



Southwest Colombian Mission headquarters.

Photo courtesy of North Colombia Union Conference.

Southwest Colombian Mission

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Southwest Colombian Mission is part of [North Colombian Union Conference](#) in the [Inter-American Division](#). It has as its territory: the communes 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, and 15 of the city of Medellín; the Chocó Department except the municipalities of Acandí, El Carmen del Darién, Riosucio, and Ungía; and the Antioquia Department

municipalities of Abejorral, Alejandria, Amaga, Amalfi, Andes, Angelópolis, Anorí, Argelia, Armenia, Betania, Betulia, Caldas, Caracolí, Caramanta, Carmen de Viboral, Cisneros, Ciudad Bolívar, Cocorná, Concepción, Concordia, Envigado, Fredonia, Granada, Guarne, Guatapé, Hispania, Itagüí, Jardín, Jericó, La Ceja, La Estrella, La Pintada, La Unión, Maceo, Marinilla, Montebello, Nariño, Penol, Pueblorrico, Puerto, Puerto Berrio, Puerto Nare, Puerto Triunfo, Remedios, Retiro, Rionegro, Sabaneta, Salgar, San Carlos, San Francisco, San José del Palmar, San Luis, San Rafael, San Roque, San Vicente, Santa Barbara, Santo Domingo, Santuario, Segovia, Sonsón, Támesis, Tarso, Titiribí, Urrao, Valparaíso, Venecia, Yalí, Yolombo, and Yondó.¹

As of June 2024, the Southwest Colombian Mission had 78 churches and 11,820 members of a population of 3,226,115. Its headquarters are located on Calle 1A No. 66-30; Barrio Mayorca, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia²

Educational Institutions

Southwest Colombian Mission operates three Adventist schools.³ The three schools offer preschool, basic primary, basic secondary, and middle school until 11th grade. These are:

Bolivar Escandon Adventist School of Quibdo (Carrera 6 No. 44-47; Huapango; Quibdo; Choco; Colombia)

Simon Bolivar Adventist School (Carrera 51 D No. 71-105; Medellin; Antioquia; Colombia)

South Adventist School, Colombia (Carrera 52 No. 39 A 25; San Isidro; Itagui; Antioquia; Colombia)

Events Leading to the Organization of Southwest Colombian Mission

Since 1995, West Central Colombian Conference, a Mission at the time, had in its territory the provinces of Antioquia, Caldas, and Choco. This was a vast territory, and in order to better serve its members, the North Colombian Union Conference appointed a territorial readjustment committee to study the territory of West Central Colombian Mission and make a recommendation.

The committee reported favorably, and in 2013, Southwest Region was established. Its territory consisted of Chocó Central, Chocó Horeb, Ciudad Bolivar, Puerto Berrío, Rionegro, Medellín El Bosque, Medellín Central, Medellín Sur, Medellín Poblado, and Medellín Oriente.⁴ Pastor Gonzalo Cardona Artunduaga was appointed coordinator and Juan Pablo Montenegro Sierra their secretary/treasurer.⁵

In 2016, after the Southwest Region strengthened the work in the assigned territory, North Colombian Union Conference and the Inter-American Division agreed to change the status of Southwest Region and establish it as a new Mission. Southwest Colombian Mission was established to continue meeting the needs of Church members and spread the Adventist message throughout its territory.⁶

Outlook

Southwest Colombian Mission faces some challenges that hinder its progress, such as the general population migrating to large cities, Church members moving to rural and different urban areas, the faith of many of the citizens being rooted in other religions, and the high cost of real estate making it difficult to purchase churches.

Currently implemented pastoral objectives have proven to be of guidance for future growth:

Strengthen evangelism throughout the territory with one common objective;

Live a healthy lifestyle while assisting church members to become disciples;

Continue church planting establishing an Adventist presence in all communities; and

Encourage church families to form small groups that will result in faithful stewards.

Presidents

Ezequiel Rueda Salamanca (2016-2017); Joel Jaimes Carrero (2018-)

SOURCES

North Colombian Union Conference Board of Director Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2013. Accessed September 16, 2025. Secretariat archives, Medellín, Antioquia, Colombia.

Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook. Various years. <https://www.adventistyearbook.org/>.

NOTES

1. "Southwest Colombian Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, accessed September 7, 2025, <https://www.adventistyearbook.org/entity?EntityID=53911>.
2. Ibid.
3. "Southwest Colombian Mission: Education Sub Entities," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, accessed September 7, 2025, <https://www.adventistyearbook.org/list?type=administered&AFPParentID=53911&EntityType=E|Education>.
4. North Colombian Union Conference Board of Directors Meeting, January 31, 2013, 013-007, vote 1, accessed September 16, 2025, secretariat archives.

5. North Colombian Union Conference Board of Directors Meeting, January 31, 2013, 013-007, vote 7, accessed September 16, 2025, secretariat archives.

6. "Southwest Colombian Mission," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (2018), 126.

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