

SÍNODO LUTERANO SALVADOREÑO - SLS

Year Started and Brief History

In the beginning of the 1950s with a visit of the evangelist Aldrich Forbes of Nicaragua. The first visit of the Rev. Robert Gussick, missionary from the United States, of the Missouri Synod, was in the year 1952. Rev. Crio Mejia was the first pastor of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador.

The legal recognition of the church took place in 1970. In 1972 Medardo Gomez arrives in San Salvador. In 1980 archbishop Romero is assassinated and the civil war begins. The ILS offered much support for the poor and those who suffered in the war. In spite of the civil war, the ILS grew in number continuously.

Church Leader

The pastoral team is made up of:

- The bishop who is charged with guiding the Pastoral Ministry and Mission of the Synod: Dr. Medardo Gómez
- Ordained pastors or Presbyters (lay pastors), a ministerial position with two paths of ordination: Pastors who have a university or seminary formation, with a pastoral practice of no less than 2 years. Diaconal pastors with 15 years or more of practice and a good ecclesial witness who, through study in a certificate course of Theology are ordained. Presbyters through maturity.
- Diaconal pastors installed in the ministry through their witness of life, pastoral practice and continued pastoral education.
- Evangelists, lay leaders charged with the ministry of evangelization and mission.
- Catechists charged with the ministry of catechesis and popular studies of the Bible.
- Teachers in Christian Education, charged with education in the Lutheran schools.

Membership

Due to our reality there does not exist a definite number, many have emigrated and many continue to emigrate. We calculate more than 10.000 confirmed, which means more than 60.000 baptized.

Organisational Structure

PROPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT FORMS OF THE SALVADORAN LUTHERAN CHURCH - LOCAL CHURCHES OR FAITH COMMUNITIES

• CHURCH COUNCILS

Elects a representative to the regional Micro Council

Pastor is an ex officio member of the regional Micro Council

• MICRO REGION

Micro regional Coordinator

Regional Micro Council is made up of local pastors and a representative of each Faith Community.

• ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD

Represented by the local churches.

• Elects to the Church Councils the ex officio members:

Active Bishops, micro regional coordinators, pastors of the local churches, lay leaders members of the regional Micro Council.

Main Areas of Work

GOALS

- Strengthen and deepen the communion between the local churches and the faith communities.
- Fight for unity in the life of the church, in the witness, in the true preaching of the Word and in the correct administration of the sacraments.
- Strengthen the commitment of the church to be a prophetic voice and bearer of the good news of the Kingdom of God in pastoral accompaniment of the Salvadoran people.
- Promote and strengthen continuing pastoral education, Christian Education, prophetic diakonia and evangelizing mission.
- Propitiate conditions for the members of the church to be able to exercise their gifts and talents in the evangelizing mission of the church as part of the universal priesthood of all believers.
- Penetrate deeper into the liberating spirituality for the growth of the local churches or faith congregations.
- Stimulate the sustainability of the work of the church with the full participation of gifts, talents, offerings and tithes.
- Raise and instigate vocations for the ordained Ministry or the Presbytery.
- Provide and guarantee specialized training for the employed and the lay people for the exercise of their administrative mission.
- Ensure the order and discipline which should be observed by the members of the church, pastoral leaders, lay people or workers, in conformity with the norms of the SLS.

Activities regarding overcoming of violence

We tend to children and youth at risk and do prevention work on violence. We are part of a pastoral initiative for peace, we accompany and elaborated the declaration of the municipalities free of violence.

Special Challenges

Evangelization, Sustainability, self sustenance and attention to social projects

Involvement in Networks or International Operations

We are part of the Lutheran World Federation since 1986.