



Building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.

January 26, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

The 2024 National Gathering and Synod Business Meeting are less than a week away. You all should have received an email from the National Gathering Team to update you on all of the exciting events. As a commissioner there are a few things to keep in mind as you think about your time at the National Gathering.

ECO has always desired not to be just a new denomination, but a movement of believers committed to co-laboring with God as we live out the Great Commission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. With such an incredible gathering of people, I humbly ask each of you to commit to praying using the prayer guide on pages 2-4 in your ECO Synod Business Meeting Booklet as you prepare for and journey through your time as the National Gathering and the Synod Business Meeting.

The ECO Synod Business Meeting Booklet, as well as recordings of training webinars and supplemental reports, are available online at the commissioner website (<https://eco-pres.org/2024commissioners>).

Please review the Booklet for the breakout session taught by Ms. Connie Deford, ECO's Parliamentarian, for additional preparation. This will be held in room B315 on Tuesday, January 30, at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Deford will also have office hours available to any commissioner who would like to verify that their amendment is in order. Her office hours are scheduled on Tuesday, January 30, 3:00-5:00 pm and Wednesday, January 31, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon & 2:30-4:00 p.m. in D 201 (front Office Conference Room). These times and locations are subject to change, so we will keep you posted.

***Please remember, registration for the National Gathering is not registration for a commissioner or vice versa.*** Every registered commissioner must separately register for the National Gathering and if an individual has registered for National Gathering 2024 but has not been recognized on the Commissioners List as a commissioner or alternate, the ***Synod Staff cannot correct this.*** Only a presbytery can correct an error. A presbytery is unable to make someone a commissioner whose name was not approved prior to December 15, 2023.

***Please also remember to print a copy of the docket materials as there will not be space for laptops at the meeting.*** Smaller devices, such as tablets, are suitable, but please be sure to download the Booklet ahead of time so that the network is not overwhelmed the morning of the meeting.



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A few more reminders:

- All commissioners will be given commissioner lanyards at the National Gathering's general check-in to wear to the Synod Business Meeting. Commissioners shall wear these lanyards and their name badges to check-in (which includes picking up your assigned electronic voting device and blue voting card) between 7:00 am and 7:45 am on Thursday, February 1, 2024, outside the Worship Arts Center as the Synod Business Meeting will begin promptly at 8:00am.
- Commissioners who arrive after 7:50am will be allowed in shortly after the first commissioner count is given and assessed by Synod staff so that the meeting may begin.
- Commissioners shall only sit in the Worship Arts Center while guests will be seated in the sanctuary, so please make appropriate arrangements with others in your party. This includes spouses.
- In order to make sure we accomplish everything on our agenda, we may only have one 15-minute break at the discretion of the President and meeting Moderator. If an emergency arises or you leave the room during such a break, the voting devices must be left at the check in table.
- We will not be stopping for a lunch break, so please prepare in advance for any additional items you may need for the duration of the meeting.

As I hope was demonstrated to those in attendance at previous Synod Business Meetings, the work which is completed at these meetings serves to enhance ECO's mission of building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ. As you will have seen in this year's docket, we are hoping to complete our work no later than noon.

Finally, please remember that nearly everyone who holds a leadership position in ECO at the presbytery and synod levels are volunteers. It is these volunteers and synod staff members which help ECO to create the environment for congregations, church plants, and leaders to flourish. If we can be of any assistance or support to you during the National Gathering and Synod Business Meeting please let us know directly at the information table or [eccadmin@eco-pres.org](mailto:eccadmin@eco-pres.org).

In Christ,

Rev. Nate Dreesmann

Executive Director of Ecclesiastical Support