

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF THE KIERKEGAARD SOCIETY-USA

M. ROBINSON, President
December 30-31, 2023

NB: Proposed changes are in red. Much of the original ideas or wording has been retained, just retyped for easier reading.

SØREN KIERKEGAARD SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Søren Kierkegaard Society (SKS) is to encourage study and discussion of the thought of Søren Kierkegaard in all its dimensions and ramifications, including its sources and influences. Affiliated with both the American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL) and the American Philosophical Association (APA), the Society alternates/holds its annual business meeting between/at the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting. The Society encourages scholarship on Kierkegaard at the national and regional meetings of the AAR/SBL and the APA through an Executive Committee that includes members of both organizations.
~~AAR/SBL and APA conventions. The Society encourages scholarship on Kierkegaard at the national and regional meetings of the AAR/SBL and APA through an Executive Committee which includes members of both organizations.~~

SØREN KIERKEGAARD SOCIETY STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Society is open in its academic conversations, programs, leadership, and membership to persons of all races, ethnicities, sexes, gender identifications, abilities, and disciplines with interests in Søren Kierkegaard and with commitments to critical inquiry and excellence.

SØREN KIERKEGAARD SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Society shall be the Søren Kierkegaard Society-USA.

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ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society shall be the study and discussion of the thought of Søren Kierkegaard in all its dimensions and ramifications, including its sources and influence.

Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in the thought of Kierkegaard who pays dues. Annual dues for membership are payable to the ~~Secretary~~-Treasurer. Dues shall be used to defray communication expenses, costs of meeting rooms, and other expenses incurred by the Society at the discretion of the Executive Committee. A report of dues and expenditures shall be presented by the ~~Secretary~~-Treasurer at the annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Section A (Officers). The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, ~~Treasurer~~, ~~Secretary~~-~~Treasurer~~, and two Liaisons to the two professional organizations associated with the Society, namely, the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL), which hold their annual and regional meetings together, and the American Philosophical Association (APA), which holds meetings over three divisions (Eastern, Central, and Pacific). Together, these Officers Members at Large, who together shall act as an Executive Committee (EC) for the Society, which shall be chaired by the President. Where possible, three members of this committee shall be members of the AAR/SBL and three members shall be members of the APA. ~~an Executive Committee of the Society. Two members of this committee shall be members of the American Philosophical Association (APA) and two members shall be members of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). The Executive Committee will appoint the Program Committees for meetings of the Society at the APA and at the AAR and will serve as liaison to the APA, the AAR, the Kierkegaard Society of Denmark, and other learned societies.~~

As the membership of the Society is diverse, both in terms of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, and accessibility, and in terms of disciplinary orientation, the leadership of the Society should reflect this diversity, where possible. This includes not only the EC, but also all other committees or boards that might be formed.

As the Society has had a long tradition of utilizing the wisdom and advice of its members, if the President and/or Vice President/President-Elect deem it necessary or

helpful, the President, in consultation with the Vice President and the EC, shall appoint two At-Large Members from the membership to attend EC Meetings as needed.

Section B (Standing Committees). There shall be ~~three~~^{two} Program Committees; one to plan programs for meetings at two of the three divisional meetings of the APA; ~~plan programs for meetings at the American Philosophical Association and one to~~ plan programs for the annual meeting of the AAR/SBL; and one to plan the Banquet that is held annually at the AAR/SBL Annual Meeting. Each of these committees shall consist of two people. One is to be the President, who shall serve as the Chairperson for all three committees. The other is to be either the AAR/SBL Liaison for the AAR/SBL programming, the APA Liaison for the APA programming, or the Treasurer for the annual Society Banquet. The AAR/SBL and APA Liaisons shall ~~meetings at the American Academy of Religion. Each of these committees shall work with the President to formulate and to bring ideas for programs to the meeting of the EC, and then to implement the ideas as adopted by the EC. The Treasurer is to work with the President to handle all of the logistics of conducting the Banquet, which includes collecting dues and fees, finding suitable restaurants and working with restaurant staff, and discussing all pertinent matters pertaining to the Banquet with the President. The President shall discuss with the Treasurer and other Officers of the Society program plans for the Banquet.~~ consist of a Chairperson and two Members at Large appointed by the Executive Committee of the Society. Committee members shall serve for a period of two years and may be reappointed at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section C (Board of Directors). A Board of Directors consisting of three members of the Ssociety, one of whom shall be the ~~Secretary~~-Treasurer, shall be established to conduct and oversee business matters of the Ssociety, including the establishment of an independent bank account, the authority to sign checks, and the annual auditing of ~~independent bank account, the authority to sign checks, and the annual auditing of~~ funds. Initially, two members of the Board ~~were~~^{shall be} appointed by the President; one for a period of one year, the other for three years, in order to expedite the ~~for a period of one year, the other for three years, in order to expedite the~~ establishment of said account and to establish a staggered schedule of rotation off the board. ~~Now, Thereafter,~~ members of the Board shall be elected for a period of four years, after which they may be re-elected for no more than one additional term. ~~after which they may be re-elected for no more than one additional term.~~ Nomination and election to the Board shall take place according to the procedures established in Article VII of this Constitution, ~~(namely, that "the EC~~^{President shall appoint a} serve as a Nominating Committee that will solicit possible candidates from the membership and publish a ballot that will be emailed by the Secretary to all members.

~~Committee which will solicit nominations from the membership and publish a ballot that will be mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members").~~

ARTICLE V. BUSINESS MEETINGS

Business meetings of the whole ~~S~~society shall be held at least annually ~~at and should alternate between~~ the Annual Meeting of the AAR, ~~since the preponderance of the members who attend the professional conventions regularly attend this meeting.~~ ~~Business meetings shall be called by the President or the EC, who may also call other general meetings of the Society at appropriate occasions. Business meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order, and one of the divisional meetings of the APA. Business meetings shall be called by the Executive Committee, who may also call other general meetings of the Society at appropriate occasions. Business meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.~~

ARTICLE VI. PROGRAMS

Programs of the Society shall include ~~either invited papers or panels or papers selected from a general call sent out to the membership by email, posted on the the membership by email, posted on the~~ Society's webpage, circulated in the Society's ~~fall~~ newsletter(s), and (when possible) in the Kierkegaard Newsletter from St. Olaf College. Programs may also include ~~interviews of or other types of programming featuring invited papers by~~ distinguished scholars, panel ~~discussions of current discussions of current~~ secondary literature, and any other format conducive to the study of Kierkegaard's thought, as determined by the Program Committees. Program participation shall be limited to members of the Society except by special invitation from the Program Committees ~~or the EC.~~

ARTICLE VII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ~~EC~~President shall ~~serve as~~appoint a Nominating Committee ~~that which~~ will ~~present and discuss names of possible candidates from the membership for President, Vice President/President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and AAR/SBL and APA Liaisons. The President shall invite those persons nominated and accepted by the EC to stand for election. Candidates who accept the President's invitation shall provide a biography for the ballot, which shall be composed and emailed to the membership by the Secretary in consultation with the Treasurer, solicit nominations from the membership and publish a ballot that will be mailed by the Secretary-~~

~~Treasurer to all members.~~ The President and Vice-President shall serve two-year terms, each, beginning January 1. These positions shall be filled in a year different from that of the ~~Secretary-Treasurer~~. The Vice-President shall be considered President-Elect. The ~~Treasurer and the Secretary-Treasurer~~ shall each serve a four-year term, beginning January 1, and may serve more than one term consecutively. As these positions are closely connected, the elections for these positions shall ideally occur in alternate years. However, it may be necessary or efficient to elect these officers in the same years. The Treasurer, in consultation with the President, should determine this at the meeting of the EC at least six months prior to the election. January 1, and may serve more than one term consecutively. Past Presidents may be re-elected as Vice President after five years. The AAR/SBL and APA ~~Liaisons~~representatives shall serve two-year terms, each, beginning January 1, and the serve two year terms, each, beginning January 1, and elections for these positions shall occur in alternate years. Past AAR/SBL and APA Liaisons should not be re-elected to the leadership of the Society for at least three years.

ARTICLE VIII. ADOPTION

~~Initially, t~~This Constitution was not to shall be considered adopted ~~until when~~ dues from twenty (20) persons had been received. As that occurred many years ago, the Constitution has long since been adopted.
~~have been received.~~

ARTICLE IX. AMMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the members through the ~~EC~~Executive Committee at least sixty at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the Society at the Annual Meeting of the AAR/SBL. Said amendments and shall be voted on in person or by email ballot after discussion by members present at the meeting.
~~by mail ballot after discussion by members present at the next APA and AAR meetings.~~ Amendments shall be approved by a simple majority of hands or ballots received.

ARTICLE X. PATRONAGE, FUNDRAISING, AND BECOMING A NON-PROFIT

When the Society gains a patron who provides a regular disbursement of funds, monthly or annually, the Society shall seek to become a non-profit or 501(c)(3)

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organization. A Board of Directors will be established to assist the Treasurer in the management of these funds. It shall be the responsibility of the President, however, to interact with patrons on behalf of the Society and to lead all fundraising in consultation and with the support of the Treasurer and the Board of Directors.

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