Throughout 2022 the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries underwent fruitful transformation shifting for operational reorganization to enable continued growth as a ministry, both in capacity and relevance. This has increased connection, expanded learning opportunities, and allowed for greater presence as the Obra Hispana for the whole church. The CPOHM continues to experience growth and vitality, demonstrated in different areas of the ministry such as an increase in lay leader, youth and young adult engagement, a healthy financial position, and expanded collaborations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and beyond.

In January 2022, the joint decision was made to cancel The Experience: It’s Real. This joint assembly, to be held with our sibling from the National Convocation and NAPAD, had been in the planning process since 2018 and the decision to cancel was difficult. The three executives of these ministries remain committed to finding relevant ways to strengthen the connection of our ministries to and as a witness to the whole church. The Obra Hispana Board made the decision to move forward with its Biennial Assembly, held in July in Fort Worth, Texas. The Assembly theme reflected the theme of the year and was a blessed and very transformative experience, the first in person gathering since 2018. The Obra Hispana is grateful to the College of Regional Ministers for demonstrating solidarity and support of the Obra Hispana by joining in worship during the Assembly.

The theme of the year, Church of Impact: A Renewed, Relevant, and Relational Church, greatly guided the ministry throughout 2022. The Obra Hispana sought to live this, not only in words, but to embrace it as a church in all areas so that the world could distinguish it.

Some ministries that fostered a Church of Impact were:

1. Virtual Pastoral Retreat in January: Leading from Rest and Not Burnout
2. CONTIGO- live program every Friday
3. Continuing Education Opportunities
4. Healthy Boundaries in Spanish
5. Accompaniment to Conventions in crisis
6. Strategic and Planning Retreat - May
7. Biennial Assembly 2022- Fort Worth, TX
8. Pastors Retreats, Training for church leadership and local church administration
9. Connecting and strengthening internal and external relationships (growth)
In the December 2021 meeting of the Pastoral Commission, the Commission, which includes the Hispanic Board of Directors, unanimously approved the decision to dissolve the Pastoral Commission as the decision making, governing body, and liaison to the General Board for the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries and the Obra Hispana. This decision enabled a pathway for the Hispanic Board of Directors to assume the responsibility to serve solely in this role, understanding the capacity and ability to do so without the need of additional members “named” by the Administrative Committee and the College of Regional Ministers. This decision went to the Obra Hispana Assembly by resolution, which passed unanimously. This decision was not made with the intention or desire to exclude participation from the wider church, but rather to place the decision-making process on whom to invite to serve on the board in hands of the Hispanic Community, allowing for a more diverse and relevant representation on the board according to the needs of the ministry. The Obra Hispana understands the covenantal relationship and embraces this as a manifestation of full covenant.

COLLABORATIONS (does not represent a complete list)

College of Regional Ministers
Cabinet of General Ministries
National Benevolent Association NBA:
- Peer Groups
  - Hispanic Pastors (completed in 2022)
  - Young Adults | Young Adults (to be completed in 2024)
- Assembly Support 2022-
  - Donated $10,000 to give scholarships to our Hispanic community to attend
  - Scholarships for young adults to the assembly
  - Youth and Young Adult Night Sponsorship

DCEF
- Partnership and extensive loan to support "La Hermosa" project in New York

Pension Fund
- "The Gathering" scholarships for Hispanic pastors to attend this pastoral retreat
- Continued collaboration for the development of healthy and relevant practices to assist and support the Hispanic pastoral community

Disciples Home Missions
- Disciples Women
- Disciples Men
- Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel – provide funds towards salary
- Refugee & Immigration Ministry
  Work together in areas of advocacy, letters in favor of immigration reform, and other programs to support immigrants and refugees
  - This program ended its existence as it is currently known under the direction of DHM's present leadership to enter a time of transformation. The CPOHM remains committed to this work.

Week of Compassion
- Continued collaboration to reach, support and communicate with our churches in times of natural and man-made disasters such as shootings and other acts of violence
Latino Christian National Network
• National Pastor serves as a board member of this organization which is comprised of national leaders from Christian denominations and organizations.

Exponential en Español
• "Charter Sponsor" sending more than 35 pastors a year to conferences on the multiplication of churches, leaders and believers

ANCLA- National Alliance of Christian Latino Americans
• Participate in advocacy actions for areas of social action such as immigration and poverty

Garden of Eden Health Clinic (Jayuya, Puerto Rico)
• Ministry Support and Missionary Work

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries
• Financial support to the ministry, and special offering to honor Rev. Feliberto Pereira

AWANA in Spanish
• Create collaborative relationships to provide training and support to local churches to implement AWANA programs in their child and youth ministries.

EDUCATION
In 2022, seven of our leaders were ordained to the ministry. The Obra Hispana invites you to join us in celebrating the ministries of the following servants:

Rev. Milca Rivera (FL)
Rev. Héctor Iván Santiago (FL)
Rev. Carlos Pérez (FL)
Rev. Tania Lopez (CA)
Rev. Martin Tapia (IN)
Rev. María Zamarripa (AL)
Rev. Liza Miranda (FL)

Additionally, programs that support ministerial development and theological education continue to be foundational for the Obra Hispana. Graduations from the CMS/DMS programs of the Disciples Seminary Foundation and the Certificate in Hispanic Ministries from Lexington Theological Seminary celebrated over 60 students completing their programs.

With great enthusiasm, leaders of our congregations continue to be prepared and trained for ministry, and our educational efforts must grow to provide greater opportunity to all who wish to continue growing in knowledge and capacity. We are exploring relationships with seminaries to increase access to graduate study for those who understand a call to this, and we thank God for the relationship started with Western Theological Seminary, which received the first cohort with more than 25 Hispanic Disciples students in the fall of 2022, studying an MA or MDiv entirely in Spanish.

Continuing education efforts and training courses by the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries reached more than 400 diverse Hispanic clergy and lay leaders, and beyond in
Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and Columbia. Required courses were provided to maintain their ministerial licenses such as Healthy Borders and Anti-racism in Spanish, making these courses more relevant and effective for our pastors.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

In 2022, through CPOHM funds we have provided offerings to pastors, churches and members of Obra churches to help in times of illness and different crises. Natural disasters, death and other crises always exist in life, and we have sought to be of support to our pastoral families with great intentionality especially in these moments for them. We continue to see an increase in need and are amazed at how God continues to surprise us with the resources.

**FUTURE**

The 2023 theme for the Obra Hispana is *Building Eternal Legacy: we are makers of generations of heirs*, grounded in Hebrews 6:9-15 and 1 Peter 1:3-9. Called to extend the legacy of Jesus Christ, the work we do to build up generations is critical and this is the focus of the Obra Hispana. Expanded programming to create multi-generational connections and strengthen relationships that foster storytelling, discipleship and shared learning will lead us in 2023, and we look forward to the collaborations and partnerships that bear fruit along the way. Won’t you join us?

**HISPANIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MODERATOR**
Evangelina Perez
Southwest Region

**MODERATOR ELECT**
Carlos Perez López
Florida Region

**SECRETARY**
Ivan Elizarraras
Southwest Region

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**
Alba Castillo
Florida Region

**Representative to the General Board**
Milca Rivera (dual role)
Florida Region

**MINISTERIO DE MUJERES**
Milca Rivera- President

**SOUTHEAST CONVENTION**
Moderator
Alba Castillo

Representative
Roberto Llavina

**MIDWEST CONVENTION**
Moderator
Rossy Ricart

Representative
Roberto Romero

**NORTHEAST CONVENTION**
Moderator
Vacant

Representative
Miriam Martinez

**SOUTHWEST CONVENTION**
Moderator
Roberto Elizarraras

Representative
Norma Gonzalez

**ARIZONA CONVENTION**
Moderator
Minerva Guzman

Representative
Gerardo Garcia

**PACIFIC CONVENTION**
Moderator
Soriliz Rodriguez

Representative
Luis J. Orozco

**NORTHWEST CONVENTION**
Moderator
Bernice Rivera

Representative
Vacant

**CENTRAL**
Moderator
Rodolfo Acosta

**NORTHCENTRAL CONVENTION**
Moderator
Jose Diaz

Representative
Carmen Reyes

**EX-OFICIO**
General Minister & President
Rev. Terri Hord Owens

**EX-OFICIO**
National Pastor
Rev. Lori Tapia

**Final Members- PASTORAL COMMISSION OF GENERAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**
(Dissolved per Resolution 2022-01 on 7/22/22)

**College of Regional Ministry Representatives**
Richie Sanchez, Pacific Southwest | Regional Minister
Andy Magnum, Regional Minister | Southwest Region

**Administrative Committee Representatives**
Clyde Hunt, Tennessee Region
Laura Phillips, GKC Region
The General Board receives this report and forwards it to the 2023 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.