

18-02

The Revocation of Temporary Protective Status for El Salvadorans

WHEREAS, as members of the Southwest Synod of the ELCA, we are in partnership with the Lutheran Church in El Salvador with several of our synod churches connected with sister congregations and concerned for the welfare of its citizens and

WHEREAS the United States Homeland Security Secretary has revoked as of September 9, 2019 the Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Salvadorans, which was declared as a result of two devastating earthquakes in 2001 and

WHEREAS eliminating residency permits for 200,000 Salvadoran migrants could cause far reaching disruption in El Salvador, including a steep decline in remittances, a destabilizing wave of returning citizens to a homeland still racked by violence (San Salvador, the capital, is considered one of the most dangerous cities on earth.) and further reducing the economy which according to the World Bank, in 2016 already had the slowest growth of any Central American country and

WHEREAS only Congress can legislate a permanent solution addressing the lack of lawful immigration status of those currently protected by TPS and the 18 month delay will allow Congress the time to craft a potential legislative solution, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we encourage our congregations to give support to our Salvadoran brothers and sisters by writing letters to congressional representatives asking them to support legislation that will give permanent status to Salvadorans; and be it further

RESOLVED that we educate our congregations about the consequences for both the United States and El Salvador as a result of the termination of the TPS to Salvadorans; and be it further

RESOLVED that we hold our Salvadoran brother and sisters in prayer in this uncertain time of immigration status.