

Our Speaker Today



Rev. Joel Hortiales

The Rev. Joel Hortiales is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving through the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry as South Bay Hispanic/Latinx Ministry Developer in the California-Pacific Annual Conference. He was commissioned missionary in June 2018.

Joel serves as pastor of Park Hill UMC to establish a strategic base for the development of Hispanic/Latinx ministries near, and across the border, working in collaboration with the other South Bay Mission Area congregations. Also, he serves as a link between churches and ministries in Southern California, Cal-Pac Immigration Strategy Group, and any other organization about the needs of immigrants and asylum seekers along the border. He has ministry partners at the two sides of the US/Mexico border and collaborates with UMC Conferences, ministries and churches to help them to connect ministries that address border and immigration realities.

A citizen of the United States and born in Mexico City, Joel graduated with a degree in architecture from the Universidad Regiomontana in Mexico in 1986 and subsequently focused on biblical studies and evangelism at Cliff College of Sheffield University and theology at Westminster College, Oxford, in the United Kingdom. In 2010, Joel earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Claremont School of Theology in California and in 2018 the Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena. Joel was ordained in the Methodist Church of Mexico in 1998 and became an elder in full connection of the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church in 2011. During his years on the conference staff, he has been affiliated with the Bardsdale United Methodist Church in Fillmore, California.

Joel is married to Carmen Julia Hortiales and has three children, Alicia, Carmen, and Joel.