

# 202<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem

## The Swedenborgian Church 2026 Convention

### Creating Harmony: Art as Spiritual Practice

#### Frequently Asked Questions for Convention Attendees

Our theme at our 202<sup>nd</sup> anniversary mark is “Creating Harmony: Art as Spiritual Practice.” We are excited to be holding Convention this year at the Babson Executive Conference Center in Wellesley, Massachusetts, outside of Boston. This setting provides inviting meeting spaces and comfortable lodging accommodations. At the same time, we will be providing 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 services, the Boston Society will present this year’s outing, “Taste of Boston.” We will have an experience of rich cultural heritage and history of the City of Boston. The outing will be based from the Church on the Hill, home of the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, and include tours of the church and its downtown neighborhood, followed by a dinner in the city.

#### **New this year!**

- 1) This year, due to limited availability, the rooms are all double occupancy rooms, with two queen beds in each room. You can request a roommate on the registration form.
- 2) Each room has two queen beds but can sleep up to four people. Rates for triple and quad occupancy are listed below in the Cost and Registration section of the FAQ.
- 3) Hotel rooms and meal packages are combined into one price.
- 4) Commuters do not pay a registration fee. Instead, they are charged a per day fee, which includes meals and programming.

## Location

**Q. Where is Convention being held this year?** The Babson Executive Conference Center. The address is 1 Snyder Dr, Babson Park, Massachusetts.

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

Council of Ministers:

June 25 – June 30

General Convention Attendees

June 26 – June 30

## Cost and Registration

**Q. How much does it cost?** Costs consist of registration and room and board.

**Registration will cost the following:**

Adult in-person – \$110

Teens & Youth (0-18) – Free

Virtual Attendees – \$25

Commuters – Free (No registration fee; instead, a per-day cost)

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

**Commuter costs vary (Please see “Commuter Information” in the FAQ)**

**Q. How can I register?** Registration will be online, available at <https://swedenborg.org/events-activities/annual-convention/>. If you are registering to attend 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 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](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 Information

**This year is different from previous years! Please read this section carefully. You can find more information in the “Convention Accomodations - Explained!” document on the registration website.**

### **Babson Executive Conference Center**

We have blocked out a limited number of rooms at the Babson Executive Conference Center (where the majority of the Convention programming will be held). Each double room is nicely appointed with two queen-sized beds. The cost per adult is \$680 for four nights in a double occupancy room. This includes all meals. You may indicate on your registration if you would like to be considered for a single (\$955 for four nights) if one becomes available. You will book your room by filling out the registration form at <https://swedenborg.org/events-activities/annual-convention/>, rather than calling the conference center hotel directly. You can request an ADA-compliant room on the registration form. More information about the rooms can be found at <https://www.babson.edu/professional/organizations/conference-center/guest-rooms/>.

### **Hotel Rates Per Person (includes meals)**

#### **ADULTS\***

##### **Four Nights**

Double - \$680

Triple - \$640

Quadruple - \$600

Single - \$955

##### **Five Nights**

Double - \$860

Triple - \$820

Quadruple - \$780

Single - \$1,205

\*You may indicate on your registration if you would like to be considered for a Single room if one becomes available. Priority for Singles will be based on physical need. Adults registering with Youth (0-12) will pay the double rate. Triples and Quadruple rooms are primarily intended for families and SCYL. Adults wishing to stay in a Triple or Quadruple with other adults should contact Central Office at [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org), as this option is not listed on the registration form.

### **SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH YOUTH LEAGUE (SCYL) TEEN (13-18)\***

**Four Nights - \$250**

**Five Nights - \$300**

\*SCYL Officers stay for free. Teens may be housed with up to 4 in a room. All teens attending Convention are considered part of the SCYL.

### **YOUTH (0-12)**

Youth (0-12) stay for free, housed with their parent or guardian.

## Commuter Information

This year, commuters will not pay a registration fee. Instead, commuters are charged a per-day cost. These rates include access to all programming and meals. Please indicate on your registration form which dates you plan to attend as a commuter.

### **Commuter Rates Per Day, Per Person (includes meals and programming)**

#### **ADULTS**

Commuter Day Pass - \$75

#### **SCYL Teens (13-18)**

Commuter Day Pass - \$50

#### **Youth (0-12)**

Commuter Day Pass - \$0

#### **COM**

Commuter Day Pass - \$0

## Food and Dining

Babson Executive Conference Center offers flexible, sophisticated dining options with a diverse range of fresh, locally sourced food and beverage choices. The dining hall, Sorenson Commons, is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The dining hall provides a continuously evolving, buffet-style selection of chef-driven dishes designed to please a wide range of palates. Dietary restrictions can be communicated to the dining room staff, and they will walk you through the buffet to provide meals that meet your needs. You can also communicate your dietary restrictions on your registration form. Each day, we will have a hot breakfast, hot lunch, catered dinner, and snacks, as well as reception desserts on select days.

## 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 at the conference center. The conference center does not provide wheelchairs, scooters, etc. If you wish to park in a handicap-accessible parking spot, you must email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) to request a special parking pass.

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 the Babson Executive Conference Center (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 hotel staff to assist in this process.

## Children and Teens

**Q. Are children charged a different rate?** Please see the Cost and Registration section for SCYL Teens (13-18) as well as Youth (0-12) costs. Thanks to the generosity of our Churches, Associations, and previous Convention attendees and their donations, we are able to offer subsidized room and board in the hotel for SCYL Teens. While the teen rates are heavily subsidized, if the cost is a hardship for you, please contact SCYL youth director Kurt Fekete for additional financial assistance. The Swedenborgian Church of North America will pay for the room and board for any youth (0-12) staying with their parents or guardian in the hotel. There is a travel scholarship fund for SCYL Teens and Youth for half their airfare (up to \$300). For more information regarding the travel scholarship, 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 (5-12) at Convention?** Childcare will be provided for youth (5-12) during the morning and afternoon business sessions and Mini Courses. If we have a group of youth in this age range, they will also participate in lessons and creative workshops inspired by our Convention theme, and will share what they have created with the full Convention community.

**Q. What will the childcare arrangements be for young children (0-4)?** 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.

## Travel Information

**Q. What airport should I fly into?** The closest airport is the Boston Logan International Airport located in Boston, MA (BOS) (<https://www.massport.com/logan-airport>). Babson Executive Conference Center is approximately a 35 minute Uber/Lyft ride from there, pending traffic. Taking an Uber or Lyft is estimated to be \$55, but may change based on the day of arrival. The closest Amtrak station to the Babson Executive Conference Center is Boston - Back Bay Station (BBY), and is approximately a 30 minute drive, pending traffic. Taking an Uber or Lyft is estimated to be \$42, but may change based on the day of arrival. For more transportation options, please visit Babson’s website at this link: <https://www.babson.edu/professional/organizations/conference-center/directions/>. You must arrange your own transportation to Babson Executive Conference Center. Central Office will help facilitate a ride share once registration has closed, but transportation is ultimately up to you.

**Q. Where is parking?** Parking is available in the lots surrounding the Babson Executive Conference Center at no charge. You must print a parking pass ahead of your arrival and display it in your windshield. The parking pass will be sent to you by Central Office in the Convention welcome email. There are handicap-accessible parking spots available. If you require a handicap-accessible parking spot, please email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org).

## 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 (6ft or 4ft) 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 26 between 1PM–4PM and for breaking down your table and removing all items on June 29 by 1:00PM. The displays will be located around the perimeter of the St. Lawrence Meeting Room at the Babson Executive Conference Center.

## Banner Processional

**Q. Will there be a banner processional at Convention this year?** Yes. The banner processional will be returning at this year's Annual Convention. While established banners are welcome, congregations and groups are also invited to create new banners inspired by this year's theme, allowing the connection between spirituality and the arts to be reflected in their design. Banners will be included in the processional and may also serve as a backdrop in the main convention meeting space. Banners are ideally 2 x 3 feet, though exact dimensions may vary.

Additional details and guidelines will be shared soon. In the meantime, groups are asked to indicate whether they plan to bring a banner by completing this form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/tcJk265d9P>.

## Choir Rehearsals

### Convention Worship Singers

For those who are interested in participating in the Convention Worship Singers, please contact Rev. Ken Turley by email at [ken.turley10@gmail.com](mailto:ken.turley10@gmail.com). The first choir rehearsal is on Friday, June 26 from 5:00PM-5:45PM.

## 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. Nominations and Bylaw Amendments may be found at <https://swedenborg.org/events-activities/annual-convention/>. If you wish to serve as a delegate, please contact your Association.

## Additional Information

**Q. Will internet access be available?** WiFi access is available. Password will be provided upon arrival.

**Q. Are there public computers, printers, or copiers at the conference center?** There are computers, printers, and copiers available for guest use throughout the Babson Executive Conference Center.

**Q. Is there a Smoking Policy?** There is a designated smoking area outside the conference center.

**Q. Are the fridges available for use?** There are no fridges in the hotel rooms, however if you would like to request a fridge, you are able to do so for a \$50 fee. Please email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) to help you make those arrangements.

## **Contact Information**

**Operations Manager, Jackie Shihadeh, may be reached via email anytime at [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) or by call/text at 617-969-4240 from 10AM-2PM EST Monday-Friday.**

### **Conference Center and Hotel Address and Phone Number:**

Babson Executive Conference Center

One Snyder Park

781-239-4000

<https://www.babson.edu/professional/organizations/conference-center/>

# Babson College Map

**PLEASE NOTE:** Relevant buildings are marked with rectangles. The map also has walking tour spots, for those who wish to walk around the campus.

**BABSON COLLEGE**  
231 Forest Street, Babson Park, MA 02457

**WALKING TOUR STOPS**

- STOP 1. Arthur M. Blank Center for Entrepreneurship
- STOP 2. Park Manor West and Innovation Space
- STOP 3. Park Manor Quad
- STOP 4. Kerry Murphy Healey Park
- STOP 5. Trim Dining Hall
- STOP 6. Weissman Foundry
- STOP 7. Greek Life and Specialty Housing
- STOP 8. Reynolds Campus Center
- STOP 9. Richard W. Sorenson Center for the Arts
- STOP 10. Glavin Family Chapel
- STOP 11. Babson Commons and Horn Library
- STOP 12. Len Green Recreation and Athletic Complex
- STOP 13. The Herring Family Entrepreneurial Leadership Village

**Campus Map Legend**

<b>BUILDINGS</b>	9 Hollister Building*	60 Nichols Building*	51 Tomasso Hall*	77 Woodland Hill 7	<b>PARKING LOTS</b>	<b>ATHLETIC FIELDS</b>
21 Babson Hall*	28 Horn Library*, Babson Commons, and Cutter Center	46 Olin Hall* (Graduate Admission Center)	7 Trim Dining Hall & Roger's Pub	78 Woodland Hill 8	8 Lot T - Trim	A MacDowell Field
33 Babson Executive Conference Center and The Herring Family Entrepreneurial Leadership Village*	29 Horn Computer Center*	53 Park Manor South	18 Van Winkle Hall*	79 Woodland Hill 9	17 Lot C - Coleman	B Isbrandtsen Practice Field
68 Babson Skating Rink*	11 Keith Hall	54 Park Manor Central	30 Webster Center and the Len Green Recreation and Athletic Complex	80 Woodland Hill 10	32 Parking Deck	C Hartwell-Rogers Field
48 Blank Center*	16 Kerry Murphy Healey Park	55 Park Manor North	84 Weissman Foundry	83 Woodside	34 Lot E - BECC	D Alumni Softball Field
39 Bryant Hall*	44 Knight Auditorium*	82 Park Manor West & Innovation Center*	40 Westgate Hall*		43 Lot K - Knight	E Harrington Rugby Pitch
10 Canfield Hall	24 Kriebel Hall*	14 Pietz Hall*	70 Woodland Hill 1		61 Lot N - Nichols	F Govoni Baseball Field
4 Central Services	47 Luksic Hall*	58 Post Office*	71 Woodland Hill 2		62 Lot F - Forest	G Tennis Courts
15 Coleman Hall*	50 Lunder Undergraduate Admission Center at Mustard Hall	6 Public Safety Building	72 Woodland Hill 2A		63 Lot H - Hollister	H Barefoot Park
59 Cruickshank Alumni Hall*	45 Malloy Hall*	56 Publishers Hall	73 Woodland Hill 3		64 Lot P - Webster	I Lorber Park
2 Forest Hall*	81 Mandell Family Hall*	12 Putney Hall*	74 Woodland Hill 4		65 Lot S - Sullivan	
3 Forest Hall Annex	13 McCullough Hall	25 Reynolds Campus Center*	75 Woodland Hill 5		66 Lot W - Woodland Hills	
23 Gerber Hall*	57 Millea Hall*	26 Sorenson Center for the Arts*	76 Woodland Hill 6		67 Lot Y - Bryant	
27 Glavin Chapel*		5 Sullivan Building*			69 Lot L - Lunder Admissions	

**BABSON COLLEGE**  
ESTABLISHED 1919

- 33 - BABSON EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE CENTER – Hotel and Convention programming**
- 27 - GLAVIN CHAPEL– CSS Event on Sunday, June 28**
- 30 - LEN GREEN RECREATION AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX – Indoor pool, gym, recreational facilities**
- 34 - PARKING LOT E – Free to park area**