

# 2025 ANNUAL MEETINGS

November 22-25 ❖ Boston, MA



## Planning Your Trip

The **2025 SBL Annual Meeting** will be held **November 22–25** in **Boston, MA**. This professional academic meeting will bring together professors and students, authors and publishers, religious leaders and interested laypersons, to the **Hynes Convention Center** and surrounding venues to engage with leading scholars within the fields of religion, religious studies, research, and theology.

**Registration Rates and Hotel Information** – *Coming soon!*

## Resources for International Travelers

### *Visa Application*

It is necessary for those entering the United States to clear customs and immigration. Visitors from Canada and Mexico must present a passport in order to enter the United States. Visitors from the 38 countries that are part of the [Visa Waiver Program](#) must have an [e-Passport](#) (embedded with an electronic chip) in order to skip the visa process. Please be prepared. Non-U.S. citizens should inquire about possible visa requirements from their own country.

### *Invitation Letter*

Official letters of invitation for travel and/or visa purposes to the **SBL Annual Meeting** are available. If you are traveling to the United States from another country we encourage you to request a letter of invitation. You must register for the meeting first in order to receive this letter and there is a section to request this during the registration process. If you have additional questions, you may e-mail [annualmeeting@sbl-site.org](mailto:annualmeeting@sbl-site.org) after you have completed registration to obtain more details about the information required.

Please note that SBL will fully refund registration fees with no penalty to SBL members in good standing whose visa applications are denied or who are otherwise restricted from entering the United States.

## **Additional Travel Tips and Information**

SBL would like to share information intended to help you prepare for your trip to and from the US.

For **International Travelers**: It is best practice to carry the following documents with you when you are traveling in the US.:

1. A valid passport
2. Your current US visa
3. Your I-20 form with a valid signature (for international students)
4. An invitation letter from SBL confirming your invitation to participate in the Annual Meeting
5. Proof of your hotel confirmation and ability to financially support yourself in the United States (such as a letter from your current employer or bank account statement)

## **More Data and Resources**

1. US Border Patrol and Customs Information [Search Authority](#)
2. US Border Patrol and Customs Information on the [search of electronic devices at the border](#)
3. Electronic Frontier Foundation information on digital privacy at the US Border, with a [long version](#) and a [short version](#) of guidance for travelers
4. ACLU's Border Zone [Rights Guide](#)
5. For [LGBT2QIA+ travelers](#), in particular, gender-nonconforming and trans travelers, resources on flying to and in the US from Advocates 4 Trans Equality
6. U.S. Border Patrol and Customs Information – [Top Ten Travel Tips](#)
7. Information on international travelers' rights and responsibilities in the US from [CLEAR](#), the free legal assistance program at the City University of New York

Although SBL has sought the best information we could to help **2025 SBL Annual Meeting** attendees arrive safely and enjoy their stay, our sharing of these resources in good faith does not constitute an endorsement. Please contact us if you have additional questions.