

John Glenn Girón

John Girón migrated to the US from Guatemala in the early eighties on a scholarship to go to college at The Hispanic Institute of Ministry in Houston Texas and then went on to earn a BA in Psychology at Lee University in Cleveland Tennessee. His parents were missionaries to their own people in Guatemala beginning in late 1930's, where rural areas of the country were passable only by foot or on horseback. They paved the way, along with a dozen others, for the Holiness Pentecostal movement that experienced an unprecedented revival. During his seminary training, at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary in Cleveland Tennessee, John understood that his calling and motivation for ministry would have to entail a life of service in the pursuit of building opportunities for the Latino community. Both Classical Pentecostalism and Catholic Popular Religion, while studying Liberation Theology in seminary, gave him a very specific voice that was able to express theologically and in practice what it meant to do justice and seek peace among the poor Latino immigrant community in the US. In 1993 he began his career as a Community Organizer in the East side of inner city Dallas. He organized Latino parents in school communities while spearheading with other stakeholders strategic collaborations with all sectors of the community to develop projects that would initiate change and transformation in disadvantaged neighborhoods in East Dallas. In 1999, he began to work for a national non-profit educational organization that provided professional services to school districts nationwide on issues of educating disadvantage immigrant communities in inner-city environments. As Programs Manager he oversaw the professional development training of teachers, parents and students. This led him to work professionally as a consultant for faith-based non-profits and school districts in areas of organizational and educational strategic planning, leadership development, and school development of at risk communities. He has worked with educational institutions in Central, South America and in Spain. From 2005 to 2016 he was the Regional Education Director for the South-central Hispanic Church of God (Cleveland, TN). He has served in their Regional Council Board, and has had other official appointments with the denomination. Along with his educational and organizational development professional efforts he has been the Senior Pastor of the El Alfarero Ministries Church and CEO of the Hispanic Institute of Ministry and Learning Center, an educational non-profit serving in the Pleasant Grove area of Dallas. Ministerial Development has been an important part of his experience and since 2007 has worked with several denominational and non-denominational efforts developing leadership programs and curriculum for the training of future pastors and ministers inter-denominationally. In 2015 he wrote a paper titled "The Future of U.S. Latino Pentecostal Theological Education in the Church of God: An Organizational Analysis and Projections." Commemorating the opening of the Center for Latino Studies at his Alma Matter. John believes that: "Church Ministry is where the Love and Justice of God intersect with the capacity of well trained men and women called to consciously organize in favor of our most marginalized fellow human beings. This is the place where ministry makes the most sense as a life's pursuit.