



OPEN COMMUNICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY

More than \$480,000 awarded to 23 Bible Institutes in the U.S. and Puerto Rico

May 7, 2025 – The Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH), in collaboration with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, is proud to announce the launch of the first cohort of its Capacity Building for Bible Institute Program, made possible through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. In 2025, this five-year initiative will distribute over \$480,000 in subgrants to 23 Bible Institutes serving Latino/a communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

This program represents a significant step in strengthening the institutional capacity of Bible Institutes, many of which serve as vital grassroots theological education hubs for Hispanic church leaders. Each selected institution will receive micro-grants of up to \$21,000 in funding, alongside coaching, leadership development, peer learning, and strategic planning support to enhance their sustainability and long-term impact.

"This first cohort represents a significant moment in our commitment to promote excellent and relevant Hispanic theological education at the grassroots level with an ample geographical representation across the nation and traditions," said Rev. Dr. Jessica Lugo, Executive Director of AETH. "Through this Capacity Building Program, we are not only affirming the incredible work already taking place in our communities through Bible Institutes, but we are also investing in their future—creating the conditions for long-term strength, innovation, leadership and theological depth."

The awarded Bible Institutes will use the funds in strategic ways to strengthen their infrastructure and mission. Projects include Board Development, Faculty Capacitation, enhancement of Technological and Bibliographical Resources, and upgrades to administrative systems and equipment. These investments are tailored to the unique contexts and developmental stages of each institute, and are designed to foster innovation, improve governance, and expand access to high-quality theological education.

The 23 Bible Institutes selected for the 2025 Capacity Building Cohort are:

1. Instituto Bíblico Rvdo. Juan Figueroa Umpierre - PR
2. Latin American Theological Seminary – CA
3. Universidad Teológica ECHAM – PR
4. EFM College – CA
5. RLA College - Los Angeles School of Theology – CA



6. Colegio Biblos – FL
7. Bíblica Virtual - CBF – GA
8. Fraternidad Latinoamericana de Adiestramiento Ministerial Alternativo (FLAMA) – IN
9. Mizpa Christian University – PR
10. Educación Bautista en Línea – PR
11. Universidad Teológica del Caribe, Bible Institutes Division – PR
12. Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos (CHET) – CA
13. University of Leadership and Ministry (UNILIMI) – NC
14. Latin American Bible Institute (LABI College) – CA
15. Spirit and Life Seminary – TN
16. Hispanic Bible School – IL
17. INTECA-SETEMIN – CA
18. American Baptist Theological Center – CA
19. Instituto Bíblico Ebenezer – IN
20. California Christian University – CA
21. Harbor Genesis Christian College – CA
22. Revelation University – FL
23. Masada Biblical Seminary – CA

The Advisory Team, composed of experts from multiple regions, selected the cohort after a competitive and rigorous application process. The grants will be disbursed in two installments between June and December 2025, with participating institutes reporting on progress and outcomes through a structured evaluation framework.

For more information on the Capacity Building Program or the awarded Bible Institutes, please visit <https://www.aeth.org/capacity-building>.

More details: info@aeth.org

