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Communication Channel Opens Between Andrews President and Pastors: University Updates a Key Lake Union Group During Weekly Meeting

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▲ Green Bay Hispanic Church members celebrate their organizing into a church.

Green Bay Hispanic Church Organized

On Dec. 30, 2023, the Green Bay Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Company celebrated their organization as a church. The service took place in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Conference administrators were present for this special occasion. President Titus Naftanaila gave the message and Secretary/Treasurer Amir Gulzar oversaw the organization process to change from company to church status. Evelio Miranda,

Hispanic ministries coordinator, and district pastor, Cristofe Guzmán, were also present, each with their respective families.

“It was a joy to see not only fellow church members but also friends and visitors praise God and rejoice in this historic moment for the congregation,” Miranda said. ■

Lloyd Leodie D. Sols is communication director of the Chicago Seventh-day Adventist International Church and **Evelio Miranda** is Wisconsin Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator.

FRIDAY MORNING
Fellowship
WITH *Andrews*



▲ During the “Friday Morning Fellowship with Andrews” meetings, three university leaders, including President John Wesley Taylor V (above), and about 10 pastors pray together, with one of the pastors sharing a devotional with the group.

Communication Channel Opens Between Andrews President and Pastors

UNIVERSITY UPDATES A KEY LAKE UNION GROUP DURING WEEKLY MEETING

THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE BENEFITS FROM AND CELEBRATES THE VITAL MINISTRY PROVIDED BY PASTORS IN THE MICHIGAN, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, WISCONSIN AND LAKE REGION CONFERENCES.

What is sometimes lost track of, however, is ministry provided in so many additional ways. Consider the academies and

grade schools, healthcare ministries, literature, community services, outreach and engagement and more. And, of course, a vital

institution of higher education – Andrews University.

Late last summer, Andrews University created a new channel for communicating regularly with pastors across the Lake Union. This weekly virtual gathering with different small groups of pastors takes place via Zoom and is called “Friday Morning Fellowship with Andrews.”

During the Friday meetings, three university leaders and about 10 pastors pray together, with one of the pastors sharing a devotional with the group. In turn, university representatives provide important spiritual, academic and campus life updates with the pastors, and engage in dialogue, answering questions.

Six of these fellowships took place in November and December, enabling interactions with more than 50 pastors. Follow-up surveys showed that pastors greatly appreciated this intentional outreach from Andrews University, and that pastors feel better equipped to share timely and relevant information about Andrews with their congregations following these discussions.

“I and other members of the Andrews leadership team have been so blessed by praying with our pastors and hearing their affirmation of our active ministries on campus – and by our ability to let pastors know directly how much we at Andrews value the contributions

of these pastors who serve on the front lines of ministry across the Lake Union,” said Dr. John Wesley Taylor V, president of Andrews University. “Friday Morning Fellowship with Andrews has exceeded our expectations in a variety of ways, including deepening our relationships with this vital group.”

The new winter series of Friday Morning Fellowship with Andrews is underway (they take place from 9:00 – 9:45 ET on most Fridays). Email invitations have been sent to interested pastors in each conference, but for

any pastors who may not have seen this invitation, you may write to president@andrews.edu and let them know which of the following dates you could be available to participate: March 1 or 8. When you write, please include the name of the church(es) you pastor, as well as your conference. You will then be scheduled for a specific date and receive a calendar invitation soon thereafter.

In addition to pastors, interested academy principals and teachers may participate in these upcoming fellowships. Please write

to the same email address and include the academy you work for, and your role there, along with your available dates.

We praise God for this collaborative ministry and the commitment to strengthened relationships as our leaders explore ways to amplify the ministry of one another in service to the Lord. ■

Jeff Boyd is director of university communication for Andrews University.

Academy Students Serve in the Dominican Republic

IN EARLY JANUARY, A GROUP OF 41 STUDENTS FROM ANDREWS ACADEMY IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN, SPENT TEN DAYS OF THEIR HOLIDAY BREAK SERVING ON A PROJECT WITH MARANATHA VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL, A SUPPORTING MINISTRY OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH.

The group laid block walls for the Ágape Adventist congregation’s new church building in the Dominican Republic. After years of worshipping in whatever available space they could find, the 45-member congregation is grateful and excited to finally have an official church building of their own.

“The church said we were an answer to their prayer,” said Gina Pellegrini, project coordinator for the team. “They were really grateful and thankful that things worked out for them to be able to have [a church building].”

In addition to construction work, student volunteers led community outreach efforts. They hosted a five-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) program for local children, which saw a turnout of about 50 kids each night. While this group of highschoolers taught kids about Jesus through songs, crafts, and Bible stories, other students shared the gospel with adults during a five-night evangelistic sermon series for the local Adventist congregation and surrounding community.

Every other year, Andrews Academy students travel somewhere in the world to serve a community in need. The school collaborated with Maranatha on past trips, until the number of students signing up began to dwindle and the COVID-19 pandemic limited travel options. After arranging trips independently for several years, Andrews Academy gained



▲ Students from Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs, Michigan, were an answer to prayer when they helped build a church in the Dominican Republic.