



Dear Brother Howe,

The National Hispanic Baptist Network (NHBN) is fully committed to fulfilling our mission to connect on mission, contribute resources, celebrate what God is doing among us, and increase communication and collaboration between our Hispanic churches and the entities of the SBC and the Executive Committee. While we understand the Executive Committee's responsibility to ensure the financial welfare and stability of the entity, on behalf of our more than 3,300 churches, the NHBN would like to express its disappointment at the elimination of the position of Vice President of Hispanic Relations and Mobilization. It would be helpful for Hispanic Baptists to know what plans the SBC Executive Committee has to restore this position when funds become available and what kind of a priority would be given to this.

We believe that the decision to eliminate this position is unhelpful, short-sighted, and leaves Hispanic Baptists with no representation on the Executive Committee as well as the Board of trustees (again). This represents a step backwards in our communication and collaboration when we should be moving forward together to reach and disciple the lost in the U.S. and beyond (including the more than 52,000,000 lost Hispanics in the U.S.).

Here is what some of our faithful and concerned SBC Hispanic leaders are saying:

Pete Ramirez, Executive Director of the California Southern Baptist Convention:

"I understand that budget constraints have led the Executive Committee to make some difficult staffing decisions. The decision to remove both Luis Lopez and Peter Yanez, however, has left our partnering ethnic family with a deep sense of discouragement. Their work is invaluable and made a positive impact in building unity throughout our SBC family, especially among groups of various languages and cultures. With a void in these important positions, where only diverse leadership can understand and minister to these specific differences, I'm not sure that the EC will be able to fulfill this vital initiative."

Jesse Rincones, Executive Director of Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas:

"This is devastating news for the over 3,300 Hispanic Baptist congregations in the SBC. I fear that the loss of Luis Lopez as the Associate Vice President for Hispanic Relations does not convey being "fully committed" to relating with a fellowship that, if it were a state convention, would rank 4th largest."

Emanuel Roque, Hispanic Multicultural Catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention:

“Continued appreciation for awareness and growth of Great Commission work and relations among ethnic churches as an essential part of our great SBC family, as has been the trend in many other areas, is crucial as we move forward together during this time of incredible gospel opportunity in the mission field all around us.”

In light of the preceding, we respectfully request that you meet with us in person to establish a more constructive and fruitful way forward that will result in the expansion of God’s kingdom and the edification of His Church.

“so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God” 1 Kings 8:60

Dr. Bruno Molina

Executive Director