

MIENTRAS TANTO

The Rev. Rubén F Durán

The Rev. Rubén F Durán serves as Senior Advisor for New Ministry Development in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He promotes Synodical mission strategies, local initiatives and innovative models nurturing life changing relationships in new and existing communities of faith in the USA and the Caribbean. He also resources 352 new mission congregations reaching people in multiple contexts throughout the country. He organizes on-going training opportunities for lay and rostered leaders and teaches at various seminaries.

Rubén is a native of Lima, Peru, South America. He served parishes in the Seattle, Washington and Los Angeles, California areas prior to becoming Associate to the Bishop and Mission Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. He has also served as Associate Director for Latino Outreach, Director for New Congregations, and Director for Congregational Vitality in the ELCA churchwide offices prior to his current position. He is also serving as Interim Pr. at New Hope-Nueva Esperanza Lutheran Church in Aurora, IL.

Rubén is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California; Trinity Lutheran College in Seattle, Washington; and, the Escuela Nacional de Turismo in Lima, Peru. Ruben and his wife, the Rev. Jean Marie Duran, are parents of 3 adult daughters and grandparents of Arabella (9 years old), Teddy (3 years old), and Evelyn (3 also).



Luis R. Torres-Hostos, PhD

Dr. Torres-Hostos is Founding Dean and Professor of the School of Social Work (SSW) at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, TX. Under his leadership, the SSW is playing a key role in promoting health equity and social justice in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) and beyond. Among other initiatives, the School of Social Work has increased the number of faculty; expanded community-engaged research in topics impacting RGV communities; strengthened educational initiatives, developed bilingual courses, and increased student enrollment; developed new partnerships with agencies throughout the RGV, including the Latin American consulates; established an *Office for International Social Work* and a *Human Mobility Institute*; and is working on the development of a dual Master's in Social Work and Master's in Public Health and a binational doctoral program in social work. His research focuses on health disparities, social determinants of health, and community engagement with minority communities, and has been funded by federal, state, and private entities. Dr. Torres-Hostos has traveled and worked extensively in Latin America and has ongoing collaborations in Mexico, Central America, and Puerto Rico. He serves on local, national and international boards, including the *National Alliance for Hispanic Families*; SAMHSA's *National Hispanic/Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center*; the *American Red Cross South Texas Chapter*; and the *Red Internacional de Investigación e Intervención en Migración (RIIIM)* at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon, Monterrey, México. A native of Puerto Rico, Dr. Torres has a doctorate in clinical psychology from Fordham University in New York City and over 30 years of clinical, teaching, administrative, and research experience at the intersection of social work, psychology, public health, medicine, and faith-based communities.

