

## AETH Announces \$2 Million in New Funds Through Expanded Strategic Partnerships to Strengthen Hispanic Theological Education and Resources

**Orlando, FL — December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025** — On the eve of its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the *Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana*, better known as AETH, announced today that it will receive \$2 million in new funds through the expansion of two long-standing strategic partnerships. These strengthened collaborations, built over years of shared commitment and mission alignment, will deepen AETH's current programs and broaden initiatives that respond to the formation needs of Hispanic communities across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Americas.

As part of its expanded relationship, AETH is deepening its partnership with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary to establish, over the next five years, a Hispanic Innovation Hub for Excellence and Leadership. This initiative will significantly expand AETH's capacity to support pastors, lay leaders, and Bible Institutes, creating a collaborative ecosystem committed to reimagining theological education and leadership formation, especially within historically underserved communities. Through the Hispanic Innovation Hub, AETH will provide contextualized support for Hispanic pastors and those serving Hispanic congregations; enhance formation opportunities for Hispanic lay leaders and Bible Institutes; deliver faith-and-social-impact training tailored to multilingual and multigenerational communities; and enable Bible Institutes to develop new curricula in theology, leadership, and justice.

Simultaneously, along with the Candler School of Theology, AETH will transform its Antioquia Program into the Antioquia Accelerator, a next-generation initiative designed to meet the urgent need for theological formation among lay ministers and gifted leaders who often serve without access to higher education. Through this effort, AETH will strengthen Bible Institutes and other lay ministry formation efforts; provide laity and faculty training, collaborative research, and enable responsive resource development; support the Justo & Catherine González Resource Center and AETH's membership program; and work with Candler's Pitts Library to expand digital access to their Pitts Digital Library to all AETH members.

Together, these expanded partnerships affirm a vital reality: the future of theological education is collaborative. By strengthening long-term relationships and working across institutional boundaries, AETH and its partners are forging pathways for innovative, accessible, and community-centered formation that reflects the realities of today's church.

"This moment is a testament to the power of nurturing long-term, mission-driven partnerships," said Rev. Dr. Jessica Lugo, Executive Director of AETH. "Our expanded collaborations with Candler and Garrett show what is possible when institutions choose to grow together in service of the church. With these new funds, we are expanding access to high-quality, contextualized theological formation and resources for leaders who have served faithfully, often with limited resources. Today, we celebrate expanded opportunity, an opportunity for our people to be formed, educated, and empowered for the work God has called them to do."

These new funds represent a historic opportunity for Hispanic communities to access formation programs that honor their cultural, linguistic, and ministerial realities. By strengthening pastors, lay leaders, and Bible Institutes, AETH continues to advance excellence, equity, and innovation in theological education, ensuring that Hispanic leaders are equipped and supported for thriving ministry in a rapidly changing world. This announcement comes as part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s large-scale collaboration grants awarded in the latest round of its Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative, in which our two partners were recipients. Additional details can be found on their respective websites.

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