**RE&WIM Newsletter article**

**The National Presbyterian Hispanic Latino Caucus**

**Have you heard about it?** Here’s a little bit of historical background.

The *Caucus* emerged as a structure to advocate for the rights of the Hispanic-Latino constituent in the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

The first attempt to advocate for the rights of Hispanics occurs in the year 1960, with the document *La Raza Churchmen*.

These were years of strengthening and affirmation of ethnic groups in the United States. The church was also influenced by this new movement and the Council of Church and Race was created to respond, advocate and offer support to these groups. In May 1972, at the CLXXXIV General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, overture 141 was adopted to organize caucuses among the Afro-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander constituents.

In November 1972, a national conference of the Hispanic constituent was convened, where a group of 25 representatives from different areas of the United States and Puerto Rico met to officially organize the *La Raza Presbyterian Caucus*, which for geographical reasons, was divided into two areas: West and East. Years later another group called the Council of the West was organized on the west coast.

Both groups subsisted for 20 years, until in 1992, in the City of Chicago, the *National Hispanic Presbyterian Caucus* emerged, directed by a Coordinating Council elected in Biennial Assemblies.

Another important moment in the history of the Caucus is the Biennial Assembly held in Ontario, CA in the year 2000, in which the inclusion of the *Portuguese-speaking brothers and sisters* as an integral part of the Caucus was accepted.

This decision led to the adoption of the new name of the **National Hispanic Latino Presbyterian Caucus** (*Caucus Nacional Presbiteriano Hispano Latino*) at the Albuquerque, NM Biennial Assembly in 2002.

**Our Mission Statement:** To develop leadership for the Gospel, social and racial justice, the transformation of the church and the interpretation of the needs and points of view of the oppressed and poor peoples.

**Where is the Caucus now?** Up to 2017 there were Regional Hispanic Caucuses in every single Synod of the PCUSA. But the combination of the Synod’s Downsizing process, the demise of many Hispanic Congregations, and the pandemic, reduced the number of active Regional Caucuses to those in the East Coast, Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. At present there are 210 congregations, 48 New Worshiping Communities, 10 New Church Developments, and 25 Bible Study Groups in our denomination.

**How is the Caucus doing now?** It is emerging strong from the pandemic calling for its first *In-person* Triannual Meeting since 2017, this time in the Campus of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary on October 18-21, 2023.

**What is the Caucus doing now?** It is regaining its call to *advocate* for the ethnic groups causes within the PCUSA. At present, one of our Co-Moderators, the Rev. Dr. Carmen Rosario, chairs the GA Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) which brings to the denomination’s attention issues affecting all people of color in the society as well as within the structure of the Presbyterian Church.

On another front, the Caucus is working on a 2024 *overture document* (through REAC) that summarizes not only where and how the Hispanic Ministry is, but also a strong national *call of attention* to the existence, presence, and contribution of Hispanic and Latina constituency toward the future of the PCUSA. To that goal, a collecting data *survey and questionnaire* is in progress among every Hispanic Latino congregations and pastors.

**How can you reach us?** Our website is [**www.caucusnacional.com**](http://www.caucusnacional.com) and our Facebook profile is **Caucus Hispano/a Latino/a de la Iglesia Presbiteriana EUA**

You can write to our Secretary Elder Carmen I. Lopez at [**carmenilopez55@gmail.com**](mailto:carmenilopez55@gmail.com)

En Cristo,

Rev. Dr. Jesús (Jesse) González, Treasurer

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