

Minneapolis Area Synod 2018 Conference Assemblies Procedures



Who should attend?

Voting members at conference assemblies are rostered ministers under call and voting members from each congregation. Each congregation can send the same number of voting members as it sends to synod assembly. (See the allocation chart for the number assigned to each congregation, based on baptized membership.) Congregations are entitled to add one youth voting member (age 15 – 18), according to the synod constitution. In addition, the Minneapolis Area Synod constitution states that 10% of retired rostered ministers may serve as voting members to Synod Assembly; this roster will caucus on March 22 to elect their voting members. There are approximately 330 retired rostered ministers in our synod. Because conference assemblies occur before the retired rostered voting members are elected, the first 33 retired rostered ministers who register may serve as voting members.

Where do I go?

All conferences will meet separately, but at the same location, on Sunday, February 25, 2018, 2:00-5:00 p.m., at [Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park](#).

What do I do when I get there?

There is one large parking lot that wraps around the church. Please park where you can and enter the building through the South entrance (on the lake side of the building). All other entrances will be locked.

When you arrive, you will register in the Commons Area; rostered ministers and lay voting members will register separately:

- Lay Voting Members: Each person will register by conference, then by congregation. Each congregation will have blank spaces for the number of voting members allotted, where attendees will sign in.
- Rostered Voting Members & Retired Rostered Ministers: Each person will register individually in a designated area.
- Visitors may attend conference assemblies, and will register in a designated area.

You will get a nametag indicating whether you are a voting member or a visitor.

What is the schedule for the day?

We will begin together in a large group at 2:00 pm for prayer and instructions.

Then we will break up into assemblies by conference.

What do we do in the conference assemblies?

There will be several items of business at the conference assembly. These items may include:

- nominations for bishop (see instructions below)
- resolutions brought by voting members (see Guidelines for Resolutions; bring 25 copies of the resolution)
- nominations for synod-wide positions
- elections for conference positions

How will the nomination process work?

The nomination process uses an ecclesiastical ballot:

- Begin with prayer
- Each person may nominate one person by paper ballot (clergy rostered in the ELCA in good standing; nominees need not be from the Minneapolis Area Synod)
- Resulting names are written on a white board or chart paper
- Prayer
- Each person votes for one
- Top seven nominees are identified, plus any ties for 7th place
- Prayer
- Each person votes for one
- Top five nominees are identified, plus any ties for 5th place
- Prayer
- Each person votes for one
- Top three nominees are identified; if there are no ties for 3rd place these are the final names. If there are ties for 3rd place, prayer and voting for the top three nominees plus ties continue until there are three names.
- Each conference submits the Nomination Form for Bishop before leaving the Conference Assembly

What else can you tell me about this process?

Conference deans will chair the nomination process; each conference assembly will have a minimum of 2 counters. All hard copies of the ballots will be saved, and results will be reported within each conference assembly after each ballot. After conferences submit their Nomination Form for Bishop with up to 3 names, the Synod Vice President will contact each nominee to ascertain the person's willingness to be on the ballot at Synod Assembly. All interested nominees will complete a background check and submit biographical information.

An ongoing and current list of all nominees will be available on the Minneapolis Area Synod website, mpls-synod.org. Check the featured resources section in the lower right of the home page to receive further instructions about how to find the nomination results.