

CALC's General Convention.

The highest constitutional authority delegated by the congregations to the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations is vested in the General Convention.

Annual Meeting

The General Convention meets annually by call of the President in consultation with the National Council. The annual General Convention typically takes place the third weekend in October. The venue for the convention is chosen by the previous General Convention.

Our annual General Convention is typically held over two days, the Friday and a Saturday of the third weekend. An all day learning event and opening worship are held on Friday. The learning event typically includes presentations by a keynote speaker and may include breakout sessions. Saturday morning is reserved for the business of the Association. Saturday afternoon is reserved for a keynote address and closing worship. A celebratory banquet is held on Saturday evening.

Make-up of the Convention

The General Convention is composed of: voting delegates, advisory members and official visitors.

Voting Delegates:

The voting delegates sent by a Member Congregation include:

- 1) One pastor, on CALC's roster of Pastors, serving the Member Congregation (serving at least part time on the staff of a congregation of this Association); plus,
- 2) A number of delegates elected or appointed from the membership of a Member Congregation which is based on the number of Confirmed members of the Member Congregation: one delegate per 50 confirmed members or greater fraction thereof to a maximum of three (3) representatives. A greater fraction of 50 is defined as: fifty percent of 50 (or 25) plus 1. Section 2 of PART TWO of CALC's bylaws states that a congregation with membership of less than 50 Confirmed members is entitled to elect or appoint one delegate.

By way of example: a congregation with 70 Confirmed members could only elect or appoint one (1) delegate; a congregation with 76 Confirmed members could elect or appoint two (2) delegates; a congregation with 150 Confirmed members could elect or appoint three (3) delegates; and a congregation with 250 Confirmed members could only elect or appoint three (3) delegates. Congregations with more than 600 Confirmed members may elect or appoint 4 delegates.

Advisory Members:

Advisory Members have voice at the General Convention but no vote. Advisory members include:

- 1) The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These advisory members have voice at the General Convention, but do not have the right to vote; except for the President who may vote to break a tie.
- 2) Individual Associate Members of CALC.
- 3) Delegates elected or appointed by Associate Member congregations (Associate Member congregations may elect or appoint at least one delegate).
- 4) Pastors other than Parish Pastors who represent congregations. (Pastor Emeriti and Pastors in Extended Ministry).

Official Visitors:

- 1) Official Visitors, whose presence and participation are desired, are invited by the President and seated by vote of the Convention. They shall have voice but no vote.
- 2) Congregations in the process of withdrawing from another Lutheran judicature, mission fellowships, unincorporated mission congregations, and congregations in the process of forming and incorporating shall be termed "Observer Groups " with voice but no vote.

Challenges to make-up or Representation:

Challenges to representation or election shall be referred to the National Council and decided by the approved delegates to the General Convention.

Authority/Responsibilities.

The General Convention has the authority to:

- a. Adopt or approve its own rules of order and agenda.
- b. Adopt a program of activity for this Association, and take the steps necessary to provide for its accomplishment.

- c. Elect officers, councils, boards, committees, etc. in accordance with this Constitution.
- d. Hear reports of the work of its officers, councils, boards, jurisdictional units, commissions, committees, etc., review their works, and act on matters presented by them.
- e. Adopt a budget for the work of this Association.
- f. Establish disciplinary procedures not otherwise provided for in CALC's Constitution and its Bylaws.
- g. Recommend or suggest, upon the National Council's advice, hymnals, forms of worship, and forms for performance of pastoral acts, etc.
- h. Approve proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws for submission to the Member Congregations for ratification. The vote on any such amendments should be taken after a short recess.
- i. Appoint a nominating committee.
- j. Uphold the faith confessed by this Association (Article Three), pray for and promote peace and order in this Association, and seek to further the Purpose (Article Five) of this Association.
- k. Upon motion, to give selective or full voting rights to Associate members and other Pastors. This vote would not be binding on subsequent General Conventions.

Limitation on Authority/Responsibilities.

The General Convention does not have the authority to:

- 1) Take actions in contravention of CALC's Articles of Incorporation or Charter, Constitution and its Bylaws, and previous inconsistent resolutions of this Association's General Conventions.
- 2) Decide questions involving doctrine. Questions of doctrine are based on the Word of God and the Confessions of the Church.
- 3) For amendments to CALC's Constitution approved by the General Convention to be implemented and take effect, the following procedure must be followed:
 - a. The Board of Elders prepares a disclosure statement which clearly sets forth the proposed amendment to the constitution and/or bylaws and the reasons underlying the same and delivers a copy of the disclosure statement to each Member congregation eligible to vote.
 - b. The Board of Elders sends a ballot to each congregation eligible to vote which: sets forth the proposed amendments in resolution form so that the amendments may be properly brought before the congregation; provides an option for the congregation to either vote in favor of or in opposition to the proposed amendments; provides a date by which the ballots must be received by CALC's Secretary; and provides for the execution of the ballot by authorized officers of the congregation.
 - c. Congregations vote on the resolutions at a duly called annual or special meeting of the congregation at which a quorum is present. The resolution is passed if a majority plus one, of the quorum of congregational members present vote in favor of the resolution.
 - d. The amendments pass and the constitution and/or bylaws are amended if three-quarters (3/4) of the ballots timely received vote in favor of the amendments. The results of the referendum are announced by the President in one of CALC's official publications.

Quorum.

A majority of the registered and approved delegates shall constitute a quorum.

Special Convention.

If required, a Special Convention can be called by the National Council. Delegates shall be elected in the same way as that prescribed for the General Convention.

Business Sessions.

The President should order business on the agenda in such a way that issues relating solely to Member Congregations and pastors on the roster of this Association are separated from issues relating to Associate members.