

200th Session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem

The Swedenborgian Church 2024 Convention

Swedenborg: Envisioning the Future

Frequently Asked Questions for In-Person Attendees

Our theme at our 200th anniversary mark is “Swedenborg: Envisioning the Future.” We are planning both a wonderful in-person setting at the deluxe conference center while also supporting virtual participation. We are excited to be upgrading from our long tradition of being in college dormitories to the attractive setting of the superb Kellogg Conference Center adjacent to the university. This choice setting provides inviting meeting spaces and comfortable lodging accommodations, and our convention will utilize a mix of both Hotel and University facilities. At the same time, we are continuing to upgrade our expert technology support so people can also attend our business meetings and popular Mini Courses from the virtual comforts of home. In addition to the program of activities, educational events, business sessions, and worship and ordination services, the Michigan Association is hosting an outing aboard the riverboat Michigan Princess, and our convention will conclude with a fun banquet Monday evening with special presentations.

New this year!

- 1) The option of staying at a hotel instead of a dorm room.
- 2) Teens can attend for free! If a teen (13–18) stays in a double room in the dorm, their room and board will be fully covered by donations. A parent is NOT required to stay with them in the dorm.
- 3) Shorter Council of Minister meetings with a formal reception for Ministers, Licensed Pastors, and early arrival attendees.
- 4) We will close the Convention with a sit down dinner all together at the hotel the evening of July 1, followed by live music thanks to a generous gift from the Michigan Association.

Location

Q. Where is Convention being held this year? Michigan State University (MSU), in East Lansing, MI.

Q. What dates are the Council of Minister meeting and Convention (including travel days)?

Council of Ministers:

June 27th–July 2nd

General Convention Attendees

June 28th–July 2nd

Cost and Registration

Q. How much does it cost? Cost consists of registration, room and board, and incidentals (like parking).

Registration will cost the following:

Adult in-person – \$110
 One day Adult Pass – \$55
 2024 Convention Volunteer – Free
 Youth League (13–18) – Free
 Child (0–12) – Free
 Virtual Attendees – \$50

Meals at the dining hall cost the following (plus tax). Please see more specific information under “Food and Dining” in the FAQ:

Breakfast \$9
 Lunch \$13
 Dinner \$13

Accommodation costs vary (Please see “Accommodation Information” in the FAQ.

Incidentals (to be paid once you arrive to the facility directly):

Parking at the Hotel \$15/day and free parking on campus in designated lots.
 Access to the IM facilities for use of the pool and gym at \$10/day for hotel guests (access included for dorm guests).

Q. How can I register? Registration will be online, available on our website at swedenborg.org. If you are registering to arrive in-person you will fill out a questionnaire online and then be issued an invoice. If you are registering for Virtual Convention you will be asked to pay online when you register.

Q. Can pay with a check when I register for virtual Convention and what if I need help? If you are unable to pay or register online you can call or email Central Office, Monday through Friday, from 10AM to 2PM ET for help.

Q. When must I register by? In-person attendees must register by **MAY 15** at 5PM ET, no exceptions. If you are attending Convention virtually, you must register by **JUNE 15** at 11:59PM ET.

Q. When must my balance be paid by? All room and board reservations must also be paid in full by **MAY 19**, or they will incur a \$50 late fee.

Q. Can I pay in Canadian dollars? Yes. You can find currency converters online at sites like www.xe.com and www.finance.yahoo.com/currency-converter to figure out the correct exchange rate. Using a credit card and/or PayPal is preferred, because your account will be charged in US dollars.

Q. What happens if I sign up for Convention but am unable to come? Reservations cancelled prior to **MAY 15** are fully refundable. Cancellations must be done by calling the Central Office directly during normal business hours at 617-969-4240 (10AM–2PM ET, M–F). If you are unable to attend due to a medical emergency, please contact Central Office at manager@swedenborg.org and we will consider each case individually.

Accommodation

This year is different from previous years! Please read this section carefully.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A SPECIAL DOCUMENT TITLED “CONVENTION ACCOMMODATION–EXPLAINED!” WITH MORE DETAIL AVAILABLE ON THE REGISTRATION WEBSITE.

This year we are excited to offer the opportunity to stay at a hotel for Convention! For those who prefer staying in a dorm, we will also offer that option (see below).

Kellogg Hotel and Conference

We have blocked out a limited number of rooms at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference center (where a majority of our programming will be held). We have been given the discount rate of \$135/night plus taxes and fees. This is for a standard double, queen, or king (the cost per night is the same). If you elect to stay in the hotel you must make your own booking. There may be other rooms available, like suites, if you were looking to have more than two people stay together, but they will not be offered at the discounted rate. You will get the discount code once you register.

These rooms should be treated like any other hotel booking. You will have to book it yourself and provide your own credit card when you check-in and pay the hotel directly for your room. You will have to find your own roommate if you would like to split it and manage your own booking directly with the hotel. COM members, LPs, and GC members, please refer to the email from Central Office regarding your specific registration process. <https://kelloggcenter.com/>

Bailey and Rather Hall

We also have the option of a dorm option for those who prefer that. Adults will stay in Rather Hall and youth age 13–18 have the option of staying in an SCYL youth group at Bailey Hall. Dorms will be basic accommodations, two to a room, shared hallway bathrooms. A/C is not standard in these dorm rooms but will be added at our request. There are no fridges in the rooms and we do not have access to the community kitchens so if you have a medical need for a fridge please contact manager@swedenborg.org. There are no suites available in the dorm.

Dorm Package Rates (includes meals)

Four Nights

Double - \$235

Single - \$345

Five Nights

Double - \$290

Single - \$430

Registration for a dorm is through Central Office, similar to how it has been in the past. First check in at the hotel and then everyone will get their room keys at Bailey Hall (see map on page 7). You will check out at the dorm front desk or Brody Service Center yourself.

Food and Dining

There is a catered reception on 6/27 at the hotel for COM meeting attendees and guests. There will also be a catered celebration banquet the evening of 7/1. All other meals will be at the Brody Dining Hall conveniently located across the street from the hotel and in the same building as the Mini Courses. There is a wide variety of food available that accommodates all diets and needs. If you have a specific dietary restriction please email manager@swedenborg.org to make sure they have what you need. **Breakfast is not included on July 2.** Any attendee may get breakfast there at their own cost. There is a small general store and coffee shop located one block away for your convenience, and coffee and pasties are also available at the conference hotel for a fee. Please refer to the campus map on page 7.

If you are staying in the dorm your meals are included on your key card. If you are not staying in the dorm you will pay for your meals yourself with a credit card (NO CASH ACCEPTED).

Dining Hours and rates:

Breakfast: 7:00AM–8:30AM, \$9 plus tax
 Lunch: 11:30AM–1:00PM, \$13 plus tax
 Dinner: 5:00PM–6:30PM, \$13 plus tax

Accessibility

Q. What mobility accommodations will there be? Please be sure to email manager@swedenborg.org if you have mobility issues and you are staying on campus. The campus/hotel does not provide wheelchairs, scooters, etc. If you wish to park in the lot nearest to the dorms, you must bring your handicapped placard.

If you wish to rent a wheelchair, power scooter, or any other portable medical equipment rentals you must make your own arrangements. The best delivery address for a wheelchair or scooter rental is at your accommodation (contact the Central Office at manager@swedenborg.org for details). You must be prepared to accept your own delivery and arrange your own pickup; we cannot provide convention staff or university staff to assist in this process.

Children and Teens

Michigan State requires that all youth and adults staying in the dorm watch a safety video. This will be aired at 5pm on Friday, June 28th at Bailey Hall. Please make your best effort to arrive by then.

Q. Are children charged a different rate? All teens (13 to 18) who stay in the dormitory in a double occupancy room with the other teens will stay for free! Thanks to the generosity of our Churches, Associations, and previous Convention attendees and their donations, we are able to offer room and board in the dorm for any teen who wishes to stay in the dorm with our youth only group. In addition to this, the Swedenborgian Church of North America will pay for the meals for any youth (0–18) staying with their parents in the hotel (you will be issued meal tickets when you check in at registration). Since you are not charged per person in the hotel, but instead per room, there is no additional discount for youth staying in the hotel with their parent(s) other than their meals being compensated.

There is a travel scholarship fund for children 2–12, of 1/2 of the flight's cost, up to \$300/child. Please email manager@swedenborg.org for more information. For information on SCYL (age 13–18) travel scholarships please contact the youth director Kurt Fekete at kfekete@hotmail.com.

Q. Can my teen (13–17) attend Convention if I will not be joining them? Yes! The Convention sponsor program allows teens aged 13–17 to attend Convention without parents. An adult sponsor must be named at time

of registration who will attend Convention and agree to perform certain duties and take responsibility for the minor in place of the parent. If the teen is staying in the dorm the responsible adult should NOT plan on staying with them. Please name this sponsor in the “additional information” section of the registration form. The sponsor will be asked to co-sign an acknowledgement of this responsibility with the guardians of the youth after the youth has registered. Please notify Convention of any medications, allergies, or special needs when signing your teen up. Children under the age of 13 cannot attend Convention without a parent or legal guardian and MUST stay in the same room as them. Minors traveling by plane alone may be subject to certain fees or policies; please check with your airline(s).

Q. What are the Youth League (13–18) program details? The Youth League program is for youth ages 13 through 18. They will again be led by youth director, Kurt Fekete. The teens will work hard on a theatrical worship service to be presented to the congregation. Of course, teens will also have lots of time to gather for recreation, play, and outings. We’re so excited to have youth attend Convention as our spiritual community is not complete without them! The program is supervised by Kurt Fekete (kfekete@hotmail.com, 802-345-0169).

Q. What are the childcare arrangements for children (6–12) at Convention? The children’s program, for youth aged 6–12 will follow the Convention theme of “Swedenborg: Envision the Future.” The youth will experience lessons and crafting workshops exploring this topic with an outstanding leader with great experience teaching and working with children. Children will eat all meals with their parents.

Q. What will the childcare arrangements be for young children (0–5)? There will be no childcare for children age zero to two. Childcare for children aged three to five is not typically offered, but can be arranged on a case by case basis. The children’s programming we provide is not designed with this group in mind. Please contact manager@swedenborg.org to discuss this further. If you are staying in the dorm with your child, the university does not provide cots, cribs, playpens, etc. You should be prepared to bring your own. If you are staying in the hotel please contact the hotel directly to make any necessary arrangements.

Travel Information

Q. What airport should I fly into? The closest airport is located in East Lansing, MI (LAN) (<https://www.flylansing.com/>). MSU is a fifteen minute Uber/taxi ride from there. The Detroit metro airport (DTW) (<https://www.metroairport.com/guide>) will have more flight options and often better prices but is located 75 minutes away. There is a Michigan Flyer Shuttle (bus) that takes approximately two hours that runs several times a day (<https://www.michiganflyer.com/schedule-route>). Taking an Uber is estimated to be \$100 (please confirm your own pricing), and renting a car at the airport is easy. You must arrange your own transportation to MSU. Central Office will help facilitate a ride share once registration has closed, but transportation is ultimately up to you.

Q. Where is parking? There is covered parking next to the hotel in Ramp 4/Lot 66 at a rate of \$15/day for hotel guests. There is also complimentary parking during the summer on campus. Information and locations found here: <https://parking.msu.edu/visitor-parking/complimentary-parking-information>.

Display Tables

Q. How can I reserve a display table for Convention? Email manager@swedenborg.org by June 1 and tell us how many chairs you will need, approximately how much table space (6-foot tables) you will need, and inform us if you will need electrical hookups. Tables are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note, you are responsible for setting up your table on June 28 between 1PM–4PM and for breaking down your table and removing all items on July 1 by 12PM.

The displays will be located in the side lobby of the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel where the auditorium and children’s program rooms are located (next to where you will pick-up your registration materials).

Choir Rehearsals

General Convention Choral

For those who are interested in singing in harmony or participating in choral arrangements please contact Pastor Paul Deming by either email paul.deming@icloud.com or text 314-803-6519.

Voting Information

Q. I am a delegate, how do I vote? All voting will once again be through the virtual voting service NemoVote. Delegates will receive information via email on how to use this service to vote in mid-June.

Additional Information

Q. What are some items I may want to bring? We recommend bringing your own hangers and extension cords for your rooms if you need them. If you may need extra pillows, blankets, or towels you should plan to bring them.

Q. Will internet access be available? WiFi access is available. Password will be provided upon arrival. You must agree to comply with the university's internet usage policies to use their network.

Q. Are there public computers, printers, or copiers on campus? Unfortunately, there are no public computers that available for use. Please bring your own if needed. There is a Staples located a five minute drive/twenty minute walk away from the Kellogg Hotel at 3003 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Q. Is there a Smoking Policy? The smoking or other use of tobacco or other smoking products is prohibited in all buildings, grounds, and vehicles owned or leased by Michigan State University, regardless of location.

Q. Are the fridges or Kitchens available for use? Unfortunately we do not have access to any fridges either in the dorm or the hotel. If you require a fridge for medical reasons please email manager@swedenborg.org and I will connect you with the necessary person to make those arrangements.

Contact Information

Operations Manager, Brittany Price may be reached via email anytime at manager@swedenborg.org or by call/text at 857-217-3309

Hotel address and phone number:

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824.
517-432-4000
<https://kelloggcenter.com/>

Dorm Address and Phone Number:

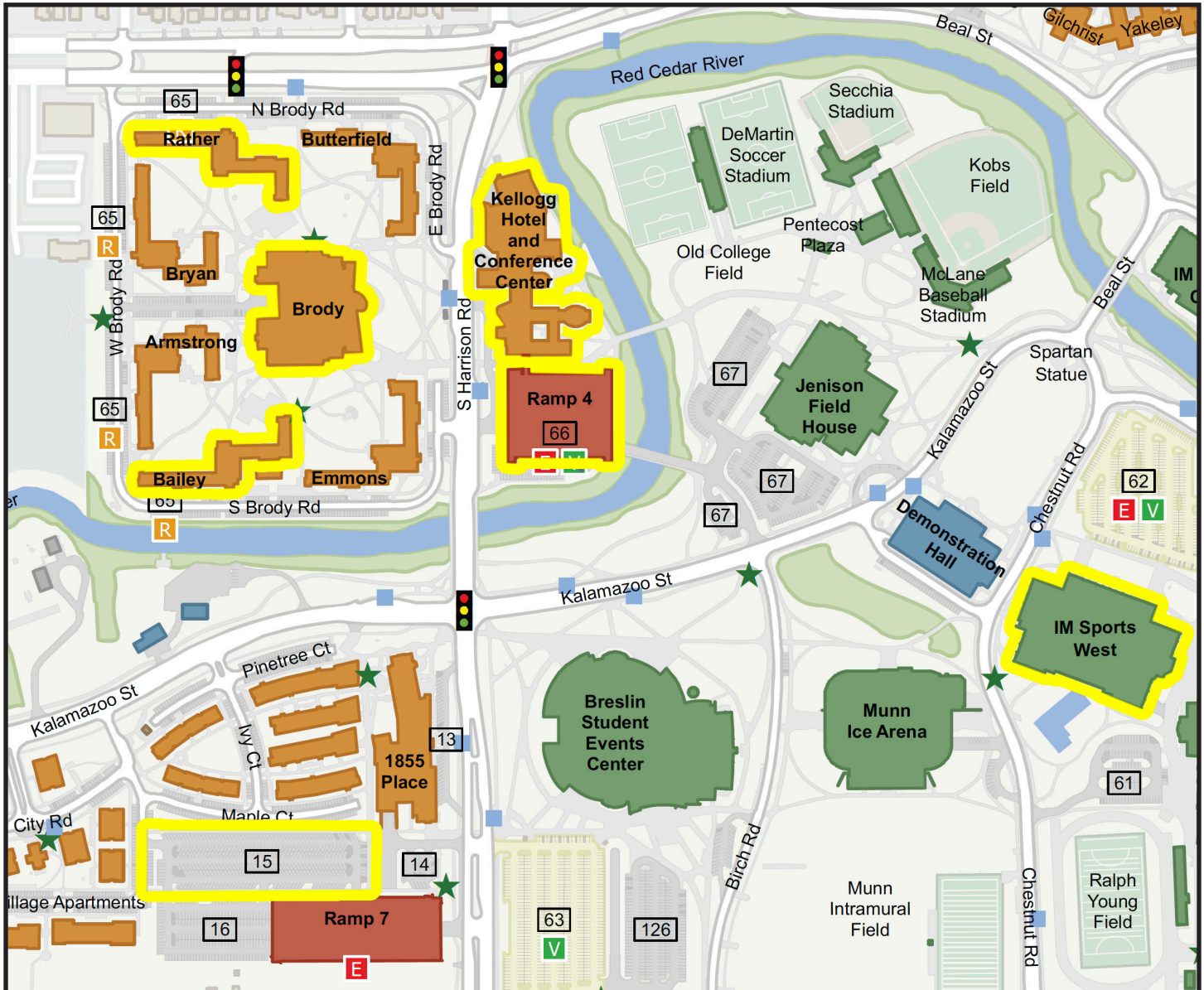
Bailey Hall (Where the youth 13–18 are housed as an SCYL group with chaperones)
988 S Brody Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 355-5751

Rather Hall (Where our adult guests will be housed)
995 N Brody Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 355-4446

Michigan State University 2024 Convention Map

PLEASE NOTE: relevant buildings are highlighted yellow.

This map is not to scale. The distance between the Kellogg Hotel and Brody Hall is 0.1 mile, the distance of Rather Hall to IM Sports West is 0.7 mile, and Parking lot 15 to Rather Hall is 0.5 mile.



BAILEY HALL – Dormitory where the SCYL group is staying

BRODY – Dining Hall, Mini Courses, COM Meetings, and Dormitory Service Center

KELLOGG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER – Check-in, hotel rooms, banquet, and auditorium

IM SPORTS WEST – Indoor pool facilities, gym, recreational facilities

PARKING LOT 15 – Free to park area. Can load and unload closer to the dorms at check-in and check-out.

RATHER HALL – Dormitory where our adult guests are staying

RAMP 4 – Parking adjacent to the hotel that costs \$15/day