



EN CONJUNTO



Iniciativas del Ministerio Latinx del Sínodo del Sureste
Latinx Ministry Initiatives of the Southeastern Synod

Brief Summary

Vision

Engaging congregations and communities, equipping leaders, empowering relationships for the development of Latinx Ministries in the Southeastern Synod.

Introduction

En conjunto, in Spanish, means altogether, as a group, together with and is used to describe how something is done communally. *En Conjunto* is the name for the Southeastern Synod Latinx Ministry Initiatives because we do this work that God has given us *altogether* and with one another. The initiatives that grow out of this ministry are always carried out **with** our Latinx siblings in Christ and neighbors. Through the various parts of this ministry we strive to worship and pray *en conjunto*, learn and teach *en conjunto*, serve and advocate *en conjunto*, engage, equip, and empower *en conjunto*, and grow and accompany *en conjunto*.

En Conjunto, as a multifaceted, Spirit-led, intercultural initiative, began with the explicit intention to develop a sustainable strategy for Latinx ministry across the four states (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee) of the Southeastern Synod over three years. The development and growth of Latinx ministries is contextual and may follow a variety of paths that lead the participants to achieving the goals and discerned ideal future.

The Southeastern Synod has created a Strategic Initiative Fund with the funds made available through the holy closure of a predominantly Latino congregation. The addition of this funding with previously designated synodical funds for Latino ministry enable the creation of the Southeastern Synod's Latino Ministry Strategy as well as making funds available to support emerging Latinx ministries and worshipping communities.

Features

- Latinx Lay and Youth Leadership Development
- Identifying and preparing possible sites for emerging Latinx Ministries
- Congregational and Leader Accompaniment
- Strategic Planning
- Community Resource Connecting and Assessment
- Curriculum Development

Interconnecting and Collaborating Areas of Ministry (Spheres)

- Latinx Ministry Initiatives (En Conjunto) Task Force

A team of 8-10 people will work together to facilitate the Southeastern Synod's multifaceted efforts to develop new Latinx ministry initiatives. The primary goals of this task force include:

1. to develop a Synod vision for Latinx ministry,
2. raise up and strengthen Latinx Ministry initiatives: *engaging communities, equipping leaders, and empowering relationships* across the Southeastern Synod.

- Interested Congregations/Ecumenical-Global Partners

Interested congregations in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee will be explored to identify congregations and leaders who are open to serving as host sites or sponsors for developing and emerging Latinx ministries. These potential sights may be identified by the En Conjunto Task Force as well as self-identify themselves to the Task Force. These congregations and leaders may desire to reach out and be in ministry with the Latinx community around them or nearby. Ecumenical-Community-Global Partners will be leaders from other denominations, community agencies and organizations, and global companion church (e.g. Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala) with whom we can build partnerships and networks to support emerging Latinx ministry initiatives.

- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville is a model of ministry where a predominantly Spanish-speaking congregation (formally known as *Iglesia Luterana Sagrada Familia* in Doraville, GA) has been welcomed into a predominantly English-speaking congregation (still known as Amazing Grace) to join together in ministry. Both worshipping communities have a shared history of educational outreach together with the Latinx community and both have expressed their desire to become one faith community. This congregation has the potential to be a home base for pilot programs, new initiatives, and hybrid ministry models.

- Southeastern Synod

En Conjunto strives to partner with other ministry areas throughout the Southeastern Synod, inviting them to collaborative conversations related to emerging Latinx ministry initiatives. The partnerships will be unique from one another and reflect the strengths of the Synodical partners. Synod ministries include, but are not limited to: Directors for Evangelical Mission, Diversity and Justice Task Force, Advocacy, Youth and Young Adults, Human, Financial, and Formation Resources, Communications, and Formation-Candidacy. Synodical "Serving Arms" are ministry partners and organizations essential to helping the Synod carry out its work, and include, but not limited to: Inspiritus, Lutheranch by NovusWay Ministries, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Campus Ministry, and Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta.

Task Force

- Cristina Bonilla
- Rev. Larry Boudon
- Rev. Ed Cortes
- Rev. Julie Crosby
- Rev. Justin Eller, Coordinator
- Sara Galyon
- MaryBeth Raunum
- Ana Reyes
- Bp. Kevin Strickland, *Ex officio* Member