Celebrating Hispanic and Latin American History Month in Times of Challenge

Every year, from September 15 to October 15, communities across the United States observe Hispanic and Latin American History Month. For the church, this observance is more than just a cultural recognition—it is a spiritual practice of honoring the image of God reflected in Hispanic and Latin American siblings, past and present. At a time when immigration laws face scrutiny and anti-immigrant rhetoric has grown louder, this month provides the Florida Conference, United Church of Christ, an opportunity to proclaim God's justice, celebrate the gifts of diversity, and stand with those whose dignity is often challenged.

We affirm that every person is made in God's image. Celebrating Hispanic and Latin American History Month emphasizes this truth by highlighting the rich histories, languages, traditions, and contributions of our siblings. In honoring this heritage, we envision a Beloved Community where no culture or story is marginalized.

Today, Hispanic and Latin American siblings often live under the weight of unjust systems. Punitive immigration policies separate families, migrant workers face exploitation, and public discourse too often caricatures or devalues them. As followers of Christ, we cannot stay silent. Celebrating this month is an act of resistance, reminding policymakers, communities, and ourselves that our siblings are not statistics or strangers but beloved children of God with names, stories, and sacred worth.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that the body of Christ is made up of many members, each essential. To overlook the gifts of Hispanic and Latin American communities is to weaken the entire body. Their faith traditions—whether rooted in liberation theology, lively worship practices, or grassroots organizing—invite the wider church to deepen discipleship and pursue justice. By honoring this heritage, we allow ourselves to be transformed by perspectives born out of struggle, resilience, and hope.

This month is more than symbolic recognition. It is an invitation to:

- Learn the stories of Hispanic and Latin American leaders in your community and in the wider church.
- Advocate for humane and just immigration policies that align with our faith's commitment to hospitality.
- Incorporate songs, prayers, and liturgies from Hispanic traditions into worship.
- Build partnerships with Hispanic and Latin American congregations and organizations in your area.

Celebrating Hispanic and Latin American History Month is an integral part of our shared faith and community, embodying a gospel that breaks down walls of hostility and builds a beloved community across every border.

Let Hispanic and Latin American History Month remind every church: a community shaped by the love of Christ is spacious enough to hold every story, celebrate every culture, and stand boldly with those who are vulnerable. This is gospel witness, and it begins with celebration, courageous listening, and love in action.

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Search and Call and Congregational Care
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