



Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers
**La société canadienne des philosophes
chrétiens et chrétiennes**

THE BYLAWS OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS

CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL

Article 1.1 – NAME

The name of this organization shall be *The Canadian Society of Christian Philosophers / La Société canadienne des philosophes chrétiens et chrétiennes*.

Article 1.2 – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society is to provide a forum for scholarly interaction concerning topics in the philosophy of religion, and other areas of philosophy of interest to Christians, while also promoting fellowship between the Society's members.

Article 1.3 – OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the Association shall be English and French.

Article 1.4 – LEGAL STATUS

The Society is a registered non-profit corporation. Its Corporation Number is 1768585-8 and its Business Number is 704593367.

CHAPTER 2 – MEMBERSHIP

Article 2.1 – MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

There shall be three categories of membership:

- (a) Ordinary Membership
- (b) Membership for Persons who are Students, Retired, or Underemployed
- (c) Lifetime Membership

Article 2.2 – MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND RELEVANT PROCEDURES

- a. The Society is ecumenical with respect to Christian denomination, theological perspective, and philosophical orientation. There is no citizenship requirement to join the Society. Anyone who self-identifies as a Christian philosopher is welcome to join.
- b. Application for Student Membership may be made by anyone enrolled in secondary school or at an institution of higher learning.
- c. Any person eligible for membership can become a member by either paying fees or by purchasing a lifetime membership.
- d. Anyone who wishes to withdraw from the Society, without waiting for a lapse of membership in accordance with Article 2.3.b, may do so by delivering or causing to be delivered to the Secretary/Treasurer a written notice of intention to withdraw from the Association.

Article 2.3 – MEMBERSHIP FEES

- a. Fees for 1-year memberships shall fall due on the first day of January of each year. Fees for 3-year membership shall fall due on the first day of January of the year after their 3-year membership expires.
- b. Failure to pay membership fees by the above-mentioned date will result in a lapse of membership.
- c. Membership in good standing is contingent upon payment of fees. Someone who is not a member in good standing will not enjoy the rights of membership of the Society.
- d. Any person whose membership is not in good standing, or whose membership has lapsed, may gain reinstatement as a member in good standing, at any time, upon payment of fees for the year in which the reinstatement is to be effected.
- e. Membership fee amounts will be set by the Executive Committee of the Society.

CHAPTER 3 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 3.1 - COMPOSITION

- a. The Society will have two Officers: a President and a Secretary/Treasurer. Each Officer will serve a (renewable) term of 3 calendar years.
- b. The Board of Directors will normally consist of three active members of the Society, and each Board member will serve a (renewable) term of 5 calendar years.
- c. The Executive Committee will be composed of the Board of Directors, the current Officers of the Society (namely, the President and the Secretary/Treasurer), the immediate Past President

of the Society, and the immediate Past Secretary/Treasurer of the Society. The Executive Committee shall have an odd number of members.

- d. The minimum age to serve on the Executive Committee is 25.

Article 3.2 – ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. The Executive Committee is ultimately responsible for the activities and basic policies of the Society.
- b. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once yearly, and more often as warranted.
- c. The Executive Committee may create new positions, institute committees, and launch initiatives in keeping with the purpose of the Society as set out in Article 1.2.

Article 3.3 – ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

The President shall:

- have day-to-day responsibility for ensuring that the activities of the Society are duly conducted;
- serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee;
- convene all meetings of the Executive Committee, and the Society's Annual General Meeting;
- act on the instructions of the Executive Committee, and on the instructions of an Annual General Meeting;
- sign, jointly with the Secretary/Treasurer, all contracts and agreements authorized by the Executive Committee;
- together with the Secretary/Treasurer, maintain the Society's website;
- present a report of the Society's activities, and any other pertinent information, at the Annual General Meeting;
- organize the Society's annual conference, and other events and initiatives as duly approved by the Annual General Meeting or the Executive Committee.

Article 3.4 – ROLE OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

- have the care and custody of all funds of the association;
- maintain an accurate roll of members of the Society;
- issue reminders to members whose membership is about to expire, or has recently expired;
- initiate regular membership drives to recruit new members;
- sign, jointly with the President, all contracts and agreements authorized by the Executive Committee;
- together with the President, maintain the Society's website;
- maintain accurate records of the receipts, deposits, and disbursements of the funds of the Society;
- present a financial report for the previous year at the Annual General Meeting;

- take and circulate minutes from the Annual General Meeting;
- undertake other appropriate duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee;
- conduct elections, as needed, for Board Members;
- assume all duties and responsibilities of the President in the event that the President resigns or is unable to discharge the Presidential duties and responsibilities.

Article 3.5 – ROLE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members shall:

- advise the President and the Secretary/Treasurer on the affairs of the Society;
- conduct elections for the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer, as needed and as per Article 3.6;

Article 3.6 – ELECTIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- All (and only) active members of the Society are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee shall determine when elections shall take place, in accordance with the term limits specified in Article 3.1.
- A notice of election shall be circulated to all members, and posted on the Society's website.
- When notice of an election is given, members may nominate themselves for positions on the Executive Committee, or they may be nominated (with consent) by one other member.
- The election must begin no less than 10 business days after the notice of election has been issued.
- Elections for the positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer will be conducted by secret ballot. One Board Member will run the election, and another Board Member will serve as the scrutineer.
- Elections for Board Members will be conducted by secret ballot. The Secretary/Treasurer will run the election, with the President serving as scrutineer.
- Elections must be held electronically, and voting must remain open for at least 10 business days. A reminder must be circulated to all members after 5 business days. Election results shall be circulated promptly to all members, and posted on the Society's website.

Article 3.7 – REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The removal from office of an Officer or Board Member may be effected only in the following two ways:

- Any member in good standing may submit a notice of such a motion in writing to the President, at least 8 weeks before the Annual General Meeting at which it is to be moved. Any

such motion must be seconded by 5 other members in good standing. The President shall circulate the notice of motion to all members of the Society at least 6 weeks before the Annual General Meeting at which it is to be moved. (When such a motion is directed against the President, another member of the Executive Committee shall receive and circulate the motion in the fashion set out here.) In order to carry, such a motion must be moved at an Annual General Meeting where quorum has been achieved, and where at least two-thirds of the votes cast are in favour of the motion. If the motion carries, an election will be triggered, and will be conducted as per Article 3.6.

- b. If 75% or more of the Executive Committee deem that the motion to remove an Officer or Board Member should be considered sooner than at the next Annual General meeting, a special meeting of the Society will be called, with at least 8 weeks' notice given to all members. In such a case, the remainder of the process will unfold as per Article 3.7.a, *mutatis mutandis*, and the special meeting itself will be conducted as per Article 4.2.c-h.

CHAPTER 4 – MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

Article 4.1 – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- a. The Society shall hold at least one conference per year, which may or may not be held in conjunction with the Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association.
- b. The President and the Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for all aspects of planning this event, including distributing a Call for Abstracts/Papers, selecting the papers to be presented via anonymous review, inviting a keynote speaker, preparing a program, advertising, liaising with the Canadian Philosophical Association as needed, etc.
- c. Non-Christians, and those who are not members of the Society, are all welcome to participate in the Society's annual conference, including as presenters.

Article 4.2 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- a. The Society shall hold one General Meeting annually, either in person or virtually.
- b. At least 30 days' notice of a meeting must be given to all members.
- c. The AGM shall be convened by the President.
- d. Normally, 10 members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. If the Society has fewer than 10 members at the time of the AGM, then quorum will be a majority of the existing membership.
- e. The President shall preside over the meeting, and may vote only in two cases: first, to break a tie, and second, when one vote would make a two-thirds majority with respect to either (i) a motion to remove an Officer or Board Member (other than the President), as per Article 3.7; or (ii) a motion to amend the bylaws, as per Chapter 5; or (iii) a motion to dissolve the Society (as per Chapter 6).

- f. Voting shall normally be by show of hands. But a vote shall be by ballot if two members in good standing request this.
- g. A simple majority of votes cast shall carry a motion, except for the provisions (i) to remove an Executive Committee Member from office, as per Article 3.7; (ii) to amend the bylaws, as per Chapter 5; and (iii) to dissolve the Society, as per Chapter 6. In these cases, a two-thirds majority is required for a motion to carry.
- h. The Annual General Meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the provision of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE 4.3 – ELECTRONIC VOTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- a. When an issue requiring a vote by the general membership arises (other than elections), and the Executive Committee deems that it is best for such a vote to take place outside of the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee may present a notice of motion to the membership. Such a notice must be distributed to all members and posted on the Society's website.
- b. After a period of no less than 10 working days, an electronic vote can be held.
- c. Only active members of the Society may vote.
- d. Voting must remain open for at least 10 business days. A reminder must be circulated to all members after 5 business days. Results of the vote shall be announced promptly to all members, and posted on the Society's website.
- i. A simple majority of the votes shall carry the motion, unless the motion is to amend the bylaws (as per Chapter 5), or to dissolve the Society (as per Chapter 6). In such cases, a two-thirds majority is required.
- i. The President may vote only in two cases: first, to break a tie, and second, when one vote would make a two-thirds majority with respect to (i) a motion to amend the bylaws, as per Chapter 5; or (ii) a motion to dissolve the Society (as per Chapter 6).

CHAPTER 5 – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

- a. These bylaws may only be amended by a duly constituted meeting of the Society, as set out in Chapter 4.
- b. Any member of the Society may propose amendments to these bylaws.
- c. A motion to amend these bylaws requires at least a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to carry.
- d. All bylaw amendments come into effect upon approval by Corporations Canada.

CHAPTER 6 – DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

- a. A motion to dissolve the Society can only be moved at a duly constituted meeting of the Society, as set out in Chapter 4.
- b. Any member of the Society may move to dissolve the Society.
- c. A motion to dissolve the Society requires at least a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to carry.
- d. If a motion to dissolve the Society carries, the Executive Committee will inform the membership, and will judiciously and conscientiously conclude the affairs of the Society.
- e. Any monies remaining after the affairs of the Society are concluded will be donated to a registered Canadian charitable organization selected by the Executive Committee.

These bylaws are modelled on the [bylaws](#) of the Canadian Philosophical Association, and also take inspiration from the [constitution](#) of the Society of Christian Philosophers; the [constitution](#) of the British Society for Philosophy of Religion; the [statues](#) of the European Society for Philosophy of Religion; and the [constitution](#) of the Society for the Study of the History of Analytical Philosophy

These bylaws were formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting **on date**.