

ADDENDUM-2013 CONFERENCE REPORTS

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

What a Year! I am dazzled by the achievements of our faculty, students and staff here at Boston University School of Theology in 2012. This has been a year of deep reflection as we underwent the BU Academic Program Review and the United Methodist University Senate Review. Both reviews went very well and revealed vital strength in our faculty, students, and administrative staff. This has been a year for celebration – our largest ever incoming class, excellence in teaching and learning, and a vibrant community life.

Some highlights from the previous year were:

- Reaching into the greater community through service days, “vocations vacation,” seminary singers tour to Florida, and contextual internships.
- Building up intentional living communities for students: Theology House, Green House, and Mason Terrace.
- Enhancing spiritual life through weekly worship, reading retreats, winter retreat, daily morning prayer, and small groups.
- Creating a “greener” school with: 26 green offices, Carbon Rally Challenge, expanding programs for composting and recycling, and now a 2013 renovation to create a green community center.
- Hosting Lowell Lecture Series on “Restoring Civil Discourse,” featuring Dr. Virginia Sapiro, Bishop Melvin Talbert, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, and Chief Justice Barbara Smith (Chickasaw Nation).
- Traveling with seminar groups to Ephesus (Turkey) and to Israel and Palestine.
- Advancing communication through a new website, the launching of STH Connect, and production of webinars and video resources.

This has been a year for strengthening master’s education and reviewing doctoral programs. It has also been a year for deepening relations with faith communities, service agencies, and global research initiatives, as we seek to intensify STH’s contributions to our fragile world.

Thank you for being a friend of Boston University! We welcome your stories, suggestions, and support for us. STH is on a mission, and we especially covet your prayers for our people and our work. We are praying for you!

With gratitude and prayer,
Mary Elizabeth Moore
Dean, Boston University School of Theology

HISPANIC/LATINO COMMITTEE REPORT

The year 2012 was a time of restructuring and discernment for the Hispanic/Latino Ministries. The Hispanic/Latino ministries continued to work with established programs as well as seeking to understand God's purpose for this ministry in this quadrennial. Thanks to God for guiding the committee and for providing wisdom to the committee in order to respond to God’s purpose for the Hispanic/Latino ministries in the New England Conference. We held different events addressing the areas of focus that the ministries adopted throughout the year.

Structure and Organization

- With the help of all Hispanic / Latino ministries, a list of candidates was made to form the new Committee. With God’s wisdom, the committee was elected. The following people will be serving this quadrennial: Geisa Matos-Machuca, Lee Soto Gomez (Co-Chairs), Endy Gomez, Luis Lucas, and Josue Garcia, Rev. James McPhee and Rev. Rick McKinley as staff representatives, Rev. Rene Perez as the District Superintendent representative, Emma Escobar as the coordinator.
- Global Ministries and National Plan consultation- At this event all the Hispanic/Latino ministries gathered to evaluate the programs already existing and develop new strategies. There were different areas addressed such as identification and reinforcement of the H/L resources, training: leadership formation and serving, as well as unifying all the Hispanic/Latino ministries of the New England Conference.

- The new committee gathered to follow up and implement a plan that included the evaluation and consultation from the meeting with Global Ministries and the National Plan. The plan focuses on four areas such as Leadership formation (trained, united, and revitalized), School of Worship and Arts, Youth in Action and Celebrating unity and multiculturalism.
- Bylaws- The committee and the Hispanic/Latino Ministries created and adopted bylaws to efficiently work as a committee and have expectations set for its participants.

Leadership Formation

- The Leadership Bible Institute (LBI): is held at New Life United Methodist Church, Chelsea MA and it continues to serve and train laity who desire to better serve the church. This year the LBI is providing formation to 20 students who learn about Methodist studies, ministry, leadership, as well as Biblical studies.
- Module III-Structure of The United Methodist Church: with the cooperation of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the Hispanic/Latino Ministries accomplished goal number 2 stated in last years report. Forty-five people participated and earned credits with GBHEM for continuing education.
- The 2012 Hispanic/Latino retreat held at Asbury Grove Camp. Adults, youth, and children (250) from all the Hispanic/Latino ministries participated in different workshops.

Unity

- United... One vision, One Mind Worship Service- all the H/L ministries gathered to worship and celebrate unity. Also, the new committee was presented to the community as the leaders for this quadrennial. There was participation of youth and children from all the Hispanic/Latino Churches. Special thanks to our Bishop Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar who was our guest preacher.
- Fellowship- the Hispanic/Latino Ministries gathered at annual conference for lunch and officially welcomed the District Superintendent, Rev. Rene Perez to the conference.
- Children chorus and Youth ministry - the Hispanic/Latino Ministries supported and participated at Annual Conference 2012 with presentation from the children and youth ministries.

Other Events

- The Hispanic/Latino Ministry sponsored the event Immigrant Voices on Immigration Reform: An Experimental and Theological Foundation for Immigrant Justice by the Hispanic/Latino Student Association at Boston University School of Theology.

Goals for the year 2013-2014:

1. Create the School for Worship and Arts: this new program will be integrated with the formation of leaders at the Leadership Bible Institute
2. To hold a youth retreat for the Hispanic/Latino Ministries
3. Continue with the Modules

Acknowledgements:

Thank God for allowing us to work for God's kingdom. Thanks to: you for your prayers and support for the Hispanic/Latino Ministries. May God continue to bless God's kingdom on earth; all pastors and churches for their support and participation in the Hispanic/Latino Ministries programs and activities; the Professors that participate in the Leadership Bible Institute; Rev. Dr. Cristian De La Rosa, Rev. Dr. Santos Escobar, Rev. Aida Fernandez, Rev. Wanda Santos- Perez, and Rev. Luis Benavides. Special thanks to Rev. James McPhee for his support, participation and work as the Director of Connectional Ministries.

Emma Escobar