

Bylaws of the Pacific Coast Theological Society

1. Name: The name of this organization is the Pacific Coast Theological Society.

2. Purpose: The Society exists to foster discussion of issues in theology and disciplines with which theology enters into conversation, insofar as theology enters into conversation with other disciplines, including, but not limited to, philosophy, church history, history of religions, and biblical literature.

3. Membership:

Regular members: People active in theology or related disciplines.

Retired members: People active in theology or related disciplines but now retired.

Student members: Students enrolled in graduate academic programs in theology or related disciplines.

Corresponding members: members who live a great distance away.

4. Meetings: The society normally meets twice a year, on the first Friday and Saturday of November, and on the Friday and Saturday after (Western) Easter. These dates may be changed at the discretion of the attending members at a meeting, or by the executive committee, with notice in writing ahead of time.

Meetings normally take place at the Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, but may be called at another location at the discretion of attending members at a meeting, or by the executive committee, with notice in writing ahead of time.

The meeting shall be presided over by the Secretary, or by another member at the pleasure of the attending members.

Quorum: the members attending at a meeting shall constitute a quorum for purposes of the business of the Society.

5. Dues: Dues are to be set by a business meeting. Historically, as of 2004, they have been \$35. for regular members, and half that for retired and student members; \$10. for corresponding members. Dues are for one academic year, July to June.

6. Officers:

Secretary: The Secretary shall maintain such correspondence as necessary for the conduct of the business of the Society, and shall prepare the programs for meetings, including assigning papers and arranging for an autobiographer.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have authority to collect and disburse the funds of the Society.

Executive Committee: Two members who are willing to assist the Secretary in the organization of meetings.

Other members of the Society may be designated by the attending members at a meeting to have disbursement authority for the Society's funds (in practice, signature authority for the Society's checking account).

Webmaster: The Webmaster shall maintain the Society's web-site, www.pcts.org, with the assistance of such other members as may be willing to help. Papers may be posted in any format, but shall be posted in at least one format accessible to all common operating systems and all browsers. In practice, at the time of adoption, this means Microsoft, Apple, and the many flavors of Unix/Linux/BSD.

Editor of the PCTS Journal: the editor of the Society's Journal, i.e., refereed papers and correspondence (other than papers prepared for meetings), also to be posted on the Society's web-site.

7. Election of Officers: Officers and Executive Committee members shall hold office for a term of three years. The executive committee shall provide a list by mail of those members willing to stand for office two months in advance of the November meeting, or such other meeting as shall be called for conduct of business and election of officers. Election shall be by a majority of those responding by mail who are current in dues payments together with those attending the pertinent meeting.

Vacancies may be filled on a temporary basis by the attending members at a business meeting of convenience, to be confirmed for a full term at the following business meeting.

Election to one office shall not preclude election to another office.

8. Expenditures: Money shall be disbursed for expenses of meetings. Those on the program who come from outside the Bay Area are reimbursed for expenses of travel, but not for lodging or meals. Those not on the program but coming from outside the Bay Area are reimbursed for 2/3 of their travel expense, but not for lodging or meals, within the limits of the funds available to the Society.

9. Amendments: Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed at a business meeting. They shall be mailed to the full membership; to become valid, they shall be ratified by a majority of the members responding before the next business meeting.

10. Pertinent History:

This organization has been in existence since approximately 1940, as attested by the holdings of papers from prior meetings in the Graduate Theological Union Library.

These bylaws are adopted in November, 2004. If there were bylaws previous to that time, we are unaware of them.

The organization of the Society heretofore was as follows: "The officers of the PCTS consist of a three-member secretariat, elected on staggered three-year terms. The secretariat is

responsible for maintaining the society accounts, arranging for meetings, and planning the program. Proposals for program topics and persons to present papers are solicited at each meeting. Normally, programs are planned one year in advance.” This is from the Society’s web-site as of Summer, 2004, and traditional in the past.

How meetings work:

The programs chosen for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions have customarily dealt with a theme or themes of current theological interest. The typical format is three or four papers, prepared by members and distributed to the members by the author (mailing lists are provided by the Secretary).

Each paper is introduced by a response, followed by general discussion and concluded by an opportunity for rejoinder by the author of the paper. Liveliness of discussion is preserved by providing no “summary” or “introduction” of the distributed paper by the author, and by providing each member (including, of course, the author) a fair chance for comment. The prepared initial response, not distributed in advance, is brief and often deliberately provocative.

The Friday afternoon session is followed by a brief business meeting, a reception, dinner, and an oral autobiography presented by a member.

Members assigned parts on the program by the committee do not refuse the assignment except for unusual or extraordinary reasons, e.g., unforeseen illness.

After the meeting, papers are deposited in the GTU library, and catalogued into the Rare Book Collection for Library Use Only. With this deposit, the authors give permission for Library patrons to reproduce papers according to the GTU Rare Book Use Policy. Otherwise, copyright vests in the papers’ authors.