September 18, 2017

Come, Holy Spirit!

With these words all members of the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) are invited to discuss and pray for the election of a bishop at our next Synod Assembly on May 4-5, 2018, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Ramsey. We are now beginning that process and invite your thoughtful participation.

According to Chapter 9 of the MAS constitution, the office of bishop is open to any rostered ELCA clergy. That person may serve two consecutive, six-year terms. Our current bishop, Ann Svennungsen, will complete her first term in 2018 and is eligible for reelection.

A Bishop Election Committee is being formed under the direction of the Synod Council to coordinate an open, orderly, and transparent election process. The committee will prepare and disseminate information throughout the fall and winter, communicating to congregations, clergy, and assembly delegates by email, the synod e-newsletter, and the synod website, mpls-synod.org.

Nominations for bishop may be brought forward at our Conference Assemblies, February 25, 2018, all to be held at Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park. Three nominations per conference are allowed by our constitution, but additional names may be added from the floor at the Synod Assembly in May. Again, more detailed information and resources will be made available as these dates approach.

With respectful, open, and honest dialog we have the opportunity to discuss the office of the bishop and the mission of this synod, as well as pray for all leaders of the ELCA, this synod, and the voting members at the Assembly. Thoughtful conversations about our hopes, dreams, priorities, challenges, and possibilities will prepare us for the election, allowing all church members to have a greater stake in the church’s larger ministry and a stronger partnership with the bishop’s office.

Come, Holy Spirit! Guide our hearts and minds that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for God’s people and equip us for our ministries, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Craig Johnson, Vice President
Minneapolis Area Synod Council