



FIFTY-SIXTH CONVENTION OF THE ENGLISH DISTRICT – LCMS

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

The 56th Convention of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod will be held **Tuesday, June 19, 2018 through Thursday, June 21, 2018** at Concordia University, 4090 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Conventions of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod represent the highest legislative bodies of both the Synod and its districts. The 56th Convention of the English District will hold elections for all offices of the District, including the election of Bishop/President, Vice Presidents, the Board of Directors, the District Committee on Nominations for the next district convention, LCMS Committee on Nominations for 2019 Convention, Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and the College of Circuit Visitors. The convention delegates will hear reports on the mission and ministry of the English District and a synodical report from the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Synod.

The Convention will include a theological convocation facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Larry Vogel, a presentation from Rev. David Petersen, and reports about the mission and ministry of the English District. Special leaders and workers in the English District will be honored, as well as pastors and teachers, for years of service to the Church. The convention agenda will be available online (www.englishdistrict.org) in the Convention Workbook in May.

What do the preceding Convention messages mean for you? It means **preparation**. Read the workbook carefully. Reflect on the district and congregational ministry reports of the past triennium. Think about ways you are personally *loving your neighbor as yourself* right now. Reflect on the ways in which you and your congregation and school are supporting the district's vision with people in your daily life. Also reflect, praise, and pray to the Lord God on behalf of the English District, reaching people of diverse ethnicity, language, background, and age so that more people may be brought into God's Kingdom. Then pray that the Lord mightily sends His Holy Spirit upon the 56th Convention of the English District and all who lead and attend our Convention.

May God be praised for His love and grace and by the manner in which we conduct ourselves and worship Him at the convention. In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

General Information

ATTENDANCE

The convention is designed to include all Ministers of Religion, ordained and commissioned, in addition to voting lay delegates. If there is a valid reason which would preclude you from attending any of the convention, please indicate that on the registration excuse form.

VOTING DELEGATES

Please fill out the registration form carefully and completely.

ARE MY CONVENTION EXPENSES COVERED?

Travel, housing and meals (at Concordia University) for voting and some advisory delegates are covered by money received from the congregational assessment.

Voting and advisory delegates are:

- Lay delegates,
- Called pastors serving district congregations (including associates and assistants),
- Called commissioned ministers on the roster of Synod serving District congregations,
- Circuit youth representatives,
- District board members,
- Chairs of District committees, and
- Emeriti pastors and teachers with ten (10) years of service in the English District who hold membership in a District congregation.

(While expenses for vicars and certified professional church workers will not be covered, congregations are encouraged to give these parish personnel the opportunity to attend and participate in the convention.) Guests, visitors and other Ministers of Religion not currently called to an English District congregation are responsible for their own expenses.

Covered expenses are indicated by an "x".			
	Travel	Housing	Meals
Voting Delegates - Lay	x	x	x
Voting Delegates - Pastors	x	x	x
*Advisory Pastors	x	x	x
*Advisory Teachers	x	x	x
Youth Representatives	x	x	x
Board members	x	x	x
**Emeriti pastors/teachers	x	x	x
Visitors/Exhibitors			
Spouses/Guests			

* On LCMS roster and called by an English District congregation

** With ten (10) years of service in the English District and still hold membership in an English District congregation

ASSESSMENTS FOR CONVENTION COSTS

Every congregation, whether or not it is represented at Convention, is expected to participate in an assessment of \$3.00 per communicant based on the last available statistical report. The 2018 assessment invoices will be mailed in March and need to be paid prior to Convention.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Delegates and guests arriving on Tuesday, June 19 will be welcomed by students ready to assist with luggage. They will direct you to Registration which begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Nest located in the Student Union, west of the chapel. Photographs for a pictorial directory will be taken at Registration. The registration desk will be moved to the gymnasium for those arriving after Tuesday. Open Hearings of Convention Floor Committees begin at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Orientation Sessions for first-time delegates will be held Tuesday, June 19 at 12:15 p.m. followed by the Opening of the Convention at 2:00 p.m. A welcome dinner will be served in the Manor Tent followed by a group photo and then the Opening Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity in which The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will be bringing the message. Convention sessions will resume promptly at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 20. We ask that all delegates remain until the close of the convention at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21. The last order of business will be the Convention Memorial Service and the installation of ALL newly-elected officers. Dress code for convention is business casual. Consider dressing in layers to take into consideration indoor and outdoor activities.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Tuesday:

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration/Photos for Directory
 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Floor Committee Open Hearings
 12:00 pm Lunch - Ministry Tent Open
 12:15 pm New Delegate Orientation
 2:00 pm Opening of Convention
 5:30 pm Dinner
 7:30 pm Divine Worship Service

Wednesday:

8:00 am Morning Session
 Afternoon Session
 5:30 pm Dinner
 7:30 pm Evening Session

Thursday:

8:00 am Morning Session
 Afternoon Session
 3:30 pm Memorial Service and Installations
 5:00 pm Dinner

REGISTRATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Registration and other related forms are included in this mailing and need to be returned to the District office no later than April 20, 2018. Please note the instructions in this correspondence concerning your travel to the convention. Your registration will be acknowledged in the next few months.

HOUSING

Double-occupancy housing will be available for all registered participants at Concordia University dorms. Please note CUAA enforces a No Smoking Policy in all public buildings including dorms. The dorms are air-conditioned and a dorm linen kit including sheets, blanket, pillow, case, towel and toiletries will be provided. There will not be daily housekeeping services provided. There will be 2 people per room, 4 people per suite that share a bathroom.

In order to be sure that you have a room, please register by April 20, 2018. There will be a per room, per day charge of \$30 (U.S. Funds) for spouses or \$30 (U.S. Funds) for delegates requesting a single room (if available) and \$60 (U.S. Funds) for guests/visitors whose expenses are not covered.

Please submit amounts due with your registration form and prior to arriving at the Convention. We encourage double occupancy and meeting the registration deadline. Attendees will be financially responsible for costs incurred by the District due to changes made after May 31, 2018.

For delegates looking for their own housing **not** through convention registration, a block of rooms at the rate of \$104/night plus taxes has been negotiated at:

Holiday Inn (near the Univ. of Michigan)
3600 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, (734)769-9800

If you choose to stay at the hotel, you must call them directly to make a reservation or make a reservation online at: [English District LCMS](#).

The block will be held until June 1, 2018. To receive the conference rate, ask for English District LCMS. Limited transportation will be provided by Holiday Inn to CUAA and from the Michigan Flyer drop off location. This needs to be arranged with the hotel. A \$30 per night housing reimbursement is available from the district with a hotel receipt submitted after the convention for covered registered participants.

MEALS

All meals during convention business will be provided for covered registered participants at the University.

Please indicate on the registration form only the meals you will eating on campus. Spouses, guests and others not covered should submit payment for the meals they select on the registration form.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The District will reimburse for travel at the rate of the coach airfare, mileage, car rental and fuel, or fuel whichever is less expensive. We ask that each registrant do their best to keep transportation costs to a minimum and choose the best value for your travel including checking with various airlines and making your reservation well in advance of the convention. For those who choose to drive, we encourage carpooling. There is no reimbursement for passengers, but by practicing good stewardship, we can keep expenses down, leaving more for our District's mission work. Attached is a memo outlining the District's policy on reimbursed travel expenses. Please read it over carefully before making final travel decisions.

For those traveling by air please check to see which carrier serves your location and schedule best into the Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW). **If the cost of flights from your location exceeds \$425 please contact the district office for options or assistance in planning your trip.**

Airport to Hotel: A Michigan Flyer shuttle is available from all terminals of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport to Ann Arbor (Blake Transit Center on South Fifth Avenue) between 6:15 a.m. and 10:15 p.m. Please schedule your flight arrival within those times. **To make your shuttle reservation call 517-333-0400 or go to www.michiganflyer.com** and have your flight information available. (Cost is \$12 one way /senior rate \$6 - submit receipt for reimbursement).

From baggage area follow signs to ground transportation and Michigan Flyer shuttles. The shuttle schedule from the airport to Ann Arbor is attached and available on their website – **please look at this prior to booking your flight.** Drop off is at the Ann Arbor Blake Transport Center on South Fifth Avenue. If you provide your travel details prior to the convention a shuttle will pick you up from there and take you to CUAA. If you need transportation from the Michigan Flyer to the Holiday Inn please call 734-769-9800 for the limited hotel shuttle service.

Return to Airport: A separate bus (not Michigan Flyer) to the airport will be scheduled to leave Concordia University at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2018 and on Friday June 22 at 8:00 a.m. If these times do not work for your schedule, please make a round-trip reservation on the Michigan Flyer and arrangements with the transportation committee or Holiday Inn shuttle if you are staying there.

VISITING PURE MICHIGAN

We encourage you to take in the sights and ambience of the Ann Arbor/Detroit area before or after the District Convention, but such vacation-like activities will be at your own expense and planning.

Concordia University dorm rooms are not available prior to Monday June 18 or after June 21.

Area Attractions:

Ann Arbor Farmers Market
Ann Arbor Hands On Museum
Ann Arbor Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Ann Arbor Museum of Art
Ann Arbor Nichols Arboretum
Ann Arbor University of Michigan Campus
Detroit Belle Isle Conservatory and Aquarium
Detroit Downtown and Riverfront Areas
Detroit Eastern Market
Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit Motown & Historical Museums
Detroit Zoo
The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village (Dearborn)

COMMUTER INFORMATION

Free parking is available at Concordia University.

WORKBOOK

The Convention Workbook will be available online in May. In preparation for the convention, please carefully read the reports, biographical forms of those nominated, and proposed overtures presented in the Workbook. If you wish to print any part of the Workbook, you will need to do that before arriving at the convention. Electronic devices and laptop computers will be permitted in the delegate section and may only be used for convention business. There will be limited power outlets available in the convention hall.

CONVENTION PRAYER PARTNERS

Please encourage your congregation members and friends to sign up to be prayer partners for the Convention. We are seeking prayers for all aspects of the convention: safe travel, the business of the English District, elections, activities, discussions, theological presentations, fellowship and to celebrate the English District's ministries and missions. Go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084da4a62ea7ff2-convention>. Scroll down to choose a time slot and then lift the needs of our staff, clergy and convention in prayer.

STAY INFORMED

Visit the English District website for information about the convention: www.englishdistrict.org.

QUESTIONS

If your questions are not answered in these materials, please contact the District office: 1-800-755-9335 or info@englishdistrict.org.

ENCLOSURES

Registration Form - Due April 20, 2018
Travel Information Form - Due April 30, 2018
Michigan Flyer Schedule
District Policy on Travel and Reimbursements