FAITH, AI & THE FUTURE OF MINISTRY

The First East Coast Advance with Leonard Sweet

Featuring Dr. David J. Swisher

March 5–6, 2027 | Regency Hall | Covington, Georgia

What happens to faith, ministry, and the human spirit when artificial intelligence changes the world around us?

Artificial intelligence is transforming how we think, communicate, create, learn, and lead. But beneath the excitement and anxiety surrounding this technological revolution lie deeper questions: What does it mean to be human? What makes ministry authentically Christian? And how can the church approach the future with imagination, wisdom, and faithfulness?

Join renowned Christian author, theologian, and futurist **Leonard Sweet** and his special conversation partner, **Dr. David J. Swisher**, for the first East Coast Advance, March 5–6, 2027—an intimate two-day gathering at Regency Hall in historic Covington, Georgia.

This will be more than a conference about technology. It will be an opportunity to explore the intersection of faith, artificial intelligence, human creativity, and the changing landscape of Christian ministry.

An Advance, Not Just Another Conference

For years, Leonard Sweet's Advances have created spaces for conversation, imagination, reflection, and discovery. Rather than simply delivering information, an Advance invites participants to consider where the Spirit may be leading the church next.

This gathering continues that tradition with an urgent new focus: how followers of Jesus can navigate technological disruption without surrendering the relational, incarnational, and spiritual dimensions of Christian life.

Together, Len and David will explore questions such as:

- How is artificial intelligence reshaping our understanding of humanity, knowledge, creativity, and community?
- What opportunities and dangers does AI present for pastors, churches, and Christian educators?
- How do we distinguish technological capability from spiritual wisdom?
- What does responsible, ethical, and theologically informed use of AI look like?

- How can the church embrace innovation without losing its soul?
- What might faithful leadership look like in a world changing faster than our institutions can respond?

Expect thoughtful conversation, provocative questions, practical insights, and the opportunity to engage personally with two voices bringing complementary perspectives to these challenges.

Meet the Conversation Partners

Leonard Sweet

Leonard Sweet is a theologian, author, futurist, and widely recognized voice in conversations about Christianity, culture, communication, and the future of the church. His work challenges Christian leaders to read the signs of the times, recover the richness of the Christian story, and engage the changing world with imagination and faith.

At this inaugural East Coast Advance, Len will bring his distinctive perspective on semiotics, storytelling, cultural transformation, and the continuing mission of the church.

Dr. David J. Swisher

David J. Swisher is an AI trainer and consultant, ministry technologist, author, and ordained Wesleyan minister with more than 40 years of ministry experience.

He has trained thousands of professionals in the use of generative AI and has helped Christian universities, ministry leaders, and churches understand and adopt emerging technologies responsibly.

David is the author of *Early Warning: How to Lead with Wisdom in Times of Technological Disruption* (2025), with additional works on responsible AI in ministry and education forthcoming in 2027.

Holding a Doctor of Ministry in Semiotics, Church, and Culture from Portland Seminary, where he studied under Leonard Sweet, David brings a rare combination of theological depth, pastoral experience, and hands-on expertise in artificial intelligence.

Together, Len and David offer a conversation rooted in Christian faith and informed by the realities of a rapidly changing technological world.

An Extraordinary Setting: Regency Hall

This inaugural East Coast Advance will take place at **Regency Hall, 2204 Monticello Street SW, Covington, Georgia 30014**, the historic home of Len and Tia Sweet.

Located in Covington's charming historic district, Regency Hall will also serve as a legacy location for much of Leonard Sweet's extensive library and his camp-meeting collection.

Covington, known as the **"Hollywood of the South,"** has served as a filming location for numerous movies and television productions, including *The Vampire Diaries*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *Sweet Home Alabama*.

The historic town square, distinctive shops, restaurants, and local attractions are within walking distance of Regency Hall.

Event Schedule

Friday, March 5, 2027

The Advance begins at **9:00 a.m.**

Saturday, March 6, 2027

The Advance concludes after the evening meal.

Evening meals will be hosted at Regency Hall, the home of Len and Tia Sweet. Breakfast and lunch will be on your own.

Accommodations and Travel

Participants are responsible for arranging their own lodging and transportation.

Several accommodations are available near Regency Hall, including the historic Twelve Oaks Bed and Breakfast next door. Covington's historic downtown offers additional dining, shopping, and sightseeing opportunities.

Join Us for a Different Kind of Conversation

The future of ministry cannot be reduced to a question of which technologies we adopt. It is a question of what kind of people we are becoming—and how faithfully we follow Jesus in a changing world.

Come prepared to think deeply, ask difficult questions, discover new possibilities, and share in meaningful conversation.

The future is already arriving. How will the church respond?

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Regency Hall — Covington, Georgia

Registration information and pricing will be announced.