



Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear Bishop,

The Grace and the Peace of our Lord Jesus be with you in these times of uncertainty.

We know that your office, the cabinet, and the program staff are busy sharing information with the local churches in your Annual Conference on ways how a congregation can participate in the Federal CARES Act.

MARCHA and the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries (NPHLM), with the cooperation of, United Methodist Communications (UMCOM), General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) and Discipleship Ministries (GBOD), have created a webpage in Spanish with information to assist Hispanic/Latino congregations in the process of applying for the aid that the CARES Act provides. We have outlined the decision process to follow to apply for the funds, as required by our connectional system. This resource could supplement the information that your Annual Conference has sent to Hispanic/Latino pastors and congregations and enable them to seek further information through the links included in the webpage. Since the application is in English, pastors who are not fully bilingual may need local assistance and guidance in making sure all the required information is submitted on time.

The webpage can be found in the link below:

<https://nphlm.org/2020/ppp/>

Feel free to distribute it among pastors serving Hispanic/Latino congregations. As you know, time is of the essence, and we are concerned that banks may deny the opportunity to apply to small Latino congregations. We already encountered one case where it took the effective advocacy of the pastor and the intervention of the Annual Conference staff to change the policy of one of the largest banks of our nation.

We intend to continue to be in touch with Hispanic/Latino leaders to provide further useful information as it becomes available.

We appreciate your support in making sure that our Hispanic/Latino pastors are aware of this resource and apply for the funds which will support their ministry in these times of crisis.

Let us know if there are other ways MARCHA and the NPHLM can be of assistance to the Hispanic/Latino congregations.

Please know that we are holding you, your family, and your Annual Conference in our prayers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sally Dyck".

Bishop Sally Dyck
President
National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lyssette Perez".

Rev. Lyssette Perez
President
MARCHA