Luis Velasquez 18T

Luis’s personal experience has helped convince him “that theological education is vital for migrant communities because their faith is what helps them thrive in the midst of insecurity and fear.” His own family immigrated to the US from El Salvador, and he serves migrants on a weekly basis at two local churches through ESL programs, classes on computer basics and GED, and Sunday school. He is active in the Mi Familia Center in Canton, Georgia, a not-for-profit organization serving low-income migrants, and has represented the Center at national and international events. He was one of the keynote speakers at The United Methodist Church’s third National Consultation for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, which drew 250 United Methodist leaders to Duke Divinity School. As an undergrad at Reinhardt University, Luis was a leader of Aspiring Latinos Altering Society and a recipient of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials’ César Chavez Award. At Candler School of Theology, he is a member of the International Student Association and the Latin American Community at Emory. He currently serves as chaplain at the Gwinnett Medical Center. Dr. Aquiles Ernesto Martinez, Professor of Religion and Program Coordinator at Reinhardt, writes that “Investing in [Luis] is investing in the wellbeing of our churches and communities.”