



A branch cannot bear fruit by itself.
2018 MNO Synod Convention

**Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod
Convention
Grace Lutheran Church, Winnipeg
April 26-28, 2018**

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONVENTION DATES: Thursday April 26, 2018 – 4:00 p.m. to Saturday, April 28, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.

CONVENTION SITE: Grace Lutheran Church
211 Kimberly Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

CONVENTION THEME:

***Bearing Fruit on the Vine:
A Branch Cannot Bear Fruit by Itself***

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me (John 15:4).

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 conventions will include rostered ministers of this synod under call or appointment or on leave from call. Retired rostered ministers may constitute up to 10 percent of all rostered voting delegates.
LAY DELEGATES:	MNO Synod Bylaws state that the eligible voting membership of conventions will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One lay delegate from each congregation; • From congregations having more than 400 baptized members one lay delegate for each additional 400 baptized members or major fraction thereof.
YOUTH ASSEMBLY:	MNO Synod Bylaws state that 12 youth delegates appointed by synod council in consultation with areas. Synod council shall make every effort to appoint at least 2 youth from each electoral region. If an area is not able to provide a youth delegate, that delegate position may be reallocated on an at-large basis.
LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD COUNCIL:	MNO Synod Bylaws state that the eligible voting membership of conventions will include lay members of synod council.

REGISTRATION FOR CONVENTION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MARCH 15, 2018

DELEGATE REGISTRATION

To register as a Delegate for convention, complete the Registration Form available online at <https://form.jotform.com/80164085092252> and full payment to MNO Synod Office, 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg MB R3T 1W6 by **MARCH 15, 2018**.

Please note that all MNO Synod congregations have been invoiced for synodical and national convention costs based on their baptized membership. Therefore a registration fee is not payable by delegates.

VISITOR REGISTRATION

Visitors are welcome to attend the convention for a fee of \$110. To register for convention as a visitor, complete the registration form available online at <https://form.jotform.com/80164085092252>. 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 March 15th. Please note that visitors have no voice or voting rights during the business sessions. **An additional late fee of \$25 is payable if registering as a visitor after March 15, 2018.**

No registrations can be made, and no refunds will be given after April 10, 2018

TRAVEL

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

- Delegates travelling more than 50 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 50 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 Grace 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 \$65 per night for delegates requesting a single occupancy room dependent on availability. Visitors may request a hotel room at the following cost: double occupancy-\$65 per night; single occupancy is \$130 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 Humphrey Inn and Suites in Winnipeg. 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 26, 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 Humphrey Inn and Suites website for address and more hotel information,
<http://www.humphryinn.com/>

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).

FAREWELL BANQUET FOR BISHOP ELAINE

A farewell banquet to celebrate Bishop Elaine's ministry and service to the church as Bishop of the MNO Synod will take place on Friday April 27th at 6PM at the St. Boniface Golf and Country Club. The cost for banquet tickets is included in the registration fee.

There will be a limited number of additional tickets available at a cost of \$55/person.

Please indicate on your registration form whether or not you plan to attend the banquet, and if you would like to purchase additional tickets.

BULLETIN OF REPORTS

The Bulletin of Reports, **which includes the Agenda**, will be available on the MNO Synod website for download on March 26. 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 be available at the Convention site.

GSI WELLNESS OFFERINGS

GSI will be making presentations on **Thursday April 26 from 2:00-3:30PM** relating to the pension and benefits plan with a focus on health and financial wellness. The sessions will include Financial Planning for both early-mid career and for mid-career to non-working transitions. Additionally, there will be non-financial sessions aimed at looking at the pension plan and benefits.

Please indicate on your registration form whether or not you would like to participate in the presentation on Thursday April 26 AND whether you would be interested in taking advantage of a free chair massage from a Registered Massage Therapist and/or a free consultation with a Registered Dietician.

Additional information can be found on the synod website at <https://goo.gl/rbCHcX>

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, 2018.

SERMON FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 29

As a courtesy to rostered ministers who are attending convention, Bishop Elaine will provide congregations with a sermon for Sunday, April 29, which can be read by a lay member of your congregation. Please check the synod website for more information.

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 Ms. Jo-Ann Filipowicz at (204) 661-2562 or glchurch@mymts.net

QUESTIONS?

Synod Convention news and information is available on the convention page of the synod website <http://mnosynod.org/event/synod-convention-april-26-28/>

Or

Contact: Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker, Convention Coordinator, MNO Synod
Phone: 204.889.3760 Email: mnoconvention@elcic.ca