



Manitoba/Northwestern
Ontario Synod www.mnosynod.org

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To: Council chairs and rostered leaders serving MNO congregations - **Communication #2**

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

THE PROCESS CONTINUES

In January, you received an invitation to have your council (and your congregation) get involved in a synod wide process of prayerful discernment as we prepare to elect a bishop at the Synod Convention, April 26-28, 2018. We know that this is a busy time as you focus on your own congregational annual meetings, so thank you for adding this important synod work to your agendas. We have heard many positive reports from your use of the January “Dwelling in the Word”. Any questions for the committee can be directed to ulrich.lef@gmail.com.

And now on to the important work for your February council meeting:

- 1) February Devotions - your February council meeting devotions have come as a separate attachment in your email. As you were encouraged to do last time, please make this resource available for other small group gatherings in your congregation (women’s group, men’s group, youth group, choir, etc.), and/or invite folks to come to the first half hour of your council meetings. Limit the devotional time of discernment and prayer each month to 30 minutes.
- 2) If your convention delegate(s) has/have not been chosen yet, we strongly encourage that this becomes a priority for your February council meeting. You are within your constitutional mandate to either elect or appoint your congregation’s delegate(s), as well as an alternate. It is important that your delegate and alternate be available to attend one of the Gatherings of Convention Delegates scheduled for **March 3, 2018 from 10:00 – 11:30 am (CST)**. If your delegate and alternate has not been a part of your January and February discussions, please ensure that they are advised what you have discovered in your conversations, or have one of your council people attend the March 3 event with them. This will be an important opportunity for your delegate and alternate to listen in and share the insights of the discernment process across the various areas of our synod so far, as well as to understand **the next important steps** of the discernment work for the two remaining months until synod convention. Three settings for this delegate gathering have been arranged as follows:
 - a) Winnipeg and surrounding area (up to 1 ½ hours from Winnipeg) - **Messiah Lutheran, 400 Rouge Road, Winnipeg** (off Portage Ave., 5 minutes from the west perimeter)
 - b) Westman Area - **Erickson Lutheran Church**, same date and time
 - c) Thunder Bay Area - **Hilldale Lutheran Church**, same date, but at 11:00-12:30 (EST)

*We are aware that a few congregations in northern Manitoba and a few in north-west Ontario are not served by these gatherings and we apologize. We are making arrangements that recordings of the gatherings will be available online at a later date.

NOTE: This process is being initiated by Synod Council through a discernment sub-committee because they believe that the choosing of a new bishop is a spiritual undertaking that needs to be grounded in the spiritual practices of dwelling in the Word, prayer, listening to God and to one another. Thanks for participating in this spiritual task of discernment.