

# **Constitution and By-Laws of the Society of Biblical Literature**

(Constitution Adopted 6 December 1987)  
(By-Laws Adopted 23 November 1986)  
(Art. V.5 and By-Law IV were amended 24 November 1992)  
(By-Law XVII was adopted 20 November 1994)  
(Constitution and By-Laws were amended 24 November 1996)  
(Revised Constitution and By-Laws were presented at the  
Annual Business Meeting 2003 and approved 21 November  
2004)  
(By-Law III was amended 22 November 2009)

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I. Name**

This organization shall be called the SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

### **Article II. Mission**

The mission of the Society shall be to foster biblical scholarship.

### **Article III. Officers**

- 1 The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice President, Chair of Council, Secretary of Council, and Executive Director.
- 2 President and Vice-President shall be elected by the Society and each serve one-year terms with Vice-President assuming the role of President at the end of the vice-presidential year.
- 3 Chair of Council shall be elected from Council by Council to serve a term of one to three years, but not to exceed the member's term of service on Council.
- 4 Secretary of Council shall be elected from Council by Council to serve a term of one to three years, but not to exceed the member's term of service on Council.
- 5 The Executive Director, who shall also serve as Treasurer of the Society, shall be appointed by Council for a term not to exceed five years and may be reappointed.

### **Article IV. Council**

- 1 Council shall consist of President, Vice-President, and twelve members. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio member of Council.
- 2 Members of Council, with the exception of President and Vice-President, shall be elected by the Society for three-year terms.
- 3 An Executive Committee of Council shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary of Council, and Chair of Council.
- 4 Council shall be responsible for determining the general policies and program initiatives of the Society and shall report to the membership.

## **Article V. Committees**

- 1 Standing committees and chairs of standing committees shall be appointed by Council to assist it in fulfilling the mission of the Society and in the regular conduct of the business of the Society.
- 2 Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the President to assist officers in their responsibilities.

## **Article VI. Regions**

Members of the Society, with the consent of Council, may organize themselves into Regions in order to further the mission of the Society.

## **Article VII. Membership**

- 1 Membership in the Society shall consist of categories designated by Council.
- 2 Membership dues shall be fixed by Council.

## **Article VIII. Meetings**

- 1 The Society shall meet at least once a year for the transaction of business at such time and place as Council may determine and announce at least one year in advance.
- 2 Council may schedule such meetings as it deems necessary for the administration of the Society and may conduct meetings through such media as Council may choose.

## **Article IX. Affiliated Organizations**

It shall be within the jurisdiction of Council to affiliate with organizations whose aims are deemed consonant with the Society.

## **Article X. Amendment**

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Society voting at its Annual Business Meeting, on recommendation of the Council, such amendment having been proposed at least a year in advance and circulated to the members of the Society at least six months prior to the Annual Business Meeting at which final action is to be taken.

## **Article XI. By-Laws**

The Society shall establish such By-Laws as will in its judgment promote its effective operation. A change in the By-Laws may be made at any Annual Meeting, upon recommendation of Council, by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

## **Article XII. Non-Discrimination**

In admission of persons to membership in the Society, and in participation in any program or activity sponsored by the Society, there shall be no discrimination on account of gender, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, age, physical disability or marital status.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **By-Law I. President, Vice President, Chair of Council and Secretary of Council**

- 1 The President shall be the presiding officer of the Society and shall chair the Annual Business meeting of the Society, deliver an annual address to the Society, and designate such ad hoc committees as may be required.
- 2 The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in the event of the absence or incapacity of the President and shall assist the President in any ways requested.
- 3 The Chair of Council shall preside at meetings of Council and chair the Executive Committee of Council and shall have primary responsibility for preparation of the agenda of meetings of Council.
- 4 The Secretary of Council will maintain a permanent record of Council meetings.

### **By-Law II. Council**

Council serves as the policy-making body of the Society. Council's responsibilities include the following: providing general oversight of all Society business; receiving regular reports from standing and ad hoc committees; approving all policies and the annual budget; making recommendations to the Annual Business Meeting; electing Chair of Council, Secretary of Council, and members to standing committees; reviewing and assessing the programs of the Society; and undertaking long-range planning and development in collaboration with the Executive Director. Council shall meet regularly, at least once a year.

### **By-Law III. Executive Committee of Council**

- 1 The Executive Committee of Council may act on behalf of Council, only if necessary, to conduct the Society's business between Council meetings.
- 2 The Executive Committee of Council will conduct an annual evaluation of the Executive Director (in keeping with Council policies and procedures) and submit a report to Council.
- 3 In consultation with the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee will make recommendations to Council concerning the Executive Director's terms of employment.
- 4 In addition, the Secretary of Council will maintain a permanent record of the Executive Committee's meetings in executive session.

### **By-Law IV. Executive Director**

The Executive Director shall be the chief executive of the Society. The responsibilities of this position include the following: conduct the activities of the Society in consultation with Chair of Council and at the direction of Council; propose a budget; provide financial management using generally accepted accounting and oversight procedures; maintain membership rolls; invest and disburse all Society funds in accordance with an annual budget approved by Council and according to generally accepted accounting procedures; report annually and publicly the status of the Society, including membership, budget, subscriptions, book sales, relationships to other organizations, and any matters deemed appropriate by Council; supervise any staff; coordinate the work of standing committees; announce and oversee the meetings, keeping careful records of the proceedings. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio member with voice but not vote of Council and standing committees of the Society.

### **By-Law V. Nominations**

- 1 The Nominating Committee nominates to the Society for election President, Vice-President, and Council members.
- 2 It nominates to Council for election members of standing committees and representatives to other organizations as required.

### **By-Law VI. Commencement and Termination of Tenure**

- 1 Tenure for all positions in the Society shall be governed by the calendar year.
- 2 Members serving the Society in volunteer positions, with the exception of President and Vice-President, normally serve three-year terms and may be renewed for a second consecutive term.