

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES

To the General Synod Council (GSC) of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), peace and greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Council for Hispanic Ministries (CHM) reports to the GSC for 2021–2022.

The CHM continues to work toward the implementation of Transformed & Transforming goals among our constituency and in communicating the collective vision and voice expression of our constituents. The CHM also continues to advocate for the rights of our people. Amid the divisive context in our denomination, the social and political climate in the U.S., and the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to lead by planting churches and by sharing our hope that our Lord Jesus Christ will shepherd the RCA into the future as he has done in the last four centuries. An illustration of this hope-filled future is the Classis of the Americas: we are losing some churches, but still more new churches are joining this classis.

Due to the pandemic, we did not have an annual Hispanic Summit in 2021.

CHM continues to work with classes and Church Multiplication in facilitating the process with Latino pastors and churches joining the RCA. We are also being intentional in reaching out to all classes to offer our support and help in planting churches. Rev. Dr. Andres Serrano, coordinator for Hispanic Ministries, and Rev. Fabio Sosa continue to reach and prepare Hispanic pastors in entering our denomination and in becoming active members of classes. Some of the new areas of work are Washington, Connecticut, and southern Texas.

CHM continues to encourage and assist pastors and leaders to get seminary training (certificate, MDiv, DMin) through New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) and Western Theological Seminary (WTS). Currently, we have around 100 students. Two of our ordained pastors are receiving DMin degrees. The number of students that received RCA scholarships declined in 2021 from 50 students to 30 students due to changes in the application process and limitations of funds. We continue to work to find ways to support those seminarians who are in need as they finish their seminary training. We continue our partnership with NBTS' WELL Program, which empowers pastors to enjoy integral well-being in their leadership.

We continue to collaborate with Iglesia Reformada Dominicana (Dominican Reformed Church, IRD) as well as members of Classis de las Naciones and Classis of Central Plains in the process with Iglesia Global Reformada Argentina. In addition, we continue to communicate with churches in Chile and Nicaragua who desire to join the RCA.

CHM continues its weekly prayer Zoom meeting every Monday with our general secretary Rev. Eddy Alemán. Training and relationship building also takes place at these meetings.

We're also working with the Council for Pacific and Asian American Ministries (CPAAM), the African American Black Council (AABC), and the Commission on Race and Ethnicity (CORE) in finding ways to enhance and innovate our leadership in the RCA. An expression of this is our planned joint councils meeting in August 2022.

In conclusion, we are thankful for the work and support of the general secretary, the office of Church Multiplication, the coordinator for CHM, and the GSC for the work done for the Hispanic people of the RCA. We continue to pray for the RCA and we are excited to continue the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We submit this report to you and pray for the Lord's blessings and for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be with all of us as we continue this journey of transformation to live and love like Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,
The Executive Committee of the Council for Hispanic Ministries