



Confraternidad Evangélica Latinoamericana

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President
THE NEW CONELA
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CONELA, the Evangelical Alliance of Latin America, is made up of pastoral alliances, ministers, denominations, and the leaders of Christian service agencies (NGO's) in Latin America.

In unity with all its members and partners, the executive committee and the regional vice presidents serve by connecting and representing the *"Life and Thought"* of the Evangelical Church in Latin America.

Our Inheritance

We are grateful to God and to those who have preceded us, from whom we have inherited a vibrant expression of faith and life in the Gospel. The New CONELA receives this legacy as our compass to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Identity: In the midst of struggles and challenges during our last twenty years we have assimilated our identity as evangelical churches. The Word of God and the proclamation of the Gospel have been the roots of our faith and mission, based on a personal and transformational relationship with Jesus Christ.

We continue to express ourselves from this identity in the future.

Inclusivity: Assured of our identity, we understand our responsibility in having inclusive relationships with those who have different *expressions of faith* at an interdenominational, inter confessional, and inter religious level. We also understand that our principles and values must influence, and build relationships with different *sectors of society*, including educators, scientists, artists, political and business leaders.

Transformation: This is a word that ministers, pastoral alliances, presidents of countries, local churches, and the previous leadership of CONELA have identified as a priority for *expression and action* in our beloved Latin America. It is a prophetic word that needs to be creatively expressed in our continent.

As we move towards the future, we identify ourselves with the vision of personal and community impact with the following characteristics:

1. Integrity. The focus is character formation. That is, to live out the biblical principles and values.
2. Integral. The focus is the whole person; spirit, soul, intellect, emotions, and physical body. The stewardship of the earth is also part of the whole person.
3. Visionary: That is from the communities of faith towards the greater society.

This vision of “**holistic transformation**” defines our mission as follows:

I. It is the contribution of Latin America to the holistic fulfillment of the great commission. We must supersede the divisive struggles and debates between the rich and the poor, liberals or conservatives, globalization or nationalization, mega churches or local ones. We are going to express our “whole faith” based on these two biblical principles;

-Mathew 28: Proclamation. The last words of Jesus before his ascension.

-Mathew 25: Social Transformation. The first words of Jesus upon his return.

This requires a *prophetic voice and action* in our continent. The social challenges of social injustice, abortion, poverty, the biblical definition of marriage, euthanasia, corruption, AIDS, the destruction of the environment, as well as violence at a family, community, national and international levels, represent our mission field.

We declare ourselves decidedly pro-life (on earth as it is in heaven), and in favor of living out the biblical principles and values of justice, integrity, community development, morality, forgiveness, tolerance, reconciliation, restoration, and peace.

For those who believe that the “whole transformation” of society from the communities of faith to the larger communities is idealistic and not realistic, we affirm that what is **apparently impossible is actually inevitable** according to the Scriptures.

All things are subject to the headship of Jesus Christ. The Word of God affirms that **“...in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ..”** Ephesians 1:9-10

In God’s time, it is **inevitable** that all things will be reconciled in Jesus:

“...For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” Colossians 1:19-20

Therefore, we commit ourselves to expressing our faith with grace and truth in all of the spheres of our society. The worlds of education, politics, economics, sports, science, the arts, and the environment form part of “all things” that will be reconciled.

II. Continental Expressions of Unity: Unity is more than a good concept or theology. It is a principle that needs to be expressed.

We therefore propose to the church of Jesus Christ in Latin America that we express our unity these days at a continental level:

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- Continental Day of Prayer (Easter Holy Thursday)
- Continental Day of the Bible (October 31)
 - March for Jesus
 - Children with Jesus
- Continental Day for Social Service (One day, Week 1 July)

The New CONELA understands that serving our continent in this manner implies the following goals:

1. To have members, partners, and mission networks “from the whole church to the whole world, including creation.”
2. To extend ourselves to all of the Spanish speaking islands and countries in Latin America, as well as Brazil, Spain and Portugal in Iberian America. We will also continue in fellowship with the Spanish speaking church leaders of different parts of the world, including the USA and Canada.
3. We will champion local models of transformation. This means we promote or sponsor local and national initiatives that reflect the *thought and action* of the church in Latin America.

We call upon the ministers, denominational leaders, para (pro) church service agencies, christian professionals, and pastoral associations in Latin America to express their unity with CONELA in our united mission to be transformed individuals, families, churches, communities and nations; until all things “*reunir en el todas las cosas.*” Ephesians 1:10

Richard Luna was born in Ecuador and currently lives in Florida (USA). He ministered with the church under conflict and persecution for 23 years as the Latin American Director for the ministry of Open Doors. He founded Oasis Life International, and is the current Latin American Director for Book of Hope International.