

Ver-Juzgar-Actuar
See- Judge(Discern)- Act

Process for Hispanic/Latino ministry

Third step – To Act
What does act is about?

“And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will : be though clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.” Luke 5: 12, 13

How many times we have preach or heard about Jesus healing a person? This is probably one of the most amazing acts of love from our Savior and a manifestation of a transformational power.

When we read this passage we also see that Jesus healing desire was beyond just health. It was also bring the person to a better status, future and restoring the person’s dignity.

It is under the same value, that God keeps acting among us and *through us* to make a difference in people’s lives.

To act in the Hispanic/Latino ministry is to be a “warm body” to manifest God’s love to people. Therefore, it is important for us that the actions we do as West Ohio Conference in our community, are a fruit of the time of discernment (judge). But how can we act effectively? Are we able to do it even though we do not speak Spanish?

There are two different ways of acting but each of them transforms the people’s lives.

- 1) *Act as a point of entry:* These are activities that will help your UMC to connect with the Hispanic/Latino community. Some examples are:
 - a. **English as a Second Language (ESL):** This is the most popular ministry. It helps the Latino community to get better jobs, be able to be more interdependent and empowers them to interact with the English speaking people. Many of the ESLs happen in the neighborhoods where there is a larger presence of Hispanic people, churches and restaurants. Maumee Watershed District is thinking that the restaurants could be the best option to offer these classes. No Spanish knowledge is required for the volunteers.
 - b. **Children ministries.** The majority of the Hispanic children are bilingual and many of them are American citizens. They struggle with the fact that at home, there is very little support for their education needs. The parents are working full time and many of

them just finish 5th grade. Homework, choosing a college, to learn about where to get scholarships is almost impossible. In the area of Toledo, "from 2000 Hispanic students who enter in elementary school, just 80 finish High school" (Jose Luna- Counselor for Toledo Schools) Therefore, any program like After School ministry, Homework support, etc. will bring to them the opportunity of receiving a better education in their future.

- c. **Fiestas:** What would you do if the place where you live uses a different language everywhere? Movies are in English, City events are in English, places of gathering have no translation in their information, T.V. does not translate local news. Besides that, you work 2 or 3 jobs, so there are few times to have recreational activities. Therefore, to bring opportunities for celebration of important events for their culture are a source of strength and validate their identity. Few days ago, we had a "Posada" (Advent party) in Lima Ohio. Around 100 people were present there. While we celebrate and validate the Mexican traditions, we also preach the Gospel to them. It was a wonderful opportunity of connecting, enjoying and loving every person in the area.

2) *Act as a long term ministry:* These are activities that are a result of learning from the Hispanic community needs and desires through the interaction with your UMC. Some examples are:

- a. **Worship experiences:** These are regular opportunities of singing, preaching, interacting in Spanish where the spiritual needs are fulfilled.
- b. **Immigration clinics:** Many Hispanic people have been the target of crimes by persons who call themselves lawyers and request huge amounts of money to review their legal status and help them with their visas. The UMC has different ways to provide immigration lawyers that can help in clarifying information.

In 2010, we have planned 3 fiestas around the District: February 21st, March 6th and March 7th where we will explain more specific opportunities to do ministry in this area. Please come! Enjoy the fiesta while you learn how to act and be an agent of God's love and transformation. Call the office for more information or e-mail at: lupinatodd@yahoo.com

In this Christmas season, remember that you are loved, that you are God's creation and receive from Him the blessings that are ready for you.

Bendiciones de Dios
Lupina