

WORKSHOP LEADERS



Susan Krehbiel works part-time for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as the Associate for Refugees and Asylum where she is responsible for directing PDA’s support to mid councils, local congregations, and national partners in refugee-related ministries. She has 30 years’ non-profit experience working with refugees and immigrants, as an advocate for refugee rights and social and legal services that assist refugees and immigrants in their integration into the United States.

Susan has worked for Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (2003-2011), Church World Service (1993-1999) and as a consultant with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). While at LIRS, she led the agency in program and policy development with particular attention to the treatment of unaccompanied children. Susan has worked closely with other non-governmental agencies, the US government, and international organizations to promote national and international policies to protect these vulnerable populations and provide appropriate services for their recovery and success.

The contributor and author of a number of articles and published reports on refugees and asylum seekers, Susan leads regional and national workshops and writes regularly for the PDA blog. She also serves part-time as the Social Justice Consultant with the Presbytery of Baltimore. She is an ordained ruling elder and prior to working for PC(USA), served on two immigration-related task forces for the General Assembly. She is married to Norman Lazarus and they are members at Catonsville Presbyterian Church, outside of Baltimore. She has an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in Spanish from the College of Wooster.



The Rev. John C. Cheek is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Silver City, New Mexico. An ordained teaching elder in the PC(USA) for the past 12 years, he had a former career in law enforcement. John and his wife, Lou, a practicing audiologist, live in Tucson, Arizona, where their three sons and four grandsons also live.

John believes everyone in this troubled world should seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. John’s congregation appreciate that he leads them to think beyond themselves to ways they can bring God’s love, grace and joy to their community. He also provides grief and stress counseling to community groups.



Rev. Suzanne Malloy currently serves as Pastoral Assistant for Community Ministries at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara, California. She entered the ministry following a 31-year career in law enforcement, and her extensive service in the crisis field prepared her for her current ministry as an on-call hospital chaplain. In addition to serving the hospital population, Suzanne serves as the Coordinator of Faith-Based Initiatives for the Santa Barbara County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), and Disaster Spiritual Care Supervisor for the American Red Cross Central California region. Nationally, Suzanne is a member of the National Response Team for Presbyterian Disaster assistance, and has offered a ministry of

presence at a variety of disasters, both natural and human-caused. Suzanne maintains connections with the University of California-Santa Barbara campus community as a clergy mentor with Progressive Christians at UCSB.



The Reverend Edwin A. González Castillo is the Disaster Response Associate for Latin America and the Caribbean, for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - or PDA - of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master of Divinity from the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. In addition to being a pastor, he has been a religion, ethics, and human development teacher in middle and high school.

Edwin has also been a teaching assistant at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, teaching Greek and New Testament courses. He served as a translator for several of the PC(USA) agencies and until recently served as pastor and permanent

secretary in the Presbytery of San Juan (Puerto Rico).

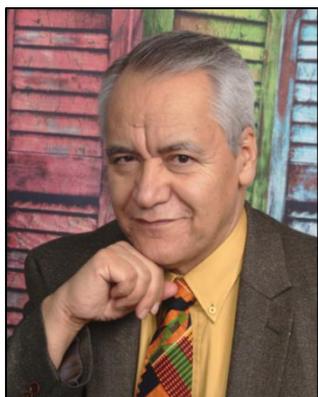
After Hurricane María, Edwin participated in and coordinated several relief projects in Puerto Rico in coordination with his presbytery, the local government, PDA, and various NGOs. Edwin currently coordinates PDA's response in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as facilitating relationships with mission partner organizations in these areas. In the same way, Edwin has provided, for the past two years, resilience workshops in Spanish to different organizations that respond to disasters and face the challenges that such a response produces emotionally.



Amanda Craft supports the growth and activity of Presbyterians for Just Immigration, a campaign to mobilize congregations, mid-councils, and Presbyterian-related organizations to affirm and promote the civil and human rights of immigrants. She also helps with the coordination of network training opportunities for leaders in immigration advocacy work in their regions consistent with the mandates of the General Assembly. Previously she served as a mission co-worker in Guatemala, Mexico, and along the U.S.-Mexico border. Prior to that call, she worked for the Presbyterian

Peacemaking Program. Amanda holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Denison University and is currently completing an MA in Religion from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Amanda, her husband, and two sons reside in Louisville, Kentucky.

SESSION PRESENTERS



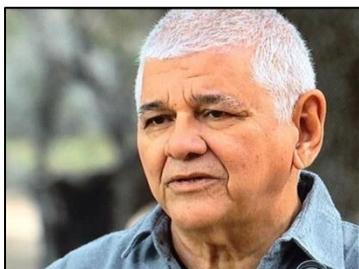
Pbro. Eliseo Pérez Álvarez, Ph.D., studied philosophy and theology in Mexico City, Atlanta, Chicago and in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has taught full time at Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México, Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, Lutheran Seminary Program of Austin, United Theological College of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, and starting in January 2020, at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He has done pastoral ministry in Mexico, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the US.

Dr. Pérez is the author of a dozen books including a commentary on the book of Mark (in the Spanish language series “Conozca Su Biblia”); *Introducción a la Última Cena y el Banquete de la Creación* (Introduction to the Last Supper); *A Vexing Gadfly: The Late Kierkegaard on Economic Matters*; and most recently, the essay “The Tortilla Wall and Migration Semantics,” for a collection called *Theologies on the Move: Religion, Migration, and Pilgrimage in the World of Neoliberal Capital*, published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group in October 2020.



The Revs. Holly and Kaci Clark-Porter met at Austin Seminary where seeking hope and justice for the unheard, the misunderstood, and the different quickly became the motivation for both of their ministries. Currently, the two are Co-Pastors of Grace Presbyterian in El Paso, Texas. They moved from Delaware to El Paso a little over a year ago in order to serve this congregation, to learn more about border ministries, and to learn about the people and the stories of refugees and migrants and the folx on either side of the border seeking justice. They also moved to El Paso for the tacos.

When not talking about church, Holly and Kaci love to spoil their pit bull Hazel, go camping and hiking, and find the best places for foodies.



Eduardo “Eddie” O. Canales was born in Corpus Christi, Texas of migrant farm worker parents. Eddie spent his early years in a rural, migrant border town: Salineno, Texas. His grandparents and parents worked the farmworker crops, migrating all over the Midwest and West. Eddie moved with his parents to Gary, Indiana, and East Chicago while his father worked in the steel mills. They were poor: he did not have the luxury of inside bathroom facilities until 6th grade. His early jobs included farm

work, shoe shining, barber/beauty shop sweeping and the neighborhood youth corps, followed by factory work, cafeteria clean up, and bottling plant/warehouse work.

After junior college, Eddie attended the University of Houston, where he became involved with MAYO and La Raza Unida Party, beginning a long history of political activism and organizing. He has served the social and economic justice movements in many capacities and with several organizations, including the Congreso de Aztlán (the National Committee of La Raza Unida Party), the Texas Farmworkers, the Longshoremens, Service Employees International Union, and Centro Aztlán de Servicios Sociales in Houston, Texas, where he was a founder and the Director for ten years and began his long-standing advocacy for immigrant rights and worker rights.

Eduardo was an organizer/representative for SEIU in Colorado, under the banner of Justice for Janitors, representing and organizing mostly Mexican immigrant women. In New Mexico, Eastern Washington, Montana, Idaho, Texas and Wyoming, Eddie worked as a lead organizer and Director of Organizing for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in both the industrial and construction sectors. Throughout his organizing career, Eduardo has been an advocate for human rights for immigrants, serving on the Board of Directors of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, presently as Chairperson. Presently, Eduardo is the Director/Lead Organizer and one of the founders of the South Texas Human Rights Center, organizing and advocating for human rights and for the prevention of migrant deaths.



Pbro. Leopoldo Cervantes-Ortiz is a Mexican medical doctor, theologian, and poet. He graduated in theology from the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica (UBL for its abbreviation in Spanish), and in Latin American arts and literature from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Leopoldo is a Presbyterian pastor, and the Director of the Centro Basilea de Investigación y Apoyo, A.C. He is the initiator of the new phase in the Latin American Faculty of Reformed Theology (FLATER), and a member of the Commission on Ecumenical Formation of the World Council of Churches and of the editorial committee of the Latin American Council of Churches. He also coordinates the permanent webpage in Spanish on John Calvin: www.juan-calvino.org.



Douglas Oviedo is the Co-Founder and Director of Casa Hogar El Puente (The Bridge Group Home) in Tijuana, México, a shelter for migrant women and children held under the remain-in-Mexico program. Douglas was a Honduran migrant in the October 2018 Caravan. He was among the first asylum seekers sent back across the U.S. southern border under the Trump administration's "remain in Mexico" policy. In September 2019, he was granted asylum in the US. As a youth pastor, Douglas served as an accompanier of communities of marginalized youth in Honduras. He is the author of the recently-published *Caravaneros (2020)*, a testimony of the migrant caravans from the perspective of a migrant.



Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Cuéllar is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. As a biblical scholar, Dr. Cuéllar is interested in alternative ways of reading the biblical text, in particular those that are rooted in a larger contrapuntal discourse of liberation. He has written on topics related to the US-Mexico Borderlands, Latinx immigration, race, empire, and museums. A major focal point in his research lies at the intersections of archives, migratory aesthetics, borderlands, and postcolonial justice. He is currently researching the social, political, and ethical contours of religious services provided within state-contracted family detention facilities.

He is the author of *Resacralizing the Other at the US-Mexico Border: A Borderland Hermeneutic* (Routledge, 2019), *Empire, the British Museum, and the Making of the Biblical Scholar in the Nineteenth Century: Archival Criticism* (Palgrave, 2019), and *Voices of Marginality: Exile and Return in Second Isaiah 40–55 and the Mexican Immigrant Experience* (Peter Lang, 2008). In terms of advocacy work, he is the co-founder of a refugee artwork project called, Arte de Lágrimas (Art of Tears): Refugee Artwork Project. This project is a traveling art exhibit and archive that aims to create greater public awareness of the lived migratory journeys of asylum-seeking children, youth, and adults.



Dr. Cuéllar and his wife Nohemí Cuéllar are both native Texans presently living in San Marcos, TX. They have been married for 22 years and have four daughters. Nohemi has enjoyed a career in dental hygiene for 25 years and Dr. Cuellar is a professor of Old Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Though they are both professionals in their fields, ministering in the Kingdom of God has always been deeply embedded into their lives. They dedicated their first 14 years together to pastoring in different immigrant communities across Texas. Now they are devoted to being a voice for the voiceless by engaging in what they refer to “biblical justice” issues. Their current ministry is immigrant advocacy through Arte de Lagrimas: Refugee Artwork Project.