

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Proposed 2022 revision – October 2022
(previous revisions October 2014 and 2017)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this society is the: EVANGELICAL MISSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY (EMS). Shall be listed as “the Society” below.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Evangelical Missiological Society is to advance the cause of world evangelization through the 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

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.
- d. concerned persons who have competence in any field vitally related to missions, and who support the purposes of the Society.
- e. students of missiology who support the purpose and the position of the EMS.

All members of the Society present at a meeting, in person or remotely, are eligible to vote.

Any proposed changes to the fee schedule for dues shall be determined at the annual business meeting of the Society.

TITLE IV – DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

All members shall affirm the evangelical tenets of the Christian faith as set forth in the Lausanne Covenant.

ARTICLE V – LEADERSHIP

The Officers of the Society shall be elected and shall consist of a President, Executive Vice President, Regional Vice Presidents, and such Vice Presidents as are deemed necessary by the Executive Committee and elected by the membership. Non-board members on the Conference Committee will serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the board during the year they are on the Conference Committee.

Section 2 – Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, and the Executive Vice President for Administration, and all 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 Conference. Regional Vice Presidents must have the prior approval of the Board prior to being presented to the Membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

The ***President*** shall consult with and supervise the work of the Executive Vice President, who is responsible to oversee and coordinate the work of all standing and appointed committees of the Society, and the work of the 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 each year to the Society's Annual Business meeting and shall oversee the work of the Conference Committee in planning directing the annual conference 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 the Annual Business Meeting. The Executive

Vice President for Administration shall stand in for the President in the President's absence, or upon a vacancy of the office, until a new election can be held.

The *Vice President for Membership* shall keep an accurate record of membership, work with the Regional Vice Presidents to promote, recruit, and maintain membership, and solicit due from members when appropriate.

The *Vice President for Finance* shall receive and disburse all funds, shall keep an accurate record of all transactions, shall present a financial report and projected budget to the President for Society's Annual Business Meeting.

The *Vice President for Corporate Affairs* shall keep the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, all Board meetings and of all Executive Committee meetings and shall handle other official corporate matters as assigned by the President.

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; 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

An Annual Conference shall be held either in person and/or remotely. The time, place, and format 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 annual conference.

Regional meetings shall be held annually, The time, place, and format shall be determined by the regional Vice President. The Regional Vice President shall determine and direct the program of the regional meeting.

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 Annual Business Meeting, which marks the beginning and ending of such terms. To provide continuity, the President and the Vice Presidents shall be elected in different years. Likewise, not more than half of the combined numbers of the Vice Presidents and/or Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected in the same year.

A two-thirds vote of the membership present at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required in order for officers to succeed themselves for more than one term in 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 two weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting in the year in which the elections will take place, in person or remotely. The assent of potential nominees for an office must be obtained prior to their names being presented to the Nominating Committee for consideration. EMS members shall be informed one month prior to the Annual Business Meeting of open positions and encouraged to submit names to the Nominating Committee.

Section 3 – Process of Voting

Only active members of the Society (defined in Article 3) may participate in the election of officers.

Section 5 – Vacancies

Vacancies which occur in any elected office, except for that of the President, shall be filled by 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 Annual Business Meeting, to both those members who are participating in-person or remotely. A two-thirds vote of the eligible voting membership who are attending the Annual 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 as described below:

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, no less than two and no more than three other EMS members chosen by the Executive Committee, and when appropriate liaison with joint sponsoring organizations.

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

The *Publications Committee* shall be responsible to work with the

Vice President for Publications (chairperson) to oversee the editing and publishing of the Society's publication projects.

Section 2 – Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed by the President as need arises.

ARTICLE X – BYLAWS

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

Clause 2 Attendance at the Annual Business Meeting shall be expected of Society's Officers, unless written notice is given to the Vice President for Corporate Affairs 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 Annual Business Meeting. A simple majority vote of the eligible voting membership present in person or remotely at the Annual Business meeting is required for approval. Such proposed changes and amendments shall be announced at least two weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

Clause 4 A quorum for conducting the Annual Business Meeting shall be 10% of eligible members of the Society who are registered for that year's Annual Conference and present, either in person or remotely at the Annual Business Meeting..