

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

CONSTITUTION

As Amended 1 April 1999

Article I: NAME

The name of the association shall be the Association for the Sociology of Religion. The Association was founded in 1938 as the American Catholic Sociological Society.

Article II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be to stimulate concerted study and research in the sociology of religion. The interests of the Association shall be considered to include religion in all its social and cultural dimensions. Through the sponsorship of meetings and publications, the Association shall serve as a medium of communication among sociologists working in this area and as a means through which the results of sociological research on religion may be communicated to appropriate organizations and to the general public. The Association subscribes to the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association, and it will be a purpose of the Association to promote the highest professional and scientific standards for research and publication in the sociology of religion. The Association shall be a non-profit organization as defined by the United States Internal Revenue Service.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

The classes of membership, and dues for each, are established in the By-Laws, Article II.

Article IV: OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-elect, and Executive Officer. The Executive Officer shall have responsibility for managing the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Executive Council and shall report to the Council at the annual meeting on his or her work and the overall condition of the Association. The duties of treasurer shall be performed by the Executive Officer, who may, with the approval of the Executive Council, enlist the assistance of a Business Manager. The Business Manager is not an officer of the Association, but manages the business affairs of the Association under the direction of the Executive Officer as determined by the policies of the Association.

The President and President-elect shall each hold office for one year and the Executive Officer for four years. The officers shall be determined in the following manner: The President-elect and Executive Officer shall be elected by mailed ballot. The office of President shall automatically be filled by the President-elect of the previous year. If there should be no President-elect, a new President shall be elected by mailed ballot. In the event of the resignation or death of the President, the President-elect shall become President for the remainder of the previous President's term as well as the term for which he or she was elected.

Article V: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council shall have control of all affairs of the Association between annual meetings. It shall consist of the officers named in Article IV, the immediate past-president, and nine members-at-large. Three members-at-large shall be elected by mailed ballot each year, each to serve a three-year term. If there are more than three candidates on the ballot, the three receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected. Electoral ties shall be broken by a coin toss during the first meeting of the Executive Council following the balloting. If a member or member-elect of the Executive Council resigns or is unable to serve, the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the same election shall succeed to the Council for the remainder of the member's term.

The editor of *Sociology of Religion* shall be appointed by the Executive Council for a three-year term and shall make a yearly report to Council concerning the journal.

The Annual Program Committee Chair, the Executive Officer, and the editor of *Sociology of Religion* shall be non-voting members of the Executive Council.

All members of the Executive Council shall be members of the Association at the time of their nomination and shall remain members in good standing of the Association throughout their terms of office.

The functions of the Executive Council shall be: (1) to arrange meetings and programs, (2) to control the relations of the Association with other learned societies, (3) to determine and control

all publications of the Association, (4) to establish fiscal and budgetary policy for the Association, and (5) to establish and provide suitable mechanisms for awarding prizes and honors.

Article VI: MEETINGS

The Association shall meet at least once a year at a time and place determined by the Executive Council. A Business Meeting open to all members of the Association shall be held during the annual meeting. The President of the Association shall preside at the Business Meeting; if he or she is unable to do so, the President-elect or the Executive Officer, in that order of priority, shall preside. The presiding officer shall have the right to rule on any points of order raised at the Business Meeting. Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or By-Laws, the meetings of the Association will be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition*.

Article VII: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting on a referendum. The proposed amendment must be sent to each constituent member at least thirty days prior to the deadline for the return of the referendum ballots. An amendment may be proposed by a majority vote of the Executive Council or by petition of at least ten percent of the constituent members. An amendment proposed by members shall be submitted to the Executive Council, which shall submit it to a referendum of the members.

Article VIII: COMMITTEES

All committees shall be constituted as provided in By-Law I of the Association.

Article IX: DUES

The dues for each of the respective classes of membership, payable at the beginning of each calendar year, shall be in the amount listed in By-Law II of the Association.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

BY-LAWS

As Amended 1 April 1999

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BY-LAW I COMMITTEES

- 5 Sec. 1. There shall be two categories of committees: standing and *ad hoc*. The membership
6 of each committee and the terminal dates of office of the members shall be
7 published each year in a newsletter or other official publication of the Association.
- 8 Sec. 2. Standing Committees shall exist to perform the continuous or ongoing functions
9 of the Association. At each annual meeting, new members shall be appointed by
10 the outgoing President, the chair shall be designated by the incoming President. All
11 standing committees shall consist of at least three members; enlargement beyond
12 six members shall require the approval of Council. The normal term of
13 membership on standing committees shall be three years, except that initial
14 appointment made under these By-Laws shall be for one, two, or three years,
15 designated in such a way that the terms of not over half of the members of a
16 committee will expire in any one year, which proportion shall be a continuing
17 principle for committee appointments. In the event of resignation or inability of a
18 committee member to complete his or her term, appointment to the unexpired term
19 shall be made by the President with the approval of the Executive Council.
20 Whenever a committee member fails to continue his or her membership in the
21 Association, which shall be a prerequisite for committee service, that person's seat
22 shall be considered vacant. The following shall be recognized as Standing
23 Committees:

- 24 (a) A Committee on Publications that shall be responsible for the official
25 publications of the Association. This responsibility shall include the
26 recruitment and recommendation to the Executive Council of candidates for
27 the position of editor of *Sociology of Religion*, and the recommendation of
28 general publication policies to the Executive Council.
- 29 (b) A Development Committee that shall work to advance the Association's
30 long-term financial condition (including investments and fund-raising) and
31 generate financial support for the annual meeting in its various locales.
- 32 (c) A Membership Committee whose function shall include the recruitment of
33 new members and subscribers, the retention of existing members and
34 subscribers, and the review and recommendation to the Executive Council
35 of membership policies and practices.
- 36 (d) An International Liaison Committee that shall be responsible for promoting
37 participation in the activities of the Association by scholars from outside
38 the United States, coordinating activities of the Association with those of
39 international associations, and facilitating international communication
40 among scholars in the sociology of religion.
- 41 (e) A McNamara Award Committee to encourage, recognize, and support
42 outstanding student scholarship in the sociology of religion by giving an
43 annual certificate of honor and monetary grant for a paper in the sociology
44 of religion submitted by a student. The Committee shall solicit submissions
45 and judge their merit, within guidelines established by the Executive
46 Council. This award shall be known as the Robert J. McNamara Award,
47 shall be funded by designated income under the supervision of the
48 Executive Council, and administered by the Executive Officer.
- 49 (f) A Fichter Award Committee to provide competitive financial awards
50 annually to members to assist them in pursuing research beyond the

51 dissertation level. The topic area for competition shall be determined
52 triennially by the Executive Council. The Committee will solicit
53 applications, judge their merit, and allocate the funds available, within the
54 guidelines established by the Executive Council. The Committee will also
55 triennially review the topic area and make recommendations to the
56 Executive Council. These awards shall be known as the Joseph H. Fichter
57 Research Grants, shall be funded by designated income under the
58 supervision of the Executive Council, and administered by the Executive
59 Officer.

60 Sec. 3. The *Ad Hoc* Committees shall serve on an annual basis to aid the functioning of
61 the President and the Executive Council. All members of ad hoc committees shall
62 be members of the Association. The following shall be recognized as *ad hoc*
63 committees:

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65 (a) A Committee on Nominations, to consist of three members: the chair, who
66 shall be the immediate past president, and two members who shall be
67 appointed by the President at the time she or he takes office. The
68 Committee will propose a slate of names of at least a sufficient number of
69 candidates to fill all elected positions that will become vacant at the end
70 of its year of service.

71 (b) An Annual Program Committee, whose chair will be the Program Chair
72 named by the President-elect for the succeeding year, and which will
73 consist of the chair, the President, and the Executive Officer. The
74 President-elect, in connection with the Program Chair and the Executive
75 Officer, selects the Paul Hanly Furfey Lecturer not less than one year prior
76 to its presentation. The Furfey Lecture shall be funded by designated
77 income under the supervision of the Executive Council, and administered
78 by the Executive Officer. The Program Committee will allocate funds for
79 such travel grants as the Executive Council may from year to year
80 authorize for the attendance of graduate student and foreign scholar

81 members at the annual meeting, such grants to be known as Ralph A.
82 Gallagher Travel Grants, to be administered by the Executive Officer.

83 (c) A Resolutions Committee for Annual Meetings, to which resolutions for
84 action not originating from the Executive Council must be referred before
85 coming to the annual meeting. The Executive Officer shall serve as chair
86 *pro tempore* of that Committee until such resolutions are submitted, at
87 which time the Executive Officer shall advise the President to appoint a
88 Committee of no less than three members to consider the resolutions.

89 (d) Such other committees as the Executive Council or the President, with the
90 consent of the Executive Council, may deem necessary.

91 Sec. 4 Each standing committee, and each *ad hoc* committee for which it is deemed
92 necessary by the President or the Executive Council, shall submit a report each
93 year to the Executive Council and the annual business meeting. The substance of
94 this report shall be published in the issue of the Association's newsletter following
95 the annual meeting.

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BY-LAW II

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MEMBERSHIP

3 Sec. 1. There shall be two classes of membership, as follows:

4 (a) Constituent members: Those individuals interested in the Association and
5 its objectives who have at least a graduate degree or its equivalent in the
6 field. Constituent members receive all publications of the Association and
7 have the right to vote and to hold office.

8 (b) Student members: Individuals who are actively pursuing an academic
9 degree. Student members receive all the publications of the Association and
10 have the right to vote, but they may not hold office.

11 Sec. 2. The Association has established the following policies with respect to annual
12 membership dues: Constituent members, \$28; Constituent members with incomes
13 under \$10,000, \$14; Student members, \$14. Persons paying at the full rate may pay
14 as many years' dues in advance as they desire; those paying at the discounted rate
15 shall pay from year to year. Dues are considered delinquent if not paid by 1
16 March; a delinquency penalty may be assessed for reinstatement. Dues are quoted
17 in and must be paid in U.S. dollars.

1 **BY-LAW III**

2 **BY-LAW AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

3 Sec. 1. These By-Laws may be amended by vote of two-thirds of those voting at the
4 annual business meeting or by two-thirds voting on a mail ballot, the choice of
5 method to be at the discretion of the Executive Council.

6 Sec. 2. For an amendment of the By-Laws to be placed before the membership, it must
7 either have the approval of the Executive Council or ten percent of the constituent
8 members of the Association.