

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, the Perkins School of Theology Distinguished Alumna Award Recipient for 2011, is one of 69 active bishops leading The United Methodist Church worldwide. In 2004, she became the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the episcopacy. She currently serves as Bishop of the Phoenix Episcopal Area, Desert Southwest Conference, and is the official spokesperson for the Council of Bishops on the issue of immigration. Bishop Carcaño is a 1975 graduate of the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg, Texas, and received a Masters of Theology from Perkins in 1979.

Bishop Carcaño was ordained elder in the Rio Grande Annual Conference in 1979. Her appointments included Emmanuel UMC in Lubbock, Texas, and La Trinidad UMC in San Jose, California, in 1979. From there, she went on to serve United Methodist Churches in Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, Hebbronville, and McAllen, Texas. In 1986 she became the first Hispanic woman to be appointed a United Methodist district superintendent, serving in that capacity until 1992 in West Texas and New Mexico. From 2001 to 2004 she served as a district superintendent in Portland, Oregon.

From 1992-1996, Carcaño was the organizing pastor of the South Albuquerque Cooperative Ministry, an ecumenical parish. She subsequently served from 1996-2001 as director of the Mexican American Program at Perkins, until her call to serve in the Oregon-Idaho Conference.

