



## MEXICAN AMERICAN PROGRAM

*Higher learning.  
Real experience.  
Vital ministry.<sup>SM</sup>*



**SMU PERKINS**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



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Mexican American Program  
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Southern Methodist  
University

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### **Perkins School of Theology's Commitment to Hispanic-Latino/a Ministries**

*The primary mission of Perkins School of Theology, as a community devoted to theological study and teaching in the service of the church of Jesus Christ, is to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.*

*Perkins School of Theology affirms its relationships to the community of learning that is Southern Methodist University, to the universal church (inclusive, ecumenical, and global), to The United Methodist Church specifically, and to its particular geographical and cultural setting in the southwestern United States. Perkins has provided educational services for Hispanic-Latino/a ministries since the early 1950's.*



## Mexican American Program History

The Mexican American Program (MAP) was created in 1974 to prepare church leaders with knowledge and skills for effective ministry in Spanish-speaking contexts and cultures. The MAP remains committed to recruiting, preparing, and providing continuing education for people in ministry with Hispanics-Latino/as.

The roots of Perkins' focus on ministries relating specifically to its location in the south central United States can be traced back to the pioneering work of Dr. Alfredo Náñez (1935 B.D.). In 1945, Náñez met with SMU President Umphrey Lee, Perkins Dean Eugene Hawk, Methodist Bishops A. Frank Smith and Charles Selecman, Bishop Eleazar Guerra from Mexico, and others to plant the seeds for what would become the Mexican American Program nearly three decades later. In 1974, Dr. Roy D. Barton became the first director of the MAP. From that early date, Perkins School of Theology-SMU would become a center for training ministerial students, clergy, and laity for work in Spanish-speaking contexts and cultures.

The Mexican American Program is at the heart of Perkins School of Theology's leadership as a vibrant center of Hispanic-Latino/a theological thought and writing, and a vital advocate before the general church with and on behalf of Hispanic-Latino/a congregations and ministries.

## Program Areas

- MAP works in cooperation with the student group L@s Seminaristas and supports other curriculum and activities at Perkins that prepare ministerial students for ministries with Hispanics-Latino/as, including the Certificate in Hispanic Studies in all Perkins Master's degree programs.
- MAP provides short-term intensive training programs through the Spanish Language Licensing School and the Course of Study School for local pastors, and through the Lay Missioner and Pastor-Mentor Training Program for Developing Hispanic Ministry for pastors and laity.
- MAP provides a variety of continuing education events, symposia, consultations, and lectures on specific topics of interest to church leaders who are in ministry with Hispanics-Latino/as.
- MAP publishes the journal *Apuntes: Theological Reflections from the Hispanic-Latino Context*.
- MAP provides consulting and continuing education services for local congregations, clergy groups, and others who are interested in developing ministries with Hispanics-Latino/as.
- MAP provides, through the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy, a program of early awareness, mentoring, and leadership development for Hispanic-Latino/a youth and young adults. Participants learn to more fully discover and embrace their relationship with and service to God, and are encouraged to complete their education through high school, college, and beyond.

- As an advocate with and on behalf of Hispanic-Latino/a congregations and ministries, MAP works with several general agencies in The United Methodist Church, especially in the implementation of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, and with MARCHA (Methodists Associated to Represent the Cause of Hispanic Americans), The United Methodist Church's Hispanic-Latino/a caucus.

## For Additional Information

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