

REGISTRATION

Attendance is by pre-registration only. Register by visiting our website at www.southernunion.com/congress. We recommend you register as early as possible. Tickets generally sell out for this event. Additionally, you will want to take advantage of the early bird reduced rates.

REGISTRATION FEES & DEADLINES

- **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:** Register on or before July 6th

Full Access Reduced Rate: \$225 per person

- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** August 4, 2026 (\$300 per person)

Limited Access/Social Events \$155 same price no discounts.

What is a Limited Access ticket? This ticket is for any family member (ages 10 and up) who is coming with you but will not be attending the conference. This price point is for all lunches, both movie nights and the birthday party.

CHILDREN: The conference itself is designed for adults and older teens, as an intense learning experience. There are no specific events planned for children. However, Colonial Williamsburg itself is fun for the entire family with very appealing activities that kids of every age will love. You have time-traveled back to 1776. You can visit the animals, ride in a wagon, and even rent colonial costumes. Get a feel for how the militia fought the revolutionary war with musket demos or see what roles and ideas slaves and Native Americans added to in the forming of our nation.

VENUE:

Colonial Williamsburg Lodge
310 South England Street,
Williamsburg, VA 23185
855-294-5683

REFUNDS:

Your registration fee is non-refundable. However, if you find that you cannot attend, you may send someone else in your place.

HOTELS:

The official hotels for the conference are both Colonial Williamsburg hotels. You have a choice of staying at The Lodge \$229/night plus parking fee (\$20) or The Woodlands Hotel and Suites for \$169/night plus resort fee (\$15) plus tax. Rooms at the Woodlands may fill up sooner because there are fewer of them. Room hotel choices will be based on availability. First come, first serve basis.

CELEBRATE 250

CELEBRATING AMERICA & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

AUGUST 16-20, 2026 | COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG LODGE

REGISTER NOW SOUTHERNUNION.COM/CONGRESS

The Southern Union Conference

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

PO Box 923868, Peachtree Corners, GA 30010-3868

(770) 408-1800

Visit our website at www.southernunion.com/congress

For all other inquiries email us at religiousliberty@southernunion.com



PRESENTERS



Steven Green: Judicial Imbalance: Reconciling the Religion Clauses

The Founders wrote three religious freedom provisions into the Constitution: the Free Exercise Clause, the (non)Establishment Clause, and the often overlooked prohibition on religious tests for public officeholding.

Giving the Founders the benefit of doubt, they must have believed that all three clauses were essential for ensuring religious freedom in the nation. For the past decade or so, the Supreme Court has been on a mission to rewrite the meaning of the First Amendment's religion clauses and, as a result, has upset a delicate balance designed to guarantee religious freedom writ large.



Randall Balmer: Irreconcilable Differences: Christian Nationalism & The First Amendment

The First Amendment, a concession to religious pluralism, is under attack as never before in our history. Christian nationalists, those who claim that the United States is and always

has been a Christian nation, are seeking to undermine the separation of church and state, which has ensured the vitality of the religious marketplace while protecting the government from the religious factionalism that caused so much violence in England and Europe.



Brian Kaylor: (Un)Civil Religion in America

From "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to "In God We Trust" as the national motto to government leaders offering public prayers, scholars and pundits have often declared such acts as part of a unifying "civil

religion." But what if such official intermingling of church and state are not so harmless, for either the state or the church? Unpacking the history and rhetoric in the middle of the last century helps us understand our present context where faith is used as a partisan weapon and some in government oppose church-state separation.



Joe Reeves

Adventist Understanding of Biblical Prophecy: leads us to believe that religious liberty will become a central matter of popular debate and public interest. If religious liberty is indeed a looming crisis, it would behoove all believers to equip themselves with biblical perspectives on this important topic. Ellen White urges, *"We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures and be able to give the reason for our faith."* T588, p. 452. Our daily devotional bible study will attempt to bring this into better light for all attendees.



Bettina Krause

Standing on Shrinking Ground: Adventists have long defended a distinctive vision of religious liberty—one rooted in freedom of conscience, church-state separation, and equal rights for all faiths and none. Yet pressure from both the political left and right increasingly

leave Adventists standing apart on questions of church, state, and religious freedom. This presentation examines key social, political, legal, and religious movements that have gained momentum in recent decades and that now pose new challenges to religious liberty. These include secular intolerance, new forms of religious populism, the New Apostolic Reformation, post-liberalism, Catholic integralism, and the conservative legal movement. We'll consider how the religious liberty work of the church has already been affected by these forces, and what threats may lie ahead.



WHAT MAKES THIS A ONE-OF-A-KIND EVENT?

- America's 250th Anniversary and Colonial Williamsburg's 100 Anniversary.
- In Colonial Williamsburg it is 1776 every day.
- Easy access to America's Historic Triangle-- a scenic 23-mile Colonial Parkway links together Jamestown, Williamsburg and York Town.
- Visit Jamestown, the oldest established English settlement in America.
- Drive the battlefields and see where the battle of Yorktown was fought and won, defeating the British and securing our independence.
- Daily Devotions focusing on Biblical prophecy and religious liberty.
- Nationally known authors and speakers on the topic of Separation of Church and State.
- Discussion and fellowship with other Adventists whose interest focuses on religious liberty.
- Historic talks given by our Nation's Founders (Only at Colonial Williamsburg--this feature is brought to the conference through Colonial Williamsburg. Speaker selection has not been finalized).
- Experience a colonial America that includes the voices of those not often focused on in history. Listen in on discussions between enslaved people, as freedom and liberty are the topic of the day (1776). See what the Native American's concerns were as white settlers continued to spread throughout the territory and how they negotiated treaties with the governors.



DRESS CODE: We recommend "smart casual" attire. This event crosses different venues every day. You will have an opportunity to engage in both conference (inside learning) classes as well as walk the streets of Colonial Williamsburg in 1776 (a living museum). We also anticipate it to be hot in August. Church/business attire is discouraged during daily events.

PARKING: Parking in and around Colonial Williamsburg (CW) is limited. If you are staying at the Lodge or Woodland, then it is included in your charges already. However, if you are staying off-site, please be aware that parking is \$20 per day at the event. There is no guarantee that you will be able to park close. However, if you are holding a CW Pass, you can park at the visitor center and ride the bus for free to the front door of the conference center.

MEALS: Daily lunch and America's Birthday Party Dinner are included in the cost of your registration ticket. All meals are vegetarian, but vegans will be accommodated as much as possible. For those with other dietary restrictions, please understand that our limitations are based on availability at the hotel.