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Message from the Executive Director

Dear AETH Community,

In 2025, we were reminded with clarity and renewed hope of the purpose of our Association. Every initiative, partnership, and training space reflected our shared commitment to walking alongside leaders, churches, and institutions that faithfully serve God's people in diverse contexts, for the transformation of society.

This Impact Report is more than a summary of accomplishments; it is a collective testimony to what happens when mission shapes our decisions, and community sustains the journey. In 2025, AETH strengthened over twenty biblical institutes, expanded access to theological education through micro-scholarships, published three new books, launched a new membership portal filled with digital resources, and accompanied hundreds of leaders through in-person gatherings, virtual events, and strategic partnerships within and beyond the United States.

Behind every number in this report is a story: a vocation supported, an institution strengthened, a theological voice affirmed. All of this has been made possible by a community deeply committed to service, excellence, and the legacy of theological education and leadership formation for the future, building bridges between the Church, the academy, and the community.

I am deeply grateful to our members, Board of Directors, staff, partners, donors, consultants, and the broader community who journeyed with AETH over the past year. Your trust and generosity continue to make possible a Hispanic theological education that responds to today's challenges with integrity, relevance, and hope.

I invite you to explore this report with both gratitude and vision, recognizing that what we built in 2025 is the fruit of shared effort, and at the same time, a seed for what is yet to flourish.

With gratitude and commitment,



Rev. Dr. Jessica Lugo Meléndez, MBA, MDiv
Executive Director
Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH)

35 Years in Service to Hispanic Theological Education

Since 1991, the Association of Theological Education for Hispanics (AETH) has advanced the quality, relevance, and sustainability of theological education in Hispanic contexts. What began as a network of educators and church leaders has grown into an academic and ministerial community that accompanies institutions, certifies programs, and strengthens Christian leadership across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Latin America.

Grounded in a biblical vision of the Kingdom of God and in the Church's calling to form faithful disciples, AETH integrates academic rigor, strategic collaboration, and institutional accompaniment. Our commitment to excellence, integrity, and service is reflected in every partnership and formative process.

As we approach our 35th anniversary in 2026, we reaffirm our identity as an academic network serving the Church and its mission in the world.

Our Mission

To promote theological education of excellence and relevance for Hispanic leaders in their service to the Church and the world.

Our Vision

That every Hispanic congregation and ministry be led by well-equipped leaders serving the whole Church and society for the glory of God.

VALUES

COMMITMENT

COLLABORATION

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

EXCELLENCE

PRINCIPLES

FOCUS

AGILITY

RESPONSIVE-
NESS

SELF-REFLECTION

ACCOUNTABILITY



2025: A Year of Impact

 **+20** Biblical Institutes Strengthened

 **\$225,000** awarded in educational micro-scholarships

 **3 new** theological publications launched

 **New** AETH website and exclusive membership portal

 **New** Launch of AETH's institutional podcast – ECOS DE AETH

 **800+** participants engaged through in-person and virtual gatherings

 **11 New** national and international partnerships

 **1 Major event** representing
7 countries, **18** U.S. states, and **41** organizations

 **244k+** digital impressions (email blasts, Facebook, Instagram)

*Every number tells a story of formation,
accompaniment, and shared mission.*



Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.
—1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Highlights of the Year

5 achievements 2025:

1. **Digital Transformation:** Launch of AETH's new website, exclusive membership portal, expanded social media presence, and institutional podcast.
2. Growth and strengthening of **seven academic programs**.
3. **Capacity Building for Bible Institutes.**
4. **Three Newly released AETH Publications:**
 - Intercultural Hermeneutics
 - Generation to Generation
 - Purposeful Storytelling Manual
5. Launch of the **National Coordination Program for Pastoral and Congregational Leadership (NISHPLAC).**



The Antioquia program represents AETH's commitment to accompanying leaders and institutions through thoughtful theological engagement and collaborative formation. Throughout 2025, in-person and virtual gatherings that brought voices together from local churches, convened church, academy, and community voices to wrestle with pressing questions of mission, public witness, justice, and intergenerational relevance. These encounters brought together participants from across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Latin America, cultivating dialogue that was both contextually grounded and forward-looking.

Scholarships enabled broader participation, ensuring that distance did not limit discernment or contribution. Participants testified to renewed pastoral clarity, deeper theological reflection, and a strengthened commitment to serve communities with wisdom and courage.

Antioquia also expanded its formative reach through the publication of Generation after Generation and the launch of the ECOS de AETH podcast, extending these conversations beyond the event space. In 2025, Antioquia was not simply a program, it was a space where leaders were reminded that they do not carry their calling alone.

This is a Lilly Endowment grant-funded effort.

2025 Impact Highlights:

7 theological gatherings (both in-person and virtual)

246+ participants reached

20+ high-level academic and pastoral speakers

Access and Support:

28 scholarships awarded

\$14,000 invested in theological formation

Formation and Community:

15+ keynote presentations

4 interdisciplinary panels

Connecting: Church | Academy | Community



Podcast Ecos de AETH

Purpose: To extend the impact of Antioquia
Access to Theological Reflection
Connecting Formation, Identity, and Mission

In 2025, the Antioquia Program extended its educational reach with the launch of ECOS de AETH. AETH's first institutional podcast. This initiative provides the community with weekly audiovisual resources, which are which are streamed live and is streamed live every Monday on Facebook and YouTube. Beginning in September, ECOS began featuring content from Antioquia's Theological Reflection Gatherings, offering sustained access to relevant, contextualized conversations rooted in the lived faith of our community.



Frequency: Weekly

Live Broadcast: Mondays · 5:00 p.m. EST

Platforms: Facebook & YouTube

youtube.com/@SomosAETH



Formation, dialogue, and community that accompany leaders in their call and strengthen the mission of the Church today.

AETH's first institutional podcast



The Young Líderes program with AETH was born out of a commitment to accompany a new generation of leaders who serve the church and the academy with passion, thoughtful questions, and hope. Beyond the meetings and activities held in 2025, what has been most meaningful is the creation of an intergenerational space where leaders walk together, engage in theological reflection, and cultivate relationships that sustain their calling. This year, we saw membership grow, fellowship deepen, and new opportunities for collaboration emerge. As we move into 2026, we do so with a clear vision: to continue walking alongside leaders rooted in faith, committed to their communities, and prepared to innovate with fidelity and courage.

Connection & Community-Based Formation

5 virtual and in-person events

100+ Young Líderes engaged

31 new AETH members integrated through the program

70+ participants joined

This is a Lilly Endowment grant-funded effort.



Young Líderes affirmed that formation flourishes when leaders walk together in community, preparing emerging leaders to serve with integrity, faithfulness, and hope in the Church today, with a vision toward tomorrow.

AETH Digital Impact in 2025

AETH's digital presence expanded the reach of the mission and strengthened connection with the community. More than 70,000 emails opened, 174,000 social media views, and 2,000 new followers reflect an audience that listens, engages, and walks alongside the shared vision.

The mission continues to extend beyond physical gatherings, reaching new spaces where formation and accompaniment continue to bear fruit.



Email Marketing

70,000+ emails opened in 2025



Social Media

174,000+ views

2,000 followers reached



Certification Program

The AETH Certification is more than an academic process; it is a public affirmation of quality, integrity, and commitment to excellence in theological formation. Through rigorous evaluation and attentive accompaniment, it confirms that Bible Institute programs meet standards comparable to undergraduate-level studies, thereby strengthening the credibility and sustainability of ministerial education.

During 2025, the Certification Commission experienced a particularly active and fruitful year, managing multiple reviews, processes, and key decisions. Beyond documentation, this work represented institutions refining their vision, revising curricula, and strengthening structures with greater clarity and stability. Each step in the process is an investment in leaders who are better prepared to serve the Church with depth, responsibility, and vision.

Key Results:

200+ Institutes and programs have been accompanied since 1992

100+ Programs have held active membership with AETH

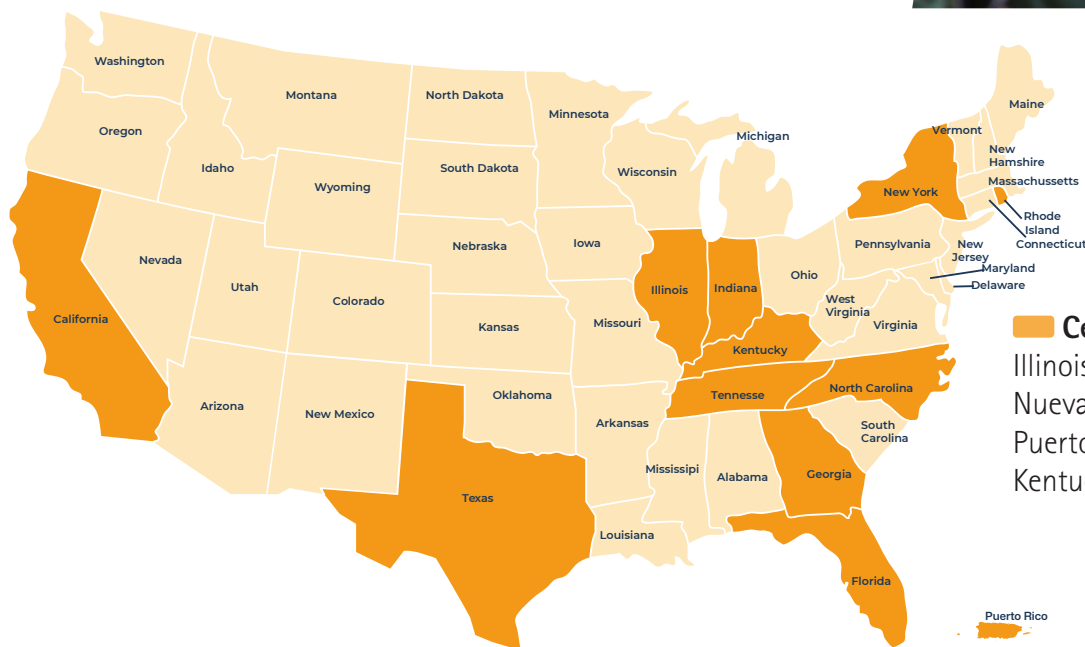
27 Programs are currently active in certification processes

Programs Status

14 Certified Programs (official status granted)

12 Programs in Process

2,700+ students impacted



Certified Programs in:
Illinois, California, Florida, Texas, Nueva York, Carolina del Norte, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia y Rhode Island.



Capacity Building for Biblical Institutes



In 2025, AETH's Capacity Building for Bible Institutes program marked a significant step forward in strengthening the institutional foundations of Hispanic theological education. Developed in collaboration with Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and supported by Lilly Endowment grants, the initiative moved beyond theory into tangible transformation. Through specialized training, expert consulting, and strategic micro-grants, Bible institutes across the United States were equipped to clarify their vision, strengthen governance, and build sustainable administrative structures.

This year also represented the successful completion of the pilot phase. The Maestro a Maestro course fostered peer learning and faculty development, while a newly implemented operational dashboard streamlined proposal submissions and reporting processes. Progress reviews were completed, final disbursements were responsibly administered, and post-course assessments confirmed meaningful growth. What began as capacity development became institutional confidence, preparing institutes not only to meet certification standards, but to lead with greater clarity, stability, and faithfulness to their mission.

This is a Lilly Endowment grant-funded effort.



Institutional Strengthening

23 biblical institutes selected for targeted support

\$481,000+ invested in projects to improve infrastructure and planning

4 institutes integrated **AETH**

Certification into their development plans

15 expert consultants in theological education and institutional management

36 directors and faculty trained

projected impact on ~100 educators annually

4 specialized gatherings, including:

1 Conference Series, **3** Thematic Workshops



We continue to strengthen institutions with vision, integrity, and healthy leadership, preparing biblical institutes for sustainable formation and future certification.

Membership



AETH Membership grants access to Hispanic experts and professionals in theological training, hours of conferences, interviews, workshops, conversations and debates with experts in the field. It is AETH's intention to create a community in which members can connect. The AETH Membership program shows great success, with the number of active members surpassing the target of 300 to reach 309 by the end of December. Retention and renewal efforts were highly effective, leading to a total of 117 retained members and 45 "winbacks" during the year. Furthermore, 135 new members were added. The team celebrates the successful implementation of a retention and renewal campaign and the continued use of the new AETH webpage with its member-exclusive portal, which was developed following consultant suggestions for a superior membership experience.

Key Outcomes (2025 Membership Profile)

+300 active members ((Individuals and Institutions)

103% growth. Reaching **12,000+** individuals

Presence in the U.S., Latin America and Europe

Highest Membership

Concentration:

- » Puerto Rico
- » U.S. Northeast Region

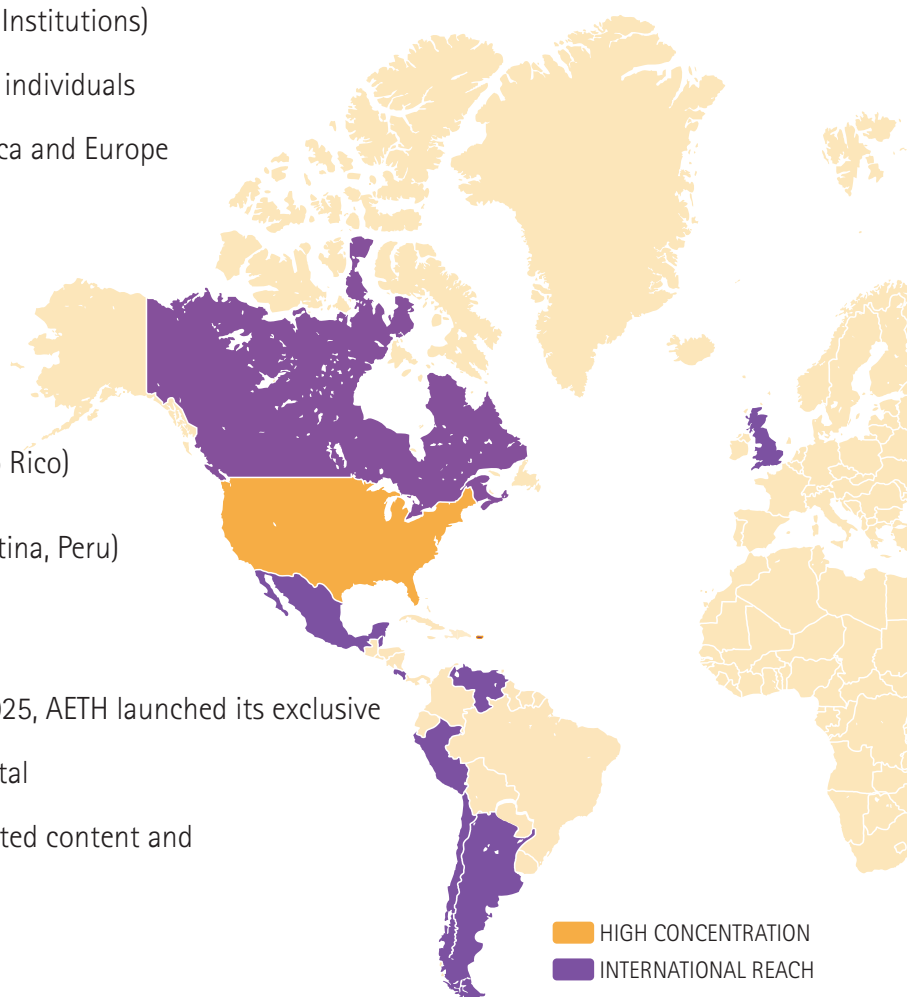
International Reach:

- » Caribbean (Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico)
- » Central America (Costa Rica)
- » South America (Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru)
- » Europe (United Kingdom)
- » North America (Mexico, Canada)

Digital Engagement. In 2025, AETH launched its exclusive

+350 visits to the new membership portal

On-demand access to curated content and training resources



Connecting leaders, sharing resources, and strengthening the mission in every region.

Biblioteca Digital Pitts

The Biblioteca Digital Pitts program represents a fruitful collaboration between AETH and the Pitts Theology Library to curate and expand access to Spanish-language theological resources for Hispanic church leaders. Throughout the year, the collection grew beyond its projected goals, strengthening its role as a trusted academic resource. User engagement deepened as more leaders, students, and institutions actively incorporated the library into their research and formation. The team addressed technical challenges with diligence and expanded outreach through orientations, workshops, and instructional materials, reinforcing digital fluency within the community. Growing recognition from external institutions affirmed the value of this curated collection. Looking ahead, the program will continue expanding resources, offering personalized support, and creating new spaces for theological dialogue and learning.

Impact

The Pitts Digital Library served **929 registered users**, with **491 active accounts**, reaching **29 AETH Bible institutes** across all regions of the United States and generating more than **5,100 visits** to its digital guide.

Academic Use and Formation

Throughout the year, **336 titles** were used for academic research, resulting in **86 downloads** and **95 active researchers**. In addition, orientations, workshops, and classroom sessions equipped more than **70 faculty members and students**, supported by digital resources and personalized assistance.

Content and Visibility

The Conversaciones vlog expanded the library's educational reach with **8 episodes** and more than **600 views**, alongside academic collaborations and national recognition as a model for Spanish-language digital theological libraries.



Expanding access to theological knowledge and forming leaders who serve the Church with wisdom, depth, and vision.



Compelling Preaching is a homiletical approach that understands the pulpit as a space for the holistic formation of the people of God. Rather than merely refining techniques, it seeks to integrate identity, theology, trauma, and mission into the practice of proclamation. In communities shaped by migration, historical wounds, and cultural tensions, preaching becomes at once a hermeneutical, therapeutic, biblical, prophetic, and formative act. Its purpose is not simply to improve communication, but to cultivate preachers who proclaim hope with biblical depth and pastoral sensitivity, forming resilient congregations capable of discerning their time and actively participating in God's transforming mission.

In 2025, AETH strengthened the formation of preachers through the Compelling Preaching Program, creating academic and collaborative spaces that support preaching that is clear, contextual, and filled with hope. This initiative helped pastors and leaders deepen their sense of call, share theological insights, and build faith communities committed to the Church's mission.

This is a Lilly Endowment grant-funded effort.

250+ participants engaged

5 courses produced

100+ video resources created

1 pilot course completed and released
(Women and Preaching)

Impact across **17** U.S. states

56 organizations connected

36 academic institutions represented

4 Learning Communities established





National Initiative to Strengthen Hispanic Pastoral Leaders and Congregational Teams (NISHPLAC)



In coordination with Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, NISHPLAC represents a strategic initiative within the Hispanic pastoral leadership ecosystem, designed not only to provide resources but to strengthen institutional capacity, clarify purpose, and promote long-term sustainability. Rather than responding solely to immediate needs, the program creates spaces for collaboration, shared learning, and strategic planning among organizations that have historically operated with strong vocation yet limited structural margins. Its deepest impact lies in consolidating networks of trust and accompaniment that enable institutions to move from reactive survival to intentional organizational maturity, thereby strengthening the future of Hispanic pastoral leadership in the United States.

This is a Lilly Endowment grant-funded effort.

1 Annual Gathering held
18 participating institutions
2 Learning Communities launched
8 sessions delivered
12 hours of formative programming



The Word that unites and builds communities. Solid formation, contextual preaching, and collaborative networks that strengthen the Church today and prepare it for tomorrow.



The Justo & Catherine González Resource Center: For more than 34 years, AETH has fostered connection and collaboration among leaders, educators, and pastors committed to Hispanic theological education. In that spirit, the Justo and Catherine González Resource Center was established as a space dedicated to preserving, sharing, and expanding a theological legacy in service to the Church. Today, from its home in Atlanta, the Center represents AETH's physical footprint, a place that safeguards memory, honors the Gonzalezes' enduring contributions, and provides access to relevant and accessible resources. More than an archive, it is a space of inspiration, formation, and intergenerational connection for those who serve with faithfulness and vision.

1st year of active collaboration with the Young Líderes program

4 groups hosted at the Center

2 recording sessions conducted for AETH programs

11 public engagements coordinated for Dr. Justo González

Ongoing relationship with Friends of the Center, including monthly mailings and theological reflections

2 new team members trained for Center operations

200+ Academic document
prepared for archival and digital access

New partnerships
are being explored with institutions and learning networks



A space where theological legacy becomes living formation, vibrant dialogue, and a shared sense of mission.



Fundraising & Growth

2025 was a year of sowing and growth for AETH. Through an intentional fundraising strategy, the strengthening of institutional relationships, and the modernization of its systems, the organization moved forward with steady steps toward greater sustainability and reach. Each achievement reflects the generosity and commitment of a community that believes in AETH's mission and continues to make its impact possible in service to the Church.

+20% growth in donations received during 2025

+\$27,000 raised for the General Fund

8 fundraising campaigns reached more than 25,000 people through email and social media

+860% growth in new donors

Non-monetary contributions: content support (Intercultural Hermeneutics book)

17 institutions and companies walked alongside AETH,
strengthening our mission and expanding impact

75% of donations received in 2025 were made through the new website

*We invite you to continue walking alongside
AETH and to consider a contribution that allows
this mission to continue bearing fruit.*



Digital Transformation & Technology



During 2025, AETH experienced one of the most significant digital transformations in its history. More than a technological upgrade, this process strengthened the mission, empowered the team, and improved the experience of members and partners. The launch of the new website, the membership portal, and integrated administrative systems enabled AETH to move from fragmented processes to a secure, efficient, and sustainable digital infrastructure. Technology ceased to be an obstacle and became a tool in service of ministry, reducing operational risk, optimizing resources, and preparing AETH for responsible growth aligned with its long-term vision.

Impact

New institutional website (May 2025) with **9,497 visits**

Self-managed membership portal with **350+** active users

80% reduction in operational costs

300+ active members on the platform

González Center digitally integrated with **300+** documents available

75 % of donations received through the new website

Custom administrative platform with 5 self-managed areas

500+ Tickets managed and resolved through the dashboard

Secure and scalable infrastructure, including automated backups, access controls, and a disaster recovery plan

Centralized technical documentation, implemented for the first time



Technology that frees the team, strengthens the community, and provides a solid foundation for AETH's future growth.



2026 Calendar of Theological Formation and Engagement



February:

- » 35th Anniversary of the book Mañana | Atlanta, GA
- » Compelling Preaching Weekend Intensive | From the Margins to the Mission: Preaching as a Movement of Life | Central Church of God | San Antonio, TX | Partner: Central Church of God
- » Young Líderes Virtual Gathering: Couples in Ministry: Walking Together in the Calling
- » Capacity Building for Bible Institutes – Cohort 2

March:

- » AETH Quarterly Virtual Meeting with Bible Institutes
- » El Semillero – Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising | San Antonio, TX
- » AETH Communities of Practice
- » Compelling Preaching: Latidos: Generational Rhythm, Sacred Craft, and Embodied Voice | McCormick Theological Seminary | Chicago, IL

April:

- » NISHPLAC Annual Meeting

May:

- » Young Líderes Virtual Gathering: Well-Being: Caring for the Soul That Serves
- » AETH Meeting in Argentina

June:

- » AETH Quarterly Virtual Meeting with Bible Institutes

- » Compelling Preaching: Preaching at the Crossroads: Theology, Technology, and Transformation | New York City, NY

July:

- » Capacity Building Retreat for Bible Institutes Cohort 2 | Maestro a Maestro | Orlando, FL

August:

- » Young Líderes Virtual Gathering: Grant writing
- » Weekend Intensive: Predicamos | Maryland | Partner: COGMAHR

September:

- » Antioquía, Hispanic Heritage Celebration (Idaho)
- » AETH Quarterly Virtual Meeting with Bible Institutes

October:

- » Capacity Building Retreat for Bible Institutes | Columbia Theological Seminary | Decatur, Georgia
- » Biennial 2026 Faith That Forms, Knowledge That Transforms | Decatur, Georgia.
- » "Heart of the Church" Summit | Puerto Rico

November:

- » Compelling Preaching: Spirituality and Migration | Iglesia Casa de Avivamiento | Orlando, FL | Partner: UTECHAM
- » Young Líderes Virtual Gathering: Theology in the Neighborhood

ECOS Podcast – Weekly every Monday at 5:00 p.m.

With Deep Gratitude:

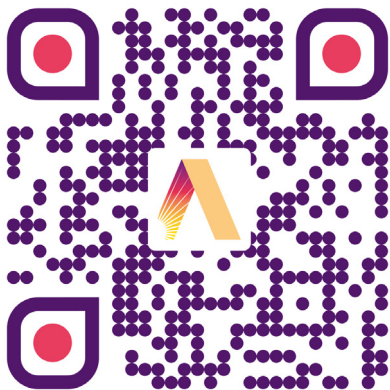
As we bring this 2025 Impact Report to a close, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and hope. We are grateful for a community that continues to recognize and uphold the power of theological education as a force for transformation in churches, institutions, and communities. We are hopeful for the road that lies ahead, which continues to call us to serve with faithfulness, vision, and renewed conviction.

The year 2026 invites us to celebrate a profound milestone: 35 years of AETH. Three and a half decades of walking alongside called leaders, equipping ministers, and strengthening institutions. Years of honoring the voices and wisdom of those who came before us, and affirming a Hispanic theological education that responds with integrity to the realities and hopes of our people. These are our roots deep, vibrant, and nurtured by a community that believes formation is an act of justice and faith.

As we celebrate, we also look forward. The challenges of our time compel us to reimagine how we form leaders, expand access to theological reflection, care for those who serve, and build institutions prepared for the long journey ahead. These are our horizons: open, collective, and full of promise.

As we enter 2026 and the years to come, may we continue to walk with deep roots and open horizons, trusting that God is present in our midst calling us to serve with hope, creativity, and love.





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