

# CONSTITUTION OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

## **Article I. Name**

The Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR), founded in 1969 and reorganized in 1986, is a recognized region of the American Academy of Religion (AAR).

## **Article II. Membership**

1. Membership in the MAR-AAR includes all members of the AAR who reside or work within the regional boundaries as determined by the national AAR. (See [http://www.aarweb.org/About\\_AAR/Regions/Mid-Atlantic](http://www.aarweb.org/About_AAR/Regions/Mid-Atlantic) for current regional boundaries.)

## **Article III. Objective**

The objective of the MAR-AAR is to encourage critical study of religion and related issues, to foster effective teaching in the field, and to promote wide public discussion of such matters. This is achieved mainly by sharing scholarly exchange at meetings and through other forms of academic exchange.

## **Article IV. Officers**

1. Governance of the MAR-AAR shall be vested in an Executive Committee (EC) composed of nine active members elected by the regional membership on a rotating basis. The EC is responsible for general oversight of the annual meeting and for all the tasks necessary to the smooth operation of the Region.
2. Membership of the EC includes three categories:
  - a. The Regionally Elected Director is elected for a three-year term to represent the Region on the AAR national board of directors, and for that time shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the EC as its Secretary-Treasurer.
  - b. Two graduate students are elected for one-year terms to represent the interests and concerns of graduate students throughout the Region. As such, they must be members of the AAR and enrolled in a graduate program relevant to the study of religion.
  - c. Six faculty members are elected for two-year terms on a staggered basis, so that three are elected at each annual meeting.
3. Responsibilities of the EC
  - a. The EC sets all policy for the Region's academic and financial affairs.
  - b. The EC determines the place and date of the annual regional meeting, provides general oversight for its planning and presentation, sets the program areas and sections, and recruits and designates future program directors along with potential meeting sites.
  - c. The EC assists each year's program director in recruiting plenary speakers, section leaders, and other program participants.
  - d. The EC prepares and presents a slate of nominees at the annual business meeting for all vacancies on the EC.
  - e. The EC appoints individuals and committees necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Region.
  - f. The EC suggests and pursues planning of such other scholarly activities as may enhance the interests of the Region and its members.

- g. The EC oversees the financial affairs of the Region and pursues initiatives to insure its fiscal health.
- h. The EC shall elect replacements to fill vacancies that may occur in its membership between annual meetings.

4. Roles on the EC

While the EC shares the tasks for the general oversight of the Region, several members are designated as responsible for particular functions in doing its work.

a. President

- 1. The EC elects the President for a one-year term at its first meeting following annual elections.
- 2. The Presidents calls, sets the agenda, and presides over the meetings of the EC and over the annual regional business meeting.
- 3. The President maintains regular contact with other members of the board, providing advice, support, and direction as necessary.
- 4. At each annual meeting the President shall present a report on the Region's activities over the past year.

b. Vice President

- 1. The EC elects the Vice President for a one-year term at its first meeting following annual elections. As President-Elect the Vice-President serves as annual Meeting Director for the upcoming annual meeting.
- 2. The Vice President is responsible for:
  - a. Enlisting academic institutions to support the annual meeting.
  - b. Designing and organizing a coherent program schedule.
  - c. Maintaining regular contact with section leaders.
  - d. Securing arrangements for meeting space and accommodations.
  - e. Preparing and distributing the annual meeting brochure in a timely way.

c. Regionally Elected Director

- 1. Records and transmits the minutes of all meetings of the EC and of the annual business meeting.
- 2. Assists the President and Vice President in handling all regional correspondence and announces the meeting and Call for Papers.
- 3. Receives all monies, pays all bills, and maintains the bank account of the Region, or appoints a Treasurer to fulfill these obligations in consultation with the EC.
- 4. Advises the EC concerning the Region's fiscal health and schedules an outside financial audit of regional accounts every three years.
- 5. Prepares the Treasurer's report for the EC meetings and for the annual business meeting.
- 6. Maintains an archive of Regional events that is shared with the National Office.
- 7. Prepares copy for, and serves as liaison with, Religious Studies News and updates Regional AAR website.
- 8. As Regionally Elected Director, the RED informs the national AAR officers of all regional activities, and secures information relevant to the Region from the national offices.

d. Section Chairs

1. Section Chairs are appointed by the EC normally for a three-year term.
2. The responsibilities of the Section Chairs are:
  - a. To receive and select papers for the section at the Annual Meeting.
  - b. To chair or designate a chair for each scheduled session of the section at the Annual Meeting.
  - c. To promote scholarly collaboration among the members of the Region in the area of the section.

5. Duration of Service

No member of the EC shall serve more than two consecutive full terms in office.

**Article V. Other Committees**

1. The EC as a whole shall serve as a Nominating Committee, advising and assisting the President in preparing a slate of candidates for election to regional office at each annual regional meeting.
2. The EC shall establish such other standing or ad hoc committees as are deemed necessary, and shall determine the responsibilities, authority, and tenure of such committees. Membership of such committees shall be appointed by the President unless the EC determines otherwise.

**Article VI. Meetings**

1. The MAR-AAR shall hold a regional business meeting once each year. The EC shall determine the time and place of this meeting, ordinarily to be conducted at the annual regional meeting. The time of this meeting and of the annual regional meeting shall not conflict with the annual meeting of the AAR.
2. The annual meeting of the MAR-AAR shall normally be held jointly with that of the MID-ATLANTIC REGION OF THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE.
3. All annual meetings shall be open to the entire regional membership, and any business related to the stated purposes of the Region may be conducted at such meetings with special notice.
4. Those present at the annual business meeting shall constitute a quorum.
5. The EC will establish a registration fee for those persons attending the annual meeting sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of the meeting.
6. Under exceptional circumstances, the EC may call special meetings of the Region to transact specific items of business. Such a call, together with a statement of the specified items of business to be considered, shall be circulated in writing to the membership of the Region at least two weeks before the date of the meeting. Twenty-five active members present at such called meetings shall constitute a quorum.

**Article VII. Ratification and Amendment**

1. This constitution shall be ratified by two-thirds vote of those members of the Region present and voting at its annual meeting, after having been circulated in writing to the members of the Region at least two weeks before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.
2. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those members of the Region present and voting at its annual meeting, such proposed amendment having been circulated in writing to the members of the Region at least two weeks before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

**Article VIII. By-Laws**

1. The Region may establish such by-laws as will, in its judgment, promote its effective operation. By-laws may be established or changed at any EC meeting by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting.

*(ratified at the MAR-AAR Annual Business Meeting, March 28, 2008, New Brunswick, NJ)*

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