

2022 Hispanic Church Planting Report

Manuel Abarca Sáez, Director of Hispanic Church Planting
Friday, February 24, 2023

Greetings! It has been an exciting year, and God has kept the vision of church planting fresh and alive in our hearts and minds.

We are very grateful to Pastor Bob Rowley for his legacy of service and investment in Hispanic church planting, to Pastor Brent Burckart for his commitment to church planting and support of church planters, and to Katie Arnold for her dedication, patience and service.

In our district, there are currently 11 Hispanic-led churches: five are independent congregations, and six are congregations serving and partnering with an autonomous, established English-speaking EFCA church that launched a Spanish-speaking or bilingual congregation and providing what is called a Second Language Service.

One of these churches, [Lugar de Él](#), launched last year on Palm Sunday in partnership with The Table Community Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Pastor Javier Santana and his wife, Marielys Alicea, continue to water the (church) plant and are watching God steadily grow it.

We are happy to report that we have two church planters who are gathering core groups and preparing to launch in the near future:

1. Pastor Gonzalo Mateluna is continuing in his church planting residency at [Vista Community Church](#) in San Antonio. Gonzalo is learning much as he leads and shepherds both Vista's ministry teams while gathering and leading a core group preparing to launch the Spanish-speaking/bilingual congregation.
2. Pastor Luis Acevedo has been in the process of gathering people and preparing to plant a Spanish-speaking congregation with [Stone Oak Bible Church](#) in San Antonio, and in January, they started a Spanish-speaking small group as another step closer to building a solid core group.

RHIS (Red Hispana de Iglesias Saludables, which in English translates to Network of Healthy Spanish Churches) continues to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom with the pastors taking turns facilitating the discussions. This past year, we covered a variety of topics including emotional health, cultural relevance and best practices for church planting, , and we have developed a strong sense of unity. In August, we held our first family RHIS retreat at Trinity Pines Conference Center, and it was a great blessing to all who came!

The current influx of Spanish-speaking immigrants provides a beautiful opportunity for the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider how your church could be involved in this mission through finances, coaching, prayer, or starting your own [Second Language Service](#)!

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2023 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
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