



Exordium to the HANA Reflection Papers and Track Reports

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Abstract An introduction to the 2013 HANA Reflection Papers and Track Reports generated as a result of the first HANA (Hispanic–Asian North American) consultation on theology and ministry.

INTRODUCTION

In June 2013, the first HANA (Hispanic–Asian North American) consultation on Theology and Ministry was held on the campus of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Co-sponsored by the Carl F. H. Henry Center¹ and the Catalyst Leadership Center,² this historic gathering brought together sixty evangelical HANA theologians, pastors, and other ministry leaders to learn more about what God is doing in and through HANA churches, to engage with issues that are significant to both immigrant communities of faith, and to build collaborative partnerships between these two growing communities.³

In light of the goals mentioned above, the leadership team of the project (Linda Cannell, Armida Belmonte Stephens, Juan Martínez, and Peter Cha) decided not to have a conference gathering where the audience would listen to presentations offered by a few experts. Instead, we designed a consultation model that would encourage fruitful interactions among the invited participants who come from diverse backgrounds, and would facilitate the process of constructing new insights and ideas that might be helpful to HANA churches. The following article by Linda Cannell, “The Consultation: A Guided Conversation Among Leaders in Changing Times,” outlines reasons for and benefits of this interactive approach that deeply enriched our shared experiences.

During the June consultation, two primary methods of interactions were practiced. In the morning sessions, the sixty participants met together to engage in historical, theological, and missional reflections of HANA immigrant churches. Each morning, a pair of Hispanic and Asian North American presenters highlighted certain key themes from their papers (drafts were distributed to all the participants before the consultation), providing a framework in which group reflections and conversations could take place. After a period of table conversations, each presenter then engaged with the participants, having opportunities to interact with insights and questions that emerged from the small and large group conversations. The presenters then were encouraged to expand and revise their papers, incorporating the many perspectives offered by their HANA colleagues.

¹ henrycenter.tiu.edu

² www.catalystleadership.org

³ More detailed information about the first HANA consultation can be found on the Henry Center website: <http://henrycenter.tiu.edu/the-hana-project/>.

The six reflection paper articles presented in this journal are the fruits of this collaborative process. Juan Martínez's, "Historical Reflections on the 'In-Betweenness' of Latino Protestantism," and Russell Jeung's, "The Globalization and Racialization of Asian American Churches," offer historical reflections that engage with key social and cultural developments that shaped the experiences of the two immigrant communities of faith. Marcos Canales', "Latino/a Theologizing: Shared Reflections and Experiences," and Soong-Chan Rah's, "A Theology of Lament for the Immigrant Community," provide insightful theological reflections that demonstrate how HANA churches, as communities of faith, theologize their collective identity and their shared experiences. Finally, Silvina Kosacki's, "Latino/a Pastoral Reflections," and Peter Cha's, "Pastoral and Missional Reflections of Asian North American Congregational Experiences," identify a set of key issues and challenges HANA churches encounter today. Together, these six articles aim to offer readers a deeper understanding of the historical, social, and spiritual contexts in which HANA congregations serve and grow.

During the afternoon hours of the consultation, HANA participants engaged in another type of group interaction by meeting in the following six different tracks: "Intergenerational and Intercultural Issues," "Nurturing the Next Generation," "Formation of Lay Leadership," "Theological Education in Pastoral Formation," "Public Witness and the HANA Community," and "Migration and Global Missions." Each track, co-facilitated by a Hispanic and an Asian North American leader, aimed to identify a set of key issues that affected a particular ministry of both immigrant churches and how these two faith communities engage with them. These afternoon track sessions aimed to provide a space for theologians and ministry leaders to do their collaborative work of integrative thinking and creative imagination in addressing key challenges. Each track had a seminary student who served as a note taker, carefully transcribing the conversations. The co-leaders (or a member, in one case) of each track then produced succinct track reports, capturing key insights and perspectives that emerged from their track conversations. The final section of this journal edition includes all six track reports.



Participants in the first HANA (Hispanic–Asian North American) consultation on Theology and Ministry at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, June 2013

From the very beginning, this HANA project had multiple partners who collaborated at many different levels. We are grateful to the Carl F. H. Henry Center for its generous grant and its logistical support that enabled us to have our 2013 consultation and this writing project. Linda Cannell has made an invaluable contribution to this project by providing her expert guidance in designing our consultation and for