



To: Council chairs, rostered leaders serving MNO congregations, & convention delegates - **Communication #4**

From: Synod Discernment Committee on the election of a new bishop

## THE PROCESS IS NEARING COMPLETION

Over the last three months, thank you for being involved in this synod wide process of prayerful discernment as we prepare to elect a new bishop at the Synod Convention, April 26-28, 2018. On March 3, over 50 delegates were in attendance at one of three gathering sites, once again to listen to God and very importantly, to listen to one another across the synod. These discussions were recorded and can be accessed at [www.mnosynod.org](http://www.mnosynod.org). A summary of these discussions is also attached to your email as a separate document. You may choose to send this summary to all council members prior to your meeting, or to post it for congregational members to read.

At your March council meeting, your council/congregation **and delegate(s)** were asked to continue the process by naming important priorities for our synod for the next 1-6 years. At your April meeting, we are asking your council and your delegate(s) to narrow down your March list to one “top priority”. It is important to note that this top priority is meant for more than the discernment of who “fits the bill” to be bishop. It really moves us to the next step - the visioning process for your synod council (and the new elected bishop) going forward. Nevertheless, it also assists with the discernment process for the election of bishop. So, with your top priority in mind, what leadership gifts will be important and necessary for the next bishop and synod leadership to have in order to work on this? And then prayerfully, you may want to take a few moments to do some thinking about an ordained person or persons on the active roster (not retired) from across the ELCIC or in the Anglican Church of Canada who you believe may possess “some” of these important leadership gifts.

Synod council and the new bishop will want to know the perceived priorities and directions from across our synod territory, as well as the leadership gifts that will be important to have since no one person possesses all the gifts that will be necessary, and will refer to this information as they set their directions at their first meeting following the convention. As such, synod council has asked that we collect and compile this information on their behalf. Please complete the response form (provided as a separate attachment) and send it to [ulrich.lef@gmail.com](mailto:ulrich.lef@gmail.com) by April 22, 2018.

***\*Please note, this compilation will not be available prior to convention, given that councils meet throughout the entire month. More importantly, we trust God to work through our convention process. Delegates come with awareness of their local contexts, of their local discernment, all the while being open to listening to the discernment and discussions during convention, as the election process unfolds.***

### At your April council meeting

- Work through the April Devotions - your April council meeting devotions come as a separate attachment in your email. Limit this to 30 minutes.
- Have your convention delegate (or someone appointed by you) fill out the attached reporting form and return it by April 22, 2018 as per the instructions.