

STATUTES

§ 1 Name, Place, Calendar Year

1. This organization will be called the **International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology**.
2. The Network will follow the calendar year.

§ 2 Goal of the Network

1. The Goal of the Network is to foster academic theology and theological research in the various continents.
 - a. Based on this goal, the Network
 - initiates and has purview over academic research, especially of an international sort, while also constituting a forum for its academic discussion;
 - communicates among the member societies, particularly concerning information about projects, works in progress, and the results of academic research, through academic symposia and working meetings of members of the Network, especially of project groups;
 - encourages research within the theological disciplines and stimulation of interdisciplinary work in the interest of academic theology;
 - is ecumenically oriented and in dialogue with other religions and world views.
 - b. In realizing the above-named tasks the Network avails itself of:
 - continuous communication through electronic media;
 - meetings of representatives of the members of the Network and of the project groups;
 - and all other means of academic collaboration, such as publications, etc.
2. The Network acts without self-interest. It does not pursue profitable goals as its main aim.

Funds of the Network may only be used for purposes which agree with the goals of the Network mentioned in the statutes. The Network is not allowed to support political parties in any financial way.

Members of the Network may not receive financial contributions from the Network. No one may derive financial benefits from disproportionate reimbursements or from expenses that are not in accordance with the goals of the Network.

All officers are volunteers and may not be paid for their work.

§ 3 Membership

The Network recognizes ordinary corporate members, and extraordinary members.

1. Ordinary corporate members are societies for Catholic theology which pursue academic theology through their statutes and publications.
2. Extraordinary members are academic societies with a particular interest in Catholic theology. They may participate in all proceedings of the Network, but lack voice and vote unless determined otherwise by a majority of the Network Council.
3. The welcoming of new members is decided by the Network Council, on the basis of a proposal by two or more members of the Network Council.

§ 4 Termination of Membership

Membership terminates

- with the dissolution of a member society,
 - with the withdrawal of a member society, or
 - through exclusion of a member society.
1. Withdrawal of a society must follow upon written notice to the Steering Committee. It is effective at the end of the calendar year, and notice must be communicated three months before the end of the calendar year.
 2. A member society can be expelled from the Network by a vote of the Network Council if it manifestly works against the interests of the Network. Before deciding upon the exclusion of a member society the member must have the opportunity to justify itself before the Network Council or through a letter within an appropriate time period. The decision must contain the reasons for the exclusion and must be sent to the member by certified mail.

§ 5 Finances

The Network is financed by fees and donations.

The participating societies commit themselves to raise funds for the operating expenses of the Network.

The Network Council determines the amount of the fee.

§ 6 Structure of the Network

The structure of the Network includes two organs:

1. the Steering Committee, and
2. the Network Council.

§ 7 The Steering Committee

1. Composition of the Steering Committee
 - a. The Steering Committee is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, and two other members. Insofar as possible, they will be representative of the five regions of: North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.
 - b. The new members of the Steering Committee will meet immediately following their election by the Network Council to assign responsibilities and roles.
2. Each committee member is elected separately by the Network Council. Committee members serve a term of three years, starting from the day of their election by the Network Council. They serve for one term and remain in office until the next election. Each may be reelected for one more term.
3. Should a member leave office during the three-year term of office, the Network Council will choose a replacement for the remainder of that member's term.
4. For legal and business purposes, the Network will be formally represented by the President of the Steering Committee or some other member of the Steering Committee delegated by the President.
5. The Committee is responsible for all matters of the Network, unless a matter is reserved for the Network Council by the statutes.

The responsibilities of the Steering Committee include:

- a. preparing the meetings of the Network Council including the agenda
 - b. calling the meetings of the Network Council
 - c. carrying out the decisions of the Network Council
 - d. planning of the annual budget and drawing up the annual report
 - e. In important matters, the Steering Committee should ask the opinion of the Network Council.
 - f. The Steering Committee may set up an office for administrative purposes.
6. The Steering Committee
 - a. Usually the Steering Committee passes its resolutions during its meetings. The President, or in the absence of the President, one of the Vice-Presidents will call

the meetings and will also provide a written notice 14 days prior to the meeting. Supplying an agenda is not necessary.

- b. A quorum of the Steering Committee is constituted when at least three of its members are present.
 - c. Issues will be decided by simple majority vote. In the case of a tie, the President casts the deciding vote.
 - d. The Steering Committee may make decisions through written consultation of its members.
 - e. At every meeting the minutes must be recorded. The minutes must contain the place and the time of the meeting, the names of the participating members, the decisions and the results of the votes.
7. Usually the Steering Committee meets annually. These meetings are open to members of the Network Council who are able to be present.

§ 8 The Network Council

1. The Network Council is composed of the members of the Steering Committee and one representative of each corporate member. Each member of the Council serves a term of three years, with the possibility of election to one second three-year term. Each corporate member selects its own representative.
2. The chair of the Network Council is the President of the Steering Committee. In the absence of the President, the Council requests one of the Vice-Presidents to assume the duties of the Chair.
3. The responsibilities of the Network Council are:
 - a. deciding upon membership and exclusion and inviting new members
 - b. election of the Steering Committee
 - c. determining the amount of the fee
 - d. approval of the budgetary and financial decisions of the Steering Committee, and receipt and approval of the annual report presented by the Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee have no vote over the disposition of these matters. Members of the Network Council may not vote on behalf of their own interests.
4. The Network Council meets together at least once every three years. The President of the Council will provide an eight week written notice of such meetings and will also supply an agenda.

In those years in which there is no meeting, the approval of the budget and the receipt and approval of the annual report can be done through written consultation.

5. The Network Council is in session when at least two members of the Steering Committee and a third of the members of the Network Council are present. This same

quorum is required in the years when there is no meeting of the Network Council and voting takes place by mail.

6. In addition, the procedure for the Network Council follows the Steering Committee's rules (§7).
7. The Network Council is convoked when one-fourth (1/4) of the members of the Council request such a convocation.

§ 9 Change of Statute

Any change in these statutes requires the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Network Council.

The International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology is hereby established:

Date: 4 August 1996

(Revised 2011 and 2014)