

Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries

Rev. Dr. Huberto Pimentel, *National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries*
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2009 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

Gloria Feliciano is the *Administrative Assistant of the CPOHM*.

III. Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries Members (09-10)

The members of the Pastoral Commission for Hispanic Ministries are:

Lyndon Rogers

Moderator, National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship (NHBF)

Xose Escamilla

Moderador elect, NHBF

Luis Ferrer

First Vice-Moderator

Jorge Cotto

Second Vice-Moderator, NHBF

Rossy Castillo-Ricart

Secretary, NHBF

Joel Saucedo

*Pro-Secretary, NHBF
Representative of the Pastoral Commission to the General Board*

Waleska Acevedo

Representative at Large

Jose Cisneros

Representative at Large

John Quiñonez

Moderator, SE Convention

Lydia Jiménez

Representative, SE Convention

Vanessa Rivera

Moderator, MW Convention

Enrique Ocasio

Representative, MW Convention

Francisco Acosta

Moderator, NE Convention

Sylvia González

Representative, NE Convention

Miryam Delgado

Moderator AZ Convention

Vacant -pending

Representative AZ Convention

Rogelio Martinez

Moderator Pacific Convention

Angélica Melendez

Representative Pacific Convention

Servando Peralez

Moderator SW Convention

Angie Villegas

Representative SW Convention

General Board Representatives

Glen J. Steward

Regional Minister, Tennessee

Donald Dewey

Regional Minister, PSW -Region

Linda Hernandez-Williams

Pacific Southwest Region

Sylvia Barr

General Board Representative, FL

Aaron Marez

General Board Representative, TX

Ex-Officio Members

Sharon Watkins

*General Minister and President
CCDC in USA and Canada*

Huberto Pimentel

*National Pastor
for Hispanic Ministries*

David Vargas

*President DOM
NP Guest - Honorary*

IV. Youth

The Oreon E. Scott Foundation approved CPOHM a grant of \$13,000 for a Retreat Youth Seminar. CPOHM budgeted \$6,000 and DHM committed \$9,600 for scholarships. The Youth & Young Adult Leadership Seminar was the first step for developing leadership and involving the youth in our next two main Assemblies; *the General Assembly of 2011, and the Hispanic Bilingual Assembly of 2010, which will be dedicated to the Family and the Youth.* The Theme of the Young Adult Leadership Seminar was the **Hospitality in Ministry**. CPOHM awarded 24 youth and young adults from all the Hispanic Conventions. Other General Units like DOM and HELM helped with this event by sponsoring dinner and speakers. The Florida Region sponsored a lunch and the Regional Minister spoke about the Regional Ministry within the CCDC. This event was celebrated with great success in January 16-19, 2009.

V. Theological Education

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

CPOHM co-sponsored the 2009 session of the *Brite Institute for Latino/a Ministries*, held June 1-5, 2009 with \$5,000. Over 90 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.

- a. The Hispanic Church in the Context of the Current Society – Rev. Luis Bernard
- b. Protestant Reform History- An Introduction – Dr. Carmelo Alvarez
- c. The Life and Thought of the Church – An Introduction – Dra. Zaida Maldonado
- d. Building Up The Church fro an Effective Ministry – Dra. Carmen Bernard
- e. Faith Encounter – Christianity and other Religions – Dr. Carlos Cardoza –Orlandi
- f. Biblical Resources for Teaching And Preaching – Dr. Francisco Lozada

CPOHM in joined partnership with Christian Theological Seminary has celebrated a Summer Theological Program

The Christian Theological Seminary offers a great Summer Theological Educational Program to all Hispanic Pastors in Spanish. The Program was celebrated June 16-19, 2009.

- a. Pastoral Counseling – Dr. Daniel Schipani
- b. Christian Theological Liturgy – Dr. Tercio Junker
- c. Christian Education in the Local Church – Dra. Débora Junker

CPOHM is committed to grant scholarships for M.Div seminarians

CPOHM has allocated \$13,500 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 16 Hispanic Seminarians studying in Disciples Seminaries and other ATS Seminaries where there are no Disciples Seminary presences.

VI. 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 money 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 CPOHM seek to empower and transform our existing congregations, particularly by helping our ministers to be better pastoral leaders for the 21 Century.
4. Forming and reforming leadership: CPOHM continues its emphasis on leadership development, as demonstrated by the programs developed in 2009. CPOHM also organizes and resources ministerial retreats, workshops and assemblies for Latino and Latina ministers. Many of these workshops and

Seminars are done in the Hispanic Convention Assemblies and during the pastoral visitation of the National Pastor where some Hispanic churches group together for a Saturday Workshop.

VII. Audited Annual Financial Statements

CPOHM contracted the services of Blue Company LLC accounting firm to audit the financial statements of 2006, 2007 and 2008 as recommended and approved in the past Pastoral Commission Board of December 2008. One important step in the 2006 audit (made in 2007) was to move all the financial handling out of the CPOHM. CPOHM contracted the finance department of DOM to handle the Hispanic Ministries finances. As the audit of 2007 came to a closure it revealed a lot of improvement in the financial process of CPOHM. The following recommendations from the auditors were done in the past Pastoral Commission on December of 2009:

1. A written conflict of interest policy.
2. A gift acceptance policy, and a written financial internal process.

CPOHM finished the 2008 audit on May 11-15, 2008. CPOHM is committed to financial integrity and accountability to the whole church. This means the allocation of \$20,000.00 in our operating budget (\$4,000 for 2006 (paid), \$8,000 for 2007 (paid) and \$8,000 for 2008 audit (paid).

VII. Challenges

CPOHM is facing some challenges related to the role of the National Pastor with the Regions and General Ministries of the Church as they work with the Hispanic Churches and the Pastoral Body.

1. One challenge we are excited about is related to New Church Ministry. We are anticipating a great dialogue and conversation meeting at the *Pastoral Table* to be convened by the GMP, Dr. Sharon Watkins, with the Three Racial Ethnic Leaders, representatives from The College of Regional Ministers, and the staff of New Church Ministries regarding the exploration of new opportunities and better venues of communication and joint effort in the establishment of new churches and the process for affiliation churches who want to join the Disciples Church.
2. Another challenge we are facing is the role of the National Pastor and the Regional Ministers when dealing with Hispanic churches. Related to this issue is the proper understanding of the Hispanic Conventions activities and involvement. The Hispanic Conventions are the base of the *Obra Hispana* and the Pastoral Commission. One area of discussion is that the Regional expression sees the Hispanic Conventions only as a fellowship but the truth is that the Hispanic Conventions are a vital instrument in the progress and development of the Hispanic churches other than the Region. This misunderstanding has caused factions within the Conventions and between Hispanic churches and the *Obra Hispana*. I look forward to a conversation with representatives from the College of Regional Ministers and the racial / ethnic ministries as to how we can partner to equip, serve, and nurture racial / ethnic congregations.
3. The third challenge is a combination of the language barrier, theological diversity and the cultural ethos of the Hispanics related to the whole church. It is important to recognize that there is a vast difference in language and culture for Hispanics within themselves that when translated into another language and culture, heavily influences perception and the understanding on both sides of the table. Some areas we need to discuss at the *Pastoral Table* are how to respect and empower, how to acknowledge these differences and allow them to benefit the church in accomplishing its mission in relationship to each other while creating new spaces and time for the new. The Northeastern Region is facing this kind of situation as they received a request from the Hispanic Convention of the Northeast to be recognized as a Disciples Region. When there are historical challenges and cultural challenges that create alienation and tension, we then need a time and process for serious reflection, intentional dialogue and creative ideas.

I feel encouraged by the call of God to be the National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries and also by the pastoral guidance from the GMP Dr. Sharon Watkins, as she convenes a Pastoral Table in 2010 with all the leaders. This meeting will be relevant and pertinent to the MACC team proposal.

4. The last challenge is how to do effective ministry within the CCDC with insufficient economic resources. The current model for CPOHM includes an Associate National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries. The growth of new Hispanic churches is enough work to keep an Associate NP busy through the year. The vision is to keep CPOHM and establish four Operational Service Centers with two personnel (an associate with an assistant) at each location in New York, Florida, Texas and California.

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE GENERAL BOARD:

That the GENERAL BOARD receives the report of the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries