

## ACLC Inaugurates Chapter in Honduras

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After returning from a successful youth program at the Leda settlement in Paraguay, which was followed immediately by an adult program that included the inauguration of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) in South America this summer, I began making plans for a youth program in Honduras.

In discussing Paraguay's summer program with Honduran Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) National Director Mario Salinas, the question was raised: "Do you want to inaugurate ACLC in Honduras for Central America?"

Pastor Salinas had been holding onto a box full of information about ACLC for more than 10 years and had long hoped to inaugurate a national chapter. He eagerly accepted the current challenge.

On January 16, 2017, Rev. Michael Sykes, an ACLC National Board member and the New Jersey ACLC chapter president, together with his wife, Minister Zena Sykes, held the inaugural event for the Conferencia de Clérigos Líderes de Honduras (CCLH, or ACLC Honduras). More than 60 pastors and other guests attended the event, which was held at the Marriott Hotel in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

Rev. Sykes in his keynote speech described the vision and goals of ACLC in the United States—to "rebuild the family, renew the community and restore the nation."

He explained that we must tear down the walls that separate us, including religious denominationalism, racism, sexism, and even nationalism. We clergy in North America must unite with our clergy brothers and sisters in Central and South America, standing together as "One America under God." We must set an

example of unity in the areas of politics, economics and social action. Rev. Sykes rallied the clergy to rise up courageously to speak on God's behalf and to reclaim our world from the influences of Satan.

Pastor Salinas gave a PowerPoint presentation, recounting the biblical passages that highlight how God's providence has never focused on denominational beliefs or dogma but instead on caring for all God's people. Before Rev. Sykes' speech, two Honduran pastors—Pastor Gustavo Padilla and Pastor Alexis Ulloa—emphasized the importance of a strong family presence and the need to cultivate respectful and supportive relations between husband and wife. Minister Zena led a rousing musical rendition of “I Am a Friend of God” in Spanish to prepare the atmosphere for her husband and then offered a warm introduction, lifting her husband up as her personal connection to God through a blessed marriage.



The guests included pastors representing the Catholic Church as well as the Baptist Church, Evangelical Church, Pentecostal Church, Assembly of God Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Yoga Fraternity.

Also present were Salvador Nasralla, founder of the Anti-Corruption political party, and his wife, the former Miss Honduras. One of the attending pastors was the leader of three Honduran departments (or states), and another had a radio ministry that reaches more than half the nation.

The pastors responded to the program cautiously at first, but by the conclusion had warmed up to the ideals of ACLC. During the question-and-answer session, one pastor offered to host the first CCLH prayer breakfast in his church in two weeks.

Supporting pastors signed an Inaugural Declaration committing themselves to the ACLC vision. We look forward to seeing the clergy leaders of the Americas lead the charge in solidarity as the voice of God and as the collective conscience for the work of restoration in building God's Kingdom on earth, beginning with the fortuitous establishment of Una Sola America—"Only One America!"