Hispanic Ministry Network Report 2017

The Hispanic Ministry Network is an alliance of the parishes and ministries in CT which serve among those who speak Spanish or worship in ways which honor their Hispanic cultural traditions. We meet monthly on the fourth Thursday from 10:00 – Noon at The Commons. Anyone involved in or interested in Hispanic ministry is welcome to attend.

To be on our email list, receiving notifications of meetings and events as well as minutes of our meetings, please contact our Convener, The Rev. Dana L. Campbell at dana.l.campbell@gmail.com.

Our Goals for 2017 for our participating parishes and ministries:

1. Lay empowerment/leadership training/capacity building.
2. Growth in stewardship, basic parish financial competency and movement towards sustainability.
3. Encouraging partnerships/collaborations in the neighboring community.

Our Activities in 2017:

- Church of the Good Shepherd/El Buen Pastor in Hartford hosted us for a Lenten Retreat led bilingually by The Rev. Lois Keen, aided by The Rev. Valerie Miller. Around 25-30 people attended, and the event was a great success.
- Members of our Network, both clergy and lay, gave a workshop for those interested in Hispanic Ministry as part of Spring Training for God’s Mission.
- On April 6 we held a Saturday Gathering at Camp Washington attended by 93 people from our Network. Keynote Speaker, Padre Angel Marrero from Massachusetts, engaged us in dialog about effective evangelization of the Hispanic community. We also had a presentation on immigration issues by a Connecticut immigration attorney.
- In August our Convener attended the first annual Gathering of Diocesan Latino Missioners, held in Miami. Thirty-three people attended, representing many dioceses including some from Province IX. As part of the 2015 General Convention Resolution A086, this group was begun to better coordinate and communicate Latino/Hispanic ministry in The Episcopal Church (TEC). Stories, resources, and
planning for the future were shared among Missioners and, most importantly, relationships were built which will enrich us all.

- We had planned to send lay leaders to some of the wonderful events hosted by the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries in TEC during 2017. Unfortunately, as the political climate and treatment of immigrants and refugees in the U.S. shifted, our lay people – both documented and undocumented – felt unsafe to travel the distances required to attend.

- In October we are hosting a Saturday workshop in Spanish on Parish Finances for Treasurers, Bookkeepers, parish Administrators, Vestry Members, and other interested members of our Network.

- Later this fall, we will send out an online Quickbooks training in Spanish to be followed up by a workshop where Treasurers, Bookkeepers, Parish Administrators, and other interested parties can bring problems they have in their own situations and receive answers and help.

- We are working with Robin Hammeal-Urban’s office to hold two Basic Safe Church Training sessions in Spanish in Connecticut in 2017.

- The Rev. Angel Marrero, Coordinator of Latino Ministries of the New England Synod (ELCA), will be meeting with us in September to discuss opportunities for collaboration with Lutherans in our Hispanic ministries.

- Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Commission on Ministry and our Network, there are now three Bilingual, culturally Hispanic Postulants for Holy Orders in Connecticut. The Discernment Process begins again this fall and we hope to encourage new Aspirants.

- In 2017 a new ministry location has been added to our Network: Trinity Lime Rock has begun holding a monthly Misa. Independent of the parish, a Sanctuary-like support network for immigrants has sprung up in their area.

- The ECCT now owns equipment necessary for simultaneous translation at events with up to 30 participants. This will enable us to include our mono-lingual Spanish Brothers and Sisters in ECCT and parish events going forward.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Episcopal Church in Connecticut for its continuing support of Hispanic ministry both in terms of financial aid and in terms of collaborative energy being shared. The attendance of the Sanctuary Workshop at
Spring Training and the many behind-the-scenes supports being given by parishes in the ECCT to their parishioners and local immigrant populations testify to the bonds we share across the lines of nationality, race, language and culture. It looks a lot like God’s Mission, to us!

Faithfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dana L. Campbell, Convener

**Hispanic Ministry Network Member Parishes and Ministries:**

Christ Church, Ansonia  
St. John’s, Bridgeport  
San Lucas y San Pablo, Bridgeport  
Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford  
Church of the Good Shepherd/El Buen Pastor, Hartford  
La Misa, Lime Rock  
All Saints/Todos los Santos, Meriden  
Iglesia Betania, Stamford  
St. John’s, Waterbury