

The Association of Practical Theology in Oceania

Constitution

I. Purpose of the Association

The purpose of the Association of Practical Theology in Oceania (APTO) is the study of and critical reflection on practical theological thought and action in the Oceania region. Alert to the variety of historical and cultural contexts in Oceania APTO seeks to promote interregional, intercultural and ecumenical dialogue and understanding. To this end the association seeks to support people to attend its annual conference with a desire to have as many Oceania regions and cultures as possible represented at its conferences.

II. Membership and Guests

A. There is only one category of APTO membership. Active status is normally maintained through regular attendance at APTO conferences and by payment of membership fees. Due regard will be given to the reality of the geographical distances and financial disparities within the Oceania region.

B. Guests are welcome to attend official APTO conferences at the invitation of the Executive Committee, upon recommendation of an APTO member. Guests may participate fully in the conference with the exception of voting (and meet one, or more of the following criteria; shall be determined by the availability of accommodations, capacity of the facilities, and practical feasibility).

III. Eligibility for Membership

Those eligible for APTO membership should be:

A. Persons who subscribe to the purposes of APTO as stated in its Constitution

and meet one, or more of the following criteria;

B. Persons who are researchers, scholars and/or practitioners in the field of practical theology and its related disciplines.

C. Persons with scholarly interest in practical theology and its related disciplines demonstrated by publications and/or other scholarly accomplishments.

D. Persons with a research degree in practical theology or its related disciplines.

IV. Membership Rules and Procedures

A. Voting members present at each APTO business meeting shall constitute the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee shall accept members on the basis of the membership criteria

B. Members may nominate one or more persons for APTO membership by letters of nomination, supported and signed by two members, and forwarded to the current President of APTO. The President shall refer them to the Membership Committee for review and final decision according to majority vote.

C. Letters of nomination summarize the academic and other contributions to practical theology of the nominee. Letters of nomination include a brief curriculum vitae of the nominee and contact information.

E. Financial assessments of members are due at the time of APTO's regularly scheduled conferences, whether or not members are able to attend a particular conference.

V. Executive Committee and Election of Offices

A. The APTO Executive Committee shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and other persons as determined by election at general/business meetings held at the time of APTO Conferences.

B. The members of the Executive Committee are elected by the membership at the AGM. Their term of office commences immediately upon election and runs through until elections at the following AGM.

C. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

D. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the members of the Association attending the AGM.

E. The Executive Committee has responsibility for the affairs of APTO between AGMs.

F. The President chairs Executive Committee meetings and the AGM

G. The Executive Committee is to be elected before new members are nominated for membership of the association.

VI. Finances and Membership Fees

A. Financial assessments shall be determined by a majority vote of the members attending the AGM, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

B. The Treasurer shall create orderly procedures for receiving, dispersing, and transferring funds from meeting to meeting and country to country, and for insuring that accounts are properly reviewed with a financial report distributed to the membership at each AGM and posted or emailed to active members not present at the AGM

C. The APTO Executive seeks ways of providing financial assistance to members who would be impeded attending conferences due to geographical and financial restraints. Applications for such assistance should be made to the President and will be decided by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may seek funding for this purpose from academic institutions, agencies or other sources of finance.

VII. Theme, Schedule and Place of Official Meetings

A. Official conferences of APTO will be held annually at a time of maximum convenience for its members. Attention will be given to the desire to hold conferences across the regions of Oceania.

B. The theme, place and schedule of official conferences shall be discussed at each APTO AGM. The Executive Committee has responsibility for final decisions on the program, place, time, cost, and other practical arrangements for conferences.

C. It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to make recommendations as to the time and place of official APTO conferences. The place of conferences should be chosen with consideration given to international distribution and accessibility of sites.

Nominations of places for future conferences should be forwarded to the President of APTO in a timely manner.

IX. Working Language of APTO

English shall be the working language of APTO.

IX. Amendment of Constitution

This Constitution and its By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds of members attending stated APTO business meetings.

Proposed amendments are to be discussed at the AGM of the year they are proposed.

B. The proposed amendment is to be and posted or emailed to active members not present at the AGM.

C. The proposed amendments put to the vote at the AGM of the following year and passed by two-thirds of members attending that meeting.

X Dissolution of APTO

Dissolution of APTO can only occur by a vote of the active membership and passed by a two-thirds majority. A vote for dissolution can only occur if all active members have been given an opportunity to vote. A vote for dissolution may or may not occur in the context of an AGM. All money and assets belonging to APTO are to be distributed by the Treasurer in equal value to all active members of APTO at the time of at the time of dissolution

As approved at the APTO AGM 24th June 2010