

63rd Biennial Convention of the
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN SYNOD



—| INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES |—



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ONE in Christ

GENERAL INFO

You have been chosen to serve our Lord and his church as a delegate to our synod's convention. The synod in convention is the legislative body of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). It establishes, reviews, and amends the policies and the direction of WELS as we pursue our mission. You have accepted a high privilege and a solemn responsibility.

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the synod convention is

- to meet as a delegate synod to carry out the responsibilities of the legislative body of WELS,
- to celebrate God's blessings on our ministry in the past,
- to nurture our faith, and
- to set in motion an agreed-upon plan of ministry for the future.

YOUR ROLE

You are one of about 400 voting delegates who represent our churches, missions, and schools from around the world. You should be an informed decision maker who learns the views of those you represent and then prayerfully ponders and votes on what WELS should be doing for the Lord.

PRE-CONVENTION INFORMATION

The primary source of the convention's business is the *Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM)*, which contains various departmental reports as well as formal petitions to the synod convention called "memorials." A memorial outlines a particular item of business for consideration by the delegates. The BORAM will be sent to you before the convention.

It is essential that you read the BORAM to get the big picture of the synod's work and the issues facing the convention. You may also be assigned to a floor committee whose responsibility will be to react and respond to an assigned portion of the BORAM. When you know your committee assignment, carefully study your committee's section—you may make notes

ONE in Christ GENERAL INFO

in the BORAM as it is your copy. There will be another copy of the BORAM in your binder at the convention.

The BORAM will be posted online along with other convention-related materials at www.wels.net/2015synodconvention. Check the website often for updates.

Since you are the representative from your geographical area, you are asked to know the views of those you represent and are responsible to make sure those views get heard. Please attend district, conference, or circuit meetings where the BORAM will be discussed. (Your district president will inform you of the dates. Most districts hold their meetings in late May or in June.)

THE CONVENTION

WORSHIP: An opening communion service will be held on Monday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Court Street, approximately one mile from Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS). Transportation will be provided to the service. Each day's session will begin with a devotion. The closing service will be held on Thursday, July 30, at 1 p.m., in the MLS chapel.

FLOOR COMMITTEES: Delegates may be appointed to serve on a floor committee that will meet privately in an assigned classroom at scheduled times. Each committee is assigned a section of the BORAM to evaluate its content and/or recommendations; react to it; and, in most cases, present a formal resolution(s) or report to the convention regarding it. A chairman and a secretary for each committee are appointed prior to the convention. Synodical advisory delegates will be available for consultation. You may also be appointed to a subcommittee to lead the way in sorting through materials on a specific issue and arriving at recommendations.

Committees will meet to organize and plan their work immediately following the opening service on July 27.

GENERAL SESSIONS: The first session will begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 28. All general sessions will be held in the Michigan Lutheran Seminary gymnasium. Delegates are assigned a seat on the convention floor according to committee. All certified delegates are eligible to speak and vote on every issue before the convention.

ONE in *Christ* CONVENTION

GUESTS: Guests may watch the proceedings from the mezzanine in the gymnasium. (Only delegates will have access to the convention floor.) Access to the mezzanine is by staircase only.

ELECTIONS: An important duty of delegates is to elect synodical officers and board members. A brief biographical sketch of each nominee will be posted online and provided in the convention binder. Ask questions before you vote so you are as informed as possible.

REPORTS: During the convention, you will receive reports about WELS ministry. Make careful notes about the reports given and thoroughly read those not presented orally. All of this information will help you in making important decisions about the Lord's work in WELS.

AGENDA: A tentative agenda can be found beginning on page 9. The first half of the convention includes Bible study, elections, oral reports, floor committee meetings, and open hearings on key issues. Floor committee reports and recommendations will generally be heard and voted on in the last half of the convention.

STREAMING THE CONVENTION: The entire convention will be streamed live over the Internet at www.wels.net/2015synodconvention. Those making public statements at the microphones during the convention automatically give their permission to stream their comments. Remember that many people may be watching, so carefully phrase your statements.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE: Please attend all joint and committee meetings and take an active part in discussions. Remember that the business conducted here establishes the program of the synod for the next two years and beyond. You help shape the vision and set the direction of our synodical family under God by how you perform as a delegate. Your input is valuable, and your vote counts. When issues are debated and presented for a vote, vote what you feel is best for the Lord's mission based on the input you received. May God bless your efforts.



ON CAMPUS

ON CAMPUS

PLACE: Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS)

Website: www.mlsem.org

2777 Hardin St.

Saginaw, MI 48602

Phone: 989-793-1010

Fax: 989-793-4213

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: All convention delegates must register online. Access the online form at www.wels.net/2015synodconvention. Specific questions regarding the convention should be addressed to Carla Martin at carla.martin@wels.net or 414-256-3202. For technical questions, contact the WELS Help Desk at support@wels.net or 414-259-4357.

We need to receive your completed registration by May 15.

REGISTRATION COSTS: The delegate fee of \$250 helps to offset the cost of the convention. It is intended that this fee be paid by your congregation. In order to register, you will be required to submit the payment via credit card or e-check.

ON-CAMPUS CHECK-IN: Upon arrival, please register in the school's commons, located just outside of the gymnasium.

Check-in hours will be on Monday, July 27 from noon to 5 p.m. If you will be staying in a dorm room, please arrive prior to 5 p.m. Fellowship will be planned for Monday evening.

We ask that you register prior to the opening worship service during the posted hours.

ON-CAMPUS LODGING: Unless you make other arrangements, you will be assigned a room in one of the MLS dormitories. (There is no charge to stay on-campus.) Two or more persons will be assigned per room. You have the option of indicating potential roommates on your convention registration form.

Delegates will be provided with linens and towels. You will need to bring all other items, such as soap, shampoo, clothes hangers, alarm clock, portable radio, and personal items. The dormitory is not air-conditioned, so you should bring a fan if possible. We may have a very limited number of fans available for those who fly. If you are flying to the convention, be sure to check any restrictions for liquids and gels set by the TSA.

The dormitory has four floors, and each floor has a communal bathroom. There is one elevator that accesses all floors of the dorm; however, stairs may need to be used in case of emergency. Delegates who cannot traverse stairs in an emergency should check the appropriate box on the registration form. Some of the dormitory rooms only have upper bunks. Please note on the registration form if you are unable to sleep in an upper bunk.

MLS does not have pillows. If you are driving, please help us keep costs down by bringing your own. If you are flying and unable to bring a pillow, please indicate this on your registration form in the space provided so we are sure to have one available for you. You should also bring your own blanket, if you think a blanket will be necessary. (A few blankets are available for those flying in to the convention.)

All other concerns or special requests should be made on the registration form.

OFF-CAMPUS LODGING: If, at your own expense, you prefer staying off-campus, we strongly advise use of the suggested hotels in the Saginaw area listed on page 11. You will be responsible for making your own reservations and transportation arrangements.

RV PARKING/CAMPING: Since parking space is limited, MLS will not be able to provide accommodation for RV parking anywhere near the school.

PARKING: A campus map showing buildings, dormitories, and parking areas will be in the June mailing.

PHONE CALLS: The MLS switchboard will be manned during normal office hours. The phone number is 989-793-1010. Fax service is also available. The MLS fax number is 989-793-4213. Please be sure faxes are clearly labeled.



ON CAMPUS

Calls after hours or in an emergency should be directed to the MLS dormitory staff member on duty. These numbers will be provided upon arrival.

There are no pay phones on campus. However, phone access will be available during the day in the Administration Office and after hours in the inter-dorm office, located on the first floor of the dormitory. The inter-dorm office number is 989-799-7554.

INTERNET ACCESS: Laptop computers and devices will be able to access the Internet via WiFi in campus buildings. Log-in instructions will be provided. WiFi access will only be available on the convention floor when the convention is not in general session.

If you plan to use your laptop for note taking during the convention, you will need to run off of battery power when you are on the convention floor. Outlets are available in the classrooms during committee meetings.

SMOKING: Smoking is not allowed in any of the buildings (including dormitories) on the MLS campus. Please smoke only in a designated area and properly dispose of the cigarettes.

FITNESS CENTER: MLS has a fitness center in the dormitory. Hours of operation will be provided with your on-site materials.

MEALS: Delegates will be provided with all meals beginning with Monday dinner and concluding with Thursday lunch. If required, Thursday dinner and Friday breakfast will be served to those staying in the dorms and flying out on Friday morning. (See the convention agenda for meal times.) Visitors may purchase meal tickets at the cafeteria entrance.

If you have special dietary needs, please list them on your registration form.

Note that no food and beverage expenses will be reimbursed.

REFRESHMENTS: Coffee, water, and soft drinks will be available during the convention.

TRAVEL

REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE: A reimbursement form is included in this mailing. Please remember to keep all of your receipts and attach them to the form when submitting it. Delegates and congregations who wish to donate convention costs should submit a reimbursement request with “donate” printed on the request. WELS will provide you with a donation receipt for tax purposes. Further instructions are outlined on the form.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT: Although we do not expect you to pay all of your travel expenses to the synod convention, please exercise good stewardship as you make your travel arrangements. Some guidelines to follow:

- Please do not drive if flying is more cost-effective.
- If you are not sure which method is more cost-effective, use this calculator to decide: <http://www.befrugal.com/tools/fly-or-drive-calculator/>
- Please carpool with others from your district when possible.
- We will pay for the cost of gasoline with appropriate receipts in lieu of mileage.
- We ask you to consider flying out of a larger airport if driving to that airport is less expensive than flying out of an airport closer to home after adding in the cost of gas and remote parking to the fare from the larger airport.
- If possible, have someone take you to the airport to avoid parking charges. If you must drive, please park in the most cost-effective lot.
- Meals are provided once you arrive on campus. No other food and beverage expenses will be reimbursed.

AIR AND TRAIN TRAVEL: MLS will coordinate shuttle service to and from three different airports: Detroit Metro (DTW), Flint (FNT), and Saginaw (MBS). MLS will also coordinate shuttles from the Amtrak station in Durand, Michigan. Please check all three airports and the train station for the most cost-effective mode of travel, as each can differ substantially depending on your connections.

Those flying into Detroit, please note that the first shuttle will arrive at the airport by 10 a.m., Monday, July 27, and the last shuttle to campus will leave the airport at 3 p.m. Please plan your flights accordingly. Arrivals to Flint, Saginaw, or Durand should arrive before 4 p.m.



QUESTIONS & CHANGES

The first return shuttles on Thursday, July 30, will begin at 2:30 p.m. The first Friday morning shuttle will depart at 6 a.m.

Delegates requesting shuttle transportation on their registration form will receive information from MLS in June that includes a schedule, pick-up locations, and cell phone contact numbers.

Thank you for keeping convention expenses to a minimum. Please keep the reimbursement form included in this mailing to hand in with receipts at the convention or to submit after you have returned home. A reimbursement form can also be accessed at www.wels.net/2015synodconvention.

DIRECTIONS: A campus map and driving directions will be included in the June mailing. For information on road construction in Michigan, visit <http://mdotnetpublic.state.mi.us/drive/>

QUESTIONS OR CHANGES

KEEP US INFORMED: If you notice an error in any of your convention information (your name, address, convention arrangements, floor committee assignment, etc.) or if any of the information changes after you have provided it to us, please contact Carla Martin (contact information below) as soon as possible so that she can make any corrections.

If for any reason you are unable to attend the convention, please contact Carla Martin as soon as possible. Please do not find your own replacement, as all convention delegates must be certified by their district secretary.

We are available to answer any questions you may have.

FOR CONVENTION INFORMATION:

Carla Martin, secretary to the president
WELS
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Phone: 414-256-3202
Fax: 262-522-2800
E-mail: carla.martin@wels.net

FOR CAMPUS HOUSING AND AIRPORT SHUTTLE QUESTIONS:

Airport shuttle:	Prof. Andrew Naumann Phone: 989-233-0104 E-mail: atn@mlsem.org
Campus housing:	Prof. Melissa LaBair Phone: 989-823-4697 E-mail: mjl@mlsem.org

TENTATIVE AGENDA

MONDAY, JULY 27

Noon-5:00 p.m. Registration/dormitory check-in
4:00 p.m. Training session for committee secretaries
6:30 p.m. Opening worship service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
8:00 p.m. Floor committees meet
9:00 p.m. Evening fellowship

TUESDAY, JULY 28

8:00 a.m. Morning devotion in convention hall
10:00 a.m. Break
Noon Lunch/training for committee secretaries who did not attend the Monday session
1:00 p.m. Afternoon session begins
3:00 p.m. Break
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Mission presentations
8:00 p.m. Evening fellowship

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

8:00 a.m.	Morning devotion in convention hall
10:00 a.m.	Break
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon session begins
3:00 p.m.	Break
5:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Mission presentations
8:00 p.m.	Evening fellowship

THURSDAY, JULY 30

8:00 a.m.	Morning devotion in convention hall
10:00 a.m.	Break
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Closing service in MLS chapel and installation of officers
2:00 p.m.	Dismissal

*This agenda is subject to change.
A more detailed agenda will be included in the June mailing.*

AREA HOTELS AND MOTELS

RAMADA HOTEL & SUITES

3325 Davenport Avenue
989-793-7900

Within walking distance of MLS (approximately 1 mile).
Hotel/MLS will provide shuttle at peak hours.
A limited number of rooms are blocked for “WELS” at \$79 + tax per night.
Deadline is June 15 to make reservations at this rate.

Other accommodations—all approximately 4 miles from MLS:

FAIRFIELD INN

5200 Fashion Square Boulevard
989-797-6100

FOUR POINTS HOTEL - SHERATON

4960 Towne Center Road
989-790-5050

HAMPTON INN & SUITES

2695 Tittabawassee Road
989-792-2220

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS AND SUITES

2501 Tittabawassee Road
989-792-7500

SUPER 8

4848 Towne Centre Road
989-791-3003

KNIGHTS INN

2225 Tittabawassee Road
989-791-1411



HOTELS & MOTELS

COUNTRY INN AND SUITES BY CARLSON

2222 Tittabawassee Road
989-792-7666

RESIDENCE INN

5230 Fashion Square Boulevard
989-799-9000

COMFORT SUITES

5180 Fashion Square Boulevard
989-797-8000

TOWNEPLACE SUITES

5368 Fashion Square Boulevard
989-792-2200

SPRINGHILL SUITES

5270 Fashion Square Boulevard
989-792-2800

NOTES



ONE in
Christ

July 27 - 30, 2015

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Saginaw, Michigan



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

