

# Letter from the Executive Director

## Dear AETH Community,

As we come to the close of another remarkable year, I write with deep gratitude and joy for all that we have accomplished en conjunto. This 2025 has been a year of vision, collaboration, and tangible impact; a testament to what happens when we unite to elevate the excellence of Hispanic theological education. We celebrated several historic milestones that mark a new season of growth and influence for AETH:

- **We launched our new website and exclusive membership portal**, creating a digital home for our members and partners to connect, learn, and grow.
- **We inaugurated our new Capacity Building Program**, through which more than 20 Bible Institutes received over a quarter of a million dollars in microgrants in our first cohort, strengthening grassroots theological education where it matters most.
- **We published three significant works** that enrich theological reflection: *Antología: Generación tras Generación*, *Manual de Storytelling*, and the *E-Book Hermenéutica Intercultural*.
- **We launched our new podcast, ECOS de AETH**, as part of our Antioquía Program in partnership with Candler School of Theology, amplifying the voices and wisdom of our community in nontraditional ways.
- **We held our 8<sup>th</sup> Justo and Catherine González Resource Center Lecture Series** in San Dimas, CA, gathering nearly 200 participants from 7 countries, 18 states, and 41 organizations, a historic moment of dialogue, inspiration, and hope.

- **In coordination with the Lilly Endowment, we launched the new National Hispanic Initiative to Strengthen Pastoral Leadership and Congregations**, in collaboration with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a pioneering effort that positions AETH as a key collaborator in shaping the future of theological formation across the nation.

Each of these achievements bears witness to the transformative power of collective commitment. They reflect not only organizational progress but also the creativity, faith, and resilience of our entire network, members, staff, leaders, institutions, and friends who believe in the sacred task of forming leaders for the Church and the world.

As we look toward 2026, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing a mission-focused, community-rooted, and excellence-driven theological education. Together, we will continue to nurture the next generation of pastors, educators, and leaders who embody the richness of our heritage and the promise of our future. I invite you to read this new ECOS edition so you can be up to date with more details of our work for you, the church and the academic community.

With heartfelt gratitude,



*Rev. Dra. Jessica Lugo*

Executive Director  
Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana



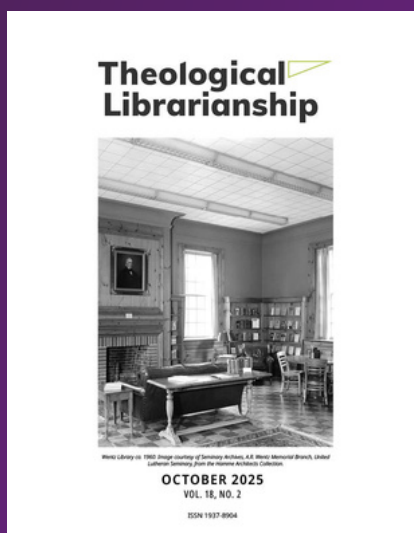
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# Wrestling with the Difficult: Resourcing the Hispanic/Latino Program



December 2025 - Year 2, Vol 4



## Abstract:

Theological libraries are confronting the challenge of resourcing multilingual and long-distance programs. This essay focuses particularly on Hispanic/Latino programs in seminaries in the US, drawing from the history of advocacy from Hispanic/Latino scholars for systemic changes in theological libraries' approach to servicing these programs. Rather than focusing solely on how to find resources, the essay advocates for a comprehensive approach to serve the needs of Hispanic/Latino students at theological seminaries.



## SCAN THE QR CODE AND READ THE Article:

Grappling with the  
Difficult: Providing  
Resources to the  
Hispanic/Latino  
Program

by Déborah E. Ortiz-Rivera

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Second Cohort of the Capacity Building Initiative  
for Bible Institutes



December 2025 - Year 2, Vol 4

## Announcement: Call for Applications for the Second Cohort of the Capacity Development Project for Bible Institutes (Year 3 - 2026)

Dear AETH members and directors of Bible institutes:

We are pleased to announce the upcoming opening of the Requests for Proposals (RFP) and applications for the second cohort of our **Capacity Building for Bible Institutes** project. This five-year project seeks to strengthen the administrative, management, and pedagogical capacity of the institutes, either for the purpose of achieving certification standards or for boosting their internal mission.

The official call for applications for Year 3 activities (2026), which constitute Cohort 2 for various areas of the project, will begin in **January 2026**.

### PROJECT FOCAL POINTS:

The project covers three main areas of development:



**Leadership Course for Churches and Bible Institutes:** An online course is offered that culminates in a certificate.



**Capacity Development Micro-grants:** Institutes that successfully complete the leadership course may apply for grants for essential purposes such as:

- Acquisition of *software* and library resources.
- Hiring curricular consultants and board development.
- Specialized training in leadership, management, or support for the certification verification process.
- The selection of cohorts of 25 participating institutes is planned annually.



**Instructor Training (Teacher to Teacher):** A program focused on andragogy/pedagogy, curriculum design, critical thinking, theological reflection, and project-based learning. Participants commit to replicating the training with at least five other instructors at their institute.

Directors, rectors, and instructors are urged to stay tuned for AETH communications for details on the application process and specific start dates for the 2026 programs.



Get in touch with us

[membership@aeth.org](mailto:membership@aeth.org)

**Dr. Marta Noemi Luna, EdD, MDiv**  
Capacity and Community Development Program  
Manager





# Compelling Preaching Weekend Intensives 2026 Calendar



**SAN ANTONIO**

**DATES: FEBRUARY 19-22, 2026**

**Place: Iglesia de Dios Central San Antonio  
(Central Church of God)**



**CHICAGO**

**DATES: MARCH 21, 2026**

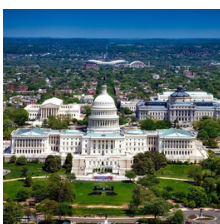
**Place: McCormick Theological Seminary in  
Chicago, IL**



**NEW YORK**

**DATES: JUNE 6, 2026**

**Place: New York City, NY**



**WASHINGTON**

**DATES: AUGUST 21-22, 2026**

**Place: Washington, DC**



**ORLANDO**

**DATES: NOVEMBER 13-14, 2026**

**Place: Iglesia Casa de Avivamiento in  
Orlando, FL**

## DEL MARGEN A LA MISIÓN

SAVE THE DATE  
SAVE THE DATE  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**Del Margen a la Misión:**  
La Predicación como  
Movimiento de Vida



**20 Y 21 DE FEBRERO DE 2026**



**20 DE FEB 7-9 PM | 21 DE FEB 9 AM A 3 PM**



**CENTRAL CHURCH OF GOD SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



**SAVE THE DATE: REGISTRATION OPENS SOON**

## CELEBRATION OF MAÑANA'S THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY:

*Christian Theology  
from a Hispanic  
Perspective, del Dr.  
Justo L. González*

The Justo and Catherine González Resource Center is delighted to announce an upcoming symposium celebrating the thirty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Justo L. González's *Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective*. This two-day celebration, taking place on February 4 and 5, 2026, at Decatur First United Methodist (Feb. 4) and the Candler School of Theology (Feb. 5), as well as an Open House at the Gonzalez Center itself (Feb. 4), will honor the lasting impact of this influential work. The program will include multiple speakers, a panel discussion reflecting on the continued relevance of *Mañana*, and a chapel service.

**Please save the date and plan to join us.** For more information, contact Program Specialist Sophia Porter at [sporter@aeth.org](mailto:sporter@aeth.org) or the Center's Director, Dr. Ondina González, at [ogonzalez@aeth.org](mailto:ogonzalez@aeth.org). Additional details, including the full schedule, can be found on our website at <https://gonzalezcenter.org/manana-35th>. We look forward to celebrating with you!

We would also like to remind all AETH members that they now have full access to our Digital Collection. We encourage both AETH members and Friends of the Center to explore the resources we continue to upload each month as our team edits and formats the unpublished works of Drs. Justo and Catherine González. AETH members can gain access through their member portal; **Friends of the Center can explore the collection by visiting <https://gonzalezcenter.org/> and logging in.**

Finally, for those interested in supporting and engaging more deeply with our work, we invite you to become a Friend of the Center. The growth of our work at the Center has been made possible through the generous support of our Friends, whose partnership helps us continue to expand our resources and initiatives. **We are always exploring new ways to involve our Friends and develop resources especially for them.** You can become a Friend of the Center with a contribution of just \$15 per month or \$200 per year. Join by visiting <https://gonzalezcenter.org/friends-of-the-center>.

**Save the Date!**  
February 4-5, 2026  
**MAÑANA FROM A NEW TODAY**  
Reflections at the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of *Mañana: Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective*

Atlanta, GA  
Free Admission

#WeAreAETH  
Learn more [aeth.org](https://aeth.org) | [gonzalezcenter.org](https://gonzalezcenter.org)

AETH  
ASSOCIATION FOR HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

EMORY  
CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*MAÑANA*  
Christian Theology from a Hispanic Perspective  
Justo L. González

BILINGUAL EVENT

REGISTRATION

QR code for registration

Portrait of Justo L. González

ACCESS OUR  
RESOURCE PORTAL



**Sophia Porter**  
"Amigos/Amigas del Centro" and  
Justo & Catherine González Resource Center Specialist









# Compelling Preaching

## La Mujer y la Predicación

newsletter  
**ecos**

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## SHORT COURSE: LA MUJER Y LA PREDICACIÓN

### "Women and Preaching" — Spanish Short Course (At Your Own Pace)

Discover the biblical, historical, and pastoral voice of women in preaching.

Study whenever you can and from wherever you are — this fully asynchronous, self-paced course allows you to progress on your own schedule while receiving in-depth tools for your ministry. **Enroll and start whenever you decide.**



# La mujer y la predicación

**CURSO CORTO**

"La mujer y la predicación" es un curso esencial que afirma el llamado, la voz y ministerio de las mujeres en el púlpito. **Explora fundamentos bíblicos, históricos y prácticos** que hacen de este tema una urgencia teológica y pastoral para la iglesia de hoy.

Inscríbete, muy pronto en nuestra página



### PROFESORAS:



REV. DRA. JESSICA LUGO

Directora Ejecutiva AETH



REV. LAURA AYALA

Coordinadora Global de Misiones  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



REV. LORI TAPIA

Pastora Nacional  
ICOC Obra Hispana



Lilly Endowment Inc.  
A Private Philanthropic Foundation

## SIGN UP TODAY

## YOUNG LÍDERES PROGRAM CONTINUES TO FLOURISH IN 2025

The Young Líderes Program continued to flourish in 2025 as a dynamic and growing initiative empowering Latino/a/x emerging leaders across the U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean. Throughout the year we expanded our reach, strengthened relationships, and created meaningful spaces for theological reflection, leadership development, and community-building. We look forward to continuing to accompany young Líderes as we continue to navigate faith and Justice in our local contexts.

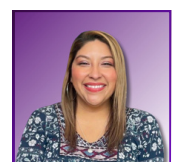
As we look ahead, Young Líderes is preparing for an exciting 2026, we remain dedicated to strengthening this community, expanding opportunities, and equipping the next generation of leaders.

### Stay connected!

Join our information network to receive updates, resources, and announcements about the 2026 Young Líderes Program. Don't miss the chance to be part of the journey as we continue building, learning, and leading together.



**Maylin Escala**  
Young Líderes and Digital Media Consultant





# TALLERES DE PREDICACIÓN: LATIDOS



## LATIDOS

TALLERES DE  
PREDICACIÓN: RITMO  
GENERACIONAL, ARTE  
SAGRADA Y VOZ  
ENCARNADA.

SEPARA LA FECHA,  
REGISTRO ABRE PRONTO

📅 21 DE MARZO  
DE 2026

🕒 9:00AM

Costos:  
\$20.00 Publico General  
\$10 para Miembros AETH y  
McCormick Alumni or Students

📍 MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
5416 S. CORNELL AVENUE  
5TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60615

#SomosAETH  
Conoce más → [aeth.org](https://aeth.org) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/aeth_org) [i](https://www.instagram.com/aeth_org) [X](https://www.x.com/aeth_org) [▶](https://www.youtube.com/aeth_org) [aeth\\_org](https://www.youtube.com/aeth_org)



**SAVE THE DATE: REGISTRATION OPENS SOON**

# Become a member of AETH, Join as a member



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AETH is more than just an organization—it's a vibrant comunidad dedicated to fostering rigorous academic inquiry, spiritual formation, and impactful leadership within Hispanic theological education. We are a network of scholars, practitioners, and students committed to advancing theological discourse that speaks to the unique experiences and contributions of Hispanic peoples.

## As an AETH member, you will unlock a world of exclusive benefits designed to enrich your theological work:



**Dynamic Community and Exceptional Networking Opportunities:** Engage with a robust network of Hispanic scholars, educators, clergy, and theology students. Take part in meaningful discussions, build enduring partnerships, and discover mentorship within a nurturing community.

**New!**



**Exclusive Access to the Members Portal -** Your New Resource Hub: A newly established resource hub where AETH members can exclusively access articles, webinars, and various materials that will enhance their biblical and theological learning and development. Visit it today and immerse yourself in this wealth of knowledge designed to support your ministry.



**Exclusive Access to Premier Events:** Benefit from special member rates on our annual conferences, regional gatherings, and online seminars—events crafted to inspire, educate, and connect.

**And much more... Explore numerous additional opportunities tailored for your growth!**



**Become part of a community that honors and nurtures the depth of Hispanic theological thought.**  
Visit [www.aeth.org](http://www.aeth.org) to discover more and join our community or to renew your membership today!

**AETH**

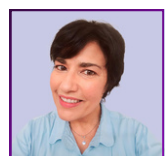
**Membership**



Get in touch with us

[membership@aeth.org](mailto:membership@aeth.org)

**Dr. Marta Noemi Luna, EdD, MDiv**  
Capacity and Community Development Program  
Manager



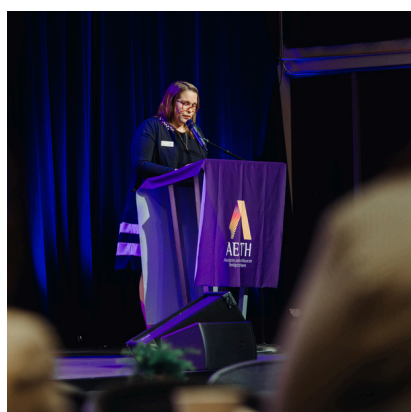


## RECAP: LS25 EVENT

## RECAP: LS25 EVENT



The **LS25 – Justo & Catherine González Lecture Series** became a historic gathering for our Hispanic and Latino theological community. Over three days, **more than 191 participants and 261 registered attendees** from 18 U.S. states and several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean came together to explore the central theme: Preaching and Migration: Identity, Trauma, and Technique. Pastors, scholars, ministry leaders, and students took part in keynote lectures, workshops, intergenerational conversations, and worship spaces that affirmed our diversity, our hope, and the theological vitality of our people. The presence of **41 academic institutions** and an impressive denominational breadth created a true mosaic of perspectives that enriched every dialogue.



**Oscar Merlo, Ph.D., MBA, MAICS**  
Consultant for Compelling Preaching and NHI Programs

# Inspiring Testimonials: What LS25 Left Us



The **8th Justo & Catherine González Lecture Series (LS25)**, titled **“Preaching and Migration: Identity, Trauma, and Technique,”** held this past October at Life Pacific University in California, was a space for formation, reflection, and community. Beyond the sessions, panels, and workshops, what truly touched our hearts were the voices of those who participated. Here are some of their most powerful expressions.

## IDENTITY AND CALLING: GOD SEES US

*“How we see others matters because that’s how we end up seeing ourselves.”*

*“We have a God who sees us and restores our dignity.”*

*“Affirming our identity as women in Christ, created by God.”*

## HEALING AND TRAUMA: BREAKING THE SILENCE

*“One of the most important takeaways was remembering the children when preparing a lesson.”*

*“We need to understand the curriculum based on the age of those we serve.”*

*“The importance of breaking the silence and sharing trauma in order to heal.”*

## PREACHING AND TECHNIQUE: MESSAGES THAT REACH

*“The pastor’s audience is the humanity of the people sitting in front of them.”*

*“We need all kinds of messages, embodied in the needs of the context, to reach multiple generations.”*

## REFLECTIONS ON THE EVENT: A FAITH THAT EMBRACES PAIN AND REALITY

*“The theology of suffering was eye-opening for me; our God suffers and weeps with us.”*

*“Trauma has a lot to do with how people think... Some are in denial, some are anxious and depressed. But we still need to speak the truth about injustice with care.”*

*“This is a truly historic moment. We must include themes that speak to the present, even as the Latino church faces internal division.”*

*“The most important idea when addressing issues of belonging, language, and culture is to understand the environment where the lesson will be taught.”*

### Thank You for Being Part of This Story

LS25 reminded us that theology is lived, shared, and capable of transforming lives. **Let us continue walking together, educating to impact, inspiring to serve.**

### Support the Mission of AETH

Your generosity helps us continue equipping leaders, strengthening institutions, and developing theological formation for the Hispanic church.



**GIVE TODAY. BE PART OF  
WHAT GOD IS DOING  
THROUGH AETH.**

**Shaila Muñoz**

Growth and Fundraising Consultant



# Advent 2025

## The Church and Love



December 2025 - Year 2, Vol 4

## The Church and Love

by: Leslie Díaz-Pérez

1 John 4:9-12, NKJV (excerpted)

*"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world ... Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another ... If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us."*

Advent teaches us to wait with anticipation. It also teaches us about God's eternal and unconditional love for humanity. The season reveals the mystery of incarnation: God's love became visible in Jesus. And now, that same love becomes visible through the Church. Expressing more than mere feelings and sentiments, Christ dwells with us in our struggles, in our hopes, and even in our waiting. God's love assures us that we are not alone. But that same love confronts us as well.

The Church cannot reduce love to sentiment or speech. Love must be evident in action. The Church is called to embody love that feeds the hungry, welcomes the stranger, and resists injustice. In a world that too often divides and excludes, Advent love beckons us to become a people who live out God's love in community.

This Advent season, may the Church be a sign of love incarnate, a comfort to the weary, and a holy confrontation to all that dehumanizes life.



**Leslie Díaz-Pérez** is an educator and pastoral leader passionate about learning and teaching. With two decades across classroom and pulpit, she builds bridges among cultures and generations. Her experience includes 23 years in special education in Chicago, pastoral leadership, and innovative programs for theological formation. She serves as Senior Director of Admissions & Enrollment and Director of El Centro for Latinx Theology and Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary, where she develops and implements recruitment initiatives and partnerships, and strengthens programs that expand access. She enjoys faithfully accompanying churches and communities, laughing, learning, and encouraging with humor, wisdom, and faith.

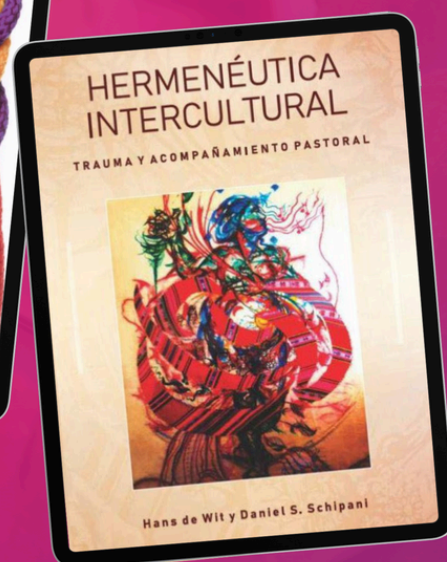
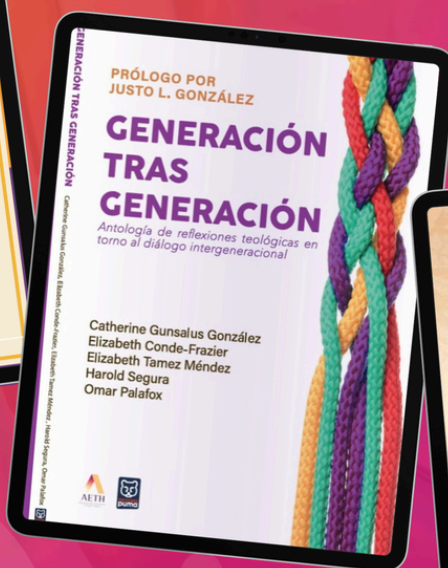
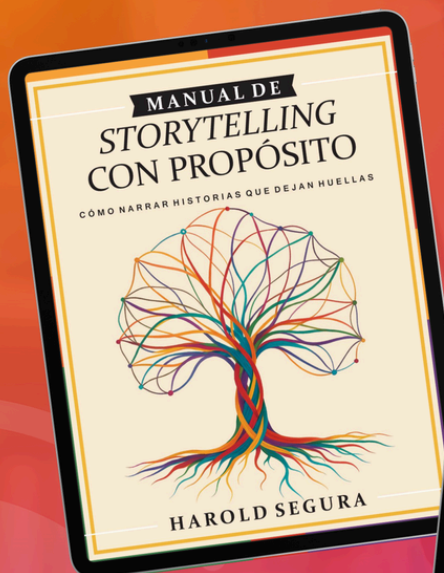




# New releases: 3 books for you

newsletter  
**ecos**

December 2025 - Year 2, Vol 4



## LIBRERÍA DIGITAL DE AETH

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conoce las **nuevas**  
**riquezas literarias** que  
te ofrecemos:



Conoce más → [aeth.org](https://aeth.org) | [f](#) [i](#) [X](#) [aeth\\_org](#)

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