Assembly in 2005 a resolution called "*The Tithe of the Tithe*". The spirit of this resolution is to promote the giving of the Hispanic churches to DMF including the special offerings. Each church received the tithe of their members and gradually will send the *tithe of the tithe* back to the general church.

VI. Conclusion

The CPOHM is committed to serve the growing Hispanic Disciples constituency. The continuing growing of the Hispanic churches (200) is challenging our economic resources to provide relevant programming to help some new churches understand the Disciples ethos and integrated them into our existing Hispanic *Conventions*.

Our respect and admiration to all our Hispanic pastors (ordained and lay pastors) who are been faithful witness to a higher calling and vocation to serve the Latino communities with limited economic resources but with great joy and commitment. We are confident in our people, the lay- leadership, and all the immigrants who are struggling daily with their legal status. This is LA OBRA HISPANA, and, I am proud to be their Pastor. We are confident that the leadership of all the Hispanic churches will energized our ministry, enabling the CPOHM to better serve our Church as a whole.

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