

Hispanic Task Force Minutes
Of Meeting Held at the CNH District Headquarters in Livermore on
Thursday, March 17, 2005

- 1) The meeting started with a prayer in Spanish by Felix Renteria
- 2) The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with corrections.
- 3) Herb Burch sent his report on Circuit 9
- 4) Pastor Enrique Vallejo, reported that 1st Immanuel Church of San Jose has become involved with a Hispanic missionary society along with churches of Stockton and Tracy.
 - a. As a consequence, pastor Vallejo is able to put more time on outreach to Hispanics and is available for pastoral activities in other areas.
 - b. He also stated that the ordained deacons, under his supervision, are becoming more independent leading the services.
 - c. Pastor Vallejo attended the Mission Action Councils (MAC) meeting in Sacramento on March 5, 2005 which he said was an extraordinary learning experience.
 - d. Pastor Vallejo has an invitation to Seaside on April 21, to get a Hispanic activity started.
 - e. Pastor Vallejo visited St Paul Church in Mountain View, which for more than a year has been serving a group of Hispanic children formed around three Hispanic families. Mr. Richards, president of the congregation was present in our meeting.
 - f. After his report, pastor Vallejo was asked how the congregation accepted the leadership of the two deacons as compared with pastor Vallejo's. He answered that they go slowly and that it tends to be hard.
- 5) Felix Renteria of Tracy reported about his wife's health problems which have precluded him from some activities in the leadership of this congregation. He said some 20 persons left because they did not agree with children's baptism, but there are new comers attending the services. A portion of the group would like to meet in Patterson. The Hispanic congregation does not relate to the English speaking congregation of Tracy.
- 6) Deacon Martin Ureña of St. Andrew Stockton presented his report. The Hispanic congregation has moved to the old chapel and the now meet at 11 AM on Sundays. The Hispanic children join in the standard Sunday School class in English. On Fridays evening the congregation celebrates a contemporary style service, "Servicio de Alabanza y Oración". A new theological class on "Jesus de Nazareth" (Jesus of Nazareth) is starting, to prepare new members and leaders.

- 7) Pastor Rev John Glover, also of St. Andrew Stockton, reported that the changes in schedule having the services in Spanish and English at the same time, as well as the Hispanic children joining the Sunday school, allow for better integration of the two congregations which is seen as a very positive development. He also informed that the English speaking congregation will have a campaign to increase funding for outreach, including mainly the Hispanic ministry. The funding will cover materials, equipments and supplies. Hispanics should be challenged to set up their own goals to assume more participation in funding.
- 8) Pastor Luis Alvarado of Napa presented his report. He thanked Bethel Lutheran church of San Francisco for the time of preparation and growth he experienced there. He said he is now a veteran who has come through many battles. Now he leads a congregation that was Pentecostal. It was a group of around sixty people with several disparaging beliefs, now reduced to some thirty. Pastor Alvarado has dealt with those issues. "Iglesia Cristiana de la Comunidad" wants to change its name. Its leaders include a psychologist who will be leading a seminar on violence in the family. They meet in the building that belonged to Faith Lutheran Church after this church closed and had its members join Saint John. The building is in a "stable" area of the city.
- 9) Kathy Bandershek, of Bethel and Grace combined churches in San Francisco, informed there were more than 500 children – mostly Chinese and Hispanic for the Halloween event. Pastor Terry Chang has started an outreaching "Conversation Partners" program. Kathy said she is not dropping from the Hispanic Task Force because she is hoping something in Spanish will get soon started.
- 10) Pastor James Sorensen, of Salinas Reported he had a "Quinceañera" service and party in English. He has plans for a parochial school, starting with Kindergarten next fall.
- 11) Guillermo Melgar informed succinctly about the small Bible study group that continues gathering in Ceres.
- 12) Richard Anderson, of Mountain View, informed about a small multicultural outreach in his church, which includes a group of Hispanic children.

Next meeting will be on June 16 at 10:00 am in the District building.

Guillermo Melgar