

# CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH HISTORY MAY 2016

## Article I. Name

The name of this body, as founded in 1888 and incorporated by the laws of the State of New York on 30 March 1916, shall be The American Society of Church History, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as “the Society”).

## Article II. Objects

The objects of the Society shall be those stated in the Act of Incorporation, Section 2, to wit: to promote and stimulate historical study and research generally, but particularly in the department of church history; to discover, collect and preserve historical manuscripts; to print, publish and cause to be distributed, papers, books, writings, reports, articles and data bearing on or in anywise relating to church history or containing the results of the researches or other activities of its members; to establish and maintain traveling fellowships to carry out or to maintain any of the foregoing purposes; to hold conventions or meetings of its members; to establish and maintain a library; to establish and maintain endowments for any of the foregoing purposes; to acquire by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise, and to hold real and personal estate so far as may be necessary in carrying out its lawful purposes; and to mortgage, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any real or personal estate according to law. [The Act of Incorporation is appended to the ByLaws] These objects shall be interpreted as permissive and not mandatory.

## Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Society is open to any individual in sympathy with the stated objects of the Society.

Section 2. Persons elected shall remain members in good standing so long as they shall regularly remit payment of annual dues as established by the Society.

Section 3. Members whose dues are in arrears more than twelve months shall have their names dropped from the membership rolls of the Society. Such persons may be reinstated by paying their dues.

## Article IV. Officers and Management

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, the immediate Past-President, Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor representing *Church History*. These officers, along with eleven additional members shall constitute the Council of the Society. The President and President-Elect shall be elected annually for a term of one year and shall not be eligible for re-election.

Section 2. Management of the Society shall be vested in a Council consisting of seventeen individuals: the three presidential officers, the chairs of the four standing committees (Membership, Prizes and Awards, Finance, and Investment) not chaired by the President-elect (Program) and the Past President (Personnel), six members at large, a graduate student, and the three staff members (Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of *Church History*), who shall have voice but not vote. Two of the six members at large shall be elected each year for a term of three years, and the graduate student member shall be appointed by the Council for a term of one or two years. A member at large who has served a full term of three years shall be eligible for re-election to the Council only after one year has elapsed. A member at large elected to complete an unexpired term may be re-elected to a full term immediately.

Section 3. The Council shall be charged with pursuing the objects of the Society and furthering its general interests by the exercise of powers granted in this Constitution and according to the duties stipulated in the accompanying By-Laws.

Section 4. The property of the Council shall be vested in the Council, and said Council shall be responsible for conducting the business and legal affairs of the Society. The Council may bind the Society to an obligation in excess of its current net assets only by the unanimous consent of every member of the Council given in writing.

Section 5. A vacancy in any office of the Society shall be filled by the Council, by mail or electronic ballot if necessary, for the remainder of the year in which the vacancy occurs. If more than three vacancies on the Council occur in any one year, the Council, at its discretion, may fill such vacancies for the remainder of the year.

Section 6. In conversation with the Finance Committee and Treasurer, the Council shall determine the amount of annual dues to be charged to individual members.

#### **Article V. Meetings**

Section 1. The Society shall meet at least once annually for scholarly exchange and business at a time and place determined by the Council. The Society may meet at other times during the year as the Council shall determine.

Section 2. Not less than thirty days prior to any meeting, the Secretary shall mail to each member of the Society notice of such meeting, along with a copy of the proposed program.

Section 3. Thirty members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### **Article VI. Seal**

The Seal of the Society shall bear the name of the Society in Latin, with the date of its foundation, together with an emblematic lamp, and the motto, *Christiani nihil a me alienum puto*.

#### **Article VIII. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Society present and voting at any legally constituted annual business meeting, provided that the text of such amendment(s) shall have been submitted to the members at the preceding annual and printed in one or more of the Society's official publications during the intervening year or made available to members on the Society's website.