



Manitoba/Northwestern
Ontario Synod www.mnosynod.org

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To: Council chairs and rostered leaders serving MNO congregations - **Communication #3**

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

THE PROCESS CONTINUES

In January and February, you received an invitation and Scripture reflection resources 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. In mid-February, you were asked to assure that your congregational delegates and alternates attend one of the March 3 events, if geography made that possible. What you are receiving today is material for further discernment to be used by your council/congregation **and your delegates** at your March council meetings. Thank you for your ongoing work in this process. Any questions for the committee can be directed to ulrich.lef@gmail.com.

At your March council meeting:

- 1) Permit your congregational delegate(s) to report what they have learned and heard about the discernment process to this point from the March 3 meetings. Limit that to five minutes.
- 2) March Devotions - your March council meeting devotions come as a separate attachment in your email. This is an important next step, as the questions this time focus on a discernment concerning the important priorities in our synod for the next 1-6 years. Keep a list of the priorities you identify, as you will need to refer to them for your April devotional time. As you were encouraged to do last time, please make this resource available for other small group gatherings in your congregation as well (women's group, men's group, youth group, choir, etc.) Limit this to 25 minutes.

The discussions from the March 3 delegate meetings are being recorded and it is hoped that they will be available for viewing by mid-March at www.mnosynod.org. In addition, a summary will also be made available to you via email.

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.