

Northern Illinois Conference 2019 One Matters Award

Elgin: La Luz De Cristo (Elgin District)

In 2010, I was sent with my family to Epworth UMC as a lay missionary to start a new community of faith as part of Harvest 2020, a vision of the Northern Illinois Conference to plant 100 new faith communities by 2020. We started with three families, but after a year we grew to almost 75 members.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The training I received through the Conference Academy for Faith Community Development led by Reverend J. Martin Lee gave me the skills necessary to do ministry. Five years after we arrived, La Luz De Cristo Mision was chartered as a church to the United Methodist denomination.



Like any ministry, we have gone through our difficulties and struggles, yet through it all we have seen the hand of God in marvelous ways. This has united us more to seek God through fasting and prayer, which has led us to become stronger as a church, and our faith to grow. It has taken us to another level in our faith with God, who called my wife and I into this ministry.

I am blessed and grateful to God for choosing us to expand his kingdom. I love what I do—sharing the word of the Gospel to the lost—because I know that the gospel has the power to transform people’s lives for good.

Each year about 10 members are baptized and all the glory is to God. Now we have a new place of worship with two services every Sunday and a plan to begin bilingual services in the future. With the flexibility the Church gives us we are able to do much more in our Ministry for God. Thank you!

June 10, 2019