

Mennonite Education Agency's purpose is to strengthen the church through education.

Historic Graduation Ceremony



In September, MEA graduated eleven students from the Hispanic Ministries' two educational programs: [IBA](#) (*Instituto Bíblico Anabautista*— Anabaptist Biblical Institute) and [SeBAH](#) (*Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano*— Hispanic Anabaptist Biblical Seminary). The service held at Hesston (Kansas) College marked the first formal graduation ceremony for SeBAH since the program's inception in 2010. It also marked the first time two sitting college presidents attended a Hispanic Ministries graduation: President Joe Manickam from Hesston College gave the keynote address and President David Boshart from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana, offered the invocation. Hesston College Professor Michele Hershberger (at left with graduate Yanira López) anointed each graduate. Marco Güete, director of

MEA's Hispanic Ministries programs, described the experience as meaningful and moving:

"These graduates will bring their knowledge and skills to strengthen their congregations and build new disciples of Jesus, who may also become leaders in their churches. It is a beautiful cycle that ripples out beyond this moment."

First Spanish language Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

MEA's Hispanic Ministries' program SeBAH (*Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispana*), has entered into a historic partnership with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) to develop the first Spanish language graduate certificate in theological studies. The course of study for the **SeBAH-AMBS Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies** will be taught in Spanish and is designed to provide professionals, congregational leaders, and bivocational pastors with a foundation in theological and biblical study. The certificate requires 21 credit hours and can be completed in two years. Graduates will then be eligible to enroll in AMBS master's programs. MEA's Director of Hispanic Ministries Marco Güete deserves high praise for a lifetime of work and perseverance leading to the development of this program.

"The cooperation between SeBAH and AMBS opens a range of quality theological study opportunities for Hispanic leaders in the United States and Spanish-speaking countries. We are pioneering graduate-level theological education in Spanish." – Marco Güete

Hispanic Ministries Outreach Goes Digital



MEA's Hispanic Ministries has offered programs of study and continuing education courses for many years. Now they've moved into digital faith formation. The ezine, "*MenoTicias*," (Mennonite News) and the podcast, "*Un Momento de Anabautismo*" (An Anabaptist Moment) aim to inspire and teach about Mennonites and Anabaptists, the vision of the 21st century Anabaptist-Mennonite Church, and what it means to walk with Jesus. You can subscribe to these resources at www.HispanicMennoEdu.org/menoticias/.

Hispanic Ministries director to resume walk on *el Camino de Santiago* to support IBA



Marco Güete is on the road again. This May, the director of Hispanic Ministries at MEA will continue his journey along *el Camino de Santiago* (the Way of Saint James) in Spain to raise awareness and funds for MEA's Anabaptist Biblical Institute, known as IBA (*Instituto Bíblico Anabautista*). This will be his third trek along *el Camino*. In September 2019, Güete walked 164 miles from Saint Jean Pied de Port, France, to Burgos, Spain, and raised around \$16,000. Last year, Marco was joined by his wife Sandra. Together they walked 157 miles from Burgos to Foncebadón in Spain, raising close to \$18,500. This May, they will rejoin the trail in Astorga and walk 162 miles to Santiago de Compostela. They expect this final walk will take 16 days. People have been surprised and inspired by Marco's journey. At 72 years young, this is no small goal. What drives him to return to *el Camino* again and again? "The students," he says. "I am inspired by the IBA students and their deep desire to know Jesus and understand the Bible. They feel called to leadership in the church, and I want them to have the resources and education they need to navigate the Christian journey. The Hispanic Mennonite church is

growing," he added. "We want these congregations to have well-trained disciples of Jesus to lead them. Keeping the program accessible and affordable is a priority, and fundraising is critical. Marco hopes his walks will raise awareness and inspire generosity within the church. Online gifts can be made at www.MennoniteEducation.org/donate or Paypal.me/MennoniteEd. Checks can be sent to Mennonite Education Agency, 3145 Suite 2, Elkhart, IN 46517, memo: el Camino/IBA.

Mennonite Learning Network



MEA operates the Mennonite Learning Network, a Moodle platform for online learning. Current partners include SeBAH, [Semilla](#), [Mennonite Mission Network – Sent training](#), the [Collaborative MBA program](#), and the [Doctorate in Nursing Practice consortium](#). MEA is shaping plans to make this platform available more broadly to MC USA area conferences as an online learning platform they can access at reduced costs compared to getting the services on their own.

MEA Investment Fund

Since 1995, [The MEA Investment Fund](#) has served MC USA-affiliated schools, congregations, area conferences, and other programs with Mennonite education-related assets that are integrated into an investment pool. Pooling funds offer many benefits to the participants. Today, over twenty entities participate in the pool. As of January 31, 2023, it was valued at \$197.2 million.

New scholarship for BIPOC students

MEA is developing a new scholarship that would encourage BIPOC students (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), who are members of MC USA congregations, to attend higher education institutions affiliated with MC USA. Currently, MEA is completing the details of this new scholarship with the goal of launching it for the 2023 – 24 academic year. You can contribute at www.MennoniteEducation.org/donate and indicate "BIPOC scholarship."

"At Home" Resources



Inherited from our friends at Mennonite Church Canada, the At Home worship guide series leads individuals and families through the days and weeks of Lent and Advent with the goal of deepening their experience of the season. Daily and weekly Scriptures are woven with worship rituals, prayers, activities, and background information. **Whether at home or in the classroom**, MEA is committed to helping teachers and parents as they impact children and young people. Available in Spanish and English, Lent at Home 2023 can be downloaded free at MEA's website: www.MennoniteEducation.org/Resources/Pages/Lent-at-Home.

On behalf of the staff and board of directors, thank you for supporting Anabaptist-Mennonite education.

Submitted by Michael Danner
Executive Director