

September 2017



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my privilege to serve as your secretary for the Texas District. In this role, it is my responsibility to ensure that voting delegates to the 2018 District Convention are properly credentialed to serve in their special roles. As such, you will find enclosed in this mailing a “**2018 Voting Delegate Credential Form**” to be completed and returned, as specified, for this credentialing process.

Please note that there is a change in the credential process for this convention from those past. This change has come about due to action of the Synod in convention in 2016, when Synod Bylaw 4.2.2(a) was revised to now read, as follows: *To be entitled to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation’s officers, either by mailing them to the district office at a date determined by the district or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the convention.*

In the past, credentials could only be presented at the district convention. **Now, the procedure allows for these credential forms to be mailed in advance to the district office...which I strongly encourage you to do.** By sending the forms to the district in advance, the goal will be to expedite the onsite convention registration process. **The deadline set for advanced mailing to be received in the district office is May 14, 2018.**

With this change, there has also been a revision to the delegate credential form. In the past, these were designed as two separate cards, one for the lay delegates and one for the clergy delegate, each of which needed signatures. Now, the form is one page with space for both lay and alternate lay delegates and clergy delegate. It also now needs only one set of signatures by two officers of the congregation, as per Synod Bylaw 4.2.2(a)

Hopefully you will find the 2018 Voting Delegate Credential Form self-explanatory and will be able to complete and return the form to the district office by May 14, 2018. Note that you can still present the credential form at the convention, too. However, the process will be much smoother if the form is sent in advance.

Also, please note that the credential form **does not take the place of registration for the convention.** Both the online convention registration **and** the delegate credential forms must be completed. The online convention registration is used to establish general convention contact information, housing, name badges, etc. Whereas, the credential form, which includes the officer signatures, is used strictly for the credentialing process.

(As a side note, the Synod no longer requires the district to maintain voter information for the election of the Synod president. So, this data will not be collected as at more recent conventions.)

If you have any questions regarding the 2018 Voting Delegate Credential Form or the credential process, feel free to contact me at my office at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco (Bellmead), 254-799-3211, or via email at larrygkrueger@gmail.com.

Thank you and God bless your convention preparations.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Rev. Larry Krueger".

Rev. Larry Krueger
Secretary