

# 193rd Session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem

## The Swedenborgian Church 2017 Convention

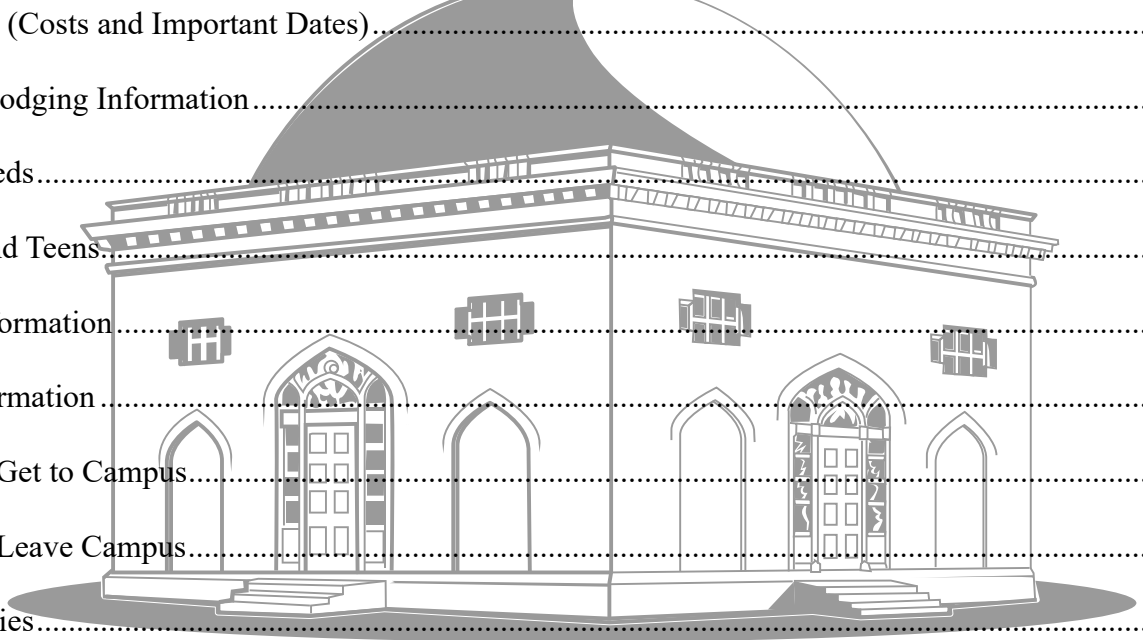
### 2017: The Year of The Word

Theme: “Rooted in Our History. Growing in the Word.”

### Frequently Asked Questions

Please check back again! This FAQ will be updated as more information becomes available.

### Contents



Registering (Costs and Important Dates).....	2
Food and Lodging Information.....	4
Special Needs.....	5
Children and Teens.....	5
Contact Information.....	6
Travel Information.....	6
When You Get to Campus.....	7
When You Leave Campus.....	7
Other Policies.....	7
Event Schedule (subject to change).....	8
Mini-Courses (offerings and times subject to change).....	10
Special Activities.....	12
Campus Map.....	14

## Registering (Costs and Important Dates)

**Q. Where is Convention being held this year?** West Chester University in West Chester, PA. You can view the university's website at [www.wcupa.edu](http://www.wcupa.edu). (This is not a West Chester University-affiliated event.)

**Q. What dates does Convention run?** The Council of Ministers meetings will begin on the evening of Wednesday, July 5, with ministers arriving that afternoon; General Council and outing day attendees will arrive on Friday, July 7; post-outing arrivals will be on July 8; other arrival dates must be coordinated with the Central Office. Convention officially opens on Sunday morning, July 9. Convention closes on the morning of Wednesday, July 12.

**Q. What are check-in and check-out times?** Regular check-in will be between 2-5PM on your arrival day. Regular check-out will be between before 11AM on Wednesday, July 12. Check-ins outside of these windows must be coordinated with the Central Office in advance. Check-outs outside of these windows can be done by returning all keys and keycards to the dorm's front-desk staff, or, if staff is not present, by utilizing the labeled dropbox in the front-desk area.

**Q. How can I register?** Registration may be done by filling out an online registration form at [www.swedenborg.org](http://www.swedenborg.org), downloading a printable registration form at [www.swedenborg.org](http://www.swedenborg.org), or using the form in *the Messenger*. These forms can be mailed to 50 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138, faxed to 617-969-4240, or emailed to [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org). (If you do not receive an email acknowledging the receipt of your form within a few days of sending it, please contact the Swedenborgian Church Central Office.) Phone calls to register can also be placed to the Swedenborgian Church Central Office, Monday through Friday, from 9AM to 5PM ET. If you are emailing the form, **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.**

**Q. When must I register by?** In order to stay on campus, eat in the campus dining hall or at the Temenos cookout, take part in the outing day, or sign up for bus travel back to the Philadelphia airport on July 12, you must register by **MAY 31 AT 5PM ET, NO EXCEPTIONS.** All room and board reservations must also be paid in full at this time, or they will be subject to a \$50 late fee.

**Q. When must my balance be paid by?** FRIDAY, MAY 31 at 5PM EST for all room and board, Temenos cookout, outing day, and airport return bus reservations. **ANY REGISTRATIONS CONTAINING ANY OF THESE RESERVATIONS WHICH ARE NOT PAID IN FULL BY THIS TIME WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$50 LATE FEE.** Event-only registrations, for those staying off campus and not purchasing meals, will be accepted for as long as space permits.

**Q. Can I pay in Canadian funds?** Yes, but you will be assessed a US\$5 handling fee to cover bank charges. 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 31 are fully refundable. Cancellations must be done by calling the Central Office directly during normal business hours (9AM-5PM ET, M-F).

**Q. What are the registration costs?**

- Adult \$110
- Youth League (12-19) \$100
- Child (3-11) \$65
- Under 3 years old Free

- \*Family maximum \$220
- One Day Registration \$50
- Local Volunteer \$65
- July 8 Outing (if not choosing a package) \$24 (must register by May 31st at 5PM ET)
- July 9 Cookout (if not choosing a package) \$20 (must register by May 31st at 5PM ET)

**Q. What are the room and board rates?** Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and may fill up before the end of the registration period. If you do not sign up for room and board before the end of the registration period, **you will not be able to stay on campus or eat in the dining hall.** Rooms include one standard linen and towel pack (unless you *specifically request* by May 31 to not use any linens provided by the school, and bring your own sheets, blankets, towels, and pillow, in which case you will receive a discount). Your first meal will be dinner, and your last meal will be breakfast. If you arrive later than your scheduled check-in date and time, or depart before your scheduled check-out date and time, you will not receive a refund for any unused room nights or meals.

For overnight stays or meals that don't fit the listed packages, or for children's rates (or to apply for child or youth scholarships), contact the Central Office.

Lunch on July 8 and dinner on July 9 will be offsite, not in the dining hall.

- **Package A (Wednesday, July 5 - Wednesday, July 12, seven nights):**  
(choose this for Council of Ministers members)  
\$396.50 per person for a double, \$536.50 for a single  
Includes 7 nights of lodging, 7 dinners, 6 lunches, 7 breakfasts, 1 linen pack, July 8 outing
- **Package B (Wednesday, July 5 - Saturday, July 8, three nights):**  
(available **only** to Council of Ministers attendees who are only able to attend COM meetings)  
\$165 per person for a double, \$225 for a single  
Includes 3 nights lodging, 3 dinners, 2 lunches, 3 breakfasts, 1 linen pack
- **Package C (Friday, July 7 - Wednesday, July 12, five nights):**  
(choose this for full convention including July 8 outing, current General Council lay members)  
\$295 per person for a double, \$395 for a single  
Includes 5 nights lodging, 5 dinners, 4 lunches, 5 breakfasts, 1 linen pack, July 8 outing
- **Package D (Saturday, July 8 - Wednesday, July 12, four nights):**  
\$239.25 per person for a double, \$319.25 for a single  
Includes 4 nights lodging, 4 dinners, 3 lunches, 4 breakfasts, 1 linen pack

**Meal Plus Outing Packages:** For those **staying off-campus** who want to buy meals. If you are staying off-campus and do not pre-pay for meals before the end of the registration period, **you will not be able to eat in the dining hall.** Your first meal will be dinner, and your last meal will be breakfast. **For meal choices outside of these packages, contact the Swedenborgian Church Central Office.** If you arrive later than your first scheduled meal, or depart before your last scheduled meal, you will not receive a refund for any unused meals.

- **Package W (Wednesday, July 5 - Wednesday, July 12, meals/July 8 outing):**  
\$158.25 per person  
7 dinners, 6 lunches, 7 breakfasts, July 8 outing

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\* immediate family members (i.e., parents/guardians and minor children) only

- **Package X** (Wednesday, July 5 - Saturday, July 8, **meals only**):  
\$46.75 per person  
3 dinners, 2 lunches, and 3 breakfasts
- **Package Y** (Friday, July 7 - Wednesday, July 12, **meals/July 8 outing**):  
\$125 per person  
5 dinners, 4 lunches, and 5 breakfasts
- **Package Y** (Saturday, July 8 - Wednesday, July 12, **meals only**):  
\$87.50 per person  
4 dinners, 3 lunches, and 4 breakfasts

## Food and Lodging Information

We will be staying in on the North Campus, near Brandywine Hall. Accommodations are either single or double occupancy rooms. Bathrooms will either be semi-private or floor bathrooms, separated by gender, depending on our final housing allotment. Linen packs will contain a pillow, blankets, sheet, and towels. There will not be extra linen pack items available, so please plan accordingly and bring your own if you often find that you need additional towels or blankets.

Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and may fill up before the end of the registration period. If you do not sign up for a room and board or meal package (or make other arrangements with the Central Office) before the end of the registration period, **you will not be able to stay on campus or eat in the dining hall.**

**Q. What are some items I may want to bring?** Extra towels or extra blankets may be desirable. The college has pre-made linen packets, and **CANNOT GIVE OUT EXTRAS, INCLUDING BLANKETS.** Toilet paper and soap are provided, and the dorm front desk will have a small selection of toiletry items.

**Q. How can I mail items ahead?** Please contact the Central Office for mailing instructions.

**Q. How can I contact the school's conference staff?** Information to follow.

**Q. Will internet access be available?** Wifi access is available. The sign-in information will be included in your registration materials when you arrive on campus. You must agree to comply with the university's internet usage policies to use their network.

**Q. Are there washers and dryers on campus?** Washers and dryers are available for free use in the dorms for those who are staying on campus. You will need to supply your own detergent.

**Q. Are there public computers, printers, or copiers on campus?** We will have limited access to printing, for denominational business. We are unable to print boarding passes or do other personal printing jobs. (There are nearby options, such as Staples, for those who may wish to run off their own print jobs while on site.)

**Q. How can I reserve a display table for Convention?** Email [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org) and tell us how many chairs you will need, approximately how much table space you will need, and inform us if you will need electrical hookups. (You will **not** be able to hang anything from any of the walls or ceilings.) Not all needs will be possible to accommodate. Tables are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is extremely limited. Please note that because of our event schedule and the different spaces being used, the display space will only be open on July 10 and July 11, and will close at dinnertime on July 11.

**Q. Will there be a gym available for use during Convention?** Yes, for participants 18 and older. Daily fitness center passes are available, and must be paid directly to the fitness center. Our dormitory will also have a small exercise room and yoga studio that will be open to our overnight guests, free of charge.

## Special Needs

**Q. What mobility accommodations will there be?** Please be sure to indicate that you have mobility issues if you are staying on campus. The campus 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 or power scooter, you must make your own arrangements. The best delivery address for a wheelchair or scooter rental is your dorm (contact the Central Office for details). You must be prepared to accept your own delivery and arrange your own pickup; we cannot guarantee that convention or school staff will be available to assist with this.

One local possibility for wheelchair and scooter rentals is Access & Mobility Specialists, 4301 W. Lincoln Hwy., Downingtown, PA 19335, P: (610) 518-2221. They will deliver to the West Chester University dorms for a fee; many of their chairs and scooters can also be picked up in a regular car. Please contact Access & Mobility Specialists directly for pricing, information, and reservations.

**Q. What special dietary accommodations are available?** Please relay all special dietary needs on your registration form. The university will do its best to accommodate you, but may not be able to meet every need. **PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SELF-IDENTIFY DIRECTLY TO THE DINING HALL AND CATERING STAFF;** special dietary accommodations often require individually-prepared meals that may be made to order, or special items that are provided only upon individual request.

## Children and Teens

**Q. Are children charged a different rate?** All children who eat meals in the dining hall will be charged the regular rate; we will have reduced rates, based on age, for our off-campus meals. Young children who are entering the dining hall with parents but who will not be eating will not be charged. Children three and under can be housed with family, free of charge (dining hall meal rates are the same as for adults). Children ages four and five receive reduced-price housing (dining hall meal rates are the same as for adults). Please contact the Central Office for more details on pricing, restrictions, necessary forms, and to apply for scholarship funds for children. Those traveling to our off-site events in Bryn Athyn or Temenos who will be traveling with children in car seats need to contact the Central Office about alternate transportation arrangements.

This is the general cost breakdown (contact the Central Office for rooms or meals outside of these packages):

### Package A:

Children 3 and Under (if having meals)	\$135.50
Children 4-5	\$260.50
Children 6-12	\$372.50

### Package C:

Children 3 and Under (if having meals)	\$94
Children 4-5	\$189
Children 6-12	\$271

### Package D:

Children 3 and Under (if having meals)	\$80.50
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Children 4-5	\$165.25
Children 6-12	\$239.25

**Q. What are the Youth League program details?** The Youth League program is for youth ages 13 (as well as some 12-year-olds) through 19. The program is supervised by Kurt Fekete. You can find more information about the program, as well as necessary forms, at <http://www.swedenborg.org/AnnualConvention.aspx>.

**Q. How do I sign my child up for the youth program if I will not be joining them at Convention?** The Convention sponsor program allows teens aged 12-17 to attend Convention without parents. An adult sponsor must be named who will attend Convention and agree to perform certain duties and take responsibility for the minor in place of the parent. Parents must arrange for and notify a sponsor prior to Convention. Children under the age of 12 cannot attend Convention without a parent or legal guardian. A release form will be required (see teen info link above). Please notify Convention of any medications, allergies or special needs when signing your teen up. Minors traveling by plane alone may be subject to certain fees or policies; please check with your airline(s).

**Q. What are the childcare arrangements for Convention?** Children ages 3-12 can be signed up for child care supervised by the planning committee. **YOU MUST FILL OUT A RELEASE AND A CHILD CARE SIGN UP SHEET BEFORE THE REGISTRATION PERIOD ENDS.** Please contact the Central Office for childcare details. Please note that due to facilities limitations, children under three cannot be signed up for child care. The university will be able to provide a limited number of cots or similar accommodations, but you should be prepared to bring your own cribs, playpens, etc.

## Contact Information

**Q. How can I contact Central Office staff at Convention?** The denomination's Operations Manager may be reached via email anytime at [manager@swedenborg.org](mailto:manager@swedenborg.org). Phone calls and texts sent to the Central Office at (617) 969-4240 will be forwarded to Convention staff throughout the event.

## Travel Information

**Q. How can I get to West Chester University from Philadelphia International Airport?** We recommend contacting Rainbow Cab of West Chester ([www.rainbowcab.com](http://www.rainbowcab.com), (610) 696-6060) for a shared van, taxi, or private car service from the airport (shared van will run around \$53 plus gratuity, each way; private cab will run around \$70 plus gratuity, each way; private car service will run around \$115 with gratuity included, each way). Let Rainbow Cab know you are with the Swedenborgian Church when booking. An Uber is estimated to be \$50+ each way, and a Lyft Line fare is estimated to be around \$40+ each way, although these prices may fluctuate based on the day, time, and number of passengers.

**Q. Are there other public transportation options?** There is a train station nearby in Exton, PA: [tinyurl.com/ExtonStation](http://tinyurl.com/ExtonStation). A taxi, car service, or SEPTA bus can be taken from the station to the campus (roughly seven miles). Go to the SEPTA website for bus information: [tinyurl.com/SEPTAInfo](http://tinyurl.com/SEPTAInfo)

**Q. What is the street address of the dorm where those staying on campus will be staying?** Information to follow.

**Q. How can I drive to the campus?** You can access the campus map on the WCU website to generate specific driving directions to and from the campus, using a specific outside location as a start or end point: [www.wcupa.edu/campusmap](http://www.wcupa.edu/campusmap)

**Q. How can I park on campus?** Indicate on your registration form that you will be bringing a car. Parking will be free, and will not require a permit, but you will need to park in the appropriate lot to avoid being tagged

and towed. We will be able to load and unload luggage for on-campus attendees in the D Lot, near our dorm; otherwise, there is no daytime parking in the D Lot (except for attendees with mobility challenges who display a valid handicapped placard on their vehicle, and park it in a handicapped space). Attendees should utilize the M Lot off of South Matlack Street (a short walk from the dorms).

## When You Get to Campus

**Q. Where should I go to get my room keys and check in when I get to campus?** Attendees who will be staying on campus should proceed directly to their designated dorm to receive their keys. (Dorm information will be given out closer to the convention date, but most attendees will likely be housed in Commonwealth Hall.) Those who will be staying off campus should go to the designated location for the scheduled activity being held while they are on campus

**Q. Where are the business sessions and other meetings being held?** Most of our business meetings will be held in the Business and Public Management Center, located next to Mitchell Hall, near the corner of Sharpless Street and South Church Street. The opening and keynote address will be held in the Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, in the Philips Memorial Building, near the corner of South High Street and University Avenue. The Council of Ministers daytime business meetings will be held in the Sykes Student Union, off of West Rosedale Avenue (on the block between Roslyn Avenue and Church Street).

## When You Leave Campus

**Q. What are the scheduled check-out times?** Attendees must vacate their rooms and return all keys and keycards to the front desk of their dorm by 11AM on Wednesday, July 12.

**Q. What are check-out procedures?** All keys and keycards must be returned to the dorm's front-desk staff, or, if staff is not present, by utilizing the labeled dropbox in the front-desk area. If any furniture has been moved or if anything in the room has been damaged the school may assess a damage or cleaning fee, which you will be responsible for paying. Excessive messes may also incur cleaning fees from the school.

## Other Policies

**Children:** Residence halls are designed for adult usage and the facilities are not childproof. Parents or chaperones take full responsibility for the safety and supervision of their children at all times. The university will be able to provide a limited number of cots or similar accommodations, but you should be prepared to bring your own cribs, playpens, etc.

**If you are caught violating site's alcohol or tobacco policies, the University may remove you from campus. You will not receive a refund if this happens.**

**Alcohol:** Alcohol is **not allowed** in the residence halls, even for attendees who are over 21 years of age. Violations of this policy may result in applicable University action up to and including removal from University or Affiliated housing.

**Smoking:** Smoking of any tobacco product in any campus facility is NOT PERMITTED. Smoking is restricted to designated areas outside the building only as outlined by the staff of each specific hall or building. Violations of this policy may result in applicable University action up to and including removal from University or Affiliated housing.

**Lost or Broken Keycards:** There is a \$10 charge for lost or broken keycards, or keycards that are not returned at checkout. This is not refundable if you locate your key later on.

## Event Schedule (subject to change)

7/5/2017	Wednesday		
		2:00PM-5:00PM	Check-In
		6:00PM-7:00PM	Dinner
		7:00PM- 9:00PM	COM Gathering
7/6/2016	Thursday		
		7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
		9:00AM-12:00PM	Childcare
		9:00AM-12:00PM	COM Meeting
		12:00PM-1:00PM	Lunch
		1:00PM-5:00PM	Childcare
		1:00PM-5:00PM	COM Meeting
		6:00PM-7:00PM	Dinner
		7:00PM-9:00PM	Childcare
		7:00PM-9:00PM	COM Meeting
7/7/2016	Friday		
		7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
		9:00AM-12:00PM	Childcare
		9:00AM-12:00PM	COM Meeting
		12:00PM-1:00PM	Lunch
		1:00PM-5:00PM	Childcare
		1:00PM-5:00PM	COM Meeting
		2:00PM-5:00PM	Check-In
		6:00PM-7:00PM	Dinner
		7:00PM-8:00PM	Communion Open
7/8/2016	Saturday		
		7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
		7:30AM-9:30AM	General Council Pre Convention Meeting
		9:00 AM	Load buses from WCU
		10:15	Bryn Athyn Cathedral/ Gift Shop
		11:45	Lunch
		01:30 PM	Glencairn Museum & Grounds
		2:00PM-5:00PM	Check-In
		03:15 PM	Bus to Lord's New Church - Bryn Athyn
		03:30 PM	Lord's New Church Tour and History
		04:30 PM	Load buses to WCU
		5:45PM-6:30PM	Choir Practice
		6:00PM-7:00PM	Dinner
		7:00PM-9:00PM	In Company with Angels Reception/Program



7/9/2016	Sunday		
		7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
		9:00AM- 9:30AM	Opening Convention Celebration
			Humor & History
		9:30AM-10:00AM	President's Welcome and Address
		10:00AM-11:00AM	Break (sponsored by M&T/Wilmington Trust)
		10:00AM-11:00AM	Choir Practice
		11:00AM-12:15PM	Convention Worship
		12:15PM-1:30PM	Lunch
		1:30PM-5:30PM	Childcare
		2:00PM -3:30PM	Historical Presentation - Foundation
		3:30PM-4:00PM	Break (sponsored by M&T/Wilmington Trust)
		4:00PM-5:30PM	Speaker - Diana Butler Bass
		6:00PM-6:30PM	Bus travel to Temenos
		6:30PM-8:30PM	Barbecue, tour, worship at Temenos
		8:30PM	Bus travel back to WCU
7/10/2016	Monday		
		7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
		8:00AM-10:00PM	Display Room
		8:30AM-9:15AM	Women's Alliance Worship and Program
		9:15AM-12:00PM	Childcare
		9:15AM-10:00AM	Opening Business Session I
		10:00AM-10:30AM	Panel - Report from Structure Review Comm
		10:30AM-11:00AM	Break (sponsored by the Women's Alliance)
		11:00AM-12:00PM	Break Out Groups - discuss SRC suggestions
		12:00PM-1:00PM	Lunch
		1:00PM-5:00PM	Childcare
		1:30PM-3:00PM	Reports from Groups and Discussion
		3:00PM-3:30PM	Break (sponsored by the Michigan Association)
		3:30PM-5:00PM	Mini-courses - 4 options
		5:00PM-6:00PM	Choir Practice
		6:00PM-7:00PM	Dinner
		7:30PM-8:30PM	SCYL Worship and Report
		8:30PM-10:00PM	Foundation Reception
7/11/2016	Tuesday		
		7:00AM-8:00AM	Breakfast
		8:00AM-7:00PM	Display Room
		8:30AM-9:30AM	Memorial and Communion Worship Service
		9:30AM-12:00PM	Childcare
		9:30AM-10:30AM	Business Session II
		10:30AM-11:00AM	Break (sponsored by CSS)
		11:00AM-12:00PM	CSS Annual Meetings

12:00PM-1:00PM	Lunch
12:30PM-1:30PM	Choir Practice
1:00PM-4:30PM	Childcare
1:30PM-3:00PM	Mini Courses
3:00PM-3:30PM	Break
3:30PM-4:00PM	Wrap Up (Business Session III, if needed)
4:30PM-5:30PM	Children's Ministry Report and History SS
6:00PM-7:00PM	Dinner
6:30PM-7:30PM	Ordination Rehearsal
7:30PM-9:00PM	Ordination
9:00PM-10:00pm	Reception

7/12/2016 Wednesday

7:00AM-8:00AM Breakfast

9:00AM-1:00PM General Council Post Convention Meeting

## Mini-Courses (offerings and times subject to change)

### Monday, July 10, 3:30-5PM

#### 1. Swedenborg's Context: Science and the Bible in the Eighteenth Century

*Dr. Rebecca Esterson*

Questions occupying the minds of natural philosophers in Swedenborg's day included: Can we locate heaven and hell in the physical universe, based on biblical descriptions? Is matter active or passive? What underlying principles of nature animate life in plants, animals and humans? Can the origin of the universe be explained without the use of biblical or supernatural explanations? What secrets will new instruments of measurement reveal? This session will explore Swedenborg's turn to the interpretation of the Bible after a long career in the natural sciences, against the backdrop of the European Enlightenment.

#### 2. The Word

*Rev. Julie Conaron*

How do you view the Word? Is it something with which you grew up, which you view as a support system, but you're not quite sure why? Do you feel that rote learning bits of it was boring? Would you like it to come alive for you? Come see and hear how to do that in this presentation/interaction. We know the Bible is all about us, but just how is that so? How can we understand that loving inner meaning that can support us when we're sad, help us when we're alone, and celebrate our loving Creator. Come with questions and passages you love/don't understand, or not.

#### 3. Another Great Swedenborgian: Robert Frost and Swedenborg

*Rev. Dr. David Fekete*

*I was brought up a Swedenborgian. I am not a Swedenborgian now.  
But there is a good deal of it that's left with me. I am a mystic. I  
believe in symbols. —Robert Frost*

Robert Frost was raised in the Swedenborgian Church and read Swedenborg later in life. His literary work show Swedenborg's influence. Besides Frost's direct encounter with Swedenborg's thought, Frost indirectly encountered Swedenborg through Ralph Waldo Emerson, who, in turn, also was greatly influenced by Swedenborg. This seminar shows Swedenborg's direct and indirect influence on Frost. Then we consider where and how Frost follows Swedenborg and where and how he diverges. Participants will come away with a greater understanding of Emerson, Frost, and Swedenborg's influence on both these great men of literature.

Consequently, we will see that western culture is deeply steeped in Swedenborg's theological thought.

#### 4. **The Seven Tiffany Angel Stained Glass Windows**

*Rev. Carla Friedrich*

Join Rev. Friedrich for music, poetry, and the history, re-discovery, restoration of the windows, along with the beauty, art and Swedenborgian spirituality to be found throughout Tiffany's seven Angel stained glass windows. We will end with a quiet meditation.

#### 5. **Making Church Useful For All**

*Monica McCarthy*

Swedenborg taught us that church should go beyond a weekly sermon in an effort to be a place that also provides and promotes active community engagement. But what does that look like? The Swedenborgian New York New Church is doing an experiment based on exactly that question and opening its doors to a variety of programming outside of traditional church activities, attracting newcomers who have been looking for a spiritual home, and supporting inquisitive conversation in a non-traditional setting. In this workshop we'll explore how to transform a church building into a spiritual home via a diverse cross-section of programming and engagement with the community at large, while still supporting the current congregation.

### **Tuesday, July 11, 1:30-3PM, unless otherwise noted**

#### 1. **Developing Skills in Conflict Resolution**

*Dr. Sonia Werner*

How often do people resort to old habits of grumbling, gossiping, yelling, avoiding, diagnosing, name-calling, judging, or cursing when they are in the midst of interpersonal conflicts? There are alternative ways to handle conflict! Participants will be shown the differences between Excellent, Good, Sub-par (too passive), and Destructive (too aggressive) styles of handling verbal arguments. Over a dozen skills will be discussed, focusing on charitable ways to confront issues (not attacking people), and collaborating effectively after there has been a disagreement. This set of conflict resolution skills is one practical way to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Optional: Download my eBook, called *Conscience*, which includes these skills.)

#### 2. **The Five Ages of Humanity: Applying Swedenborgian Theology to Personal Psychology and Growth**

*Rev. Robert McCluskey*

Swedenborg writes that the five ages (or churches) described in scripture can serve as models for understanding both human history and the spiritual life of each individual. In general, the five churches break down into the stages of infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and maturity. This course would describe the distinct psycho-spiritual qualities of each stage; how growth within each stage, and transition to the next, can be helped or hindered; and how the fifth stage represents an integration of the four previous stages into a "new person." Finally, we will look at how the fifth stage, the New Church, has been taking shape in a neglected corner of our culture: theistic existentialism.

#### 3. **Rethinking Our Theology [\*1:30-2:15 PM]**

*Rev. Dr. George Dole*

It certainly seems to me as though the second sentence of *The Doctrine of Life* has not been given the careful reading it deserves. It says that "if we lead a good life then we think good things not only about God but also about the neighbor, which is not the case if we lead an evil life." We have tended to believe that you have to learn the truth in order to live it. If so, then we have been putting the cart before the horse. *The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Teaching* presents a program that puts the horse first. After a preface about the goal of our lives, the New Jerusalem, it starts with the very simple, universal question of what we mean by "good" and "true," and then leads step by step through the process by which we may join its citizens. Only toward the end does I begin to talk about the Bible, the church, and the like, and only at the end does it have a chapter about the Lord. It winds up presenting a theology that goes beyond the ecumenical to the interfaith,

and one that we can share with others very effectively in the spirit advocated (presumably) by St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel. If necessary, use words.”

#### **4. Social Media: What Is It Good For (And Not Good For)? [\*2:20-3 PM]**

*Morgan Beard*

It seems like everyone is on social media these days. Not having a social media presence can be a serious handicap for a group seeking new members, but in a sea of media vying for people’s attention, how can a small group stand out? What are the social media strategies that work best for other groups? How do you maximize your time and resources to get the most out of your online presence? How can you know if it’s time to step back from your online accounts and focus on other types of networking? Bring your own questions as we explore all these topics and more.

#### **5. Introduction to Logopraxis (a Word-based spiritual practice)**

*Roslyn Taylor*

Logopraxis simply means “to practice the Word,” and describes a way to engage with our sacred texts as the basis for daily spiritual practice. Logopraxis not only offers a framework for personal inner work and spiritual growth through integrating spiritual truths into life, but it also offers a basis for cultivating a deeper sense of spiritual community through online and small group networks. Participants will learn about the practices involved in Logopraxis, with tips on how to set up Logopraxis spiritual growth groups in their congregations or online.

## **Special Activities**

### **July 9 Keynote: Diane Butler Bass, “Grounded and Grateful”**

In her presentation, Diana Butler Bass explores a tension between the decline of institutional religion in the United States and the larger reality of spiritual longing in our culture. Drawing off her recent book, *GROUNDED*, she argues that old structures of faith are now found wanting. But, at the same time, new patterns and forms of spiritual life are emerging. Join her for honest and hope-filled vision of what we are letting go and what we can let come into our communities in a time of change.

### **July 8 Outing Day**

There will be an outing to visit Bryn Athyn, PA on Saturday, July 8. (If you will be staying on campus, you must arrive no later than July 7, so that you are able to check in before the bus leaves.) The cost of the outing is included in Room and Board and Meal Packages A, C, W, and Y. The outing day can also be signed up for as a standalone item.

The outing includes a visit to the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, the Glencairn Museum, and the Lord’s New Church, with lunch hosted by the Kline family. Roundtrip bus travel is included (those traveling with children in car seats need to contact the Central Office).

### **July 9 Temenos Cookout**

Dinner on Sunday, July 9 will be a cookout at the Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester, PA. The cost of the cookout is included in Room and Board and Meal Packages A, C, D, W, Y and Z. The cookout can also be signed up for as a standalone item. Roundtrip bus travel is included (those traveling with children in car seats need to contact the Central Office).

## **July 11 Ordination Service**

The ordination service will be held on the evening of Tuesday, July 11, with a reception to follow. Both will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 130 West Miner Street, West Chester, PA 19382. (Please note that the church does not have off-street parking; anyone driving in will have to park in appropriate street parking spots nearby, or at one of the area public parking garages.)

