

2020 Spiritual Vision

TRANSCENDING TIME AND SPACE

VIRTUAL CONVENTION OF THE SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH– SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2020

This pandemic is being defined by physical time and space. How much time do we have to flatten the curve? Where did it start? How long until we have a vaccine? When is the best time to open our economy back up? How much space do we need to have between individuals?

Many say time has slowed down, for some it has sped up, and there isn't time to get everything done. Some of us are tired of being confined; others are working in a space that may not feel safe. We are reminded that in the spiritual world time and space are relative to our spiritual state. It is all connected.

Swedenborg offers a way to ponder this deeper level of rationality.

Think whether love or any of its desires, whether wisdom or any of its perceptions, whether even your thought itself is in space and time, and you will discover that they are not. *Divine Providence* §49

Emotions are also on a rollercoaster: from lonely isolation to feeling part of a greater whole; from deep sadness to overwhelming appreciation for a simple walk; from darkening confusion to glimpses of enlightenment as we spend time with our true selves. Life is hard, and yet the rays of joy break through and remind us: God is here in the midst of this pandemic.

For these reasons and more, The Virtual Convention Team has been imagining and creating a time and space that transcends the physical restraints of gathering in person. Our goal is to create a heavenly community from around the world, to worship together, and to learn more about Swedenborgian spirituality, and, most of all, how to use this love and wisdom to help us through this pandemic and its consequences in our lives.

This PDF is full of information about everything being offered. You can follow (and like) **Annual Swedenborgian Church Convention** on Facebook for the schedule and updates as they become available.
www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention You do not need to be on Facebook to participate.

There is more information at www.swedenborg.org.

Broaden the Swedenborgian community and join us for all or part of *Spiritual Vision – Transcending Time and Space*.

New to the Schedule – Black Lives Matter: A Call to Reflection, Prayer, and Action – Saturday, June 27th at 12:00 PM EDT
with Terrie Crenshaw, Rev. Gladys Wheaton, Rev. Shada Sullivan, Rev. Anna Woofenden, and Dr. Rebecca Esterson

This session offers reflections and messages on Black Lives Matter, Juneteenth, and decentering whiteness from a Swedenborgian perspective. It includes 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence in honor of those killed by racialized violence and a liturgical call and response focused on repentance, regeneration, and action.

Viewers are encouraged to bring a candle for the 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence. Everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts in the comment box throughout the presentation.

Schedule of Events

2020 SPIRITUAL VISON – TRANSCENDING TIME AND SPACE

Friday, June 26 All times are Listed in Eastern Daylight Time

- 7:00 PM — **Welcome and Greetings** to our first Virtual Convention
by Rev. Jane Siebert with musical prelude by Pastor Paul Deming
- 7:15 PM — Virtual Parade of Ministries – Part 1
- 7:45 PM — President's Report – Rev. Jane Siebert
- 8:00 PM — Virtual Parade of Ministries – Part 2
- 8:30 PM — **Evening Musical Meditation** with Pastor Christine Campbell

Saturday, June 27

- 12:00 PM — **Black Lives Matter: A Call to Reflection, Prayer, and Action**
with Dr. Rebecca Esterson, Terrie Crenshaw, Rev. Gladys Wheaton, Rev. Shada Sullivan,
and Rev. Anna Woofenden
- 1:00 PM — **Memorial Worship Service**
with Rev. Rachel Madjerac with musical prelude by Rev. Ken Turley
- 2:00 PM — **Keynote Presentation** entitled ***For Heaven's Sake***
by Rev. Dr. George F. Dole with an introduction from
Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence, followed by live Q&A
- 3:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***Spiritual Cinema: Swedenborg at the Movies***
with Dr. Devin Zuber,
followed by live Q&A
- 4:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***The Death of God in T.S. Eliot; The Death of the Church in Swedenborg*** with Rev. Dr. David Fekete,
followed by live Q&A
- 5:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***Blessed are the Peacemakers: How You and Your Church Can Successfully Facilitate Political Dialogue in a Polarized Society***
with Rev. Rich Tafel, followed by live Q&A
- 7:00 PM — **Swedenborgian Church Youth League Worship Service**
followed by live Q&A with Youth Leader Kurt Fekete & the SCYL Officers

Sunday, June 28

- 1:45 PM — **Opening of Final Day** by Rev. Jane Siebert with musical prelude by Bet Giddings
- 2:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***Disability, Divinity & The Divine Human: Helen Keller's Spiritual Legacy*** with Rev. Sage Cole, followed by live Q&A
- 3:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***Finding Church Beyond the Walls: Reimagining Church in the Time of Covid*** with Rev. Anna Woofenden,
followed by live Q&A
- 4:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***The Harmonic One: Suggestions of Divine Plurality in the Bible and in Swedenborg*** with Dr. Rebecca Esterson,
followed by live Q&A
- 5:00 PM — Mini-Course: ***Near-Death Studies and Swedenborg's Spiritual World***
with Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence, followed by live Q&A
- 7:00 PM — **Closing Worship Service with Communion** with Pastor Paul Deming,
Rev. Kevin Baxter, Rev. Sage Cole, Rev. Youngmin Kim, and Rev. Shada Sullivan
musical prelude and postlude by Angela Papierski and interlude by Karen Conger.
Closing of Convention by Rev. Jane Siebert

All events will be taking place on Facebook live on the **Annual Swedenborgian Church Convention** page. No need to have Facebook to participate, the stream will be accessible from Swedenborg.org. Join in worship services a few minutes early to enjoy the music being offered and stay on the live stream for Question and Answer sessions. All times are in EDT.

Keynote Presentation and Mini-Courses

At every annual convention of the Swedenborgian Church, mini-courses are offered; Virtual Convention will be no exception. There is a variety of exciting and interesting courses to choose from: go to one, or go to them all. We have seven offerings plus a keynote by Rev. Dr. George Dole. Attendees are invited to comment throughout the live streams in the comments section then to join us on Zoom to enjoy a few minutes of live questions and answers with each presenter.

Keynote Presentation

For Heaven's Sake

Saturday, June 27, at 2:00 PM

Rev. Dr. George F. Dole

Rev. Dr. George Dole will take a look at our pandemic turmoil through a Swedenborgian lens, seeing the true New Jerusalem as the Lord's intent, and suggesting where our little church may be finding itself on this global stage.



Rev. Dr. George F. Dole was ordained by the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in 1960 and has since served it as both a pastor and teacher. He received a B.A. in Classics from Yale in 1952 (Phi Beta Kappa), an M.A. in Hebrew from Oxford in 1958, and a Ph.D. in Assyriology from Harvard (1965), which was granted with distinction. After serving as pastor of our church in Cambridge, he joined the faculty of the then New Church Theological School, serving it through its several name changes until his retirement in 1999. During those years he authored a number of books on Swedenborgian

themes and was one of the principal translators of Swedenborg's theological works for the New Century Edition. He continues research and writing, with a book entitled *The High Cost of Vision: Critical Years of Emanuel Swedenborg's Life*—now in the capable hands of the Swedenborg Foundation's copy editor, and now Rev. Dr. Dole is well into the research stage of a book on Swedenborg's mid-career "course correction"—so obvious once it is pointed out. Throughout all this, he has been most deeply blessed by his marriage to Lois, the co-parenting of their five children, and the familial love and understanding that has continued to deepen over the years.

Mini-Courses

Spiritual Cinema: Swedenborg at the Movies

Saturday, June 27, at 3:00 PM

Dr. Devin Zuber

Encountering a great work of art can sometimes transform us—the philosopher George Steiner writes that experiencing art which contains "real presences" can create the bittersweet wish to have once led a better life (to paraphrase). How might watching movies help us on our respective paths of spiritual regeneration? This interactive mini-course is part historical, part experiential sharing, and comes out of research I have done on the Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman and his encounters with Swedenborgian thought (which largely emerges from my time spent as a fellow in Bergman's house and library on Fårö island, Sweden, in 2016). We will explore the surprising occult and esoteric roots of early cinematic history, from Sergei Eisenstein to Vachel Lindsay—the great Illinois poet,

mystic, and deep reader of William Blake and Swedenborg who also happened to write the first American book of film theory and criticism, published in 1915. We will also share and draw from our own experiences of how movie watching might form a kind of spiritual practice, and open us up to a different relationship to time and space: an experience of what the filmmaker Nathaniel Dorsky has called "devotional cinema." Participants are encouraged to watch two Ingmar Bergman classics on their own in advance of this mini-course (though this is not required): *The Seventh Seal* (1957), and *Wild Strawberries* (1957).



Dr. Devin Zuber teaches at the Center for Swedenborgian Studies (CSS) at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. At the GTU, he is chair for the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion, and also co-leads Sustainability 360, a new incubator for the environmental humanities at the GTU. His recent book *A Language of Things: Swedenborg and the American Environmental Imagination*, was published by UVA Press in December 2019, and has recently been nominated for the Borsch-Rast Prize. Current research and teaching interests in addition to Swedenborg include countercultural

poetry and art of the 1960s, and the status of spirituality in contemporary art. When he's not teaching or gardening, he likes to spend time catching waves on a surfboard out at Bolinas.

The Death of God in T.S. Eliot; The Death of the Church in Swedenborg

Saturday, June 27, at 4:00 PM

Rev. Dr. David Fekete

T.S. Eliot images the death of God in his poems "The Waste Land," and "The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock." The death of God ideology pervades our society. And church attendance across denominational lines is dwindling—for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Eliot describes a process that Swedenborg explains. When a new church is being established, the former church must die out completely. The new church is not established from the former church, but from those we would call "unchurched," or the Gentiles.

We will look at Eliot's poetry and discuss the currency of his death of God imagery. Then we will look at citations from Swedenborg, examining the larger question about the death of the Old Church. While we are bearers of enlightened doctrines, are we, in fact, part of the Old Church which must die out? These challenging issues will be discussed together as we read through Eliot and Swedenborg.



Rev. Dr. Dave Fekete is a proud graduate of Urbana University, Harvard University, and the University of Virginia. Having served as the president of the Edmonton Interfaith Center for Education and Action, he has attended and presented in numerous international interfaith conventions. He is on the Academic Senate, D.Min. Program Committee, and is associate faculty at Saint Stephen's College.

Blessed are the Peacemakers: How You and Your Church Can Successfully Facilitate Political Dialogue in a Polarized Society

Saturday, June 27, at 5:00 PM

Rev. Rich Tafel

Our nation is at one of the worst moments of polarization since the Civil War. There are few spaces where people of differing viewpoints can still come together and be treated with respect and an open heart. Most churches fear to play any role in controversial political debates. This mini-course will make the case that churches should play the role of facilitator of diverse dialogues. Our tradition is unique in following a mystic who also served in government and politics.



This course will give participants a concrete understanding of the six prominent value systems debated in American life. It will offer specific examples of how to build peacemaking in our culture by facilitating discussion. Participants will be encouraged to try to role-play various viewpoints for the group. Anyone interested in developing their ability to see multiple viewpoints and live out the role of peacemaker in our culture will benefit from this course.

Rev. Tafel frequently facilitates topical discussions in his church. He will share personal examples of his life in the political arena.

Rev. Rich Tafel is a national leader in the intersection of faith and politics. He serves as pastor at the Church of the Holy City, located in the heart of Washington D.C., a few blocks from the White House. While most churches seek to keep politics outside, Rev. Tafel has pioneered bringing challenging political topics into the Sunday worship service and events for a facilitated dialogue. Rev. Tafel has a long history in politics, managing a campaign in 1990 and serving as an appointee to Governor Weld (R-MA) in 1991, and in 1993, he founded Log Cabin Republicans as a bridge between the LGBT community and conservative Americans. He was one of the first public champions for gay marriage. In 1999, he authored the book *Party Crasher*. In 2017, he was chosen as the director of the American Project, which is a think tank focused on a future, healthy conservative movement, a program of Pepperdine School of Public Policy. In 2019, he authored the *Quillette* magazine piece, "Understanding America's Cultural and Political Realignment," which lays out a values-based understanding of political positions in America.

Disability, Divinity, & The Divine Human: Helen Keller's Spiritual Legacy

Sunday, June 28, at 2:00 PM

Rev. Sage Cole

Helen Keller was a woman with a mystic sense and a deep faith that drove her not to just overcome her own limitations, but to work for the liberation of others. In this mini-course we will explore Helen's life from the lens of faith and justice. We will explore how Helen's Swedenborgianism influenced her and how we may be able to better understand and live our faith as Swedenborgians through her example. This mini-course will touch on key moments and movements in her most incredible life, including meeting



W.E.B. Dubois, joining the Socialist Party, speaking at the Swedenborgian General Conventions of 1919 and 1928, and being among the first Americans to visit Hiroshima after WWII—and much more!

Rev. Sage Cole is the Pastor and Director of Swedenborg Chapel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and vision caster for the Helen Keller Spiritual Life Center (www.hkslc.org). Ordained into the ministry of the Swedenborgian Church in 2005, Sage has served in a variety of settings: first pastor of www.swedenborgiancommunity.org, associate pastor at The Church of the Holy City in Wilmington, Delaware, pastor of the Fryeburg New Church, and for six years as a hospice chaplain in Southern Maine. Sage lives with her husband and two young sons in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

Finding Church Beyond the Walls: Reimagining Church in the Time of Covid

Sunday, June 28, at 3:00 PM

Rev. Anna Woofenden



In this session, Rev. Anna will explore stories of reimagining church and lessons learned at the Garden Church that can apply to all of us who are reimagining church during the time of COVID-19.

Rev. Anna Woofenden is the founding pastor of The Garden Church in San Pedro, California, and is the founder of Feed and Be Fed Farm. Rev. Woofenden now lives in Massachusetts, where she is a chaplain, pastor, consultant, and the co-host of the Food and Faith Podcast (foodandfaithpodcast.org). She is the author of *This is God's Table: Finding Church Beyond the Walls*. She is passionate about spirituality, justice, food, the earth, and community, and is driven by a calling to reimagine church. AnnaWoofenden.com

The Harmonic One: Suggestions of Divine Plurality in the Bible and in Swedenborg

Sunday, June 28, at 4:00 PM

Dr. Rebecca Esterson

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4)

There are two unexpected things about this foundational statement in its original Hebrew form. The word for "one," *echad*, is etymologically related to the word *yachad*, or "together." Second, the word for God, *Elohim*, appears in the plural form. These are perhaps surprising grammatical notes, given the semantic meaning of the statement. What are we to do with the seeming contradictions? Is there any wisdom to be learned from this?



For Swedenborgians, the oneness of God is a fundamental teaching, often appearing in pamphlets and on websites as the first bullet point in a list of key doctrines. However, when we investigate this teaching, we find that it is not some simple creed or code to be used to set us apart from other religions, those who we might tag as Trinitarian or polytheistic. This is a misuse of the doctrine. Rather, the teaching suggests a view of God that is dynamic, multifaceted, reflecting the infinite variety of the created

world, and even suggests a vision for religious pluralism. This mini-course will explore Swedenborg's concept of the "harmonic one" and his suggestion that "in God there are infinite things" (*Divine Love and Wisdom* §19).

Dr. Rebecca Esterson teaches courses on biblical interpretation, Swedenborgian theology, Jewish-Christian relations, and death and immortality, at our denomination's seminary in Berkeley, California. She is also co-editor of the journal *Teaching Theology and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union*.

Near-Death Studies and Swedenborg's Spiritual World

Sunday, June 28, at 4:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence

Swedenborg strove, in his final science study of anatomy, to prove existence of a soul to an increasingly disbelieving intelligentsia. Though failing to find the soul in a laboratory, he produced the first correct brain location theories and the first accurate description of physiological results of deep meditation by being the first to deduce that the brain undulates in concert with the lungs (i.e., with breathing).

Some say Swedenborg found the soul in his subsequent spiritual visions and experiences, and his consequent religious writings have been identified by history of religion scholars as the first spiritualist literature. Dubbed both a scientist and a seer, his career proved foundational for nineteenth-century enthusiasm for seances and belief

in the immediate presence of a spiritual realm of departed souls. The London-based Society for Psychical Research (1882) and the American Society for Psychical Research (1884) both frequently referenced Swedenborg as a case study.

The quest for establishing the soul's immortality found new footing in the last quadrant of the twentieth century beginning with psychiatrist Raymond Moody's 1975 *Life After Life*, a research study of near-death experiences indicating that clinical evidence weights toward personal consciousness as ultimately independent of a physical body. Moody includes Swedenborg in a short-list of four history "parallels" for his incipient research. Rev. Lawrence will summarize the latest research and reflect on how near-death studies line up with Swedenborg's spiritual world.



Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence served for seventeen years in congregational leadership and nineteen years as the Dean of the theological school. He saw Swedenborg's name for the first time in 1976 while reading Raymond Moody's now legendary book, *Life after Life*, which unleashed the modern study of near-death experiences. He remains a student of the field of research and believes the questions that continually arise are important for our increasingly science-minded world.

Worship Services, Music, and Meditations

Evening Musical Meditation

Friday, June 26, at 8:30 PM

Pastor Christine Campbell

As we wind down on Friday evening, Pastor Christine Campbell will lead us to our hearts with a musical meditation. She calls us into direct communion with the "Holy" beginning with "Come Holy Jesus," which she wrote as a child, concluding with "You are Mine," by David Hass.



Christine Campbell serves as pastor and director at Temenos Retreat and Sanctuary, near Philadelphia. She has worked as a professional musician for over forty years in many genres as both singer and pianist. Early on, she worked mainly as soprano soloist in many churches in Philadelphia and New York while also singing with the Opera Company Of Philadelphia. She worked in jazz and played the folk circuit during that time also. Christine's main love and concentration is sacred music from many traditions. She has served as soloist, choral director, liturgist, and music minister at many larger churches in the tri-state area. Christine continues to play and sing for all church services at Temenos along with being the pastor. She also sings in the greater community and is creating a new larger piece in the works for early fall.

Memorial Worship Service

Saturday, June 27, at 1:00 PM

Rev. Rachel Madjerac

Musical Prelude by Rev. Ken Turley

The annual Memorial Worship Service is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of those who have passed into the spiritual world

during the previous year as well as remembering other loved ones who have passed on. The service will be led by Rev. Rachel Madjerac, from the Wayfarers Chapel, in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. We will also enjoy a musical prelude by former denomination president, Rev. Ken Turley.

At the beginning of the service, Rev. Rachel will invite people to type the names of those who have passed on that you wish to lift up. At any time during the service, or while the minister is lighting memorial candles, you will have the opportunity to type in the names in the comment section next to the video on the Facebook page. If you would like to send any names ahead of time to be lifted up, please email Rev. Roslyn Taylor (hrtaylor@temple.edu) by Wednesday, June 24. She will add those names to the Facebook Live comments throughout the service.

Rev. Rachel Madjerac was ordained at the 2018 Annual Convention. She earned her Master of Divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Previously, she worked as a hospital chaplain in Hawaii and San Diego. Rev. Rachel is

originally from New England and serves as the Ministry Coordinator and as a Rites and Sacraments Minister at Wayfarers Chapel.



Rev. Ken Turley graduated from the Swedenborg School of Religion in Newton, was ordained in 1985, and served General Convention as a pastor for thirty years. He began in Massachusetts helping to revive Blairhaven Summer Camp along with serving

the Elmwood New Church, then moving to the church in Portland, Maine, where a lively congregation developed around a folk music-led informal style of worship and community events; and, finally, serving for nearly fourteen years at the Fryeburg New Church and the Fryeburg New Church Assembly summer camp. His last six years were serving as president of General Convention. Throughout his time of service, Ken and his wife Laurie, regularly contributed to the Annual Convention worship and music. Now retired and living in Maine, Rev. Ken devotes his time to composing, playing, recording, performing, and publishing music; gardening; and Skyping with his grandchildren.

SCYL Worship Service

Saturday, June 27, at 7:00 PM

Swedenborgian Church Youth League

Teenagers from around North America will lead an inspired video worship service entitled *The Gift of the Struggle*, with musical prelude and postlude, followed by a live Q&A session with Youth Director Kurt Fekete and the SCYL Officers.



Opening of Final Day with Musical Prelude

Sunday, June 28, at 1:45 PM

Rev. Jane Siebert

Musical Prelude by Bet Giddings

Bet Giddings served as Music Director at the Bridgewater New Jerusalem Church from 2004 to 2019. She continues to enjoy singing in choral groups, playing piano at special events and weddings, leading sacred circle dance gatherings, and teaching chair yoga to seniors. Bet is also a licensed mental health counselor with many years experience working in community mental health and hospice bereavement programs. She has four adult children and four lively grandchildren. Bet lives with her husband, Jeff, in southeastern Massachusetts.

Closing Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, June 28, at 7:00 PM

Pastor Paul Deming, Rev. Kevin

Baxter, Rev. Sage Cole,

Rev. Youngmin Kim,

& Rev. Shada Sullivan

Musical Prelude & Postlude by Angela Papierski, Interlude by Karen Conger

Closing of Convention by President Rev. Jane Siebert

The Closing Worship Service with Communion will conclude our Virtual Convention. Rev. Kevin Baxter will lead the liturgy, Rev. Shada Sullivan will share the readings, Rev. Youngmin Kim will offer Communion, and Pastor Paul Deming will be the Convention Preacher.

In preparation for the Closing Worship with Communion, we invite you to provide your own wine or other beverage, as well as your bread or bread substitute, ready to be consecrated and taken during the communion portion of the service.

Immediately following the service, Rev. Jane Siebert will be offering the closing of the Word and concluding our virtual convention.

Pastor Paul Deming has been playing and writing music since he was nine years

old. His song "From the Rising of the Sun" was published by Integrity Music in several languages and has appeared in several hymnals in the United States.

Now lead guitarist for the popular St. Louis band the Ralph Butler Band, Paul divides his time between teaching music at Rohan Woods School, giving private guitar lessons, and serving as Licensed Pastor at the Church of the Open Word / Garden Chapel in St. Louis.

Rev. Kevin K. Baxter is a pastor at the Boston Society of The New Jerusalem (Church on the Hill), which is an unaffiliated Swedenborgian congregation. A graduate of the Pacific School of Religion, he graduated and was ordained in 2004. He also serves as the director for Almont Summer School in Allenton, Michigan. In the past, he has served as a chaplain, pastor, administrator, editor, and also as the Chair of the Council of Ministers.



Rev. Shada Sullivan is the pastor of The Church of the Holy City in Wilmington, Delaware. She grew up in the Australian New Church and moved to the United States in 1994 to attend Bryn Athyn College. She was ordained in the Swedenborgian Church of North America in 2017.

Rev. Youngmin Kim lives in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, New York, with his devoted wife, Esther, and two children,

Keyman and Aileen. Rev. Kim has served The Mirral Church (d/b/a Korean New Church) located in a culturally diverse section of Brooklyn, for twenty-five years. In this capacity, he has worked to build a relationship of understanding and respect between other cultures and the Korean community. He is a positive force in solving ethnic issues with the Korean businessmen and the Black community by getting the Korean businessmen to employ more residents of the Black community.



He established the Korean Youth Festival and the Senior/Youth Intergenerational Programs; both programs have highlighted the importance of making both our youth and seniors more aware of the on-going dialogue, participation, and education as a team in the Korean community. He has received numerous awards from the community including the Asian American Heritage Award, the Distinguished Ecumenical Award, the Community Leadership Award, and Son of Micah Award from New Utrecht Reformed Church.



Angela Papierski began formal piano lessons at age five. She attended Berklee College of Music following high school, but lack of funds forced her to withdraw before graduation. After more than a decade-long hiatus from music-making, her desire to pursue music professionally was reawakened, and soon she enrolled part-time at UMass Boston to finish her B.A. in Music, graduating with highest honors in December 2007. In addition to serving as worship organist at the Swedenborg Chapel in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is the Interim Office Manager for the Swedenborgian Church of North America, Angela is a piano teacher with many students in the Greater Boston area. She lives in Cambridge with her husband, Kevin, their two geriatric dogs, Sally and Amie, and their noisy lovebird, Rover.



Karen Conger is a lifelong, third generation Swedenborgian who was raised in the Church of the Holy City in Washington, D.C. She has been a member of both the Urbana and Los Angeles Societies, and a member-at-large of the Pacific Coast Association (PCA). She has served on the Ministries Support Unit for several years, the Nominating Committee more than once, and was the Secretary of the PCA for many years, as well as holding elected positions on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Society and the Wayfarers Chapel Board of Directors. She now serves as the Secretary of the General Convention.