

# 201<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem

## The 2025 Annual Convention of the Swedenborgian Church of North America

### Spiritual Innovation for a Changing World

#### Frequently Asked Questions for In-Person Attendees

Our theme at our 201<sup>st</sup> annual convention is “Spiritual Innovation for a Changing World.” We are planning both a wonderful in-person setting at the deluxe conference center while also supporting virtual participation. We are excited to have found another conference center this year at the University Place Hotel & Conference Center, adjacent to Portland State University (PSU). 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 those at a distance 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 Pacific Coast Association is hosting outings to the historic [Pittock Mansion](#) and the [International Rose Test Garden](#), and CSS is hosting an outing to Portland’s famous [Powell’s City of Books](#). Our convention will conclude with a fun banquet Monday evening with a DJ.

#### New this year!

- 1) Everyone, including teens, will stay in the hotel instead of dorm rooms.
- 2) Teens only need to pay the Registration Fee. If a teen (13–18) stays in a double room in the hotel, their room and board will be fully covered by donations. A parent is NOT required to stay with them in the hotel.
- 3) Catered meals instead of meals at the dorm cafeteria.
- 4) To book a hotel room, you must call the hotel directly at 503-221-0140 and state that you are with the Swedenborgian Church of North America. There is no online booking platform.
- 5) This year, you choose between three outing options: the Pittock Mansion, the International Rose Test Garden, and Powell’s City of Books. You will select your outing choice on the registration form.

## Location

**Q. Where is Convention being held this year?** University Place Hotel & Conference Center at PSU, in Portland, Oregon.

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

Council of Ministers:

June 26th –July 1st

General Convention Attendees

June 27th–July 1st

## 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  
 Youth League (13–18) – \$110\*  
 Child (0–12) – Free  
 Virtual Attendees – \$50

*\*SCYL Officers Registration is comped*

**Meal Packages (Includes Catered Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)**

COM Members: \$415

Lay Attendees: \$325

COM members, LPs and GC members, please refer to the email from Central Office regarding your specific registration process and meal costs.

**Accommodation costs:**

\$110/night plus tax and fees.

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

- Parking is available for an additional charge and guests must register their vehicle with the Front Desk before parking in the surrounding lot.
- Hotel guests receive their Parking Pass at the Front Desk for \$13/day.
- Visitors receive parking from Kiosks in the Parking Lot or through the Parking Kitty App (Code:81878).
- Parking is \$3/hour or \$13/day.
- There is an Enterprise Car Rental location directly adjacent to the hotel.
- Hotel guests get exclusive non-student entrance to PSU's world class Academic & Student Recreation Center, located just 6 blocks, or 2 MAX stops from the hotel.
  - Location: 210 Academic & Student Recreation Center (ASRC)  
1800 SW 6th Avenue, Floors 2-4
  - A \$15 day pass includes access to a two-court gymnasium, a 1/11 mile, three lane running track, a synthetic floor gymnasium equipped with dasher boards for floor hockey and indoor soccer, a large vascular and weight training facility, two multi-purpose group fitness suites, an aquatic complex including a lap pool and whirlpool spa, locker rooms, a bouldering wall, and daily fitness classes.

**Q. How can I register?** Registration will be online, available at <https://swedenborg.org/events-activities/annual-convention/>. 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 I 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 meal packages and registration must also be paid in full by **MAY 15**. Hotel costs can be paid at the time of check out.

**Q. Can I pay in Canadian dollars?** Yes. You can find currency converters online at sites like [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) and [www.finance.yahoo.com/currency-converter](http://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](mailto: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 DETAILS AVAILABLE ON THE REGISTRATION WEBSITE.**

This year we are excited to once again offer the opportunity to stay at a hotel for Convention!

### University Place Hotel & Conference Center

We have blocked out a limited number of rooms at the University Place Hotel & Conference Center (where all of our programming will be held). We have been given the discount rate of \$110/night plus taxes and fees. This is for a standard double 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.

There is a fitness center available for free for hotel guests, open from 6:00AM - 10:00PM. There is also a non-lifeguarded pool accessible to guests, during the posted hours of operation.

These rooms should be treated like any other hotel booking. To book a room, you must call the hotel directly at 503-221-0140 and state that you are booking with the Swedenborgian Church of North America. 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://www.uplacehotel.com/>

## Food and Dining

All meals, including breakfast, will be catered by the hotel. There will also be a catered celebration banquet on the evening of 6/30. 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](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) to make sure they have what you need. **A catered hot breakfast is not included on July 1, however the hotel provides a free continental breakfast**

from 6:30AM to 9:30AM.

## Accessibility

**Q. What mobility accommodations will there be?** Please be sure to email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto: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 hotel entrance, 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](mailto: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

**Q. Are children charged a different rate?** All teens (13 to 18) who stay in the hotel 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 hotel for any teen who wishes to stay in the hotel 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 in the hotel. **When registering, youth should select the “My meals are comped” option.** 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 2–18, of 1/2 of the flight’s cost, up to \$300/child. Please email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 hotel 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](mailto: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 “Spiritual Innovation for a Changing World.” 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](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) to discuss this further. If you are staying in the hotel with your child, the hotel 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 Portland International Airport (PDX) (<https://www.flypdx.com/>). The University Place Hotel and Conference Center is a twenty minute Uber/taxi ride from there. TriMet's Lincoln Station and the MAX Line is just outside the front door of the hotel and the Downtown Street Car is less than 3 blocks away – both can quickly get you anywhere downtown – connect you to the PDX International Airport, the Amtrak Station and many points beyond. Taking an Uber is estimated to be \$35 (please confirm your own pricing), and renting a car at the airport is easy. You must arrange your own transportation to the hotel.

**Q. Where is parking?** There is plenty of parking at the hotel. The costs are \$3/hour and \$13/daily/overnight.

## Display Tables

**Q. How can I reserve a display table for Convention?** Email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto: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 27 between 1PM–4PM and for breaking down your table and removing all items on June 30 by 12PM.

The displays will be located in the Columbia Falls Ballroom at the University Place Hotel & Conference Center (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](mailto: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. Will internet access be available?** WiFi access is available. Password will be provided upon arrival. You must agree to comply with the hotel's internet usage policies to use their network.

**Q. Are there public computers, printers, or copiers at the hotel?** Unfortunately, there are no public computers that available for use. Please bring your own if needed.

**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 Portland State University, regardless of location.

**Q. Are the fridges or kitchens available for use?** There are mini fridges in each hotel room.

## **Contact Information**

**Operations Manager, Jackie Shihadeh, may be reached via email M-F between 10am-2pm EST at [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) or by call/text at 857-217-3309**

**Hotel address and phone number:**

University Place Hotel & Conference Center  
310 SW Lincoln Street, Portland, Oregon 97201  
503-221-0140

<https://www.uplacehotel.com/>



