

## Committee on Hispanic-Latino Ministries

The 2016-2017 year was a time of restructuring and discernment for the Hispanic/Latino Ministries of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The committee continued to work with established Hispanic-Latino congregations and programs while seeking to understand God's purpose for this ministry in this quadrennium.

### Organization & Planning:

- The committee supported the hiring process of the full-time Conference Coordinator for Hispanic-Latino Ministries, Emma A. Escobar.
- The committee organized a meeting with Bishop Easterling to share the history of Hispanic-Latino Ministries in the Baltimore-Washington Conference and pastors raised the concerns of their congregations regarding immigration and the sanctuary movement.
- The Conference Committee on Hispanic-Latino Ministries, the Coordinator Emma Escobar, and the Office of Connectional Ministries organized a Strategic Planning sessions with the National Plan for Hispanic-Latino Ministries. The strategic meeting took place at the BWC Conference Center on March 24-25, where a vision and strategic plan were created for the 2017-2020 quadrennium.

### Annual Activities:

- The Annual Hispanic-Latino Family Camp & Retreat was held in August 26-28, 2016 at West River United Methodist Center. 2016 was the year with the highest attendance in the past years (193 people). The theme of the retreat was "Our Identity: tell me who you walk with and I'll tell you who you are"
- The Committee celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a Worship Service on October 22, 2016. The celebration took place at Trinity UMC in Frederick. The guest speaker was the Rev. Dr. Ediberto López (professor of New Testament at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico) who brought greetings from Bishop Héctor Ortiz, Episcopal leader of the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico. As part of the celebration an offering was collected to continue supporting programs of the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico; we contributed \$500.

### Celebrations:

- The committee celebrates the partnership of Hughes-EL Buen Samaritano UMC and Silver Spring UMC in their outreach program, through the leadership of Pastor Evelyn Rivera. This program not only serves the Hispanic-Latino population but all those in need in the community.
- In partnership with the office of the coordinator and DS Edgardo Rivera, we celebrate the organization of the Hispanic-Latino Ministry Initiative in Frederick, and the leadership of Pastor Alexis Peña and Yunia Licea. This ministry is at a new location, Brook Hill UMC, and has an advisory board to oversee the vision, well-being, and funding for this district initiative.
- We celebrate the growth of Piney Grove Hispanic-Latino Ministry, through the leadership of pastor Jorge Moreno, that is expanding with small groups (house churches) where people are taught the theology and doctrine of the UMC as well as stewardship. The ministry also celebrates the opening of their free computer classes that started in March 2017, which targets its Hispanic-Latino community.
- We celebrate the continued efforts of Epworth UMC in Gaithersburg in becoming a multicultural congregation that is now serving more than 30 countries from Latin America, North America, and Africa. This diversity is represented by the flags at the entrance to their worship center. We also celebrate the leadership of Rev. Jennifer Fenner and her staff on this ministry.
- We celebrate the partnership of College Park UMC with Good Shepherd UMC in reaching the Hispanic-Latino Community through the leadership of Pastor Israel Suarez and the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, one heart at a time.
- We celebrate the vision of Calvary UMC Hispanic-Latino Ministry in Martinsburg, WV by expanding their Health Clinic and sewing program to the community. We also celebrate the leadership of Teresa Aguilera in helping move this ministry forward.
- In partnership with the Office of the Coordinator, Salem UMC held a visioning session on March 4th to create a plan on how to reach all the people that surrounds them.

The Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries thanks God Almighty for the opportunity to work in ushering God's kingdom in our communities. To all the Hispanic-Latino churches, as well as those who care for a fully and truly inclusive church, and who have been willing to supported the activities of this Committee: thank you!

Last, but not least, to all the pastors for their continued participation in the Committee and in finding ways to better service their communities, the United Methodist Church, and our Lord Jesus Christ: thank you!