

**Sammy Alfaro, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

<b>Fuller Theological Seminary</b>	Pasadena, CA
PhD in Theology	June 2008
<i>Dissertation:</i> "Foundations for a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology: a Constructive and Liberative Approach"	
<i>Advisor:</i> Dr. Colin Brown	
MA in Biblical and Theological Studies	September 2002
<b>Patten University</b>	Oakland, CA
BA in Pre-Seminary Studies	May 2000
<b>Hispanic Institute of Ministry</b>	Dallas, TX
AA in Pastoral Studies	May 1997

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

<b>Grand Canyon University</b>	Phoenix, AZ
Professor of Theology	Aug. 2018 – present
<i>Grand Canyon Theological Seminary Courses:</i> Systematic Theology I & II OT Foundations, NT Foundations	
<i>College of Theology courses:</i> Christian Theology I & II, Systematic Theology, Contemporary Theology, Christianity & Culture, Historical Theology, Old Testament Survey, Moses & the Prophets, New Testament Survey, Gospels & Acts, General Epistles & Johannine Literature	
Assistant/Associate Professor of Theology	Aug. 2010 – July 2017
Adjunct & Online Instructor	Aug. 2004 – July 2010
<b>Hispanic Summer Program</b>	San Antonio, TX
<i>Courses:</i> US Latina/o Theology (masters level course taught in Spanish)	June 22-July 5, 2013
<b>Fuller Theological Seminary</b>	Pasadena, CA
Online Adjunct	Sept. 2012 – Dec. 2015
<i>Courses in Spanish:</i> Orientation to Theological Studies,	
Teaching Assistant	Jan. 2003 - June 2008
<i>Courses:</i> Systematic Theology III, New Testament II, Greek, <i>Courses in Spanish:</i> Pastoral Theology and Foundations for Ministry	
<b>Seminario Ministerial Sudamericano (SEMISUD)</b>	Quito, Ecuador
Lecturer for Ph.D. program in Pentecostal Studies	March 19-21, 2012
<i>Course:</i> Theological Method	
<b>Arizona State University</b>	Tempe, AZ
Faculty Associate	Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2009
<i>Course:</i> US Latina/o Religions	
<b>Latin American Bible Institute</b>	La Puente, CA
Instructor in Theological and Biblical Studies	Sept. - Dec. 2003

**PUBLICATIONS****BOOKS**

*Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology*. Princeton Theological Monograph Series. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2010.

**EDITED BOOKS**

*Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements in Latin America and among Latinas/os: Renewal across the Americas*. Co-edited with Néstor Medina. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

**CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS**

- “El Señor Jesucristo.” In *Teología Sistemática: una perspectiva Wesleyana de las verdades reveladas*. Ed. Wilfredo Estrada Adorno. Orlando: UNILIMI, **forthcoming 2021**.
- “Theological Education and Spiritual Formation” in *Spiritual Formation in the Global Context*. Eds. Ryan Brandt and John Frederick. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2021.
- “Reading and Hearing Scripture in the Latina/o Pentecostal Community” in *Latino/a Theology and the Bible: Religious and Theological Approaches to Scripture*. Eds. Francisco Lozada Jr. and Fernando F. Segovia. Lanham: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2021.
- “The Harvest is Plentiful: Reaching the Great Minority” in *The Plentiful Harvest: practices for effective ministry among Latinos*. Eds. Carlos S. Morán & José Daniel Montañez. Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press, 2018.
- “The Reform from a Pentecostal perspective / La Reforma vista desde una perspectiva pentecostal” in *Our 95 Theses: 500 years after the Reformation / Nuestras 95 tesis: a quinientos años de la Reforma*. Eds. Justo L. González and Alberto García. Orlando: Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana, 2016. [published in English & Spanish]
- “Liberating Pentecostal Theologies: a view from the Latina/o and Latin American Pentecostal Contexts” in *Global Renewal Christianity: Spirit-Empowered Movements Past, Present, and Future*, vol. II: Latin America. Eds. Vinson Synan, Amos Yong, and Miguel Alvarez. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House Publishers, 2016.
- “Pentecostal Politics or Power: a Latino pastor responds to Arizona’s Anti-immigration laws.” In *Immigrant Neighbors Among Us: Immigration Across Theological Traditions*. Eds. Daniel Carroll R. & Leopoldo Sanchez. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2015.
- “Se fue con el Señor: The Hispanic Pentecostal Funeral Service as Anticipatory Celebration.” In *Perspectives in Pentecostal Eschatologies: world without end*. Eds. Peter Althouse and Robby Waddell. Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2010.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Roundtable Discussion titled “Author meets Critics: Responding to Daniel Castelo’s Pentecostalism as a Christian Mystical Tradition” was published in *Pneuma: the Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, 40, no. 4 (2018): 535-561.

**IN-PRINT & ONLINE LECTIONARY ARTICLES**

“Lectionary Commentary of Ephesians 2:11-22; Commentary of Ephesians 3:14-21; Commentary of Ephesians 4:1-16” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Resource*, Year B, vol. 2. Eds. Thomas G. Long, Cynthia L. Rigby, Carolyn J. Sharp, Luke A. Powery, Joel B. Green. Westminster: John Knox Press, Nov 2020.

- “Mateo 21:23-32” Decimoséptimo Domingo después de Pentecostés, Lectionary Year A for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. September 27, 2020.  
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-26/comentario-del-san-mateo-2123-32>
- “Mateo 20:1-16” Decimosexto Domingo después de Pentecostés, Lectionary Year A for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. September 20, 2020.  
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-25/comentario-del-san-mateo-201-16>
- “Mateo 18:21-35” Decimoquinto Domingo después de Pentecostés, Lectionary Year A for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. September 13, 2020.  
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-24/comentario-del-san-mateo-1821-35>
- “Mateo 18:15-20” Decimocuarto Domingo después de Pentecostés, Lectionary Year A for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. September 6, 2020.  
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-23/comentario-del-san-mateo-1815-20>
- “Lectionary Commentary of Matthew 5:1-12; Commentary of Matthew 23:1-12; Commentary of Matthew 25:1-13” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Resource, Season After Pentecost, Year A*, vol. 3. Eds. Zaida Perez and Michele Blum. Westminster: John Knox Press, 2020.
- “Lucas 1:26-38” Cuarto Domingo de Adviento, Lectionary Year B for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. December 24, 2017.  
<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/fourth-sunday-of-advent-2/comentario-del-san-lucas-126-38-3>
- “Juan 1:6-8, 19-28” Tercer Domingo de Adviento, Lectionary Year B for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. December 17, 2017.  
[http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3527](http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3527)
- “Marcos 1:1-8” Segundo Domingo de Adviento, Lectionary Year B for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. December 10, 2017.  
[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3504](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3504)
- “Marcos 13:24-37” Primer Domingo de Adviento, Lectionary Year B for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. December 3, 2017.  
[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3503](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3503)
- “Ephesians 1:11-23” All Saints Sunday, Lectionary Year C for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. November 6, 2016.  
[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=3070](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3070)
- “Philippians 2:5-11” Passion Sunday, Lectionary Year C for Working Preacher.org: a ministry of Luther Seminary. March 20, 2016.  
[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2800](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2800)
- “Exegetical essays on John 14:18-24 & 14:25-31” in *Feasting on the Gospels—John*. Eds. Cynthia A. Jarvis & E. Elizabeth Johnson. Westminster: John Knox Press, 2015.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- “Latino Pentecostals in America by Gastón Espinosa (Book Review).” *Reading Religion: a publication of the American Academy of Religion*. Online:  
<http://readingreligion.org/books/latino-pentecostals-america>
- “Latino Pentecostals in America by Gastón Espinosa (Book Review).” *Pneuma: the Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*, 38, no. 1-2 (2016): 218-220

- “Spirit and Power: the growth and global impact of Pentecostalism edited by Donald E. Miller, Kimon H. Sargeant, and Richard Flory (Book Review).” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 82, no. 4 (Dec 2014): 1166-1169.
- “Making your vision a reality: proven steps to develop and implement your church vision plan by Paul Cannings (Book Review).” *New Theology Review* 26, no. 1 (2013): 90-91.
- “Mindmeld: Micro-collaboration between eLearning Designers and Instructor Experts by Jon D. Aleckson and Penny Ralston-Berg (Book Review).” *Teaching Theology & Religion* 16, no. 1 (2013): e29-e30.
- “La Fiesta del Espíritu: espiritualidad y celebración Pentecostal & Pentecostalismo y Misión Integral: Teología del Espíritu, Teología de la Vida by Darío López Rodríguez (Book Review).” *Pneuma: the Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* 35, no. 1 (2013): 87-88.
- “Los Evangélicos: Portraits of Latina/o Protestantism in the United States by Juan F. Martínez and Lindy Scott (Book Review).” *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* 33, no. 1 (2011): 109-110.

## PRESENTATIONS

### ACADEMIC

- “Redescubriendo Pentecostés: Una Lectura Latina de Hechos 2 / Rediscovering Pentecost: A Latino Reading of Acts 2” Cumbre Latina de Teología Pentecostal, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2018.
- “Response to Daniel Castelo’s *Pentecostalism as a Christian Mystical Tradition*.” Society for Pentecostal Studies Annual Meeting 2018, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN. History Interest Group, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- “Protest and Accommodation: Latinx Responses to the Protestant Reformation.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2017, Boston, MA. Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit. November 20<sup>th</sup> 2017.
- “El Espíritu Reformador: the Spirit as Agent of Renewal Then and Now.” Justo Gonzalez Lecture Series. Five Hundred Years Later: Hispanic Perspectives on the Reformation, Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- “Cantando Cántico de Sión en Tierra Extraña/Singing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land: Latino Pentecostal Music and Culture.” Society for Pentecostal Studies Annual Meeting 2015, Life Pacific College, San Dimas, CA. Arts and Liturgy in the Latino Pentecostal Church Panel.
- “A Church for the Poor: the liberative ecclesiology of Darío Lopez Rodriguez.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2014, San Diego, CA. Ecclesiological Investigations Group.
- “Pentecostal Politics or Power: a Latino pastor responds to Arizona’s Anti-immigration laws.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2014, San Diego, CA. Latina/o Culture, and Society Group.
- “Liberating Pentecostal Theologies: a view from the Latina/o and Latin American Pentecostal Contexts.” Empowered 21 Latin American Consultation, Nov. 2014, Seminario Ministerial Sudamericano (SEMISUD), Quito, Ecuador.
- “Race & Ethnicity: New Frontiers for Pentecostal Theology.” Society for Pentecostal Studies Annual Meeting 2014, Evangel University, Springfield, MO. Ethnicity, Sexuality & Pentecostal Hermeneutics Panel.
- “Winds from the South and the North: the mutual refreshment of Latina/o and Latin American Pentecostal Pneumatologies.” Renewal in the Americas Conference, February 28 - March 1, 2014, Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA.

- “The Development of a Pentecostal Wesleyan Theology Among Latinos.” Latin-American Summit of Pentecostal Theology, October 8-9, 2013, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN.
- “New or Old Wineskins: the significance of holiness for developing a Pentecostal theology of worship.” Society for Pentecostal Studies Annual Meeting 2013, Seattle, WA. Practical Theology/Christian Formation Interest Group.
- “Pentecostal Politics or Power: A Latino Pastor's Response to Arizona's Anti-immigration Laws.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting 2013, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. Religion in America Section.
- “Reading and Hearing in the Spirit: the Bible in Latina/o Pentecostal Theological Hermeneutics.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting Meeting 2012, Chicago, IL. Consultation on the Bible in Racial, Ethnic and Indigenous Communities.
- “Holistic Spirituality & Theological Education: Scriptural approximations for the development of a church planter.” FIEL USA (Fraternity of International Educators from Latin America 2010, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN.
- “Building Bridges: the Journey from the Bible Institute to a Ph.D.” First Summit of Hispanic Young Scholars, May 1, 2008, Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN.
- “Rethinking Theological Method from the Periphery: A Latina/o Pentecostal Perspective.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting 2008, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA. Latina/o and Latin American Religions Section.
- “Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting 2007, San Diego, CA. Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements Consultation.
- “La Bajada del Divino Salvador: A Study of the Role of Image and Ritual in Salvadoran Immigrant Popular Catholicism.” American Academy of Religion Western Regional Meeting 2005, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ. Religion in America Section.

#### **CHURCH & MINISTRY RELATED PRESENTATIONS**

- “Liderazgo y Hermenéutica: principios bíblicos para la plantación de iglesias.” Retiro de Plantadores, February 10-11, 2017. Rancho Shalom, Sky Valley, CA.
- “Estrategias para Enseñar a la Generación Milenial en la Iglesia / Strategies for Teaching the Millennial Generation.” Education Summit for the Southwestern Hispanic Region of the Church of God, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Moreno Valley & Reseda, CA.
- “Alcanzando al Desiglesiado: nuestra aventura en plantar la Iglesia Nuevo Día / Reaching the Unchurched: our adventure of planting New Day Church.” Church Planters Summit for the Southwestern Hispanic Region of the Church of God, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, Rancho Cucamonga, CA.
- “Developing a TEAM mentality as a Church & Leader.” Leadership Training Conference for the Southwestern Hispanic Region of the Church of God, January 24 & 31, 2015, Moreno Valley & Reseda, CA.
- “Building Bridges: Revitalizing the Educational Model of the Latino Pentecostal Church.” Ministry Formation Congress, March 9-10, 2012. Southeastern Hispanic Region of the Church of God. Orlando, FL.
- “Contemporary Challenges for the Hispanic Church: reflecting on our past, present, and future in the US.” Pastors Annual Assembly of Southwestern Hispanic Region of the Church of God, October 28-29, 2011, Indio, CA.

“Becoming Men of Valor.” Men’s Congress, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, New Life Church, Tucson, AZ.

## COMMITTEE & BOARD SERVICE FOR COT / GCTS / GCU

Peer-Reviewer, Journal of Scholarly Engagement	January 2018 to present
Editorial Board, Canyon Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies	July 2017 to present
Rank & Term Tenure Committee (GCU)	September 2015 – present
COT Teaching, Service, & Scholarship Task Force	September 2015 – present
CIRT Faculty Advisory Board member (GCU)	September 2014 – present
Diversity Taskforce	May 2016 to 2019
College of Theology, Living Faith Blog, editor (GCU)	August 2014 – May 2018

## GRANTS & AWARDS

Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award (GCU)	August 2015
President’s Faculty Award of Excellence (GCU)	August 2013
Wabash Center	Crawfordsville, IN
Pre-Tenure Latina/o Faculty in Religion & Theology (2012-2013)	
Hispanic Theological Initiative	Princeton, NJ
Annual Book Prize (2011)	
Dissertation Year Grant (2007-08)	
Special Mentoring Award (2005-06)	
Doctoral Grant Renewal (2004-05)	
Doctoral Grant (2003-04)	

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (2004-present)
Vice President of La Comunidad: Association of Hispanic American Scholars of Theology and Religion (2015-2019)
Steering Committee member of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movements Unit (2018-present)
Co-chair of Steering Committee for Latina/o Religion, Culture & Society Group (2013-2017)
Society for Pentecostal Studies (2005-present)
Second Vice-President: (2021-2022)
Theology Interest Group Leader (2014-2021)
Association for Hispanic Theological Education / AETH (2009-present)

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

<b>Ordained Bishop</b>	March 2013-present
Church of God (Cleveland, TN)	
<b>Ordained Minister</b>	March 2008 - Feb 2013
<b>Regional State Board / Ministerial Credential examination board</b>	Oct 2019- present
<b>Pastor</b>	Feb. 2008-present
Iglesia Nuevo Dia / New Day Church	Phoenix, AZ
a Hispanic church in Phoenix, AZ (Church of God, Cleveland, TN).	
<b>District Pastor</b>	April 2013-February 2020
West-Phoenix Spanish-Speaking Church of God, Cleveland, TN	Phoenix, AZ

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