Hispanic Transitional Ministry Resource

Period: August 2025 – July 2026

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Key Verse: Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Do it willingly, not grudgingly or for personal gain, but because you are eager to serve God. 1 Peter 5:2 (NLT)

Over these months, we have walked alongside churches, pastors, and families through various processes, addressing the specific needs of their contexts. We have experienced both challenges and joys.

We are convinced that strengthening the Anabaptist-Mennonite identity of the churches in Dallas provides the foundation and direction for their existence within such a diverse and polarized society. We have used the Mission Dei publication from the Mennonite Mission Network, What is an Anabaptist Christian? by Beker Palmer, to strengthen identity. Our approach is grounded in respect, compassion, equality, and humility, recognizing our mutual need for growth and our reliance on the guidance of the Spirit of God in our midst.

From August to September, we supported the Casa Betania Mennonite Church in Newton and Aposento Alto in Wichita, Kansas. In San Antonio, we contributed a children's ministry workshop, and in Houston, we had the privilege of supporting the community in its various ministries and activities. From October to June, we continued to walk alongside the Mennonite churches in Dallas, strengthening their leadership and supporting their mission within the community. However, our involvement was always tailored to the specific needs of each congregation.

Intervention

We begin by making our presence felt, observing and introducing ourselves with respect, equality, compassion, and humility, seeking to communicate clearly, gaining their trust, and listening to their lives and ecclesial processes.

We designed participatory activities to ensure they felt like active participants in the learning process. We addressed topics such as: Who are we and where are we going? How do we organize ourselves? We affirm the values that form the foundation of our Anabaptist identity. During the final activity, we established a community covenant to guide congregational life. There is a great sense of enthusiasm. Starting June 1st, we are launching a more intentional pastoral

transition process at one of the churches in Dallas. We hope in God that this will be a space of motivation to foster new leadership in Hispanic churches.

We developed the theme "Leader/Servant," highlighting Jesus' model of service and analyzing the different leadership styles within the church environment in light of the demands Jesus makes of us in these times.

We launched a "Leadership and Vocation" course in a hybrid format with 18 participants from Wichita, Lamesa, and Dallas. The goal is to confirm their vocation and call to ministry.

Lessons Learned

- We highlight the importance of this ministerial practice that we have implemented, which is needed in Hispanic Mennonite churches: continuous support with intentional, programmed themes and concrete objectives that allow us to measure and provide feedback on the life of the church.
- We learned that people like to participate in the churches where we have served as a resource, to be active in their learning and not passive.
- We realize that the preferred theme of the churches is community because the willingness to participate is evident because it leads them to encounter the other in a communal interrelationship.
- These lessons lead us to re-evaluate our intervention. An approach based on equality, respect, humility, and compassion towards everyone. If programming is not imbued with brotherhood and humanity, it will not impact anyone.

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