

WECAN CONFERENCE 2025/26

Heather Church, WECAN Co-Director

This year has been, and continues to be, an exciting one for gatherings and shared learning. Last summer in Spring Valley, the very first CARE 1 conference in North America took place. This meaningful and inspiring event brought WECAN together with members of the Medical and Pedagogical Sections of the Goetheanum, alongside several representatives from IASWECE. Midwives, therapists, doctors, caregivers, and teacher educators came together in a spirit of collaboration to explore the child's journey from conception through the first three years of life. If you weren't able to join us, there's good news, the conference was recorded and is now [available to watch](#).

In November, WECAN collaborated with Sophia's Hearth for the annual Birth-to-Three Conference, *Developing Capacities for Being with Children from Birth to Three: Helping Children Meet the World through their Sense of Well-Being*. The conference focused on the foundational sense of life, or well-being, and offered a rich and deep exploration of this mysterious capacity. The theme of the *Sense of Life* will continue to next year's Birth-to-Three Conference, further building on the work begun this year.

This February, on the East and West Coasts, we are supporting two conferences that we hope you can attend.

The Annual East Coast Conference in Spring Valley will be the third conference in our ongoing focus on Adult Learning and development, deepening our connection to the work we do with young children. This year's theme weaves together the celebration of 100 years of Waldorf Early Childhood Education with the practice of Creative Spiritual Research.

Each of us carries the capacity to take up research as part of our work—strengthening our ability to observe, to discover “living” or life questions, and to respond with responsibility and care to the changing needs of children today. As new colleagues join our movement, we are called to collaborate with courage and creativity, finding new ways forward together.

This is not a careless path, but one rooted in a deep understanding of the developing child through Waldorf Education, skilled observation, and a willingness to awaken our own capacities. There is no one-size-fits-all way of working with children anymore. Each child shows us who they are, and we are asked to meet them with clarity, love, and attentiveness so they can become more fully themselves.

Our three-year conference journey reflects this work: focusing first on how educators learn, then on karma and destiny, or what makes you you, and lastly, on the questions each of us carries. You are the vessels who support these children, and when you awaken to who you are, your presence becomes a guiding light. In an unconscious way, the children recognize this—see it in you — and can then believe it is possible within themselves.

The Annual Pacific Northwest Conference will feature Nancy Blanning and Tim Bennet as they present on the topic of *Work and Play in Childhood*. Children arrive with deep questions about their bodies, their place in the world, and how to be human. Play is their way of exploring these questions, especially when supported by time in nature. Observing adults at work, children imitate purposeful actions, learning how to contribute to the world. For young children, work and play are inseparable, each shaping their growth. By creating environments that inspire both, we help children build creativity, resilience, and optimism that will carry them through life. Join Tim and Nancy as they present and share their incredible knowledge and experience on this topic.

As part of our 100-year celebration, WECAN encourages everyone to step beyond their classrooms and school communities and connect with colleagues from other schools and regions. One of the best ways to create opportunities for this work is through collaboration. We invite you to join one of the many regional gatherings and conferences being offered this year.

Please see the [CONTACT US](#) page to find your regional representative and learn more about what's happening in your region.

A BIG Thank You to our amazing regional representatives for taking the initiative to create these opportunities for connection. This year, there have already been gatherings in four regions: Great Lakes II, Northern and Southern California, and the Northeast Region. *Thank you for your commitment and dedication!*

Still to come are:

- **Great Lakes Ontario** at the Halton Waldorf School, April 26–27, 2026, with Stephan Spitalny
- **Texas/Southwest Rockies Region** at Denver Waldorf School, March 28, 2026, with Nancy Blanning and Laurie Clark
- **Mexico** Regional Conference in February 2026, Mexico City