

# HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: DO'S AND DON'TS

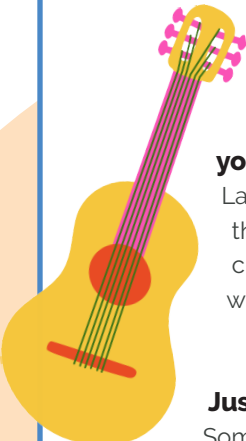
September 15-October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. Below is a list of tips to celebrate Hispanic and Latino/a people and their diverse culture in appropriate and honorable ways. Much of the list focuses on ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from a faith community and communal worship lens. We invite you to reference this list incorporating it into your communal worship life throughout the year – not simply during Hispanic Heritage Month. We encourage you to refer to our GCORR Hispanic Heritage Month infographic (scan QR code to the right) to learn more ways to celebrate and educate yourself and others in your ministry context.



## DO

### **Invest in Hispanic/Latino musicians, composers, and arrangers for your church music library.**

All of our hymnals and supplements include Hispanic/Latino musicians, but some stand out like, Pablo Sosa, Federico Pagura, Jorge Lockward.



### **Create a supplemental sheet for your bulletin that provides information about the composers and liturgists that you are using in your worship experience.**

Latinx worship is all about context because the context is part of the story that helps create the song or prayer you are sharing with the congregation.

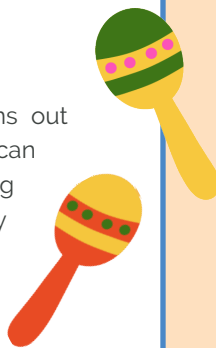
#### **Just do it!**

Sometimes speaking another language or singing in another language can be daunting.

If we are intentional about finding resources that help us, it speaks volumes about our respect for another person's experience and culture. If we are not willing to be intentional, then never try it at all. Besides, immigrants do it all the time.

### **Create a Study Series**

There are some amazing Latinx theologians out there that have written study series that can move your congregation from just thinking about Latinx ministry as a ministry of mercy to a ministry of justice. We recommend that you begin with Father Virgilio Elizondo's seminal work, *The Galilean Journey*. Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands* and our personal favorite, *Decolonizing Christianity* by Miguel de la Torre.



## DON'T

### **Don't engage in global liturgical tourism.**

Latinx music can be mixture of joyful resistance and deep pathos. Understanding how the composer came to create a piece of music or act of liturgy can change the way we engage it. We are talking about something that is not just fun to do, but a community's lived experience.

### **Don't try to do everything all at once.**

Many of us who are engaging in this work of teaching the church to sing a global song, do it through small doses at a time such as a call to worship, an affirmation of faith that includes some Spanish words, or a bilingual song that may have some phrases in Spanish but most in English. This way, it's not overwhelming for your congregation.

### **Don't forget about the rest of the calendar year.**

Hispanic Heritage Month is a great place to start, but don't just use these liturgical gifts during this month only. Incorporate some of them in the rest of the calendar year. This way, your congregation gets used to singing with the rest of the world.

### **Don't be afraid to ask for help, but don't take it personally if someone says no.**

Many BIPOC people are willing to help someone. Just don't expect that they will do the work for you, or that this is their task because we are celebrating our month. Hispanic Heritage is every day for many not just a month. This is your work.



## RELIGION & RACE

The United Methodist Church

[www.gcorr.org](http://www.gcorr.org)