

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this society is the: EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (EMS).

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Evangelical Missiological Society is to advance the cause of world evangelization through study and evaluation of mission concepts and strategies from a biblical perspective with a view to commending sound mission theory and practice to churches, mission agencies, and schools of missionary training around the world.

The Evangelical Missiological Society exists to foster fellowship and professional stimulation among active and retired professors of missiology and closely allied disciplines, missionary/missiologists, mission administrators and pastors with strategic missiological interests, and students of missiology, all of whom subscribe to an evangelical doctrinal position. This fellowship exists as a platform for the discussion of missiological and theological concerns growing out of the mandate of the Church to "disciple the nations." Emphasis is also given to the preparation and dissemination of information, books, and practical tools designed to assist members in missionary training, missionary service, and mission-related administration.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

**Full Membership** in the Society shall be open to all of the following persons, active or retired, who subscribe to the doctrinal tenets and other requirements of the Society:

- a. professors of missiology and closely allied disciplines.
- b. missionary/missiologists.
- c. mission administrators and pastors with strategic missiological interests.

**Associate Membership** shall be open to:

- a. concerned evangelicals who have competence in any field vitally related to missions, and who support the purposes and the doctrinal tenets of the Society, upon the recommendation of an active member.
- b. students of missiology who support the purpose and the position of the EMS, upon the recommendation of an active member.

Only full members of the Society shall participate in voting.

**Dues** shall be determined at the annual national meeting of the Society. A member's name may be dropped from the list of active members if, after two years, that member has not paid membership dues.

## ARTICLE IV – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

All members shall affirm the evangelical tenets of the Christian faith as set forth in the statements of one or more of the following: the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, the Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies, or the Fellowship of Missions. (See Links at Statement of Faith)

## ARTICLE V – LEADERSHIP

### *Section 1 – Officers of the Society*

The Officers of the Society shall be elected and shall consist of a President, Regional Vice Presidents, and such Executive and National Vice Presidents as are deemed necessary by the Executive Committee and elected by the membership.

### *Section 2 – Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, and the Executive and National Vice Presidents. While the Executive Committee is authorized to carry out the normal business of the Society, issues needing the approval of the membership at large must first be ratified by a majority of all Society Officers.

### *Section 3 – Qualifications*

Society Officers of the EMS shall be full members who exemplify biblical requirements for spiritual leadership and who demonstrate a keen awareness of the missiological issues before the Church. They should have a strong commitment to the Purpose statement of the EMS and be willing to serve a three-year term of office. The assent of potential nominees for an office must be obtained before their names are placed in nomination and presented to the Society membership.

### *Section 4 – Duties of Society Officers*

The Officers of the Society (consisting of the Executive Committee and Regional Vice Presidents) shall meet annually in conjunction with the Society's Annual Meeting. Proposals or recommendations originating from either the Executive Committee or from Regional Vice Presidents must have the prior approval of this body before being presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

The **President** shall consult with and supervise the work of the Executive Vice Presidents, who are responsible to oversee and coordinate the work of all standing and appointed committees of the Society, and the work of the National and Regional Vice Presidents. As standard bearer for the Society, the President shall serve as its primary public spokesperson; shall be responsible for convening the annual meeting of the Society; and shall communicate with the members of the society to encourage them in their professional responsibilities. The President shall report annually to the national meeting, and shall oversee the work of the Conference Committee in planning and directing the annual meeting of the Society. Until new elections can be held, the President is empowered to appoint interim officers to fill vacancies which arise.

The **Executive Vice President for Administration** shall oversee and coordinate the work of the Regional Vice Presidents and preside over national business meetings. The Executive Vice President for Administration shall stand in for the President in his absence, or upon a vacancy of office, until a new election can be held.

The **Executive Vice President for Constituency Relations** shall oversee and coordinate the work of the National Vice Presidents and the standing and appointed committees. The mandate of this office is to broaden and deepen the involvement in and support of the Society

among churches, agencies, schools, and mobilizers. The Executive Vice President for Constituency Relations shall chair the Development Committee.

***The National Vice President for Finance and Membership*** shall keep an accurate record of membership, and solicit dues from EMS members; shall receive and disburse all funds, and keep an accurate record of all transactions; shall present a financial report and projected budget to the President for the Annual Meeting. The National Vice President for Finance and Membership shall chair the Membership Committee.

***The National Vice President for Corporate Affairs*** shall keep the minutes of the annual meeting and of all Executive Committee meetings; send out mailings in cooperation with the President and Executive Vice Presidents; and handle other official corporate matters as delegated from the President.

***The National Vice President for Publications*** shall exercise oversight of the editing and publication of the EMS *Occasional Bulletin* and all other publication projects agreed upon by the Society.

The ***Regional Vice Presidents*** shall be responsible for the activities of the Society in their designated geographic regions; appoint Regional Committees to carry out the purpose of the Society; convene an annual regional meeting of EMS and preside at that meeting; and keep accurate records of membership in their regions. They shall communicate to the appropriate officers changes in the records; and communicate with the regional members on a regular basis in order to fulfill the purpose of the Society.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

***National Meetings*** shall be held once each year. The time and place shall be approved in advance by the Executive Committee. The program shall be determined by the Conference Committee acting under the guidance of the President. The meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held annually in conjunction with the National Meeting.

Regional Meetings shall be held annually. The time and place shall be determined by the Executive Vice President for Administration and the Regional Vice President. The program shall be determined and directed by the Regional Vice President.

## **ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS**

### ***Section 1 – Time of Elections***

Officers of the Society shall serve a term of three years. They shall be chosen in a general election at the national meeting, which marks the beginning and ending of such terms. To provide continuity, the President and the Executive Vice Presidents shall be elected in different years. Likewise, not more than half of the National Vice Presidents or Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected in the same year.

A two-thirds vote of the membership present at the national meeting shall be required in order for officers to succeed themselves for more than one term of office.

### ***Section 2 – Process of Nomination***

A *Nominating Committee* of three EMS regular members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee in the year prior to each national meeting. Nominations from the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the membership at least one month prior to the

national meeting in the year in which the elections will take place. Nominations shall also be taken from the floor at the time of the elections. The assent of potential nominees for an office must be obtained before their names are placed in nomination and presented to the Society membership.

### ***Section 3 – Process of Voting***

The vote for Society Officers shall be by secret ballot. Only regular members shall participate in the election of officers, and members shall vote for the Regional Vice President for their region only.

### ***Section 4 – Process of Election***

A person shall be elected to an office upon receiving a majority vote of the EMS members who are present and voting at the national meeting. If there are more than two nominees for an office and there is no clear majority, the two nominees with the most votes will be voted on again.

### ***Section 5 – Vacancies***

Vacancies which occur in any elected office, except for that of the President, shall be filled by the Executive Committee appointment. Vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Executive Vice President for Administration until another election can be held.

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES**

All changes and amendments to this constitution shall be submitted by the Executive Committee to the EMS membership at the regular national meeting. A two-thirds vote of the voting membership present at the business meeting is required for approval. Proposals for such changes and amendments shall be announced at least one month prior to the business meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES**

### ***Section 1 – Standing Committees***

The Society shall maintain the standing committees described below. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, committee members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from the regular membership to serve two-year terms. For the sake of continuity, not all Committee Member terms shall begin and end in the same year (except the Nominating Committee). If not already a full member, the President is an ex officio member of all committees.

The ***Conference Committee*** shall be responsible to plan and direct the annual conference of the Society. This committee shall be composed of the President, who will serve as the chairperson, the two Executive Vice Presidents, and two other members.

The ***Development Committee*** shall be responsible to seek alternate means of funding (foundations, grants, etc.) to finance the work of the Society. This committee shall be composed of the Executive Vice President for Constituency Relations, who will serve as the chairperson, the President, and two other members.

The *Membership Committee* shall be responsible to promote and recruit membership for the Society; to maintain accurate membership records; and to recommend policies concerning membership to the Society. This committee shall be composed of the National Vice President for Finance and Membership, who will serve as the chairperson, the Executive Vice President for Constituency Relations, and two other members.

The *Nominating Committee* (See Article VII-Elections, Sec. 2).

The *Publications Committee* shall be responsible to work with the National Vice President for Publications (chairperson) to oversee the editing and publishing of the Society's publication projects. Besides the chairperson, this committee shall include the Executive Vice President for Constituency Relations and two other members.

### ***Section 2 – Ad Hoc Committees***

The *Resolutions Committee* shall be appointed by the President at the annual meeting. Other Ad Hoc Committees shall be appointed by the President as need arises.

## **ARTICLE X – BYLAWS**

Clause 1. All business meetings of EMS shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Clause 2. Attendance at national meetings shall be expected of Society's Officers, unless written notice is given to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.

Clause 3. All changes of the bylaws shall be submitted by the Executive Committee to the EMS membership at the regular national meeting. A simple majority vote of the voting membership present at the business meeting is required for approval. Such changes and amendments shall be announced at least one month prior to the business meeting.

Clause 4. A quorum of the Society for purposes of conducting business, voting, and electing shall be 50% of the eligible members registered at an official meeting of the Society.

**[Approved by EMS membership in September, 2003]**