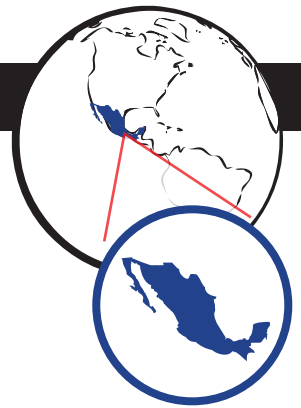


Mexico



Iglesia Luterana Confesional Mexico (ILC)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS - Mexico

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>4</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>4</u>	Preaching stations	<u>0</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Despite many health and financial challenges, Pastor Olvera continued to work in Torreón and Juarez.

SCOPE AND FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Olvera currently resides in Juarez, Mexico and serves congregations both there and in Torreon. He is currently training four men for the pastoral ministry – one in Torreon, two in Juarez, and one in Campeche. To support himself and his family, Pastor Olvera also engages in secular employment.

CHALLENGES

As is the case with the majority of our brothers in foreign lands, Pastor Olvera works under very difficult conditions. Both Torreon and Juarez are plagued by drug cartel-related violence and by poverty. It is very difficult to begin a church body with little or no financial resources. Travel is also a challenge, given the fact that Torreon is an 11 hour drive from his home congregation in Juarez. Pastor Olvera's wife, Claudia, continues cancer treatments, and Pastor Olvera himself suffers from diabetes and kidney problems.



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Contact was first established between Pastor Juan Jose Olvera and Pastor Michael Roehl, of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, through email in October of 2012. For reasons of conscience and doctrine, Pastor Olvera had ended his affiliation with the WELS-sponsored Lutheran Church of Mexico - Iglesia Evangélica Lutherana Confesional (IELC) - earlier that year, and was seeking information on the doctrine and practice of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. A visitation team consisting of President Michael Eichstadt, Board of Doctrine chairman Daniel Fleischer, and Pastor Roehl met with Pastor Olvera in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico in January of 2013. Fellowship between Pastor Olvera's newly formed church body, Iglesia Luterana Confesional (ILC), was recommended by the CLC Board of Doctrine and approved by the Coordinating Council of the CLC in April of 2013.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Olvera, although he is currently training four other men for the public ministry, he is the only theologically trained pastor currently serving this church body. He has trained two students to the point where they can conduct Sunday services in Torreon and Monterrey when Pastor Olvera is serving in Juarez.



FUTURE PLANS

Pastor Olvera has applied for a visa to the US so he can travel to El Paso to serve some Spanish-speaking people there. Funds have been sent to help them acquire a new van which will provide transportation for bringing people to church services and will be used for outreach work. Pastor Olvera has been leading several men through seminary studies and has started a pre-seminary program in Juarez with three students to train them to help lead worship services and to prepare them for further study to become pastors.