An Exciting Event Partnership
In 2023, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is excited to collaborate with the European Baptist Federation (EBF) and Baptist Union of Norway (BUN) to offer an incredible global experience in Stavanger, Norway. From July 2-9, global Baptist leaders are invited to experience two dynamic events: (1) the 2023 BWA Annual Gathering and the (2) “SENT 2023” Global Mission Summit.

2023 BWA Annual Gathering: July 2-5, 2023
During the Annual Gathering, Baptist leaders from across the globe will connect through worship, prayer, learning, relationship building, and shared ministry. We will also grow together as we engage in plenaries, Bible studies, regional ministry updates, and small group reflections developed by 14 BWA Commissions.

“SENT 2023” Global Mission Summit: July 5-9, 2023
SENT 2023 is an opportunity for Baptists of all ages to gather together with a strategic focus on both the privilege and responsibility we share in God’s global mission. In our time together, we will share inspiring testimonies of what God is already doing through Baptist churches and unions to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and how it is changing lives and transforming communities.

We will hear from gifted keynote speakers as well as insightful Bible study and seminar leaders, collectively listening for God’s voice in directing us in our mission for the future. We will accept the challenge of putting into practice all we have been learning about church and mission through the COVID-19 crisis.

These events are not just for denominational leaders but for people from across our Baptist family – people of all ages and traditions, in order for us to hear and learn from each other. Through inspiring worship, prayer times, and sharing meals together, we want to encourage and support one another, building our friendships across nations, cultures, and languages – expressing our solidarity in Jesus Christ who unites us all together.

We encourage everyone coming to Stavanger to attend the whole week and experience the full breadth of fellowship, input, and blessing.

1) MEETING VENUE:
Stavanger Forum
Gunnar Warebergs gate 15
4021 Stavanger, Norway
www.stavanger-forum.no/en
2) BWA and SENT Registration:

REGISTRATION FEES
Registration fees will be charged in Norwegian Krone (NOK). Registration fees will rise by 15% for registrations made after 30 April 2023. The exchange rate is approximate US$1.00 = 10.00 NOK on November 30, 2022.

- 2-in-1 COMBO: BWA Annual Gathering and SENT 2023 (3-9 July) – 4,300 NOK*
- BWA Annual Gathering ONLY (3-5 July) – 2,300 NOK*
- SENT 23 ONLY (5-9 July) – 2,700 NOK*

*Exchange rate is approximate US$1 = 10 NOK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your BWA Annual Gathering registration fee will cover:</th>
<th>Your SENT 2023 registration fee will cover:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Participation in the event and use of the venue</td>
<td>• Participation in the event and use of the venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 Lunches (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)</td>
<td>• 4 Lunches (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 Dinners (Monday and Tuesday)</td>
<td>• 4 Dinners (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 5 coffee breaks</td>
<td>• 5 coffee breaks</td>
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NB: Airport transfers and accommodations NOT INCLUDED in the registration fee. (See below Section 9 for more details on accommodations)

General Council members attending virtually will be complimentary (See below Section 7 for more details)

How to Register
Please visit the BWA website at www.baptistworld.org/2023-annual-gathering/ to access the online registration page or click the following direct link: https://www.ebf.org/sent2023

Regardless of payment method, we ask that you register online and follow the credit card payment instructions you receive on the secure registration page at the time of registering. Credit card transactions will be charged in Norwegian Krone. Special arrangements can be requested to pay upon arrival, when a credit card is not available or certain country restrictions apply. Please contact the BWA office at meetings@baptistworld.org to request this special provision. Further information will be requested of the participant depending on the type of restriction they have to pay online. You will still register using the online registration form and select “Offline Payment” and follow the instructions on how to send and complete your registration payment.

IMPORTANT: ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE on June 20, 2023. After that date, you must register onsite (dependent on availability).

Cancellation Policy:
Conference fees, which will increase after April 30, 2023, will be refunded only when written request arrives in our office before May 31, 2023. An administration fee of 500 NOK will apply to all cancellations. We regret that cancellations made after May 31, 2023, will result in loss of the entire registration fee.

3) NORWAY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
a. Visa Information:
Some attendees will need to obtain a Visitor’s Visa to enter Norway. This visa will allow you to visit all countries in the Schengen Region. To find out if you need a visa, click here. This link will also explain the requirements for a visa and the process to apply for a visa. Please note, it can be difficult for applicants from some countries to get a visa, so applications should be commenced as soon as possible to be sure to allow sufficient time. When you register, you will be able to request an invitation letter to support your visa application. To ensure your participation, please apply for your visa in sufficient time before the event.

BWA will issue an invitation letter only after you have completed the Annual Gathering registration process. Please supply the requested information on your registration form. Invitation letters will be sent within 2 weeks of complete registration. Thank you for your patience.
b. **COVID-19:**
As of November 2022, entry restrictions relating to COVID-19 have been discontinued. For more information, [click here](#). Please check this website again before making your travel arrangements.

4) **SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONTRIBUTION**
When you register, you will be given the opportunity to donate to a fund for member body leaders who are unable to attend the Annual Gathering without the assistance of a PATH (travel and hospitality) scholarship. We value the voice of all leaders and appreciate your help in getting to them to Norway. As you know, we rely on donations to support these leaders. Please consider giving to the PATH Fund. Thank you in advance for any donations you designate as a PATH Grant. These may also be sent to the BWA Office, Attn: Finance Department, or you can also add your donation when you complete your registration form online.

5) **ECO-EVENT**
a. **BWA Annual Gathering Report Book:**
In keeping with the desire to improve our stewardship of the environment and to facilitate those that will be participating virtually, we will only offer the BWA’s Annual Gathering Report Book electronically.

b. **Carbon offset:**
When you register, you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to reduce your travel-related carbon footprint as part of the payment process. We recommend a minimum of 100 NOK (€10 = USD$10) donation. Your donation will contribute to 2 projects as outlined on the SENT 2023 website: [Sent 2023 | EBF](#).

6) **SCHEDULE:**
A draft schedule for the BWA Annual Gathering meetings is also attached in the email with this information packet. Check our website ([www.baptistworld.org/2023-annual-gathering/](http://www.baptistworld.org/2023-annual-gathering/)) regularly for updates. Please refer to the website version of the schedule when making your travel arrangements.

A full schedule of events for **SENT 2023** will be available soon on the event website [Sent 2023 | EBF](#).

a. **Worship on Sunday:**
Stavanger Baptist Churches are looking forward to receiving you at their services on Sunday, July 2. Please email us at meetings@baptistworld.org to let us know if you are interested in attending or preaching at one of their Sunday worship services.

b. **Free Afternoon**
We are planning to keep Friday afternoon free to allow participants to explore Stavanger and surrounding areas. The Baptist Union of Norway are working on some possible tours, details will be shared once they are available. For more information about Stavanger and what is there to do, refer to the event website [Sent 2023 | EBF](#).

7) **GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:**
a. **Proxies:** If as a Member Body, you are sending a proxy in place of your named General Council member BWA will need an official letter stating the name of the person proposed as proxy and whom they will be replacing at the meeting. Please send the letter before June 1, 2023, to Julie Justus at Julie@baptistworld.org.

b. **Virtual participation:** In keeping with our commitment to provide a hybrid participation as well as more equal representation at our meetings, this year we will have all sessions of the General Council available in hybrid mode. More information on how to join the General Council meetings virtually will be available soon.

8) **PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE FOR TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY (PATH):**

**PATH Requests**
PATH Grants for 2023 are extremely limited. Normally, those who wish to apply for a PATH Grant must be from BWA Member Bodies which have made a contribution to the organization since January 2020. Please consult your member body before writing to us. For further information, please email Julie@baptistworld.org.
9) **ACCOMMODATION**
We have negotiated special discounted rates and room blocks at 3 hotels in Stavanger.
We encourage you to book your accommodation as soon as possible, to ensure you get the rates within our block booking.

Once you have registered to attend the event, you will receive an email confirmation that will include the links to the hotels’ booking systems and the special discount codes needed to get the special group rates we have negotiated. Please note: Breakfasts are included with hotel room rates.

Please carefully note the deadlines for which the special rates apply for each hotel.

**A. The Clarion Hotel Energy:**
Ishockeyveien 2
4021 Stavanger
Norway
Phone: +47 51 34 78 00
Website: [click here](#)

**Distance to venue**
750 meters away from the conference venue - 8 minutes walking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy</td>
<td>900 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Occupancy</td>
<td>1,000 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Occupancy</td>
<td>1,290 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadruple Occupancy</td>
<td>1,550 NOK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:**
- Room Rates are quoted in Norwegian Krone (NOK).
- Room rates are per night/per room.
- Breakfast is included on the room rates.
- Room Rates are applicable for June 30-July 10, 2023.
- Reservations can be made until May 1, 2023.
- All reservations made after May 1, 2023, are subject to availability.
- If you wish to share a room, you will need to arrange it yourself and then one person only needs to make the booking.

**HOTEL Reservation Methods:**
- After registering to the BWA Annual Gathering, you will receive an email confirmation including all the hotel reservation links and discount codes. Use the link and instructions provided and book your accommodations directly with the hotel. You will need to provide a credit card number to guarantee the booking.

**Hotel Cancellation Policy:**
- Cancellations should be addressed to the hotel directly.
- For individual reservations of up to 9 people, you can cancel until the day before arrival. After this date the booking must be paid in full and payment will be taken from the credit card. Cancellations can be made via the same link as for booking.
**How to get to the hotel**

Airport Bus number FB40 that travels between the airport and city centre passes by the hotel. The bus stop is Stavanger Turnhall. The airport shuttle runs directly from the airport to the conference centre and hotels throughout the day. It is possible to pre-purchase tickets at a reasonable price. See [https://www.flybussen.no/en](https://www.flybussen.no/en)

**B. Thon Partner Stavanger Forum Hotel**

Gunnar Warebergs gate 17  
4021 Stavanger  
Norway  
Phone: +47 51 93 0000  
Website: click here

**Distance to venue**

The Thon is the closest hotel to the venue with a direct entrance from the lobby.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Early Bird – Until January 31, 2023</th>
<th>February 1- March 31, 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>985 NOK</td>
<td>1,285 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double room</td>
<td>1,185 NOK</td>
<td>1,485 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple room</td>
<td>1,285 NOK</td>
<td>1,585 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadruple room</td>
<td>1,385 NOK</td>
<td>1,685 NOK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:**
- Room Rates are quoted in Norwegian Krone (NOK).
- Room rates are per night/per room.
- Breakfast is included on the room rates.
- Room Rates are applicable for June 29-July 11, 2023.
- After March 31, 2023, normal rates apply.
- Reservations can be made until May 1, 2023.
- All reservations made after May 1, 2023, are subject to availability.
- If you wish to share a room, you will need to arrange it yourself and then one person only needs to make the booking.

**HOTEL Reservation Methods:**
- After registering for the BWA Annual Gathering, you will receive an email confirmation including all the hotel reservation links and discount codes. Use the link and instructions provided and book your accommodations directly with the hotel. You will need to provide a credit card number to guarantee the booking.

**Hotel Cancellation Policy:**
- Cancellations should be addressed to the hotel directly.
- **If you need to cancel, please cancel by 1 May 2023.** We cannot guarantee a refund after that date. Cancellations can be made via the same link as for booking.

**How to get to the hotel**

Stavanger Airport, Sola is approx. 13 km, approx. 20 min away. Airport Bus number FB40 that travels between the airport and city centre passes by the Forum and the hotel. The stop needed is
Tjensvollkrysset. The airport shuttle runs directly from the airport to the conference centre and hotels, throughout the day. It is possible to pre-purchase tickets at a reasonable price. See https://www.flybussen.no/en

C. **Comfort Hotel Square**
Løkkeveien 41
4008 Stavanger
Norway
Phone: +47 56 80 00
Website: [click here](https://www.flybussen.no/en)

**Distance to venue**
The hotel is 2.5km (1.6 miles) away from the conference venue - 31 minutes walking. Bus lines 3, 6, 7, 9 and 29 will take you to the conference venue.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy</td>
<td>1,040 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Occupancy</td>
<td>1,190 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Occupancy</td>
<td>1,340 NOK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadruple Occupancy</td>
<td>1,540 NOK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Room Rates are applicable for July 1-July 10, 2023.
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**How to get to the hotel**
The bus travels between the airport and city centre and stops 300 meters from the hotel. The stop needed is Clarion Stavanger. The airport shuttle runs directly from the airport to the conference centre and hotels throughout the day. It is possible to pre-purchase tickets at a reasonable price. See https://www.flybussen.no/en