

Declaration from San Salvador

SISTER SYNODS U.S.A. AND EL SALVADOR

MIGRATION: AN EXODUS TO HOPE

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I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Matthew 25:35

Because the Earth is God's Creation, no one in any part of the world is illegal.

As Bishops, Pastors and Lay Leaders from four Synods (Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Sierra Pacific and the Sínodo Luterano Salvadoreño), we met the 9th and 10th of November in the city of San Salvador and reflected biblically and theologically on our common concern for the impact of the migration of Salvadoran citizens to the United States.

- We recognize that the theme of migration between our nations is complex, transcending the pastoral and diaconal work that we do in the churches. Regardless, we are called to reflect profoundly, ethically, morally, spiritually and pastorally, seeking alternative responses to the great needs of this sector.
- We recognize the intense efforts that others have made in this area, and the accomplishments that they have achieved in the arenas of organization and the respect for the urgency of the situation. However, much more is required in order to overcome the serious problems experienced by migrants before, during and after they reach their destination. Our role needs to include orientation, accompaniment, education and the demand for holistic justice..
- We are sure that the problem of migration has its roots in the lack of real opportunities in the areas of employment, education, security and recreation that are aggravated by the poverty, misery and marginalization that characterizes the migrants' countries of origin and that requires them to immigrate to the United States and other countries seeking the "American Dream", too often at the cost of their own lives and their families, and saddest of all, without the certainty that they will achieve their goal.
- For this reason, we have come together in El Salvador, under the theme: "Because the earth is God's creation, no one in any part of the world is illegal, in order to:

1. Create a Migrant Pastoral Ministry between the participating Synod that would take various actions, including the development of a Guide and workshops for those who are considering migration as well as the churches that will need to welcome them, and to educate all the congregations with the goal of enabling them to do the same.
2. Advocate for public policies that benefit potential immigrants in their countries of origin, as well as in the United States, such as immigration reform.
3. Develop and promote projects and services that benefit the economy and the people
4. Strengthen the Endowment Fund for Mission in El Salvador.

In the Name and Spirit of the Lord, the God of Justice