



INFORMATION SHEET #1

**Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod
Sixteenth Biennial Convention
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Steinbach
April 21-23, 2016**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- CONVENTION DATES:** Thursday April 21, 2016 – 4:00 p.m. to Saturday, April 23, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.
- CONVENTION SITE:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church
465 Henry Street
Steinbach, Manitoba
- CONVENTION THEME:** *Liberated by God's Grace*
Salvation—Not For Sale,
Human Beings—Not For Sale, and
Creation—Not For Sale

WHO MAY REGISTER AS A VOTING DELEGATE

- ROSTERED DELEGATES:** MNO Synod Constitution states that all rostered ministers serving under call shall attend all conventions of the synod. The MNO Synod Bylaws state that the voting membership of convention will include rostered ministers of this synod.
- LAY DELEGATES:** The MNO Synod Bylaws state that the eligible voting membership of conventions will include:
- One lay delegate from each congregation;
 - From congregations having more than 300 baptized members one lay delegate for each additional 300 baptized members or major fraction thereof.
- YOUTH ASSEMBLY:** The MNO Synod Bylaws state that the eligible voting membership of conventions will include members of the Synod Youth Assembly consisting of fourteen youth from seven conferences. Each conference is eligible to appoint 2 youth as their representatives. Youth shall be baptized members between the ages of 15 and 21 on the first full day of the convention.
- LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL:** The MNO Synod Bylaws state that the eligible voting membership of conventions will include lay members of the synod council.

REGISTRATION FOR CONVENTION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 19, 2016

To register for convention as a delegate or visitor, complete the Registration Form and send it with full payment (if applicable) to MNO Synod Office, 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg MB R3T 1W6 by **FEBRUARY 19, 2016**.

If your annual meeting to elect lay delegate(s) occurs after Feb 19, please inform the synod office before Feb 19 of the number of lay delegates that your congregation will be sending to the convention, and then register your lay delegate(s) as soon as they are elected.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FEE

Delegate registration fee is **\$400** and applies to:

- Lay Delegates elected by congregations;
- Rostered Ministers serving under call or appointment;
- Rostered Ministers in special calls where the calling agency pays the registration fee for synod conventions.

The MNO Synod Bylaws state that each congregation or employing agency shall pay the registration fee of its delegate(s). In the case of a pastor serving a multiple-congregation parish, such expenses shall be borne by the congregations pro rata on the basis of baptized membership.

The following categories of **rostered** ministers attend at no cost:

- Rostered Ministers who are retired and not serving under call or appointment;
- Rostered Ministers on leave from call, or temporarily without call;
- Rostered Ministers under call or appointment where the calling agency is not responsible for paying registration fees for synod conventions.
- Rostered Ministers serving Anglican Church congregations

The following categories of **lay** delegates attend the synod convention at no cost:

- Members of the Youth Assembly
- Lay members on MNO Synod Council.

VISITOR REGISTRATION FEE

Visitors are welcome to attend the convention for a fee of **\$110**. Meals and printed materials handed out at convention are included in the fee. Accommodations and travel subsidies are not covered in the fee. A hotel room can be reserved through the synod at the expense of the visitor. A Registration Form must accompany the fee and must be received by the synod office prior to the registration deadline of February 19. Please note that visitors have no voice or voting rights during the business sessions.

ADDITIONAL LATE FEE

An additional late fee of **\$25** is payable if registering after February 19 (unless the synod office is notified that your annual congregational meeting to elect a lay delegate(s) occurs after Feb 19)

REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEES

No refund of registration fees will be given after **April 1**.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

There will be 3 keynote presentations during convention, one on Friday evening and two on Saturday. The following presenters will speak on the convention theme of “Liberated by God’s Grace”:

National Bishop Susan Johnson will speak on the topic, “Human Beings Not for Sale”;

Rev. Dr. Tim Wray, currently serving Church of the Master Lutheran Church in Airdrie, Alberta will speak on the topic, “Salvation Not for Sale”; and

The Rt. Rev. Mark McDonald, Canada’s first National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, will speak on the topic, “Creation Not for Sale”

TRAVEL

Travel will be paid on Synod territory based on the following guidelines:

- Delegates travelling more than 100 kms. to the convention site shall be entitled to travel compensation of 20 cents per km. for the driver plus 3 cents per passenger for kms. driven over 100 kms. each way (to qualify for the allowance, the passenger must be a registered delegate);
- Delegates travelling by air to convention will be entitled to reimbursement of economy airfare;
- Delegates travelling more than 100 km to the convention site shall be entitled to a paid convention hotel room (double occupancy)

Delegates who wish to be compensated for travel, must submit a Delegate Expense Form to the synod office. The Delegate Expense Form is available on the synod website.

Delegates staying at the convention hotel may wish to carpool to and from the hotel to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Please indicate on your Registration Form if you need transportation, or if you can provide transportation to other delegates.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Delegates travelling more than 100 kms. to the convention site are entitled to a paid convention hotel room (based on double occupancy). There is a charge of \$55.25 per night for delegates requesting a single occupancy room dependent on availability. Visitors may request a hotel room at the following cost: double occupancy-\$55.25 per night; single occupancy-\$110.50 per night (if available). Note: All youth delegates are expected to stay in the hotel accommodations.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Days Inn in Steinbach. Reservations must be made through the synod office by indicating your hotel needs on your Registration Form. If registering late for the convention, we cannot guarantee that rooms will be available for you after March 21, which is the release date of rooms not spoken for.

Extra charges will be your own responsibility and must be paid as you check out of the hotel. The hotel provides free high-speed internet access, and a complimentary breakfast for hotel guests.

Check in time is 3:00 pm and check out time is 11:00 am, so it will therefore be necessary for hotel guests to check out of the hotel on Saturday morning before leaving for convention.

See Days Inn website for address and more hotel information,
www.daysinn.ca/hotels/manitoba/steinbach/days-inn-steinbach/hotel-overview

MEALS

Lunches, suppers and coffee breaks are included in the registration fee for registered delegates & visitors. **Your name tag (which will be given to you upon arrival at convention) is required to be shown at all mealtimes during convention.** Please indicate any special dietary needs on the Registration Form. (Hotel guests staying at the hotel will receive a complementary hot breakfast)

BULLETIN OF REPORTS

The Bulletin of Reports, **which includes the Agenda**, will be available on the MNO Synod website for download on March 22. Delegates or visitors wishing to receive a printed copy of the Bulletin of Reports, at a charge of \$30 per copy, are asked to indicate so on their Registration Form. Please provide your own binder for the reports.

You will be seated at tables during most of the business sessions of the convention and can therefore view your convention material electronically if you choose – otherwise bring a printed copy of the Bulletin of Reports with you to the Convention. Sitting 1 (on Thursday evening) will take place in the sanctuary, so we recommend that you bring a printed copy of the Agenda with you to Sitting 1. Please note that internet access will not be available at the Convention site.

SERVICE OF BLESSING FOR DELEGATES

Your home congregation may wish to include a service of blessing for delegates on the Sunday prior to convention. The service outline will be available on the MNO Synod website on March 1, 2016.

SERMON FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 24

As a courtesy to rostered ministers who are attending convention, Bishop Elaine will provide congregations with a sermon for Sunday, April 24, which can be read by a lay member of your congregation. The sermon will be available on the MNO Synod website on **April 14**.

DISPLAY TABLES

MNO Synod committees, boards, and partners are invited to set up a display table at convention. To reserve a display table, please contact Mr. George Sawatzky at geodea@mymts.net

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Debbie Beyer, Executive Assistant, MNO Synod
Phone: 204.889.3760 Email: dbeyer@elcic.ca