



Introduction

New Camino is a Latino ministry seminar especially designed for diocesan bishops, staff and congregations open to exploring a new way of getting involved in an English-based, Latino/Hispanic ministry. The New Camino seminar presents the changing reality of Latino ministry impacted by the dramatic socio-demographic evolution of the Latino population, including its rapid pace of acculturation and English-speaking preferences. The seminar also addresses the stereotypical thinking concerning the Latino population which shields the obvious and palpable presence of the Later-Generation Latinos. Based on its 50-year track record in promoting and supporting traditional Latino ministry, the Office of Latino/Hispanic Ministries sees the future of Episcopal Latino ministry to be composed of two parallel tracks: 1) the traditional Spanish-speaking ministry aimed primarily at Latino immigrants, which must be continued and fully supported by our church, and 2) an emerging Latino ministry undertaken primarily by “Anglo” congregations aimed specifically at the U.S acculturated, later-Generation Latinos who are culturally and linguistically open to worshipping with English-speaking congregations. New Camino specifically aims to helping Anglo congregations which might’ve thought that all Latino ministry has to be done in Spanish. The Latino world has changed as has the entire US, dear friends. A paradigm shift has occurred in Latino ministry and the shift is beginning in the Episcopal Church!

In addition to reading the socio-demographic trends, the Latino Office also derives this two-prong, ministry approach based on its more current experience with teaching a series of Latino ministry competency courses held in person in select seminaries across the country, and through virtual seminars. These are called, the Episcopal Latino Ministry Competency (ELMC) course. Through our interaction with bishops, priests and lay leaders involved in these seminars, we have discovered that some congregations prefer to continue answering God’s call to minister to the traditional, Spanish-speaking, Latino immigrant population. However, there is an increasing number of Anglo congregations more open to developing a new form of multicultural worship setting that is attractive to the Later-Generation, English-speaking Latinos/as. New Camino specifically aims to helping Episcopal congregations wanting to explore this English-based, Latino ministry option.