



Society of Biblical Literature

Affiliate Organizations

Upon approval by its Council, the Society may affiliate or cooperate with organizations whose mission is consonant with the Society's mission to "foster biblical scholarship" (SBL Constitution and By-laws, Article IX). The Society may authorize such organizations to contribute to the programming of the SBL as Affiliate Organizations.

Application

An application for affiliation must include the following information. This information is to be provided in the application form, which is appended to this document.

- Description of the organization seeking affiliation to include:
 - Mission statement of the organization
 - Reason(s) for affiliating with SBL
 - Size of organization (i.e. number of members and number typically attending meetings)
 - List of officers to be involved in communication with SBL
- Short Public Description (with website address, if available, and contact information)

Benefits

Benefits of affiliation with SBL extend to both Affiliate organizations themselves and the members of those organizations. They include the following.

- Prime meeting locations, meeting space, and reduced sleeping room rates
- Special registration rates for the meeting
- Free meeting space for first two sessions/events, then reduced space rates for additional sessions/events
- Access to the Exhibit Hall, the world's largest exhibit of books and digital resources for biblical studies
- Participation in a "big tent" of scholarly exchange with scholars of many fields from across the world
- Publication of Affiliate sessions and Affiliate member involvement in printed and online meeting programs
- Publicity of Affiliate organization via the high-traffic SBL website
- Complimentary SBL membership for the program coordinator for the duration of his or her term as such, including consideration as a VIP, which offers the person priority housing options in the headquarters hotel(s). Affiliate Organizations may designate one person as a program coordinator.

Affiliate Review Panel

The Affiliate Review Panel (ARP) will be comprised of three members: two members of Council and the Executive Director. The ARP's decisions will be based on a two-thirds majority. Their evaluation of the Affiliates under review will be brought to the fall Council meeting for ratification and approval.

Calendar

Such organizations may apply to the SBL Executive Director for formal recognition as Affiliate Organizations by **September 1** of the year prior to the meeting in which the organization intends to participate. Proposals for affiliation are reviewed by the Affiliate Review Panel, and notice concerning the acceptance or non-acceptance of the proposal is sent to the proposers by **November 1**.

In cases of accepted proposals, confirmation of acceptance is required from the proposers to the Executive Director is required by **November 15**. The Affiliate Organization's call for papers for the upcoming meeting is due by **January 1**.

Affiliate status is reviewed on a triennial basis. Affiliate Organizations will be notified by **June 1** of the final year of their current term that a new proposal for affiliation is required by **September 1** if the organization intends to continue affiliation with the Society.

Eligibility

To be eligible, an organization should have the following characteristics.

- Support scholarly analysis and open discussion;
- Act in a manner consistent with SBL's vision statement and core values (listed [here](#));
- Profess a mission consonant with the Society's mission to "foster biblical scholarship";
- Be independent, not-for-profit, formally organized, and at least three years old;
- Have a national or international constituency;
- Have a majority of members who are professional scholars or teachers.

Parameters of Affiliation

Regardless of when SBL sessions formally begin, Affiliates benefit from SBL-negotiated contracts involving meeting space, hotel rates, etc. For this principle reason, when an organization affiliates with SBL in order to benefit from such contracts, a number of agreements are made.

Deadlines and Instructions for Program Coordinator

- **January 1:** Calls for papers must be updated by program coordinators in the Congresses Data System (CDS); if the Affiliate will not issue a call for papers but rather will organize invited sessions, then a brief description of invited session plans should stand in place of a call for papers.
- **March 1:** Calls for papers close; program coordinators must review proposals and return feedback to all proposals through the CDS—whether or not any additional communication occurs between the program coordinator and proposer—by April 1.
- **May 1:** All session details, including participants, presiders, and abstracts, must be in the CDS.

Meeting Space and Scheduling

- Affiliates will be responsible for all audio-visual and food/beverage costs associated with their sessions.
- Affiliate sessions are scheduled after SBL sessions are scheduled. Scheduling requests will be carefully considered, and accommodations for Affiliate scheduling requests will be made whenever possible.

Program Participation

- Affiliate Organizations follow the SBL calendar and publication deadlines and meet all SBL dates and deadlines for program and meeting information.
- Affiliate Organizations designate an individual to serve as program coordinator. This person serves as the primary communications contact with the SBL Executive Office, enters all session information into CDS, and ensures the accuracy of program information concerning the Affiliate Organization.
- Affiliate Organizations use the SBL Congresses Data System (CDS) to enter information (e.g., call for papers, sessions, etc.). SBL Executive Office staff will provide instructions on the use of the CDS and work with Affiliate program coordinators to ensure that program information is entered correctly.
- Affiliate Organizations permit attendance to all meeting attendees at all program sessions of the Affiliate.

- Participants in Affiliate sessions are required to be either a member of the Affiliate Organization or an SBL member. Participation on the SBL program is limited to SBL members, and SBL requires that participants must be a member of an Affiliate organization to be on that Affiliate's program; e.g., one must be a member of the SBL to be on the SBL program, an ASRS member for the ASRS program, etc.
 - Exceptions: for the SBL program, exceptions to this policy will follow current SBL policies related to waivers granted to those outside of the discipline. Affiliate Organizations will be responsible for establishing and enforcing their own policies regarding exceptions.
- Affiliate sessions will be listed in the online and printed programs using the Affiliate's full name as the session title. SBL Executive Office staff and the Affiliate program coordinator coordinate the format of Affiliate sessions for the online and printed programs.

Registration

- No financial benefit will be provided from registration for any Affiliate Organization.
- All attendees of any Affiliate Organization session must register through the Society as either an SBL member or an Affiliate member. This requirement is not contingent upon what parts or how much of the meeting a person might attend or visit.
- The members of Affiliate Organizations can register at the Affiliate registration rate regardless of their status on the affiliate organization's program; i.e. one does not need to be on the program to receive member rates.

SBL Statement on Advocacy and Values

The Affiliate application includes the following question: "What efforts has your organization made to invite broad and inclusive participation, including diverse scholarly points of view?" For two reasons, this is an important application question to which we hope applicants will give considerable thought. The first is SBL's expressed values as a learned society (<http://www.sbl-site.org/aboutus.aspx>): we seek to demonstrate and cultivate inclusivity, openness to change, respect for diversity, and tolerance. SBL expects those values in its Affiliates' session programming at the Annual and International meetings. Second, we look to our Affiliates to help us practice these values and to provide creative efforts that inform SBL. By affiliating with SBL and holding these values, together we nurture a field broad in methodological inquiry and demographic representation. Affiliation is not intended to be an occasion for a homogenous group to meet in isolation from the collaborative function of the larger meeting. Rather, we ask Affiliates to demonstrate and express interest in nurturing a diverse participation in the programming and its call for papers. Thanks for your efforts toward this goal.

SBL Statement on Participation

While the Society's Affiliates maintain and pursue their unique missions, participation of any party in the Society's meetings is held to the same expectations as SBL program sessions. By affiliating with the SBL Annual, International, or Regional Meetings you agree to participate in an open academic discussion guided by a common standard of scholarly discourse that engages your subject through critical inquiry and investigation.