

## REPORT OF THE GLOBAL COUNCIL FOR HISPANIC MINISTRIES

The *Book of Church Order (BCO)* states that “the General Synod Council shall have racial/ethnic councils which express the collective vision and voice of racial and ethnic congregants and congregations as they develop ministries and advocate for policies of racial and ethnic inclusion, economic, social, and racial justice, both within the Reformed Church in America and ecumenically” (*BCO*, Chapter 3, Part I, Article 3, Section 2b [2023 edition, p. 109]). To that end, the Global Council for Hispanic Ministries shall continue to express the collective vision and voice of our constituents as well as advocate for the rights of our people, all while ensuring that we speak up and work together on positive strategies to resolve issues that separate us all as God’s people.

To the General Synod Council (GSC) of the Reformed Church in America (RCA), peace, God’s blessings, and greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Global Council for Hispanic Ministries (GCHM) submits the following as our report to the GSC for 2024.

The GCHM has continued to support the implementation of GSC policies of Transformed & Transforming, Church Multiplication, Global Mission, and Multicultural and Multiracial Future Free from Racism, and we continue to collaborate in the work of all RCA ministries.

The GCHM held its annual meeting in Houston, Texas, on August 17-19, 2023. The theme for our event was “The Future of the Hispanic Church in the United States.” Over 90 participants attended the event.

The GCHM continues to assist pastors and leaders to get seminary training with New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) and Western Theological Seminary (WTS). We believe in the theological training of our pastors. The number of students who need RCA scholarships continues to outnumber the number of students who are receiving RCA scholarships. This is an area of need that our constituency is facing.

The GCHM continues to work with RCA classes and regional synods (Orange, Far West, New Brunswick, Greater Palisades, Delaware-Raritan, las Naciones, Central Plains, Americas, International of Texas, and other classes) in exploring ways to plant churches. We celebrate the brand new bilingual church plant in Brooklyn Classis.

The GCHM collaborates with church multiplication by educating all classes about the resources available to plant churches. We are also looking for ways to do the same with church revitalization and youth ministry. Furthermore, GCHM works with all racial and ethnic councils and the Commission on Race and Ethnicity (CORE) in ways to support CORE’s promotion of an antiracism culture. The GCHM collaborates with Rev. Liz Testa, director of women’s transformation and leadership, in the implementation of the *Ella es Llamada*—She is Called discipleship movement with Latino churches in the northeast region of the U.S. We are also in the beginning stages of facilitating the same with the southeast region.

The GCHM continues its monthly prayer Zoom meeting every Monday with our general secretary, Rev. Eddy Alemán. Training and relationship building also takes place at these meetings. One of the emphases of our prayer has been intercession for our restructuring team and its recommendations. The GCHM believes that our Lord Jesus Christ is in control of his church and the Holy Spirit is leading and empowering the RCA to lead and innovate into the twenty-first century. We are thankful for each member of the restructuring team and the many hours that they have invested in the process. We have embraced the restructuring team's principles of being Reformed, missional, aligned, diverse, adaptive, and efficient; along with the restructuring team's goal of centering on God's mission globally (global and local), creating a robust leadership structure for pastors and leaders, innovating in credentialing processes without diluting standards and accountability systems. We highlight the call for a contextualized credentialing process as a way to respond to the invitation that the GSC issued to all councils (GSC 23-31) to review the *BCO* to provide specific ideas that will result in a more antiracist and culturally inviting process of credentialing for all Latino pastors.

The GCHM celebrates how the restructuring team has contextualized our Belhar Confession invitation to pursue reconciliation through unity in the midst of a divisive culture, to reconciliation within church and society by leading and witnessing to the world a new way to move forward as a denomination in order to display God's justice.

In conclusion, we are thankful for the work and support of the general secretary, the General Synod Council, and all agencies within the RCA. We pray for our beloved RCA and we are excited to be part of what God has done, is doing, and will do with the RCA. We submit this report to you as we bless you and continue to walk in our call to be disciples who make disciples for God's glory.

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