

Workshop Summary:

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS FOR IMMIGRANT MINISTRIES

This workshop was led by the Reverend Angel Suárez-Valera, Associate for New Immigrant Congregational Support for the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Louisville.

The leader, Angel Suárez-Valera, began by stating that in 30-40 years there will be no majority population in the United States; each ethnicity, except Anglo, will be increasing. Multicultural churches are becoming cross-cultural. Rather than providing ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, we need to furnish EFL classes (English as a Foreign Language) since, in many instances, with Hispanic/Latino congregations for example, the members already have two or more languages or dialects among them. The five main ethnicities in immigrant ministries are African American, Native American, Latino, Middle Eastern and Asian. All others are grouped together as other immigrant ministries.

Workshop description developed by Mary Lynn Walters