

REFORMED YOUTH SERVICES CONVENTION

MDXVII

1517-2017

THE REFORMATION

JULY 17-21, 2017

Biola University • La Mirada, California

# Reformed Youth Services 2017 National Convention

## Sō·las

adj. (sō·las)

[Latin, meaning only]  
single; alone]

*sola* (e.g., *sola scriptura*,  
*sola fide*, *solus christus*,  
*sola gratia*, *solī deo gloria*)

Five hundred years ago the simple word “alone,” *sola* in Latin, changed everything as the gospel was rediscovered within the church.

The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation are five Latin phrases summarizing the heart of the gospel and this reformation; namely, that scripture alone declares that we are righteous before God, by His grace alone, because of Christ alone, through faith alone, for the glory of God alone.

In our time together we will celebrate and consider the authority of Scripture, the role of grace in salvation, the work of Christ, and the goal of the Christian life as today we walk by faith for God’s glory alone.

Please make plans today to join us at the 2017 RYS National Convention to be held July 17-21 at Biola University in La Mirada, CA, Lord willing! A total of 12 workshops, including special guys and girls-only breakout sessions, will complement our theme. See you there!

### Main Speakers

Rev. Jon Bushnell, a graduate of Westminster Seminary (CA), has been the pastor of 1st CRC of Prinsburg, MN since 2012. He has led several workshops at prior RYS conventions.

Rev. Ed Marcusse has been the pastor of Immanuel’s Reformed Church in Salem, OR, since 2013. He was a keynote speaker at the 2010 event as well as leading other convention workshops and was our speaker at the LOGOS 2012 winter retreat.



### Day Away & Other Fun Stuff!

This year’s Day Away will be at nearby Knott’s Berry Farm, the iconic theme park located near Biola University. Knott’s Berry Farm features 40 exciting rides and attractions, including at least a dozen thrilling rollercoasters. Knott’s also has an entertaining western stunt show, hillbilly comic shows, music and more for you to enjoy. Plus check out their souvenir shops and grab a snack, maybe Mrs. Knott’s Famous Chicken!

This year we will play all of our sports tournaments outside in the beautiful California sunshine ☀️ including 3-on-3 style guys and girls basketball tournaments plus coed volleyball. Lawn games and indoor games will be available too. If you have a special talent to share, please start making plans today to try out for our annual talent show. **God-glorifying** variety is highly encouraged!

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“For by grace you  
have been saved,  
and that not of  
yourselves; it is the  
gift of God, not of  
works, lest anyone  
boast.”

**Eph. 2:8-9 (NKJV)**



reformed youth services  
Committed to the Spiritual and Social Nurturing of our Covenant Youth



# Workshops

## Our Only Comfort

In 1971, the Beatles asked the world to “imagine all the people, living life in peace.” Everyone wants to imagine they can have peaceful comfort. But, how does one find peaceful comfort in life...and in death? The answer is older and simpler than many think. Join us in this workshop as we consider “What is your only comfort in life and in death?”

*Rev. Greg Lubbers is the pastor at Covenant URC in Byron Center, MI.*

## How Do You Read the Bible?

The Bible is the most important book ever written. It is uniquely filled with God’s truth. Many Christians, however, wrestle with properly reading and understanding it. “How do you read the Bible?” is a common question. Can you answer this question? Let us answer it together.

*Rev. Angelo Contreras is a pastor at Zion URC in Ripon, CA.*

## Why John Calvin Still Matters

Every major historian agrees that John Calvin has been one of the most influential figures that the Western world has ever seen. His teaching shaped many aspects of society as we know it today from theology to politics to economics. But does he still matter? If so, why? *Rev. Derek Buikema is the pastor of Orland Park CRC, IL.*

## Evangelism 101

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ is one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences in the Christian life. Yet many believers shy away from evangelism because they feel unprepared, inadequate or afraid. God’s word equips and encourages us to overcome obstacles and experience the joy-filled rewards of faithful evangelism. *Joel Weaver is a graduate of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary.*

## Conflict: A Redemptive Opportunity

Everyone has their own style of dealing with personal conflict. For some, winning is everything, and they will do just about anything to get their way. Others hate conflict and will avoid it at any and all costs. But is there a better way to seek peace and restore relationships? *Rev. Paul Ipema is an instructor at Divine Hope Seminary in Dyer, IN.*

## What Does Your Selfie Say About You?

Your selfie captures a heart-shot as well as a head-shot. What good things does your selfie tell us about you? And how might your selfie challenge your walk with Jesus? This highly interactive workshop will confirm, challenge and change. See you there!

*Rev. Jeff DeBoer is the Director of Enrollment for Mid-America Reformed Seminary.*

## Act Like Men: Masculinity in an Emasculated Age (men only)

Among Paul’s final words to the Corinthians were these: “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” In this workshop, we’ll explore what the Bible teaches about manhood in an age of confusion, and what I pray my daughters will find in a future husband. *Rev. Mike Schout is the pastor of Grace URC in Alto, MI.*

## The Biblical Woman (women only)

Do you sometimes feel unattractive, insecure, and lonely? Lord willing, this workshop will turn your focus upward to Jesus Christ, our incomparable Bridegroom. Plan to be empowered by the Spirit to find rich fulfillment in Christ, so you may freely serve others with the radiance of God’s love.

*Katie Pratt is a teacher and Director of Academic Support at Santa Fe Christian School in Solana Beach, CA.*

## Where is God When It Hurts?

“Omnipresence!” God is everywhere, all the time. Yes, we believe that. How comforting. But wait a minute, why do I feel all alone at times? Where is God when it hurts? *Rev. Phil Vos is a pastor at Cornerstone URC in Hudsonville, MI.*

## TULIP Isn’t Just a Flower

Whether you call them the five points of Calvinism, the doctrines of grace, or TULIP, these five answers from the Canons of Dort provide a wonderful summary of what the Bible teaches about the glory of our salvation. Come and learn how these truths from the 17th century still speak to the church in the 21st century. *Rev. Bradd Nymeyer is the pastor at Sioux Center URC in IA.*

## Why Confessions Matter

“Wait, your church’s statements of faith were written centuries ago by theologians from the other side of the world. And you actually still use them? Why don’t you just believe the Bible?” How do you answer those questions? What if you’re the one asking the questions...about your own church? *Rev. Bill Boekestein is the pastor of Immanuel Fellowship URC in Kalamazoo, MI.*

## Unapologetically Reformed

Are you called strict and rigid for attending a Reformed church? Do you sometimes feel embarrassed about being Reformed, especially when your friends hear that Reformed people believe things like the doctrine of predestination, Sabbath observance, no images of Jesus, and reverent worship? Are we just stuck in the past? In this talk we will consider why we should not be embarrassed about what we believe, but show others in a positive way why convictions matter. *Rev. Chris Gordon is a pastor at Escondido URC in Escondido, CA.*

# REGISTRATION/HOUSING/DEADLINES/FEEES

## Eligibility:

### Conventioneers:

- Must be at least age 14 by convention
- Must have completed at least grade 9 but no more than grade 12
- May attend a total of 4 conventions

### Sponsors:

- At least 21 by convention
- RYS strongly recommends groups adhere to a 5-1 student/sponsor ratio
- Adult sponsors are required to attend all convention events with their students

## Registration Fees:

### Member Churches

- Prior to April 1: \$380.00 (U.S.) per person
- April 2 – 30: \$420.00 (U.S.) per person

### Non-member Churches

- Prior to April 1: \$420.00 (U.S.) per person
- April 2 – 30: \$460.00 (U.S.) per person
- After April 30: you may be placed on a waiting list by contacting RYS Director Ed DeGraaf.



## Cancellation fees:

- Cancellations before June 15 require a \$50 fee. Transfers may be made with a \$25 fee. No refunds or transfers after June 15.

## Travel:

- Biola University is conveniently located close to several airports in the area. No shuttle service will be available from any of the airports by RYS, as all travel is your own responsibility. RYS has no pre-event or post-event housing available.

## Convention Schedule:

- Check-in: 1-5 p.m. (P.S.T.) on Monday, July 17
- Convention concludes by 11 am (P.S.T.) on Friday, July 21
- Lunch will be provided soon after the last meeting on Friday.
- All conventioneers must be off campus by 1:00 p.m.

## Questions:

- Please contact RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at [rys@iserv.net](mailto:rys@iserv.net) or call him at 616-667-0694.

## How to Register:

- Go to [www.reformedyouthservices.org](http://www.reformedyouthservices.org)
- Click on 2017 Convention
- Create an online account with a unique email and password
- Complete the online registration form

**Choose a roommate or go potluck.** If you do choose a roommate, you must both name each other on your registration forms. Each room houses 2 people. Married sponsors may room together; please choose that on your registration form.

**Choose your workshops.** Everyone must attend 5 workshops. A guys or girls only workshop will automatically be assigned. Select 5 other workshops in the order of your preference so that we can schedule you in four workshops of your choosing.

**Complete the medical forms.** Don't forget to have your parents sign the medical release form by checking the box online. (You can do this yourself if you are 18 or older.)

**Rules form.** Read and sign the rules form by checking the box online.

**Sweatshirts and fleeces.** You may pre-purchase your convention sweatshirt (\$30) or RYS fleece (\$35) when you register. There will be a limited number available at convention at a higher price.

**Payment.** When your youth group registration is complete online, your church will receive an invoice. Please wait until you receive your invoice to make your payment. Then mail payments to RYS Convention, 6442 36th Ave., Hudsonville, MI 49426. Payments are due no later than May 15.