

## **Council Meeting Notes (14-16 October 2022)**

Given the imminent departure of John Kutsko as our Executive Director, Council spent a major part of our October meeting discussing various aspects of SBL's operation, so we could gain a better perspective on the tasks and the challenges for our new Executive Director. We also continued to discuss governance issues, including the need to better "onboard" new Council members and ways to improve our nomination process (particularly to encourage our members to respond to the call for nominations that appears via our Society's Newsletter and Member Review emails). Most importantly, Council voted to approve a revision of our Society's Statement on Mission, Vision, and Values, which was last revised 11 years ago. This [newly approved revision](#) is available here.

In addition to approving written reports submitted by the Executive Director, SBL's five departments, and four committees (Affiliate Review Committee, Annual Meeting Program Committee, Educational Resources and Review Committee, and Research and Publications Committee), Council also met with David Eastman, Chair of SBL's Education Resources and Review Committee, to discuss this committee's work and plans. Our staff are working hard to prepare for not only our Annual Meeting in Denver but also our first Global Virtual Meeting in the spring. Impressively, our Press has published 28 titles so far in 2022. Because of the size and complexity of our Society, we need and are looking for a new Association Management Software (AMS). With the volatile market in recent months, our Society has suffered a significant investment loss.

Council discussed and identified seven goals or characteristics for a series of publication projects that we hope would help mark and celebrate our Society's sesquicentennial anniversary in 2030: (1) demonstrate biblical scholarship's public relevance; (2) provide a *critical* history of our Society; (3) give a forward-looking vision for our discipline; (4) be realistic about timeframe and capacity without being overly ambitious; (5) make it collaborative, so each volume will be co-edited by scholars from at least two different scholarly generations; (6) commit to inclusivity; and (7) use these publications as a source to generate revenue for the Society.

## **Council Meeting Notes (November 19, 2022)**

In this brief, two-and-a-half-hour meeting, Council discussed a number of transition issues in anticipation of John Kutsko's departure, including the need to announce Tat-siong Benny Liew's role as Interim Executive Director and Hugh Page's election as our next Council Chair. We also spent time meeting with Carmen Palmer, Chair of SBL's International Cooperation Initiative Committee (ICIC); ICIC is an important part of our Society, since about one-third of our members are now outside of the USA. Finally, Council reviewed and discussed the annual report submitted by the LGBTQI+ Committee.