
CALC

Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations

Annual General Convention 2021

Brochure

(Published June 5, 2021)

Convention Theme

“Do not be afraid”



September 11, 2021

Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations

Convention Venue:

Coast Nisku Inn and Conference Center
1101 4 Street, Nisku, Alberta

Convention 2021

CALC’s 2021 Annual General Convention (the “Convention”) will be held on Saturday September 11, 2021. The one-day Convention will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude at 6:00 PM.

Hybrid Event: The Convention will be a hybrid event with some delegates and visitors participating at an in-person meeting at the Coast Nisku Inn and Conference Center located in Nisku, Alberta, and some participating online through a ZOOM call. If COVID-19 protocols for the in-person meetings make holding and in-person meeting on September 11th impossible or impractical, the National Council may hold the Convention, including, presentations by our keynote speaker, as an entirely online event by ZOOM. See page 5 for details.

Convention Registration Fees

In-Person Participants.....\$100.00

Online Participants.....\$50.00

“Do not be afraid....”

These words have comforted and encouraged God’s people overwhelmed by His presence and the enormity of a task He set before them. God’s people of the 21st Century need to hear, and be comforted and encouraged by these words in the face of the enormity of the tasks that God has set before us.

Convention Schedule

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| 9:00-9:15 ^{AM} | Devotion and Opening of Convention |
| 9:15-10:15 ^{AM} | Business Session #1 |
| 10:15-10:30 ^{AM} | Refreshment Break |
| 10:30-11:45 ^{AM} | Business Session #2 |
| 11:45 ^{AM} -12:30 ^{PM} | Lunch Break |
| 12:30-1:30 ^{PM} | Keynote address #1 – Jojo Ruba |
| 1:30-1:45 ^{PM} | Break |
| 1:45-2:45 ^{PM} | Keynote Address #2 - Jojo Ruba |
| 2:45-3:00 ^{PM} | Refreshment Break |
| 3:00-4:00 ^{PM} | Keynote Address #3 - Jojo Ruba |
| 4:00-4:15 ^{PM} | Break |
| 4:15-5:15 ^{PM} | Keynote Address #4 - Jojo Ruba |
| 5:15-5:30 ^{PM} | Break |
| 5:30-6:00 ^{PM} | Gradations – Farewell and Godspeed. |

Business Sessions: The agenda for the business sessions includes, without limitation, the following: approval of the minutes for the 2020 annual general convention; reports from the Board of Elders, President, Treasurer, Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee; adoption of a budget for 2022; election for the following positions on the National Council: President, Secretary, one position on the Board of Elders and two positions on the Board of Trustees.

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Jose (Jojo) Ruba is the Executive Director of Faith Beyond Belief of Calgary, Alberta. His presentations are slated to touch on Bill C-6 which criminalizes Conversion Therapy and its implications for Christian therapists and counselors, pastors and all Christians and to outline specific steps Christian congregations can take in anticipation of the passage of this controversial legislation. See page 4 for details.

Coast Nisku Inn and Conference Center

This year's convention will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the COAST NISKU INN & CONFERENCE CENTER of Nisku, AB. Our venue is located minutes south and east of the Edmonton International Airport. Contact information for the convention venue:

COAST NISKU INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

1101 – 4 Street, Nisku, Alberta, T9E 7N1.

Telephone: 780.955.7744

Email: guestservices@coastniskuinn.com Website: www.coastniskuinn.com

Booking a room:

By telephone: Call the hotel directly at 780.995.7744 and speak to a reservation agent. Be sure to say that you are attending the CALC Conference. **Booking online.** Enter the URL below in your browser or click below to book a room. A pop-up screen welcomes you to CALC. Click on the mauve "Select and go to the next step" button. Choose your check-in and check-out dates (September 10-13). You will be directed to a page in which you choose either: a single bed (King) room; or a two bed (Queen) room. After you have chosen a room, you will be directed to the reservations page where you enter your contact information and credit card information. You will be directed to left click to book your room. A confirming email will be sent to your contact email address.

Online Booking Link: <https://reservations.coasthotels.com/112083?groupID=3206844#/guestsandrooms>

Convention Room Rate For September 10 & 11

\$78.00 per night plus taxes.

Rooms: Single-king bed or two-queen beds (Based on double occupancy)

The hotel operates a shuttle to the airport 24 hours a day.

To book a room online [click here](#)



Convention Keynote Speaker



Mr. Jose (Jojo) Ruba

Mr. Ruba is the Executive Director of Faith Beyond Belief of Calgary, Alberta. His biography states that he equips Christians to be effective ambassadors for Christ for everyday conversations. Mr. Ruba earned a Bachelor of Journalism and a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Carleton University in Ottawa. Most recently he testified virtually before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights in opposition to Bill C-6, the Anti Conversion Therapy Bill. His presentation to us is slated explore Bill C-6 and its implications for Christian therapists and counselors, pastors and all Christians and to outline specific steps Christian congregations can take in anticipation of the passage of this controversial legislation. His presentation is divided into the four parts.

1. Redeeming Love: A Biblical View of Sexuality and Gender.

In daily conversations, Christians are caught in an impossible dilemma: either agree with the biblical view of sexuality and gender and be labeled unloving or change their theological views but be labeled untruthful. In this first presentation, we explain the way forward out of this dilemma: grounding the entire seminar on the need to redeem our understanding of love. In particular, this means helping Canadians see the difference between loving people and loving people's identities.

2. Banning Conversion: How Bill C-6 Will Impact Your Ministry.

Bill C-6 and bills like it that attempt to ban "conversion therapy," are marketed as a way to ban coercive and torturous counseling practices. In this presentation, we show how these bills actually ban much more than harmful counseling techniques. We explain how the specific and unique wording of the Bill will drastically affect the teaching, counseling and preaching your church or ministry offers.

3. Having a Ready Toolkit: A Proactive Approach in Church Policies.

In this session, we take the effects of Bill C-6 that we talked about in the previous section and give practical ways your church can prepare for them. This includes advice on:

- (a) Why we need gendered spaces and how to create those spaces in light of the law
- (b) Preparing sermons, teaching lessons and offering counseling in light of the ban
- (c) Creating a Statement of Faith, including language to avoid confusion
- (d) Hiring practices
- (e) "Entrapment" scenarios including phone calls and visits

4. Making the Change: How the Church Can Still Teach Conversion.

This last session explores what further laws will be proposed as part of a broader overall strategy to change the church's teaching on sexuality. With their goal in mind, we explore the goals churches should aim for so we can proactively respond to these challenges. We want to equip your church leaders with the tools to prepare your congregations to become effective and winsome ambassadors for Christ in an increasingly hostile culture.

Convention Registration Fees

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| In-Person Registrants..... | \$100.00* |
| Online Registrants..... | \$50.00 |

* Includes lunch (sandwich, soup or salad and dessert) two catered refreshment breaks.

Convention Registration

In-Person Attendance and COVID-19 Protocols.

In-person attendance at the convention venue will be impacted by two factors: (1) the maximum size of indoor gatherings permitted by the Province of Alberta; and (2) restrictions on interprovincial travel. If Alberta’s reopening plan proceeds as planned, restrictions on indoor events will be lifted, including, reduced attendance, maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. Canadian provinces and territories (Alberta & Saskatchewan excepted) have banned or curtailed non-essential interprovincial travel. Provincial re-opening plans point to an easing of interprovincial travel by the end of the summer (based on achieving stated vaccination rates and hospitalization rates).

May 26, 2021, Premier Jason Kenney revealed the province of Alberta’s “Open for Summer” plan, which could see the majority of public health restrictions lifted by early July. (Global News)

The three-stage approach is tied to the percentage of Albertans 12 and older who have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, as well as hospitalization numbers.

Stage 1: Two weeks after 50 per cent of Albertans aged 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine and COVID-19 hospitalizations are below 800 and declining. Indoor events continue to be banned. Gatherings for worship would be capped at 15% of attendance mandated by the fire code. Social distancing and mask requirements would stay in place.

Stage 2: Two weeks after 60 per cent of Albertans aged 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine and COVID-19 hospitalizations are below 500 and declining. During this phase outdoor public gatherings of up to 150 people would be allowed. Indoor settings may open up to 30% of attendance mandated by the fire code. Social distancing and mask requirements would stay in place.

Stage 3: Two weeks after 70 per cent of Albertans aged 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine. All restrictions on indoor events lifted.

If the Province of Alberta reaches Stage 3 of its reopening plan before September 11th and travel between Alberta and Saskatchewan remains unrestricted delegates and visitors from Alberta and Saskatchewan will have unrestricted access (subject to restrictions in number imposed by our venue) to the Convention. If reopening plans of other provinces and territories permit free interprovincial travel the Convention may be wide open to delegates and visitors from across Canada.

If Stage 2 of Alberta’s plan is achieved by September 11, the Coast Nisku could accommodate up to 50 participants, masked and socially distanced.

If COVID-19 protocols for the in-person meetings make holding an in-person meeting on September 11th impossible or impractical, the National Council may hold the Convention, including, presentations by our keynote speaker, as an entirely online event by ZOOM.

General Information

- (1) **Congregational Delegates:** A Member Congregation is entitled to one representative per 50 confirmed members or greater fraction thereof to a maximum of three representatives, plus one pastor serving the Member Congregation. A Member Congregation of more than 600 confirmed members shall be entitled to have a maximum of four representatives, plus one pastor serving the Member Congregation. All Associate Member Congregations are entitled to at least one delegate. Individual Associate Members may register for the convention.
 - (2) **Voice and Vote.** All registrants (except visitors and invited guests) shall have voice at the convention. Only the elected and appointed delegates of Member Congregations may vote at convention, plus the President who may vote only to break a tie.
 - (3) **Internet Participation.** Registrants may participate in the convention via ZOOM. Registrants participating online will receive an invitation to a ZOOM meeting beginning 9:00 AM, Mountain Daylight Time, on Saturday September 11, 2021. CALC's President will host the meeting. It will be recorded.
 - (4) **ZOOM Meeting Participation.** For the purpose of establishing and validating the identity of participants, delegates must initially join the ZOOM meeting with a device which permits an audio and visual connection. Acceptable devices include, a tower computer equipped with a camera, laptop computer equipped with a camera, a Tablet/I-Pad, or cell phone which permits an audio and video connection. If during the meeting a delegate loses an audio/video connection to the meeting the delegate may thereafter reconnect with an audio only connection by using the designated telephone number.
 - (5) **Connection Tests.** We ask that online registrants connect to the ZOOM meeting at least 45 minutes before the meeting start time of 9:00 AM MDT so that any technical difficulties can be ruled out.
 - (6) **Clusters.** In order to keep the number of computers connected to the ZOOM meeting to a minimum we ask that the following guidelines be followed:
 - If possible, all the delegates elected or appointed to represent a congregation use one computer to participate in the meeting.
 - If possible, all the elected and appointed delegates of congregations within a reasonable distance from one another choose one location for all to meet and all use one computer.
 - To enhance the participation of multiple delegates in one location it is recommended that a computer is used which permits what is displayed on the computer's screen to be displayed on an external monitor, including a television or projector.
- CALC will coordinate cluster groups in consultation with congregational leaders and pastors and will inform the delegates assigned to a cluster of the details concerning clusters.
- (7) **Bulletin of Reports.** An electronic copy of the Bulletin of Reports (PDF file) will be emailed two weeks prior to the convention to all registrants registered on the date of the mass emailing. Those who register thereafter will be emailed an electronic copy of the Bulletin of Reports upon the processing of their registration. Online participants will receive a hard copy of the Bulletin of Reports by mail. Those participating in person will receive the hard copy at the convention.