

Juan Calvino Administrative Commission  
Meeting of April 21, 2008

The commission met at the call of the moderator, the Rev. Bob Richardson, at 7:00PM on Monday, April 21, 2008, in the Sunday School Room of Calvary Presbyterian Church. Members present: Rev. Bob Richardson, Rev Tom Stout, Elder Hugo Chaves, Port Deposit; Elder Bill Reign, Calvary.

Members excused: Elder Godlove Fongweng, St Andrews; Elder Jim Taylor, Elsmere; Elder Jose Varela, Westminster.

Guests present: The Rev. Jim Moseley, NCP; The Rev. Hector Rodriguez, GA Associate Director for Hispanic Congregational Development; Elder Hernan Villarroel, St.

Andrews Church, CLP for Juan Calvino Immigrant Fellowship.

Since Rev. Rodriguez was new to our gathering, we all introduced ourselves to him.

The minutes of the commissions meeting of December 13, 2007 were presented. One correction was noted: David Martinez is not ordained, thus he is not a member of the Presbytery of Southern New England. With that noted, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Bill Reign presented the treasurer's report through April 21, 2008. The checking account shows a balance of \$4,753.49. Tom Stout indicated that from \$1,000 to \$3,000 should be forthcoming from Elsmere. Bill indicated that a couple thousand would be coming from Calvary.

General discussion ensued with a direction to Bill to talk to NCP treasurer, Doug Gerds, about combining our ministry's treasury with that of NCP, and making all disbursements come at Bill's direction. This should probably happen about the time Hernan graduates from seminary.

Bob asked Jim Moseley to update us on the commitment from NCP Church Development Unit for funding the balance of 2008, i.e.: about another \$21,500. Jim indicated that the Unit minutes are being searched, but the chairperson agrees that this money is committed.

Hernan Villarroel gave his director's/CLP report. He announced that he should graduate from Seminary the third week of May. For the time being he is putting all of his attention on completing required work for his courses. He is keeping up with the Bible Study and the Worship Service at Juan Calvino IF.

Hernan shared some ideas he has for growing the Fellowship, including having each participant in the IF invite one person/ week to study and worship. This has not gone well to this point. The members are quite isolated from most of the Latino community, and because of their immigration status are not ready to reach out to others they do not know. The members are very regular in attendance. Five come regularly; another 2 are there from time to time.

Bob suggested that once we know Hernan's graduation date that the AC give some thought as to how to help him celebrate this accomplishment.

Bob Richardson then turned to Jim Moseley and Hector Rodriguez and asked them for their comments about the status of our work, the future of it, and the status with the GA grant.

Jim led off with a summary of what is going on in the presbytery and the synod. The Church Development Unit is receiving new request for funding from other Latino ministries in NCP. Other venues for this work will attract funding that until now has all gone to Juan Calvino IF.

At the synod level, he and Hector met the morning of April 21 with representatives from Baltimore and the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia. Baltimore has only one church with one elder interested in doing something with Latinos. PEVA has one church that is nesting a Latino Assembly of God Church. But there is interest there in growing a presbytery Latino ministry. So, it looks like effort on our part to cultivate these two presbytery's as partners will help us and them become eligible to receive Synod funds along with a grant from GA. Both presbyteries are willing to begin CLP programs to provide Latino pastors to Latino ministries.

Jim indicated that our GA grant is still viable.

Hector Rodriguez then discussed what is available from the GA. Approximately \$2.4 million is available annually for transformation and New Church Development among Hispanics. 60 % of the amount available goes for specialized racial/ethnic ministries. He suggests that we apply for a grant of \$100,000 over seven years that show clear growth in numbers and self-sufficiency.

There is no uniform approach to reach Latino communities. It all depends upon the vision of the local church, presbytery, and person doing the ministry. Fire is needed at all levels, but especially with the organizer. Currently, 79 presbyteries in 35 states have active Latino ministries.

General discussion then followed. Three topics appeared to be the focus for our situation: 1) who are the ambassadors for this work? 2) What is the framework for music and worship of the Fellowship? Do we need a new venue? 3) There needs to be an intentional, systematic evangelism effort.

The discussion ended with Bob Richardson and Tom Stout agreeing to meet on April 30 to start to develop new strategies for Juan Calvino IF, to be implemented after Hernan graduates. Jim Moseley is going to approach members of a praise band from Westminster Church about being available to JCIF for its Sunday worship service.

At 9:20PM, Bob called a close to our meeting. The AC will meet when the moderator next calls for a meeting. Jim Moseley volunteered to close the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas R. Stout, clerk