

**Society for Pentecostal Studies**  
**Constitution**  
**and**  
**By-Laws**

**(Revised: March 9, 2007)**

Article I: Name

**SECTION 1: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Society for Pentecostal Studies.

**SECTION 2: Definition**

For the purposes of this Society "Pentecostal" includes "charismatic."

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this Society shall be to provide a forum of discussion for all academic disciplines as a spiritual service to the kingdom of God by the implementation of the following objectives:

1. To stimulate, encourage, recognize, and publicize the work of Pentecostal scholars;
2. To study the implications of Pentecostal theology in relation to other academic disciplines, seeking a Pentecostal world-and-life view;
3. To support fully, to the extent appropriate for an academic Society, the statement of purposes of the World Pentecostal Fellowship, which reads as follows:
  - (a) To encourage fellowship and facilitate co-ordination of effort among Pentecostal believers throughout the world.
  - (b) To demonstrate to the world the essential unity of Spirit-baptized believers, fulfilling the prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ, "That they all may be one" (John 17:21).
  - (c) To cooperate in an endeavor to respond to the unchanging commission of the Lord Jesus, to carry His message to all people of all nations.
  - (d) To promote courtesy and mutual understanding, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, until we all come in the unity of the faith" (Ephesians 4:3,13).
  - (e) To afford prayerful and practical assistance to any Pentecostal body in need of such.
  - (f) To promote and maintain the scriptural purity of the [World Pentecostal] Fellowship by Bible study and prayer.
  - (g) To uphold and maintain those Pentecostal truths, "most surely believed among us" (Luke 1:1)

Article III: Membership

**SECTION 1: Definition**

Membership in this Society shall be on an individual rather than an institutional or denominational basis.

**SECTION 2: Categories**

The categories of membership of the Society for Pentecostal Studies shall be composed of :

1. Full membership: those persons who hold an earned graduate degree from a recognized institution of higher education, persons currently engaged in Christian education (administrative or instructional), persons who have made significant literary contributions to Pentecostal literature and journalism shall be eligible for full membership. Full members are entitled to vote, to attend all meetings, and to hold office, and to present papers.
2. Associate Membership: persons not eligible for full membership but who, in the judgment of the membership committee, are otherwise qualified for membership shall be eligible for associate membership. Associate members shall be entitled to vote, to attend all meetings, and to present papers. Associate members may be transferred to full membership status by a majority vote of the membership committee following application for transfer.
3. Student membership: Students currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning shall be eligible to join the Society as student members. Student members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society. Upon completion of their studies student members may apply for associate membership or full membership.

**SECTION 3: Qualifications for Membership**

1. All full members must subscribe to the statement of purposes of the Society.
2. All categories of membership shall pay an annual membership fee.
3. All applicants approved by the membership committee shall be submitted to the full membership for ratification or denial at the annual meeting following the recommendation by the membership committee.

**SECTION 4: Dismissal**

In the event that the continued membership of an individual be deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Society, this person may be dropped from the membership roll upon the recommendation of the majority of the membership committee made at the annual meeting of the Society and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present and voting.

Article IV: Organization

**SECTION 1: Officers**

The officers shall consist of a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, immediate past-president, executive director and secretary-treasurer. No more than two persons from the same denomination shall at any one time serve as officers of the Society.

The officers and duties of the officers of this Society shall be:

1. President (to serve a one-year term)  
The president shall present an address to the annual meeting, preside at all business meetings and represent the general interests of the Society.
2. First vice-president (to serve a one-year term)  
The first vice-president shall serve as program chair for the annual meeting which occurs during his/her term of office. This person also shall fulfill the duties of the president if the latter shall be unable to serve. The first vice-president shall succeed to the office of president when the president's term of office expires.

3. **Second vice-president (to serve a one-year term)**  
The second vice-president shall serve as chair of the membership committee. This person also shall fulfill the duties of the first vice-president if the latter shall be unable to serve. The second vice-president shall succeed to the office of first vice-president when the first vice-president's term of office expires.
4. **Immediate Past-President (to serve a one-year term)**  
The immediate past-president shall chair the nomination committee and shall serve as a member of the library and research committee.
5. **Executive Director (to serve a five-year term)**  
The executive director shall administer and maintain the Society's central office; propose the agenda for the annual business meeting in consultation with the president; coordinate the annual meeting of the Society in conjunction with the program chair, program committee and on-site coordinator; promote the Society; and fulfill other responsibilities as authorized by the executive committee and the annual meeting of the Society. This person shall chair the editorial committee. The executive director may be elected for two consecutive terms.
6. **Secretary-Treasurer (to serve a five-year term)**  
The secretary-treasurer shall maintain all records of the Society including membership records; collect and disburse all funds of the Society upon authorization of the executive committee; furnish an annual financial report to the executive committee and to the Society; and make the financial records of the Society available for an annual audit as directed by the executive committee. The secretary-treasurer may be elected for two consecutive terms.

## SECTION 2: Standing Committees

The following standing committees shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society:

1. **Executive Committee**  
The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the Society. They shall superintend the operation of the Society between annual meetings and shall be responsible for the routine business of the Society.
2. **Editorial Committee**  
The editorial committee shall be composed of the executive secretary, who shall serve as chair, together with the editor of the journal and four other persons, one to be elected at each annual meeting, the senior member retiring. The editor of the journal of the Society shall work in consultation with the editorial committee.
3. **Program and Arrangements Committee**  
The program and arrangements committee shall be composed of the first vice-president, who shall serve as chair, together with the on-site coordinator and the leaders of the special interest groups. This committee shall advise the chair in the selection of personnel, and complete arrangements for all programs and annual meetings sponsored by the Society.
4. **Membership Committee**  
This membership committee shall be composed of the second vice-president, who shall serve as chair, together with six other members, two of which shall be elected at each annual meeting, the two senior members retiring. The membership committee shall review all applications for the membership to the Society and make recommendations to the Society in accordance with the qualifications established in Article III of this constitution.
5. **Library and Research Committee**  
The library and research committee shall be composed of the immediate past-president and four other members, one of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting, the senior member retiring. At the annual meeting the committee shall serve as convener of librarians, archivists and persons involved in Pentecostal collections. It shall also serve as an instrument for doing research and for the gathering and dissemination of information in the area of research, resources and collections. The library and research committee shall be allowed to elect its own chair who shall serve on the program and arrangements committee.
6. **Nominating Committee**  
The nominating committee shall consist of the five most recent past presidents of the Society. The immediate past-president shall serve as chair. The committee shall nominate candidates for all offices and committee assignments.

## SECTION 3: Special Interest Groups

1. A special interest group may be formed when fifteen full members of the Society submit a petition to the executive committee requesting recognition, such recognition being reviewed on each change of chair in a group. The executive committee shall grant formal recognition unless it feels that this is not in the best interests of the Society.
2. Time shall be provided on the annual program for special interest groups to meet.
3. Each interest group shall elect its own chair (subject to the approval of the executive committee) who shall serve a three-year term. A chair may serve two consecutive terms.
4. The chairpersons of all recognized interest groups shall serve on the program and arrangements committee.

## SECTION 4: Official Journal

1. The Official Journal of the Society shall be called "Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies."
2. The Editor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to serve a five-year term. The Editor may serve two consecutive terms.
3. The Editor shall attend Executive Committee Meetings with voice but not vote.

**SECTION 5: Elections**

1. Election of all officers and standing committees shall take place at the annual meetings.
2. Nominations may be presented through the nominating committee and from the floor.
3. Election shall be by majority vote of the membership voting at the annual meeting.

**Article V: Meetings**

**SECTION 1: Annual Meetings**

The Society shall hold annual meetings, the time and place to be decided by the executive committee with the program to be determined by the program and arrangements committee.

**SECTION 2: Special Meetings**

Other meetings, including those of a regional nature, may also be held as desired, with the concurrence of the executive committee.

**Article VI: Amendments**

**SECTION 1: Required Notice**

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be sent to all the members of the Society at least thirty days prior to the annual meetings to which they will be submitted.

**SECTION 2: Required Vote**

This constitution may be amended by two-thirds majority vote of the full members present and voting in a regular business meeting of the Society.

**Article VII: Internal Revenue Status**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation (The society for Pentecostal Studies) shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I.2 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (b) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

**By-Laws**

1. Parliamentary procedure: The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order - Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of order of this Society.
2. Dues: Dues for membership will be determined through a simple majority vote of the members at the regular business meeting of the Society. The current rates will be made known through the regular publications of the Society.
3. Proposed amendments of the by-laws of this Society must be sent to all members of the Society at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting to which they shall be submitted. The by-laws may be amended by a majority of the members present and voting in a regular business meeting of the Society.