**Lizette M. Acosta, PhD**

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**EDUCATION**

**Regent University**, Virginia Beach, VA 2013 - 2019 – earned Doctor of Philosophy

Awarded a scholarship for full tuition from *Semilla,* a private organization focused on serving Latino students

Dissertation title: *A Missional Reading of First John: Understanding the Dual Love-Command.*

**Asbury Theological Seminary**, Orlando FL 2007-2013 – Additional graduate academic credits in Counseling and Biblical Studies.

**Florida Hospital**, Orlando, FL, 2006 – Clinical Pastoral Education Program, earned one unit.

**Fuller Theological Seminary**, Pasadena, CA, 1997-2005 – earned Master of Divinity.

**Huntington Memorial Hospital**, Pasadena, CA, 2004 – Clinical Pastoral Education Program, earned one unit.

**Whitworth College**, Spokane, WA, 1991-1995 – earned Bachelor of Arts with double major in Philosophy and in Religion.

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**New School of Biblical Theology, Orlando, FL 2021-Present**

*Administrative Faculty*. Director of Field Education; responsible for creating the Field Education program, implementing processes, overseeing the academic elements of field education, providing guidance to students and supervisor/mentors alike, and establishing partnerships with potential organizations for internship opportunities for NSBT students. Professor in Biblical Studies with a special focus on the intersection of faith and culture.

**Winter Park (Christian Church), Winter Park, FL 2020-2022**

*Interim Pastor (part-time).* Serve primarily in preaching, music, and providing pastoral care.

**Orlando Health (Dr. Phillips Hospital), Orlando, FL 2019-2020**

*Chaplain.* Provide spiritual care to patients, visitors, and hospital staff. Provide ministry of presence for patients and/or visitors experiencing anxiety and fear through listening and through sacraments (prayer, Scripture, communion, anointing). During the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the focus shifted to providing spiritual care and support to the staff, particularly those caring for COVID-19 positive patients.

**Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL 2006-2019**

*Director of Latino Ministry Formation Program (LMFP*, link [here](https://asburyseminary.edu/academics/latino-center/lmfp/))*.* Progressed from Manager to Director, serving approximately 75 students annually. The LMFP offers a bachelor’s equivalent degree in theology or counseling focused on developing, supporting, and promoting Latino leaders.

**Responsibilities:** Provided leadership and direction for the LMFP including recruiting, interviewing, and hiring LMFP faculty members; faculty training and orientation; performance assessments; and syllabus revisions. Reviewed curriculum annually and scheduled courses. Oversaw ongoing task of student recruitment, admissions, and retention. Provided pastoral care for students. Responsible for developing and managing operations, processes, and procedures related to students and faculty. Tracked all student documents including special requests and transcripts. Recruited for and led the LMFP Advisory Committee. Directed the internal assessment process. Collaborated with the Office of Communication to promote the LMFP, including designing promotional material and maintaining its website. Administered the LMFP budget and managed tuition payments. Organized and led special activities including workshops, worship services, and other gatherings. Promoted community life through retreats and mini conferences. Worked with pastors and their leadership teams on team building and to improve operations of their organizations.

**Accomplishments:** Led the process of certification (accreditation) for the LMFP through AETH/ATS, including coordinating site visit. The certification enables LMFP graduates to apply for master programs at any ATS accredited school. Under my tenure, the program was restructured from a 24-credit certificate into a 60-credit bachelor’s equivalent. Of the 14 students who graduated post this certification (in 2015), 11 have continued graduate studies. Facilitated the conversion from face-to-face only to online courses. Led the process of digitalizing all student records through Campus Nexus. Facilitated the establishment of centers of learning in two separate sites (Lexington, KY, and Phoenix, AZ).

**FMC Technologies, Orlando, FL 2005-2006**

*Accounting Clerk*

Responsible for providing accounting services including processing, organizing, and filing accounts receivables documents. Processed and tracked incoming daily payments including batching and filing.

**Cucamonga Christian Fellowship, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 2003-2005**

*Bookkeeper*

Responsible for handling cash, preparing deposits, maintaining financial records, paying bills, reconciling bank accounts, maintaining budgets, and preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports. Document control included both electronic and hard copy financials such as reports, deposits, checks, and receipts from various departments. Also processed, sent, and maintained end-of-the -year financial documents on all donations for this 500+ person congregation.

**The Solis Group, Pasadena, CA 1998-2003** *Administrative Officer*

Responsible for all Human Resources duties, including recruitment and retention of employees, determine compensation, employee training and development, administration of benefits, and maintain all employee files. Financial responsibilities included accounts payables, accounts receivables, billing and payroll. Other project related duties were editing grants and proposals, translating documents, and assisting project managers as needed.

**Yamana Resources, Inc., Spokane, WA 1995-1997**

*Translator and Receptionist*

Responsible for general receptionist duties that included serving as bilingual interpreter for clients and government officials from South America. Translated articles and other technical documents from English to Spanish and vice-versa. Effectively reorganized the filing system for greater functionality. Created a client database used for communicating company's reports.

**Bell Chimney, Spokane, WA 1992-1994**

*Office Manager*

Responsible for Accounts Receivable and Payable, payroll, billing, and the preparation of quarterly tax reports, as well as other personnel duties, such as performing background checks, the administration of medical insurance and worker’s comp, and up-keeping employee files.

**Dukett-Wilson, Los Angeles, CA 1989-1991**

*Accounting Clerk*

Responsible for the main accounting functions were handling all the aspects of A/R, A/P, and collections and maintaining and updating the tenants’ insurance records. Reviewed monthly tenants’ statements for mailing and handled all adjustments to their accounts.

**Coca-Cola Enterprises, Los Angeles, CA, 1986-1989 and 1997-1998**

*Accounts Receivable Clerk*

Progressive responsibility for managing and processing financial payments through the use of a lockbox of approximately $3 million a day for small business, major supermarkets, and military accounts.

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Teaching**

**Asbury Theological Seminary**

**Latino Ministry Formation Program***:* Designed, developed, and delivered undergraduate courses in both in-person and online (Canvas).

*Intro to Greek in the New Testament* – Spring, 2006, Summer 2008, Summer 2010, Summer 2012, Summer 2014, Summer 2016.

*Study of John’s Epistles* – Spring 2011, Jan-term 2013, Fall 2015.

*Hermeneutics* – Summer 2013, Summer 2015, Summer 2017 (hybrid), and Summer 2019;

*Spiritual Formation* – Jan-term 2009, Jan-term 2011, and Summer 2012.

*Research and Composition* – Jan-term 2012, Jan-term 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2018.

**Graduate Program***:* *Inductive Bible Study* (Gospel of Mark) delivered in a hybrid format (Canvass).

**Fraternidad Teológica Latino Americana** (**FATELA**): *Johannine Literature*, designed and delivered online (Moodle).

**Lexington Theological Seminary,** Certificate of Hispanic Ministry: *Introduction to the New Testament*, designed and delivered via Zoom Dec 2019, October 2020, October 2021.

**New School of Biblical Theology,** delivered online through Populi: *Old Testament Foundations: Faith & Culture*; *New Testament Foundations: Faith & Culture*.

**Perkins School of Theology and Garrett Theological Seminary,** Course of Studies (Spanish program), designed and delivered online (hybrid mode) through Canvas: *Introduction to the Bible*; *Acts through Revelation*; *Gospels*.

**Seminario Wesley (Indiana Wesleyan Seminary):** *Spiritual Formation* delivered online through Brightspace; *The Bible as Scripture*, designed and delivered face-to-face intensives; *Preaching and Proclamation* designed and delivered online synchronously; *Historical Context of Jesus and the Gospels* designed and delivered both online and face-to-face.

**Scholarly Works and Publications**

Acosta, Lizette M. “A Theology of Love in the First Epistle of John” in *All Creation Groans: Toward a Theology of Disease and Global Health* (eds. D. O’Neil and B. Snodderly; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2021).

Acosta, Lizette M. *A Missional Reading of First John: Understanding the Dual Love-Command* (Ann Arbor, MI: ProQuest, 2019).

Acosta, Lizette M. “¿Cómo Estudio la Biblia para preparar un Sermón?” in *Predicando con Impacto* (ed. D. R. Gloró; Wilmore, KY: First Fruits, 2019), pp. 29-47.

Acosta, Lizette M. “Completing God’s Work in the World: A Missional Reading of First John.” *William Carey International University Journal* (2019); (link [here](https://wciujournal.wciu.edu/worldview-transformation/2019/5/16/completing-gods-work-in-the-world-a-missional-reading-of-first-john)).

**Academic Service**

**Asbury Theological Seminary**, Orlando, FL:Hispanic Initiative Committee, 2008-2016; Globalized Faculty Vision Team, 2009-2010.

**AETH** (Association of Theological Education for Hispanics), Orlando, FL, 2018-Present: Certification Committee.

**MINISTRY EXPERIENCE**

**Winter Park Christian Church2020-2022**: Interim Pastor. During the coronavirus epidemic, created, recorded, edited and delivered YouTube videos for a virtual worship service experience for the congregation (link [here](https://youtu.be/pEiBHjIwdwQ) for worship service content).

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Florida Region 2016-Present:** Chair of the Commission on Ministry. This is the body responsible for overseeing the ordination and commissioning of pastors in the Florida region.

**Florida Hospital 2007-2018:** Member and Chair of the Professional Advisory Group for Clinical Pastoral Education. This is the body responsible for the selection of students in the residential portion of the Clinical Pastoral Education Program, as well as mid-unit evaluations.

**Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) 2007-2016:** Adult Christian Education.

**Living Faith Christian Church February through December 2010:** Interim Pastor.

**Huntington Memorial Hospital Spring 2005:** Chaplain.

**Cucamonga Christian Fellowship 2002-2005:** Children Ministry Worker.

**Pomona First Presbyterian Church 1999-2001:** Served in preaching, Christian education, and leading worship.

***Invited Speaker for many retreats and workshops, including:***

* + Workshop on The Art of Pastoral Visitation, June 2006, October 2016
  + Lecture on Women in Ministry, October 2006, 2008, 2010, 2017
  + Workshop on Self-Care, August 2007, April 2008
  + Workshop on The Call, September 2007, March 2010, September 2018
  + Workshop on Worship, February 2009
  + Workshop on How to Prepare a Bible Study, February 2009, October 2009, May 2015
  + Workshop on Overcoming Childhood Wounds, March 2009
  + Workshop on Learning to Listen, April 2009, September 2009, March 2011
  + Retreat speaker, on Prayer, November 2009
  + Workshop on Christian Education, February 2010
  + Retreat speaker, on Deborah: Powerful in God’s Hands, September 2015, March 2018
  + Workshop on The Heart of a Servant, April 2016

***Invited Preacher***

* First Christian Church of Winter Park
* Iglesia Cristiana Hispana del Norte
* Iglesia Cristiana Renovación
* Iglesia Presbiteriana El Redentor
* Iglesia Presbiteriana Maranata
* Iglesia de Dios Nueva Vida
* Ocala Free Methodist Church
* Pershing Christian Church
* Primera Iglesia Cristiana de Poinciana
* First United Church of Tampa
* United Church of Christ of Orlando

**Additional Information**

***Ordination:*** Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Florida, February 2008

***Guilds:*** Society of Biblical Literature member (2013-Present)

***Languages***: Bi-lingual - English and Spanish