

Constitution of the American Scientific Affiliation

Article I: NAME, OBJECTIVES, AND STATUS

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be The American Scientific Affiliation, Incorporated.

Section 2: The objectives of The American Scientific Affiliation (hereafter, the ASA) shall be

- a. to integrate and to interpret the discoveries of the natural and social sciences with the insights derived from Scripture and Christian theology;
- b. to share scientific knowledge, ethical concerns, and the results of the integration and interpretation produced in Objective 2.a with other Christians, in order to help the Church better understand science, technology, and Christian theology; and
- c. to share faith and scholarship with scientific colleagues.

Section 3: The ASA shall be a nonprofit organization within the meaning of the law.

Article II: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Section 1: The members of the ASA shall give assent to the following doctrinal statement:

- a. We accept the divine inspiration, trustworthiness and authority of the Bible in matters of faith and conduct.
- b. We confess the Triune God affirmed in the Nicene and Apostles' creeds, which we accept as brief, faithful statements of Christian doctrine based upon Scripture.
- c. We believe that in creating and preserving the universe, God has endowed it with contingent order and intelligibility, the basis of scientific investigation.
- d. We recognize our responsibility, as stewards of God's creation, to use science and technology for the good of humanity and the whole world.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The members of the ASA are men and women who have made a personal commitment of themselves and their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the ASA, and who pledge themselves to support the Objectives of the ASA stated in Article I.

Section 2: The classes of membership in the ASA and their benefits are as follows:

- a. Associate membership is available to anyone who can give assent to the statement of faith, but who is not necessarily involved in a science field as defined in Article III, Section 2, c. Associates receive all member benefits and publications and take part in all the affairs of the ASA except voting and holding office.
- b. Membership as a Student Member (enrolled in a discipline leading to Full Membership) or Student Associate (enrolled in other disciplines) is open to full-time students who can give assent to the statement of faith. Those joining as Student Members have voting privileges; those joining as Student Associates do not. Full-time student verification is required.
- c. Full membership is for all persons with at least a bachelor's degree in a scientific discipline, who can give assent to the statement of faith. Science is interpreted broadly to include anthropology, archeology, computer science, economics, engineering, history, mathematics, medicine, psychology, and sociology as well as the generally recognized science disciplines. Philosophers and theologians who are interested in science are eligible for full membership. Full members receive all member benefits and publications and take part in all the affairs of the ASA, including voting, but are not eligible for election to the Executive Council.
- d. Membership as a Fellow is for those who hold an advanced degree in science or philosophy, who are currently engaged in scientific or related work, who have demonstrated an active interest in the objectives or activities of the ASA, and who have been recognized by the majority of Fellows voting as

deserving the status of Fellow. Fellows receive all member benefits and publications, take part in all the affairs of the ASA, including voting, and are eligible for election as members of the Executive Council.

- e. The spouse of members may join as a Spouse Member in the class of membership appropriate to the spouse's credentials.
- f. The status of Retired Fellow or Retired Full Member may be chosen by those retired from full-time employment who find themselves unable, by reason of age, to continue active membership. Such members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the ASA except that of holding office.
- g. Emeritus Fellow or Emeritus Member status may be conferred on those who have contributed regularly to support the objectives and the activities of the ASA, but who find themselves unable, by reason of age, to continue active membership. Emeriti shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of the ASA except that of holding office.
- h. The status of Honorary Fellow may be conferred upon anyone—a Fellow, a Full Member, or a non-member—who, in the opinion of the Executive Council, has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the objectives of the Affiliation. A Fellow or Full Member of the Affiliation may be elected an Honorary Fellow at any time, and election to the rank of Honorary Fellow does not alter the rights and privileges of such members. A nonmember who is elected Honorary Fellow shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member of the ASA except those of voting and holding office.

Section 3: The Friends of the ASA are individuals who, for whatever reasons, do not wish to join the ASA, but who nevertheless wish to support the aims of the organization and to receive its publications. This is a nonmember, nonvoting level of participation in the ASA.

Article IV:EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1: The affairs of the ASA shall be governed by an Executive Council constituted of Fellows elected by the Fellows and Full Members.

Section 2: The officers of the ASA shall be elected by the Executive Council from its own ranks and shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Article V: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by means of a resolution of the Executive Council or by means of a petition signed by at least five percent (5%) of the total number of Fellows and Full Members.

Section 2: Ballots for any constitutional amendment shall be mailed to the Fellows and Full Members at least two (2) months before the date appointed for counting the ballots, which date shall be stated on the ballots. If the total vote is at least one-third (1/3) of the number of Fellows and Full Members and two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast are favorable, the proposed amendment shall be adopted.

Article VI:DISSOLUTION

Section 1: In the event of dissolution or termination of the ASA, the Executive Council shall, after the payment of all of the liabilities of the ASA, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for the objectives of the ASA, in such manner, or to such organization(s) that are organized exclusively for the advancement of the integration and interpretation of the discoveries of natural and social sciences with the insights derived from Scripture and Christian theology as based upon the doctrinal statement of the ASA. Such organization(s) shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ASA Bylaws

Section 1: Membership

- a. A person may be elected to membership by the Executive Council upon receipt of a signed application form, giving the necessary biographical data together with a signed doctrinal statement.
- b. A person may be elected as an Associate Member, a Student Member, or a Spouse Member in the same manner as a Full Member.
- c. Full-time students may join as Student Members (those enrolled in disciplines leading to Full Membership) or Student Associates (other disciplines) for discounted dues. Full-time student verification is required.
- d. Any Full Member who has shown active participation in the affairs of the ASA and who fulfills the other requirements noted in Article III, Section 2.d of the ASA Constitution may be elected to the class of Fellow by the body of Fellows upon recommendation of the Executive Council. Each candidate must receive a majority of votes cast.

Section 2: Executive Council and Officers

- a. In addition to *ex officio* members, the Executive Council shall consist of five voting members, one of whom shall be elected each year by the Fellows and Full Members for a term of five years. Each year one member shall retire from the Executive Council and one member shall be elected.
- b. Only Fellows shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council.
- c. At the Winter Executive Council meeting (see 4.b), the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee, to be chaired by the Vice President and to include at least two additional Fellows, who shall nominate one or more Fellows to fill the vacancy or vacancies. The nominating committee shall deliver its report to the President at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Other suggestions for nominations received after that date, or presented at the Annual Business Meeting, will be tabled for consideration for the following year's election.
- d. If a member of the Executive Council resigns or dies before the end of his/her term of office, the vacancy shall be filled as in Section 2.c above.
- e. The officers of the ASA shall be elected by the Executive Council from its own ranks at the Winter meeting and shall consist of a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office shall be for one year and shall begin on April 1 following the Winter meeting at which each was elected.
- f. Three voting members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum.
- g. Duties of the Officers
 - (1) The President shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the Executive Council and at all business meetings of the ASA. S/He shall appoint committees as required. S/He shall be an *ex officio* member of every committee.
 - (2) The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in case of absence or incapacity on the part of the President. S/He shall chair the Nominating Committee, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President or the Executive Council.
 - (3) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the minutes and proceedings of all meetings of the Executive Council and of the ASA. S/He shall ensure that a report is submitted to the membership at the annual meeting covering the activities and finances of the ASA during the past year. S/He is also responsible for keeping the record of any amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws during the year, and shall ensure that a complete history of any amendments adopted by the ASA is kept in the Home Office of the ASA.
- h. An audit of the books shall be made each year by a competent auditor appointed by the Executive Council, and the auditor's report shall be submitted to the members of the ASA. The fiscal year shall begin on April 1 and end on March 31.

Section 3: The Executive Director

- a. The Executive Council shall appoint a full member or fellow to be Executive Director for an indefinite period. The appointment is subject to review each year. The Executive Director shall be an *ex officio* member of the Executive Council, but without voting power.
- b. The Executive Director, under the direction of the Executive Council, shall have the duties, responsibilities, and authority to
 - (1) Establish the Home Office;
 - (2) Employ an office staff;
 - (3) Conduct elections, in accordance with the ASA Constitution, of
 - (a) Fellows to the Executive Council, and
 - (b) Full Members to Fellows, Honorary Fellows, or Emeritus Members or Fellows;
 - (4) Process applications for ASA membership;
 - (5) Keep membership files updated, and periodically provide a Membership Directory;
 - (6) Mail dues notices, and notices of meetings and conventions;
 - (7) Arrange for mailings of publications of the ASA;
 - (8) Conduct routine correspondence for the ASA;
 - (9) Maintain archives of important ASA records such as minutes and proceedings of all meetings of the Executive Council and of the ASA as supplied by the Secretary-Treasurer; membership lists and data; important ASA correspondence; data on ASA Annual Meetings; reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees; and a complete file of all ASA publications;
 - (10) Provide information as needed for and by the Executive Council;
 - (11) Assist in the formation of Local Sections and maintain liaison with each Local Section;
 - (12) Maintain updated lists of officers for all Local Sections;
 - (13) Serve as General Chair of the ASA Annual Meeting, provide liaison among the Executive Council, the Program Committee, and the Local Arrangements Committee and arrange for publicity and local news media coverage at the Annual Meeting;
 - (14) Provide liaison between the Executive Council and all working groups of the membership such as Boards, Commissions, Affiliations, Committees, and Local Sections;
 - (15) Maintain for distribution a supply of the ASA journal issues, newsletter issues, monographs, books, and such other publications as considered desirable by the Executive Council;
 - (16) Promote contacts and liaison with other organizations that have similar purposes and interests to those of the ASA;
 - (17) Assume such other duties and activities as are required for the furtherance of the work and objectives of the ASA.

Section 4: Meetings

- a. The ASA shall hold an Annual Meeting at a time and place to be designated by the Executive Council. In addition to this meeting, the Executive Council shall use its influence to stimulate and encourage the holding of local meetings where membership groups make such meetings possible and desirable.
- b. The Executive Council shall meet at least twice a year to handle the affairs of the ASA. One meeting should immediately precede the Annual Meeting, and the second (or Winter meeting) should be held in February or March, prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Section 5: Local Sections

- a. A petition for the formation of a Local Section shall be signed by not fewer than ten (10) Fellows or Full Members. Upon receipt of such a petition, the Executive Council may authorize the formation of the section.
- b. Each Local Section shall elect a Section Secretary, who shall forward to the Executive Director of the ASA a report of each meeting and, at the end of the fiscal year, a financial report for the fiscal year. The Executive Director will prepare a summary report of Local Section financial activities for submission to the Secretary-Treasurer of the ASA.
- c. An ASA chapter, usually covering a smaller region than a local section, shall be defined as a group that:
 - (1) Adheres to ASA's statement of faith and policies
 - (2) Has two or more ASA members or Fellows in a leadership role
 - (3) Meets regularly to discuss issues of science and Christian faith
- d. Permission to use the ASA chapter designation shall be granted by the Executive Director upon application by ASA members in the leadership role. ASA will support the ASA chapters in their operation according to guidelines to be established by the Executive Council.

Section 6: Affiliate Organizations

- a. Discipline focused groups may organize and function as Affiliate Organizations with a degree of autonomy within the ASA.
- b. Affiliate Membership
 - (1) Affiliate membership is open to all those with at least a bachelor's degree in the discipline and to those enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in the discipline.
 - (2) All Affiliate Members must sign the ASA's Statement of Faith, with whatever additions are proposed by the Affiliate and approved by the Executive Council of the ASA.
 - (3) All Affiliate members are strongly encouraged to be members of the ASA.
 - (4) Officers of an Affiliate must be Full Members or Fellows of the ASA.
- c. Affiliate dues will be set by the Affiliate, and a portion of them will be assigned to the ASA to cover administrative and program costs incurred by the parent organization.
- d. Each Affiliate is strongly encouraged to meet with the ASA during its Annual Meeting, as well as at local and national professional meetings.

Section 7: Publications

- a. The purposes of the publications of the ASA shall be to disseminate scholarship that is both scientifically accurate and scripturally sound and to communicate information of interest to Members and Friends of the ASA.
- b. The ASA shall publish on a quarterly basis a journal, the contents of which shall include articles and essays concerning the relationship between science and Christian faith, as well as book reviews pertinent to current scientific, philosophical, and theological fields.
- c. The ASA shall publish a newsletter on at least a quarterly basis, giving news of members, announcements of meetings, reports of Local Section activities, and other items of current interest.
- d. Editorial boards for ASA publications shall be appointed by the Executive Council, in collaboration with the respective Editors.
- e. The Editors of the ASA shall be the Editor of the journal, the Editor of the newsletter and the book review Editor. Each shall be appointed by the Executive Council for an indefinite period. The appointments are subject to review each year, but each may be brought up for review at any time by the appropriate board or the Council, at its own discretion, or at the request of the individual involved.
 - (1) The Editor of the journal shall be responsible for preparing and publishing at least four issues of the journal per year.
 - (2) The Editor of the newsletter shall be responsible for preparing and publishing at least four issues of the newsletter per year.

Section 8: Dues and Membership Records

- a. The annual fees for Associates, Student Members, Full Members, Fellows, Spouse Members, Retired Fellows or Members, Emeriti Fellows or Members, and Friends will be set annually by the Executive Council. The Executive Director shall be responsible for billing the membership for the ensuing year. Retired individuals may continue their membership at their pre-retirement status for a reduced rate. Missionaries are entitled to complimentary membership in the ASA while engaged in active, foreign missionary service.
- b. Any member who contributes at least the dollar amount set by the Executive Council will be designated a "Sustaining Member."

Section 9: Amendments to the Bylaws

- a. Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed at any Annual Meeting of the ASA by a majority vote of the Fellows and Full Members in attendance, or by means of a resolution of the Executive Council.
- b. Ballots for any amendments to the Bylaws shall be mailed to the Fellows and Full Members at least two months before the date appointed for counting the ballots, which date shall be stated on the ballots.
- c. If the total vote is at least one-third (a) of the number of Fellows and Full Members and a majority (>50%) of the ballots received are favorable, the proposed amendment shall be adopted.