202ND ANNUAL

Convention

OF THE SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

CREATING HARMONY:
Art as Spiritual Practice

The Year of the Lord
(2026–2027)

BABSON EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE CENTER
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 25 – JUNE 30, 2026

Cover Art by Bronwen Mayer Henry

Title: *Wild Edges*
Medium: *Acrylic on Canvas, 48 x 30*
Date: *2023*

Description: *Inspired by sunset in Acadia National Park, Maine.*

From the Artist:
May the wild edge of sorrow
Awaken this heart,
Carve new paths
Of kindness for self and others.
May this heart be held in an ocean of loving awareness.
This is a prayer, written on this canvas, for anyone navigating sorrow.
I love the weaving between nature and our hearts.
If the end of a day can rip open this rapture of color— can our hearts do the same as we face the end of a life?

Am I willing to believe that beauty (the Divine) will find us everywhere. Even at the edge of darkness? Even at the edge of sorrow?

When I consider that the ache of loss is encircled by the beauty of gratitude something softens in me.

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Presidential Greeting

Dear Friends (in-person and virtually),

Welcome to Convention 2026, our 202nd Annual Session of the Swedenborgian Church of North America. We are pleased to hold our multi-generational in-person program again in a conference hotel environment adjacent to a major university and to support in a robust fashion our virtual attendees.

We have journeyed through the Year of the New Jerusalem with its visions for what the New Church can be in terms of the kinds of lives who will thrive and grow in the kind of love and wisdom that is the DNA of healthy spirituality. The Year of the New Jerusalem concludes this cycle through our Seven Themes, and with expectant anticipation we begin a new cycle that starts with the Year of the Lord with the conclusion of our annual meeting in Boston.

We again make a pilgrimage to the annual convention that is a major hallmark of our branch of the New Church. We gather to share important activities and developments throughout our many organizations, to conduct our necessary legal business, to learn and explore through our educational mini courses, to delight in an adventurous outing, and celebrate the vision and beauty of our purpose as God's servants.

May all these experiences of work and play inspire us to be a better church and very hopefully to continue growing as part of the New Jerusalem.

—*Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence*
President
Swedenborgian Church of North America

No angel or spirit could ever have any life without being part of some community, without joining in harmony with many others. Community is simply harmony among many. No one's life is ever isolated from the life of others.
—*Secrets of Heaven* §687

Convention Schedule

All times listed are Eastern Time.

All events listed with a √ will be offered in a hybrid format for virtual attendees.

Pre-Convention Program

Thursday, June 25, 2026

3:00–5:00	Check-In for Council of Ministers (COM)	*Executive Conference Center*
6:00–7:00	Dinner	*Sorenson Commons*
7:00–9:00	COM Welcome Reception —*Sponsored by the Council of Ministers*	*Overlook Dining Room*

Friday, June 26, 2026

7:00–8:30	Breakfast	*Sorenson Commons*
9:00–12:00	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
9:00–12:00	COM Business Meeting I √	*Potomac Room*
12:00–1:00	Lunch	*Sorenson Commons*
1:00–5:00	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
1:00–3:00	COM Educational Meeting √	*Potomac Room*
3:00–5:00	COM Business Meeting II √	*Potomac Room*

Convention Program

Friday, June 26, 2026

1:00–4:00	Display Table Set-Up	*St. Lawrence Room*
1:00–5:00	Convention Check-In	*Executive Conference Center*
4:00	Hotel Check-In	*Executive Conference Center*
3:00–5:00	Casual Welcome Gathering —*Sponsored by Boston Church on the Hill*	*Lobby & Patio*
5:00–5:45	Convention Worship Singers Rehearsal	*Shannon Room*
6:00–7:00	Dinner	*Sorenson Commons*
7:00–9:30	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
7:30–8:00	Banner Procession, Worship, & Opening of Convention √	*St. Lawrence Room*
8:00–9:30	Keynote with Bronwen Mayer Henry √	*St. Lawrence Room*
9:30–10:30	Reception & Displays Open	*St. Lawrence Room*

Saturday, June 27, 2026

7:00–8:00	Breakfast	*Sorenson Commons*
8:30–11:30	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
9:00–11:30	Business Session I √	*St. Lawrence Room*
12:00–1:00	Lunch	*Sorenson Commons*
1:00–6:00	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
1:30–3:00	Mini Course Session I √	
	1-Practice Contemplative Creativity — Bronwen Mayer Henry	*Thames Room*
	2-Creative Contemplative Prayer — Rev. Jenny Caughman	*Susquehanna Room*
	3-Living Liturgies for the New Church — Heather Garland √	*St. Lawrence Room*
	4-Bringing Out the Best: Creativity and Dementia — Tryn Rose Seley √	*Potomac Room*
3:15–5:00	Business Session II √	*St. Lawrence Room*
5:00–6:00	Displays Open / Convention Worship Singers Rehearsal	*Shannon Room*
6:00–7:00	Dinner	*Sorenson Commons*
7:30–9:00	Convention Worship √	*St. Lawrence Room*
9:00–10:00	Reception & Displays Open	*St. Lawrence Room*
	—Sponsored in part by Royal Oak Church of the Holy City and the Michigan Association	

Sunday, June 28, 2026

7:00–8:00	Breakfast	*Sorenson Commons*
8:30–11:45	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
8:00–9:00	Service of Remembrance√	*St. Lawrence Room*
9:15–11:45	Business Session III√	*St. Lawrence Room*
12:00–1:00	Lunch	*Sorenson Commons*
1:00–6:00	Childcare	*Shannon Room*
1:30–3:00	Mini Course Session 2 √	
	1-Harmony at Play — Trevor the Games Man	*Thames Room*
	2-Through Anna's Eyes — Rev. Chris Barber	*Susquehanna Room*
	3-The Hidden Churches of the East — Dell Rose √	*St. Lawrence Room*
	4-Church, State, and Social Justice — Rev. Robert McCluskey √	*Potomac Room*
3:15–3:45	Business Session IV √	*St. Lawrence Room*
3:45–4:30	CSS Annual Meeting √	*St. Lawrence Room*
4:30–5:30	Display Tables Open	*St. Lawrence Room*
6:00–7:00	Dinner	*Sorenson Commons*
8:00–10:00	CSS Worship, Graduation, & Reception √	*Glavin Family Chapel*
	—Sponsored by the Center for Swedenborgian Studies	

Monday, June 29, 2026

7:00–8:00 Breakfast *Sorenson Commons*
8:00–12:00 Childcare *Shannon Room*
9:00–10:00 SCYL Worship Service *St. Lawrence Room*
10:15–11:45 Mini Course Session 3 √

1-Swedenborg on Temporal and Spiritual Slavery — Dr. Vincent Roy-Di Piazza *Thames Room*
2-The Path of Creative Vision and Practice — Pastor Lorraine Kardash *Susquehanna Room*
3-Table Fellowship and the New Church — Rev. Lynn Chittick Thompson √ *St. Lawrence Room*
4-Artwork During Spiritual Crisis — Rev. Colin Amato √ *Potomac Room*

12:00–1:00 Lunch *Sorenson Commons*

Display Tables and Banners MUST be broken down by 1:00 PM

Please meet outside the conference center at 1:30 for transportation.
Busses will be promptly leaving at all transportations times. Do not be late!

1:30–2:00 Transportation to the Boston Church on the Hill
—*Sponsored by Marquette Associates*
2:15–2:45 Convention Communion
3:00–8:30 Taste of Boston Outing and Dinner *(see page 17 for details)*
8:45–9:15 Transportation Back to Conference Center

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

7:00–9:00 Breakfast *Sorenson Commons*
11:00 **Everyone MUST Check-out by 11:00 AM**

Please see the Mini Course listing for details on each Mini Course. There is a map on page 22.

Mini Courses

Mini Courses are small group offerings for attendees (both virtual and in-person) to learn about a topic that is presented by someone from the Swedenborgian Church of North America, or an invited guest.

There are two formats for Mini Courses this year:

- In-person Mini Course
- Hybrid Style Mini Courses

Attendees will be able to participate in-person and online together using Zoom Events.

Each time slot has four courses running concurrently, two in-person and two hybrid. All Mini Courses will be located in the Babson Executive Conference Center.

Mini Course Time Slot 1 – Saturday, June 27 at 1:30 pm

Practice Contemplative Creativity

with Bronwen Mayer Henry in the Thames Room

This course will be in-person on campus.
Pre-registration required, limit of 30 attendees.

This Mini Course invites you to practice contemplative creativity in a simple, accessible way—no art experience required. Together, we'll explore creative play with shapes and color as a gentle practice for meeting life's struggles with greater compassion and kindness. You'll be encouraged to set aside pressure to perform or produce and instead use creativity to slow your thoughts, soften fear and self-criticism, and reconnect with moments of ease and joy. Artist and meditation teacher Bronwen Mayer Henry will guide participants in a contemplative, process-based approach to creativity as meditation and stress relief. All levels welcome, including beginners.

Bronwen Mayer Henry *is a self-taught contemporary painter specializing in nature-inspired large-scale canvases with acrylic paints. It was an unexpected path through Thyroid Cancer that led Bronwen to commit time to painting. Her art is an expression of prayer, meditation, hope, and joy. She shares the inspiration of breaking through creative barriers by designing and leading retreats and workshops, and in her book, "Radioactive Painting," published by Shanti Arts LLC.*

Creative Contemplative Prayer: A hands-on, guided experience—No artistic ability required!

with Rev. Jenny Caughman in the Susquehanna Room

This course will be in-person on campus.
Pre-registration required, limit of 16 attendees.

This workshop will combine two spirit-rich experiences—both of which are open to people of all levels. First, we will decorate a candle holder. Participants will then be led in a guided contemplative prayer experience, and finally, will finish decorating their candle holder with insights coming from the prayer experience. Jenny firmly believes that God speaks to us in a myriad of ways and we can deepen our personal relationship with God by opening ourselves up to God, and inviting God into our inner world through both the creative process and contemplative prayer.

Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer where we choose to turn toward God with a listening stance, inviting God into our hearts and minds and being open to what God might say or present to us. We will use *Lectio Divina* (Latin for Divine Reading), which is a way of engaging with Scripture, not striving to cognitively understand it (which, while very valuable, is not what we will be doing in this experience) but instead inviting God to speak to us through scripture. In this way, we are open to moving from an intellectual understanding of God to a felt relationship with God. In Swedenborgian terms, from externals to internals, or from using our understanding to engaging our will. Contemplative prayer is a way "of being willingly present for God and trusting God's presence for us" (Tilden Edwards). In a similar way, the creative process moves past understanding as we open ourselves up to another form of truth as we explore different forms of knowing and expressing ourselves.

So come, listen, play, pray, and learn about yourself and God!

Rev. Jenny Martin Caughman *has had diverse professional experiences, from working as a music therapist with terminally ill cancer patients to being in the unique position of a Swedenborgian minister serving a United Methodist Church for fourteen years. Recently retired from congregational ministry, she is currently training in Spiritual Direction and seeks to integrate the creative and contemplative processes into helping people deepen their knowledge, love, and experience of God.*

Living Liturgies for the New Church: Our Work in Progress

with Heather Garland in the St. Lawrence Room

This course will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees.

What if liturgy were something we created rather than something we only inherited? This interactive workshop explores the purpose and power of liturgical forms and invites participants to collaborate in shaping new prayers, rituals, and worship language rooted in Swedenborgian theology and responsive to the spiritual hungers of our time. Through discussion, reflection, and small-group creative collaboration, workshoppers will help craft fresh expressions of worship and leave with tools for cultivating locally grown liturgical practices in their own communities, and a network for sharing those resources with the church at-large.

Heather Garland *is the Music Coordinator at the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church. Her ministry seeks to awaken the experience of inner sense through the arts of worship. She is currently engaged in research toward the creation of a Swedenborgian Hymnal for the General Convention, and is a student on the Licensed Pastor track through the Center for Swedenborgian Studies in Berkeley, California.*

Bringing Out the Best: Creativity and Dementia

with Tryn Rose Seley in the Potomac Room

This course will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees.

Tryn Rose's Mindful Art sessions are designed to enhance the lives of those with dementia through music, storytelling, and artistic expression. The presentation will include a slide-show of a session, anecdotes regarding the positive impact on participants, and a hands-on experience of Mindful Art elements, including live music and creative time.

Attendees will participate in both 1:1 and large group sharing. They will leave with a mini art project and an expanded understanding of how to use creative methods for people with dementia, as well as for themselves.

Tryn Rose *has spent thirty years working with young children and elders with special needs. She looks for the person beyond the layers of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and finds the spark that's waiting to emerge. She is a professional musician, photographer, expressive arts teacher, music leader, and meditation provider for various church communities, and has written a book and contributed to other books for caregivers of those living with dementia. Her books can be found on her website, caregiverheart.com, and wherever books are sold.*

Mini Course Time Slot 2 – Sunday, June 28 at 1:30 pm

Harmony at Play: Everybody Wins as Spiritual Practice

with Trevor "The Games Man" in the Thames Room

This course will be in-person on campus.

A play-shop by Trevor "The Games Man" featuring interactive, non-strenuous, everybody-wins, social games for adults and teens designed to create unity, team-building, and friendship. There will be ice breakers, large group games, small groups, one-on-one, brain teasers, creative problem solving, oh, and some silly stuff, too! All ability levels, no special skills required, just arrive with a playful spirit... and comfortable shoes.

Trevor "The Games Man" *is a certified New Games Leader, Cooperative Play Specialist, Professional Stilt-walker, multiple award-winning full-time entertainer, and fifth or sixth generation Swedenborgian.*

Through Anna's Eyes: Using Correspondences to Read the World

with Rev. Chris Barber in the Susquehanna Room

This course will be in-person on campus.

When she died in 1877, Philadelphia Newchurchwoman Anna Keyser Baker (b. 1821) left behind, in the form of a three-year diary, an inspiring record of how she saw the world through a Swedenborgian lens. Miss Baker interpreted nature and art with a correspondential frame of mind and applied her faith to all aspects of her life. Join Rev. Chris Barber for an introduction to Miss Baker, her life and times, and the sights and sounds that inspired her. Additionally, you will be shown a few simple resources, techniques, and exercises to help you interpret your world as she did. This session will include history, theology, art, and spiritual practice, leaving participants better knowing this obscure yet moving figure from New Church history and how you, too, can read your world.

Rev. Chris Barber *is an ordained priest of the General Church of the New Jerusalem and a teacher of religion at the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. He writes, teaches, and lectures on New Church history, theology, and social issues. He serves as the President of the Swedenborg Foundation and holds degrees from Bryn Athyn College and Widener University. Barber is publishing an annotated and appended edition of the Diary of Anna Keyser Baker with Brookline Books in Summer 2026.*

The Hidden Churches of the East: Swedenborg's Japanese Readers and the Search for World Renewal in 'Thibet'

with Dell Rose in the St. Lawrence Room

This course will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees.

Like Utopia, wherever the mystic "Far East" might be, it always seems to be somewhere far away. This was certainly the case in Meiji Japan, where Japanese religious thinkers, like their Western esoteric brethren, were also looking for the spiritual secrets of Asia. Onisaburo Deguchi (1871–1948), one of the two leading lights of the Oomoto faith, believed this so strongly that he personally led an expedition to connect with spiritually enlightened civilization on the Mongolian steppe. This quixotic quest gets even more bizarre when we consider that his inspiration in seeing Mongolia as the last bastion of spirituality, a "church" from the ancient world, came not from any Japanese movement, but rather from the writings of Swedish visionary and esotericist Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772). Swedenborg taught that in the Ancient Church, a golden age period, people had an innate understanding of spirituality and understood from nature the truth of the spiritual world. There were still pockets of this living tradition around the world, notably in Africa and in a geographically mysterious "Thibet." Onisaburo accepted these claims as factual and wanted to learn the secret nature of the world from those who still knew it, hence his expedition. However, Swedenborg's teachings also colored how he would see his own Japan and the spiritual legacy that existed hidden in traditional arts. I argue that Western conceptions of the spiritual "Far East" were also complementary to nativist arguments flourishing in the Meiji era, and that many like Onisaburo were happy to use Western connotations for their own cultural self-assessment.

Dell J. Rose *(Swedenborg Library Chicago & HHP Centre- Universiteit van Amsterdam) is on the ordination track for the Swedenborgian Church of North America and is a historian of religions, working on Swedenborg's global reception. His work engages New Testament studies, Japanese history, radical theology in the Reformation, Italian Fascism, as well as science in the early modern period. At present he is at work on his book, The Meiji Swedenborg: Western Concepts in Eastern Esotericism, a project supported by Swedenborg House United Kingdom and the Aries Series in Western Esotericism at Brill.*

Church, State, and Social Justice: Religion, Politics, and the First Amendment

with Rev. Robert McCluskey in the Potomac Room

This course will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Countless experts over the decades agree that these first sixteen words of the First Amendment constitute a bold, unprecedented experiment in Western culture, the genius of American life, and our greatest gift to the world: the end of theocracy. "It has protected the common good from religious factionalism, and it has ensured the integrity of faith from too close an alliance with the state."

What is the best way for church, state, and society to interact? How might the church, our church, be involved in the pressing social issues of the day, the needs of our neighbor, small and large? Recent events have turned a light on the critical issue of religious freedom, which has been a constant source of debate and division from before this country's founding.

In this Mini Course, we will look at the complex history of the religion clause of the First Amendment. We will also look at Swedenborg's teachings on the spiritual, moral, and civil realms of life: each distinct from the other, and each interacting with the others. We will review our church's past efforts to confront societal injustice, as well as the diverse theological views underlying those efforts. We will hear from experienced experts as to how the church should, and should not, engage in social issues. And we will take a closer look at the phrase, coined by Thomas Jefferson, about the "separation of church and state."

For those interested in getting a head start, please check out my review of Solemn Reverence: The Separation of Church and State in American Life, by Randall Balmer (*the Messenger*, Summer, 2021).

Rev. Robert McCluskey *holds a BA and MA in philosophy, with a focus on Greek philosophy, modern idealism, existentialism, and hermeneutics. He is a graduate of the Swedenborg School of Religion and was ordained into the Swedenborgian Church of North America in 1984. He has pastored churches in Portland, Maine and New York City, and served on the Social Justice Committee. He also served for eighteen years as representative to the National Council of Churches, with specific attention to the work of social justice and religious freedom. Until recently, he administered rites and sacraments at Wayfarers Chapel near Los Angeles, California.*

Mini Course Time Slot 3 – Monday, June 29 at 10:15 am

"To be his own master, and so to be free." Swedenborg on Temporal and Spiritual Slavery

with Dr. Vincent Roy-Di Piazza in the Thames Room

This course will be in-person on campus.

Swedenborg discussed slavery extensively across his theology. While his influence on eighteenth-century Swedish abolitionism has long been recognized, paradoxically, few studies have explored Swedenborg's own views on slavery in detail. This Mini Course will delineate the corpus of Swedenborg's writings about temporal and spiritual slavery. We will explore where his views on slavery stood in the context of his time, how they differed from abolitionism, and eventually, how they became part of his wider theology about free will, evangelization, and spiritual emancipation.

Dr. Vincent Roy-Di Piazza *is a historian of early modern science, religion, and political economy based in Finland. Vincent obtained his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 2022, with a dissertation on Swedenborg and the soul-body problem. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, his articles on Swedenborg have been featured in academic journals such as Annals of Science, Political Hermetica, and the Intellectual History Review.*

The Path of Creative Vision and Practice, Using Mandalas, Buddhist, Hindu, and Christian Art

with Pastor Lorraine Kardash in the Susquehanna Room

This course will be in-person on campus.

We will explore the light of wisdom in the Buddhist use and meaning of visual art in mandalas and thangkas, in Hindu visual art as found in yantras, and in Christian iconography, as well as the use of sound in mantra, yantra, and word.

There will be participation in singing a Buddhist mantra together, a Hindu mantra, and, if there is time, creating a simple mandala using the symbols found in one of the mantras.

Lorraine Kardash *retired as the licensed pastor of the Portland New Church in September, 2025. She was ordained as an interfaith minister by The Chaplaincy Institute of Maine in 2006. As a student and painter of Christian Orthodox iconography and Tibetan Thangka, she has explored the process of immersing in an art form in a meditative state. Lorraine also studied with the musician Russell Paul, author of the book The Yoga of Sound, in the practice of Hindu Sanskrit Mantra, and for many years with Geshe Gendun Gyatso in the study of Tibetan Buddhism.*

Table Fellowship and the New Church: "Brown Rice Makes You Very High"

with Rev. Lynn Chittick Thompson in the St. Lawrence Room

This course will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees.

The teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg and the significance of the plants of the bible hold profound importance for us all. In the art of cooking, how do spiritual correspondences play a role in our day-to-day lives, helping us live in harmony with ourselves and nature? Furthermore, how can we pursue our dreams through the culinary arts, recognizing cooking as a deep connection to God's creation? Swedenborg extensively explored the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms. How do these three kingdoms influence our neurobiology and spirituality in the twenty-first century? We will delve into the profound wisdom of how God's creation provides us with the natural art of health and wisdom, ultimately nurturing our souls.

By examining the deep wisdom of food and health through the lens of nature, we can better understand how our dietary choices affect our physical well-being. We will explore the gifts that the earth and God have provided for us to steward and cherish. This course will also address the environmental impacts of our choices and how they contribute to a universal understanding of peace. Additionally, we will discuss practical ways to build fellowship and foster community through seasonal events at your church, and to bridge connections through "Table Talk Health" programs.

Jesus entrusted us with a healing ministry that can embrace and express through the spirit of food. Building upon Swedenborg's insights into the three kingdoms, this session invites us to explore how our bodies, minds, and spirits can deepen and flourish as we engage playfully and purposefully in the kitchen.

Rev. Lynn Chittick Thompson, *RN, MDiv, ordained in June 2025 by The Swedenborgian Church of North America. Founder of TORCH: The Organization for Realizing Change in Humanity, focused on peace, health, environment, and technology. She has been a nurse, long-time speaker, author, teacher, and entrepreneur focused on the dream of One Peaceful World. She is currently focused on a DMin with Pacific School of Theology.*

Artwork During Spiritual Crisis

with Rev. Colin Amato in the Potomac Room

This course will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees.

During a period of intense personal change, and on the eve of World War I, Carl Jung began to experience visions that heralded a time of spiritual growth. Jung turned to journaling and writing in an attempt to process these experiences, but ultimately found artwork as the best medium of expression and integration. This Mini Course will present images of Jung's The Red Book, along with accompanying text to help demonstrate the significance of artwork as an expression and practice of the spirit. More recent content from the publication of "The Black Books," Jung's earliest personal journals, and a connection to Swedenborgian thought will be included.

Rev. Colin Amato *was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ordained in 2022, he currently serves as pastor of the virtual community, The Rainbow Church, an online LGBTQ+ ministry of the Swedenborgian Church of North America. Rev. Colin, a licensed marriage and family therapist, also serves as the clinical director of Solano Pride Center and maintains a private psychotherapy practice.*

Keynote Address

"Creating Harmony: Art as Spiritual Practice"

with Bronwen Mayer Henry

Friday, June 26 at 7:30 pm ET

This event will be hybrid for both in-person and remote attendees from the St. Lawrence Room.

Bronwen's keynote explores how creativity can be an accessible, everyday path to healing, finding inner steadiness, and meaningful engagement with the world. This keynote invites participants to see creative expression as a spiritual practice—a form of expressive meditation that builds inner harmony and strengthens our capacity to face personal and collective challenges. Rather than competing with social action, creativity can ground and sustain it, helping us be present without going numb. Attendees will leave with a renewed sense that creativity is a birthright and a simple, nearby practice for cultivating peace, resilience, and connection.

Bronwen Mayer Henry is an educator, nonprofit leader, author, and contemplative painter whose work lives at the intersection of creativity, compassion, and spiritual formation. She helps individuals and communities cultivate the skills, courage, and self-awareness needed to build more compassionate selves and communities, and a more understanding world.

For more than two decades, Bronwen has worked in curriculum development, leadership training, and facilitation within the faith and nonprofit sectors. Trained in elementary and special education at Bryn Athyn College, she began her career designing experiential, small-group learning models that translate values into lived practice.

During eight years in congregational leadership at Bryn Athyn Church, she co-created and led the five-year Finding Hope initiative in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, mobilizing community leaders to respond to complex challenges, including suicide, addiction, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and mental illness. She now serves as Director of the Leadership Institute at Interfaith Philadelphia, equipping leaders across sectors with the skills and relationships needed to navigate difference and foster civil dialogue.

Bronwen completed the Executive Program in Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania in 2021 and a two-year meditation teacher training with Jack Kornfield and Tara Brach in 2025. She is currently training as a facilitator with the Compassionate Listening Project.

Daily creative practice grounds her approach to life and work. After a cancer diagnosis in 2013, she turned to painting as a way to move through fear–an experience that she describes in her book Radioactive Painting (2020). She continues to lead retreats and workshops exploring contemplative creativity as a pathway to resilience, insight, and compassion.

Bronwen lives in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Jeremy, their two teenagers, and their King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, Yoda.

Worship Services

We hope that you can join us for worship during Convention this year! For your convenience the services, times, locations, and officiants are listed below.

- **Opening Worship** with Rev. Kevin Baxter
  St. Lawrence Room, Friday at 7:30 PM
- **Convention Worship** with Rev. Catherine Lauber
  St. Lawrence Room, Saturday at 7:30 PM
- **Service of Remembrance** with Rev. Kit Billings & Rev. Renée Machiniak
  St. Lawrence Room, Sunday at 8:00 AM
- **CSS Graduation and Worship at the Glavin Family Chapel**
  with Dr. Rebecca Esterson, Rev. Dr. Devin Zuber, Tom Neuenfeldt, Heather Garland, and valedictorian speech from Pastor Robert Hagan, Ghana
  Sunday at 8:00 PM
- **Swedenborgian Church Youth League (SCYL) Worship Service**
  St. Lawrence Room, Monday at 9:30 AM
- **Convention Communion** with Rev. Kevin Baxter
  Boston Church on the Hill, Monday at 2:15 PM

Meet the Chaplains

The Committee on Chaplaincy will have a designated table in the dining area during dinner, hosted by chaplains. If you are in need of spiritual or emotional support, or simply a listening ear, look for the table-top sign that says "Need Spiritual Support? Chaplains Table." You can also stop by our display table to meet the Swedenborgian chaplains and learn more about our role in ministry.

Outing

A Taste of Boston

Monday, June 29 from 2:00–8:45 pm

Please meet outside the conference center at 1:30 for transportation.

Busses will be promptly leaving at all transportations times. Do not be late!

The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem is inviting you to join them for a Taste of Boston, several ways to enjoy downtown Boston and celebrate the arts.

1:30 – 2:00 pm: Transportation to the Boston Church on the Hill
140 Bowdoin Street, Boston, Massachusetts

2:15 – 3:00 pm: Welcome Gathering, Tour of the Boston Church, and Convention Communion with Rev. Kevin Baxter and the Boston Church team

3:00 – 5:30 pm: A choice of tours.

- Tour the Boston Church, its Pop-Up Art Gallery of Historic and Recent Boston Art, enjoy Massachusetts snack favorites, play games, or work on a puzzle with friends
- Duck Boat tour of Boston and Boston Harbor (1.5 hours ~ pre-registration required)
- Tour of the Massachusetts State House (pre-registration preferred)
- Guided History Walk (pre-registration preferred)
- Visit the local African-American Heritage Museum (45 min.)
- Take your own tour around the Boston Common and freely explore Historic Boston

5:30 – 5:45 pm: Return to the Boston Church. Busses will be leaving promptly at 5:45

5:45 – 6:00 pm: Transportation to the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter
100 W. 2nd Street, Boston, Massachusetts

6:00 – 8:45 pm: Dinner and Closing Celebration at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter
Enjoy buffet style dinner and fun mocktails surrounded by local art while visiting several creative stations and creating art of your own.

8:45 – 9:15 pm: Transportation back to the Babson Executive Conference Center
1 Snyder Drive, Babson Park, Massachusetts

Anyone with Monday flights are welcome to keep their luggage at the Boston Church during the outing.

Things You May Need to Know

Contact Information:

If you are staying at the Babson Executive Conference Center, please contact the front desk for any issues related to your room or stay. For Convention help, go to swedenborg.org and click the **Convention Help Button** at the top of the page to contact the help desk.
To reach Central Office, you can text or call 857-217-3309.

Recreation Center:

In addition to scenic walking trails and an indoor ice skating rink on the Babson campus, guests have free access to a state of the art, Len Green Recreation and Athletics Complex (LGRAC) on campus. You must request a pass from the front desk in order to access the facility.

The Len Green Recreation and Athletics Complex houses a recreation center with three courts for basketball, badminton, volleyball, tennis, and more, a two-level fitness center with strength and cardio equipment, a 25-yard indoor pool, an indoor track, a dance studio, two squash courts, a racquetball court, and full locker rooms with access to showers.

Location & Facility Hours
Len Green Recreation and Athletics Complex
3 College Drive, Wellesley, MA 02481

Monday – Friday | 6 AM – 11 PM
Saturday – Sunday | 8 AM – 10 PM

Full Convention Info

Public Computers & Printers:

There are computers, printers, and copiers available for guest use throughout the Babson Executive Conference Center.

WiFi:

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

Check-out Information:

Check-out is at 11:00 AM. Please return your key to the front desk. There is a complimentary breakfast available from 7:00 – 9:00 AM.

Virtual Voting

If you are a delegate you will be using NemoVote to vote and should have been sent a voter registration email after virtual registration closed. It is a separate voting service and requires you to have a separate registration with their service. You will go to your account on NemoVote to make your choices and submit your votes. If you are attending in-person you can use a smart phone to vote. There will be someone available to help you if you are having difficulties with the system.

To log in:

- Use the QR code below
- Type in your username (your email address) and password (included in the activation email)
- Click "Login"

To vote:

- NemoVote homepage will show open votes
- Click the ballot box icon under the "Actions" column to open your ballot
- Tap the check box to select your vote
- Click "Submit vote" then confirm

Position to be Filled	Term (Yrs)	Candidate
President	3	***
Vice President	1	Kurt Fekete*
Recording Secretary	1	Beki Greenwood
Treasurer	3	***
General Council: layperson (2 to be elected)	3	Helen Barler Tom Murphy*
General Council: minister	3	Renée Machiniak*
Standing Committee for Communication & Information	3	Dave Brown*
Standing Committee for Education & Resources for Spiritual Community	3	Junchol Lee
Standing Committee for Financial Accountability (2 to be elected)	3	Kei Pang Andrea LoPinto
Committee on Admission Into the Ministry	3	Gabriella Cahaley*
Board of Trustees of CSS, representative class	4	Lisa Solwold
Nominating Committee (unexpired term)	4**	Jae Chung
Nominating Committee	5	Tirah Keal

* Incumbent
** Years remaining in unexpired term
*** No candidate to be elected this year

Swedenborg.Nemovote.com

If you wish to write-in a candidate for any position please email: writeinvote@swedenborg.org
To learn about the 2026 nominees and amendments please go to:
swedenborg.org/events-activities/annual-convention/

Thank You For Your Support

Thank you to the following for donations towards,
Convention Programming, Music, Technology, and Youth Programs.

Donations:

- Agapao Church
- Jamie Allen
- Rev. Chris Barber
- Boston Church on the Hill
- Pastor Jae Chung
- Rev. Betsy & Bill Coffman
- Rev. Susannah Currie
- Pastor Paul Deming
- Denyse Daurat
- The Gray Fund
- Holland & Knight
- Mary Kay Klein
- Cathy Laakko
- Rev. Catherine Lauber
- Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence
- Jennifer Lindsay
- Rev. Renée Machiniak
- Marquette Associates
- Massachusetts New Church Union
- Pastor Connie McOsker
- Michigan Association
- Pacific Coast Association
- Kei Pang
- Malcolm Peck
- Bob Perry
- Rev. Nancy Piorkowski
- Church of the Holy City, Royal Oak, Michigan
- Karen Scott
- Rev. Lisa Solwold
- Rev. Shada Sullivan
- The Tafel Fund
- Rev. Roslyn Taylor
- Bev Titus
- Thank You to All Donors!

Donate to the
Swedenborgian Church of North America

Thank You For Helping

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and talents
to making our convention a success:

The Planning Committee

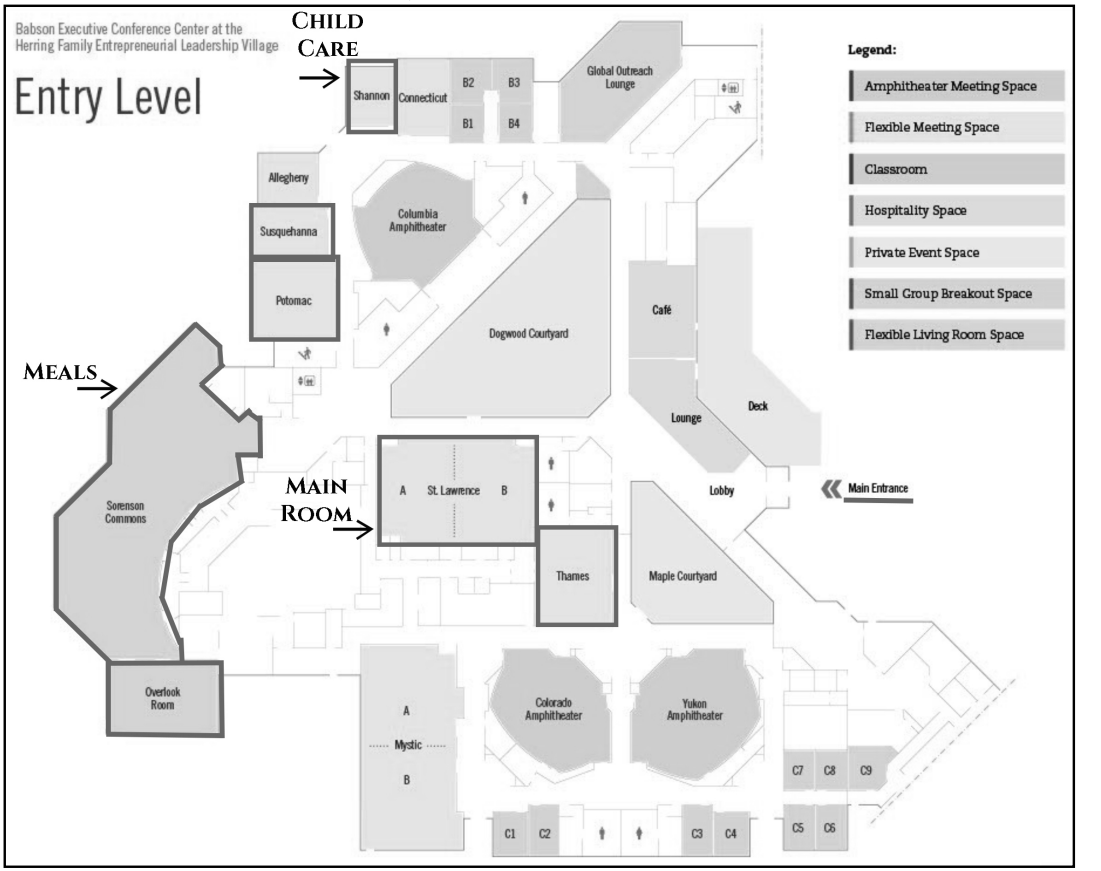
- Rev. Kevin Baxter
- Pastor Paul Deming
- Stephen Dyson
- Dr. Rebecca Esterson
- Kurt Fekete
- Beki Greenwood
- Ben Gunter
- Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence
- Jennifer Lindsay
- Tom Neuenfeldt
- Brittany Price
- Jackie Shihadeh
- Rev. Shada Sullivan
- Hein Tran
- Rev. Ken Turley

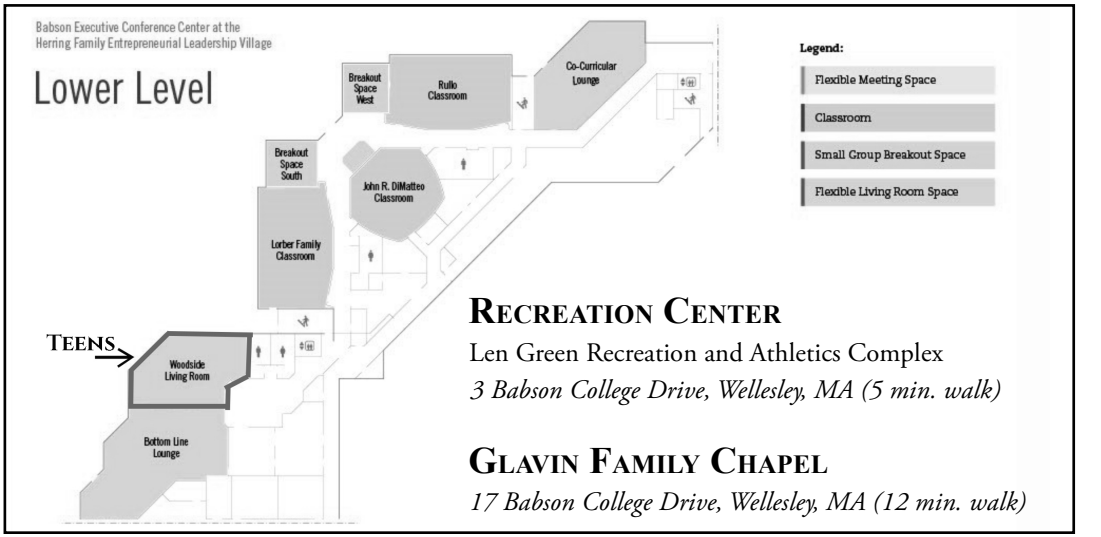
Special Thanks To

- Rev. Catherine Lauber
- Rev. Kit Billings
- Zsa Zsa Dolley
- Rev. Renée Machiniak
- Heather Oelker
- Greg Huang-Dale
- Dr. Emily Tergliafera
- Alex Gayherat

Thank You to all the volunteers from the Boston Church on the Hill for their time and talents!

Maps and Addresses





Recreation Center

Len Green Recreation and Athletics Complex

3 Babson College Drive, Wellesley, MA (5 min. walk)

Glavin Family Chapel

17 Babson College Drive, Wellesley, MA (12 min. walk)

Celebrants of Years of Service in Ministry

10 Years.....Rev. Thom Muller

Rev. Lisa Solwold

15 Years.....Rev. Gabriella Cahaley

Rev. Steve Sanchez

20 Years.....Rev. Dr. David Brown

Rev. Dr. David Fekete

Rev. Dr. Hunter Roberts

Rev. Lana Sandahl

25 Years.....Rev. John Maine

30 Years.....Rev. Lee Woofenden

35 Years.....Rev. Thomas Noack

40 Years.....Rev. Dr. Donna Keane

2026 Convention
Photo Album

Please share your photos here for all to see and for use in the Messenger, Swedenborg.org, and other online platforms!

www.swedenborg.org