

## **Bylaws of The Religious Education Association, Inc.**

Adopted May 22, 1975; Revised 1/27/1979, 5/24/1985, 10/28/1988, 11/6/1990, 11/3/1991, 11/11/1992, 10/18/1993, 11/9/1994, 11/3/1995, 11/23/1997, 10/6/2004, 11/4/2008

### **ARTICLE I      NAME, PURPOSE, PLACE**

- Section 1. The Name of the corporation shall be "The Religious Education Association, Inc." When the name appears in printed materials and on the website, the description "An Association of Professors, Practitioners, and Researchers in Religious Education" will be included.
- Section 2. The purpose of this Association shall be to create opportunities for exploring and advancing the interconnected practices of scholarship, research, teaching, and leadership in faith communities, academic institutions, and the wider world community.
- Section 3. The business of the corporation shall be conducted from such place or places as its directors shall from time to time decide. As a corporation not for pecuniary profit under the laws of the State of Illinois, the registered agent shall be a resident of that state.

### **ARTICLE II     MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. The membership of the Association shall consist of all persons who have paid the annual dues.
- Section 2. Membership in the association shall be composed of teachers, professors, and researchers in religious education; practitioners giving religious education leadership in local faith communities or central offices or agencies of denominational/religious bodies; administrators in religiously affiliated schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries; graduate students and others preparing for and engaged in research, teaching, administration, or other kinds of leadership in religious education.
- Section 3. An application for membership shall constitute an agreement to continue such membership and to pay annual dues unless written notice is given by the member to discontinue membership or the dues become four months overdue. Membership may be resumed on payment of annual dues.
- Section 4. Annual dues shall be payable to the Association at its publications office. The Board of Directors shall set the membership year and annual dues based on income.
- Section 5. In elections, and when an official vote of the Association membership is otherwise required, the voting shall not be done by proxy.
- Section 6. Each individual member shall be entitled to receive one subscription to the Journal of the Association. Subscriptions to the Journal will also be available to persons and organizations who are not members.

### **ARTICLE III    MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

- Section 1. The members of the Association shall meet annually at the call of the Board of Directors and shall have authority to amend the Bylaws, elect Board members, and to transact such business as may properly come before them. The annual meeting shall be held at such times and at such places as the Board may decide. Written notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than 5 nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting, or in the case of a removal of one or more directors, a merger, consolidation, dissolution or sale, lease or exchange of assets not less than 20 nor more than 60 days before the date of the meeting, by or at the direction of the president, or the secretary, or the officer or persons calling the meeting, to each member of record entitled to vote at such meeting.
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President/Chair, or in absentia by the President-elect/Program Chair, or by a majority of the Board of Directors, or upon written request of 75 members of the Association. Business transacted at all special meetings shall be confined to the object stated in the call.
- Section 3. Twenty-five members present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Association.

- Section-4 Officers and Board members shall be nominated in advance by the Nominating Committee, shall be elected at an annual meeting of the Association or by mail ballot, and shall hold that position until their successors are elected. Additional nominations may, however, be made from the floor of an annual meeting or by mail.
- Section 5. An Advisory Council may be appointed by the Board of Directors for the purpose of advising the Association regarding fund-raising, financial management, and other matters. The President may convene meeting(s) of Council members, as appropriate.

#### ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1. The management of all affairs, property, and business of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors who shall consist of the elected officers and Board members.
- a. The Board shall oversee the policies of the Association.
  - b. In addition to the power and authorities conferred expressly upon it by these Bylaws, the Board of Directors may exercise all such powers of the Association and do all such lawful acts and things as are not by statute or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws directed or required to be exercised or done by the members.
  - c. The Board shall consist of a maximum of ~~24~~ 15 members, to include the elected officers of the Association, the President/Chair, President-elect/Program Chair, Vice President/Program-chair elect, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, forum chairs, three at-large members, one doctoral student representative and designated ex officio, non-voting members. These ex officio members are the Editor of the journal, *Religious Education*, the Executive Secretary of the Association, and the Networking Coordinator. All persons elected or appointed by the Board must be members of the Association.
- Section 2. Board members will be actively involved in various REA responsibilities and activities. .
- Section 3. The term of office of all Board members shall be three years with the possibility of reelection to one successive term. The Board shall be divided into three classes for the purpose of rotation. A person is not eligible to be reelected for at least one year after serving a maximum term.
- a. A person elected to an office of the Board begins a new term as stipulated for that office by the by-laws
  - b. Vacancies among the officers or the Board members may be filled by the Board of Directors for any part of the term where such memberships on the Board may be vacant. A person elected to fill a vacancy may, at the conclusion of that term, be elected in his/her own right as stipulated for that office or Board position by the by-laws
- Section 4. No dividend shall be paid and no part of the income of the Association shall be distributed to its members, directors or officers; provided, however, that the Association may pay compensation in a reasonable amount to members, officers or directors for authorized services rendered and for authorized expenses incurred on behalf of the Association.
- Section 5. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President/Chair of the Board, or at the written request of seven members of the Board, annually, by mailing notice to each director (via mail post or electronic means), at least three weeks prior to the date of such meeting.
- Section 6. A quorum shall consist of at least three officers ~~and~~ plus five additional voting Board members. On matters that require decisions between Board meetings, a vote of the Board may be taken by correspondence (via mail post or electronic means), In this case, a vote of a majority of the voting members of the Board shall be necessary to constitute action of the Board.
- Section 7. The Steering Committee of the Board of Directors shall exercise such powers and duties as are conferred upon it by the Board.
- a. The Steering Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Association: President/Board Chair, President-elect, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and the ex officio members, the Executive Secretary, the

Networking Coordinator, and the Editor of Religious Education. The total voting membership shall be five A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting membership.

- b. The Steering Committee shall coordinate the work of the Board and its Committees, and it shall act and speak on behalf of the Board on matters that require decision in the interim between Board meetings.

#### ARTICLE V TERMS OF OFFICERS

- Section 1. The President/Chair of the Board serves for-one year and shall preside at the annual and special meetings of the Association. In case of the absence of the President, the President-elect or vice President will preside. The President also shall preside at Board meetings and Steering Committee meetings. In his/her absence, the same replacement procedure shall be followed. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees of the Board. The President is the Association's public representative.
- Section 2 The President-elect/Program Chair serves for one year, and is responsible for current year's programming and meetings in the absence of President. The President-elect shall become the President at the end of the current President's term or upon a leave of absence or resignation of the current President
- Section 3 The Vice President/Program Chair-Elect, serves for-one year, and shall be responsible for next year's programming.
- Section 4 The Recording Secretary serves for three years and shall keep a full and accurate report of the proceedings of the meetings of the Association and of all the meetings of the Board of Directors and Steering Committee. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the presiding officer shall appoint a pro-tempore secretary.
- Section 5 The Treasurer serves for three years and shall oversee, under the direction of the Board of Directors and of the Steering Committee, all money paid to the Association; shall oversee budget, audits, taxes and endowment;; and shall render the accounts for the fiscal year to the Board of Directors. The Treasurer will work closely with the Executive Secretary. The Treasurer shall give such bond for the faithful discharge of those duties as may be required by the Board of Directors.

#### Article VI SALARIED STAFF

- Section 1. An Executive Secretary is appointed by the Board of Directors for such time and at such salary as the Board may decide. The Executive Secretary is responsible for administering the affairs of the Association under the guidance of the Board. He/She shall have direct charge of the Association's office and shall perform all duties incident to that function, including daily operations, policy implementation, membership, finances, content of newsletter, and support of programming. The Executive Secretary shall give such bond for the faithful discharge of those financial duties as may be required by the Board of Directors, including regular reporting of all financial transactions to the Treasurer
  - a. The Executive Secretary shall serve as ex officio member of the Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and all Board committees.
  - b. The search for an Executive Secretary shall be conducted by a committee appointed by the Steering Committee of the Board. The search committee shall report its recommendation to the Board of Directors who will appoint the Executive Secretary.
  - c. In the event of an unforeseen vacancy in the position of Executive Secretary, the Steering Committee may appoint an Interim Executive Secretary until the full search process can be conducted.
- Section 2. The Editor of *Religious Education*, the journal of the Association, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.
  - a. The Editor shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors and Publications Committee of the Board.
  - b. The search for Editor shall be conducted by a committee appointed by the Steering Committee in consultation with the Chair of the Publications Committee of the Board. The search committee shall report its

- recommendation to the Board of Directors who will appoint the Editor.
- c. In the event of an unforeseen vacancy in the position of Editor, the Steering Committee, in consultation with the Publications Committee, may appoint an Interim Editor until the full search process can be conducted.
- Section 3. The Networking Coordinator shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Networking Coordinator is responsible for structures, particularly electronic, that network members together. The website content and design are central responsibilities.
- a. The Networking Coordinator shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.
- b. The search for Networking Coordinator shall be conducted by a committee appointed by the Steering Committee. The search committee shall report its recommendation to the Board of Directors who will appoint the Networking Coordinator.
- c. In the event of an unforeseen vacancy in the position of Networking Coordinator, the Steering Committee may appoint an Interim Networking Coordinator until the full search process can be conducted.

## ARTICLE VII FORUMS

- Section 1. The Association will respond to and nurtures attentiveness to religious education in a variety of contexts through three standing forums.
- a. Religious Education in Faith Communities. The Religious Education in Faith Communities Forum will focus on religious education in local faith communities, and within and by denominational/religious bodies, on regional, national, and international levels.
- b. Religious Education in Public Life and the Global Community. The Religious Education in Public Live and the Global Community Forum will focus on the role of religious education beyond religious and academic contexts in the interest of the common good as well as on inter-religious education and conversation.
- c. Religious Education in Academic Disciplines and Institutions. The Religious Education in Academic Disciplines and Institutions Forum will focus on the engagement in and advancement of religious education in academic disciplines and in schools, colleges, universities, and graduate schools of religion and theology.
- Section 2. The activities of each forum will be coordinated by three representatives, Forum Coordination Teams who are nominated and elected by the membership during the annual meeting. One of these persons will be designated by the Team as chair.
- a. The task of the coordination team will be to promote the effective functioning of the forums through their input in Association programming matters as outlined in the programming section.
- b. The representatives will be elected to three staggered overlapping classes so that the coordinating team members across the three forums do not rotate off at the same time and are enabled to carry out their task on behalf of the forums.
- c. The selection process should assure representation that is diverse and reflective of the broad Association constituency.
- Section 3. The three representatives of each forum will help to facilitate programming related to their forum within the overall theme of the annual meeting.
- a. The forum chairperson will serve on the Annual Conference Program Planning Committee. One forum representative will serve on the Papers/Workshops Selection Committee of the Association. One representative will be part of the Editorial Board of the Journal.
- b. The forum representatives (Coordination Teams) will be responsible for any special activities of the forum occurring beyond scheduled Research Interest Groups, Resourcing Groups, and Colloquia at the annual meeting and for activities beyond the annual meeting.

1. Funding for forum programming at the annual meeting will be included in the annual budget.
2. Events outside the annual meeting may be funded through the annual budget at the discretion of the Board, or funding may be sought from Harper funds or other sources.

## ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

### Section 1.

For the maintenance and continuity of the work of the Association and for the promotion of its work of investigation, there may be the following standing committees, which shall report to the Association at its general meeting, and in the interim between meetings shall be responsible to the Board of Directors or the Steering Committee of the board of Directors:

- a. Annual Program Conference. This Annual Program Conference Committee shall be responsible for the initiation and development of the programs of the Association, including ~~convention~~ annual conference plans, and such other matters as may properly be referred to it by the Board of Directors.
  1. The Annual Program Conference Committee shall be constituted by the President-Elect, the Vice-President, the three Forum Chairs, the Papers/Workshops Selection Committee Chair, the Harper Project Chair, and the Executive Secretary.
  2. The President will also participate in the Annual Program Conference Committee to share his or her experience with planning the prior year's meeting.
  3. Association members from the vicinity of the meeting should be invited to the committee.
- b. Publications. The Publications Committee is a standing subcommittee of the REA Board, who shall confirm members and chair of this committee. It shall serve in an advisory capacity in connection with the publications of the Association, making recommendations in matters of policy regarding these publications.
- c. The Papers/Workshops Selection. The Papers/Workshops Selection Committee shall be composed of one representative from each of the three Forum Coordination Teams and staffed by the Executive Secretary. A chair shall be elected by the Association's membership.
  1. Proposals for Research Interest Groups, Resourcing Groups, or Colloquia are to be directed to the Papers/Workshops Selection Committee with or without specification of a preferred forum under which the paper or presentation would be offered.
  2. The Selection Committee is free to designate papers and presentations for particular forums as it deems appropriate.
- d. Harper Committee. The Harper Committee, a permanent standing committee, will seek to promote the values of inter-faith and ecumenical collegiality and religious education in the public arena through the Harper Award and the Harper Project.
  1. The Harper Committee will be composed of four members from among the Association's membership, appointed to three staggered or overlapping classes by the Board, based on nominations from the Nominating Committee, pending ratification by the Membership.
    - a. At least one member of the Harper Committee should have a primary vocational identity in the public arena, and/or one should be from a religious tradition other than Christian.
    - b. Attention should be given to ethnic, gender, and religious diversity in constituting the Committee.
    - c. The William Rainey Harper Award will be given occasionally, as the Committee deems appropriate (but no more than

once per year), to outstanding leaders whose work across disciplines and fields of service has had a profound impact on religious education. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Board.

- d. The Herman Eskridge Wornom Award will be given occasionally to an organization or institution that has provided outstanding support and leadership to religious education. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Board.
2. The Harper Committee will use the Harper Project to promote the values of inter-faith collegiality and religious education in the public arena through constructive programming, research, and regional networking.
  - a. A projected sum of \$3,000 will be available annually to fund the Harper Project. Annual funding may accumulate from year to year for larger projects. Projects may be part of the annual meeting or independent from it.
  - b. The Committee may decide to plan and execute such special projects under its own initiative or award grants from the Harper Project Fund to individuals or groups from within the Association's membership.
  - c. Applications may be reviewed at the Annual Meeting for proposed future projects.
- e. Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee will be constituted annually by the outgoing members of the Board. This committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of nominees for ratification to the Board and to the membership at the annual business meeting.
  1. Nominations will be made for officers, the Board, Forum Coordination Teams, Chair of the Papers/Workshops Selection Committee, and the Harper Committee.
  2. The selection process should assure representation that is diverse and reflective of the broad Association constituency.
  3. The process should ensure balance in representation so that the organization does not become the arm of any one of its constituent groups.
- f. Archivist, appointed by the Board, will be responsible for overseeing the preservation of historical records of the REA and APRRE prior and subsequent to the reorganization.
  1. The archivist will make arrangements for the lodging of archives in a university library where cataloguing of holdings in hard copy and/or on CD-Rom can be done.
  2. Copies of the archive holdings should be provided to the recording secretary and Executive Secretary.

Section 2. The Board of Directors may appoint such other committees of the Association, as it may deem best in carrying out the purpose of the Association.

Section 3. The Chair of all standing committees shall be appointed by the President/Board Chairperson in consultation with the Steering Committee, unless otherwise stipulated by the Bylaws.

Section 4. Chairs shall be expected to act until their successors are appointed and have assumed their duties.

## ARTICLE IX ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETINGS

- Section 1. Annual meetings of the Association will have both thematic and non-thematic elements. A theme selected by the President-Elect/Program Chair will focus the Association's attention on an issue of importance to the field and provides a common point of interaction. Non-thematic elements will provide opportunities for the pursuit of unique member interests.
- a. Plenary sessions will bring together all meeting registrants at one time to focus upon the meeting theme.
    1. Each forum has the option of offering one plenary event that addresses the meeting theme from the perspective of the forum focus.
    2. Plenaries may utilize a variety of formats and methods.
  - b. Interest Groups, Resourcing Workshops, and Colloquia Sessions will be types of "break-out" meetings that allow attention to specific topics related to the theme.
    1. Interest Group sessions will be presentations of developed research and presented in formal papers that are within one revision of being of publishable quality.
    2. Resourcing Workshops will be presentations of scholarly and practical resources or approaches supporting the multiple practices of religious education.
    3. Colloquia will be less formal than Interest Groups and involve presentations of religious education research, planning, and programming in their beginning stages.
  - c. Task Forces will be groups who agree to stay together and to continue to work on certain issues over a period of several years
    1. Presenters will be chosen by each task force or by conveners.
    2. Existing Task Forces will be continued and new ones may be initiated by request of members.
  - d. Harper Project Programming will promote the values of inter-faith collegiality and religious education in the public arena through constructive programming, research, and regional networking
  - e. Non-program Sessions will be certain groups that may choose to organize their own sessions before or after the annual meeting for specific needs.
    1. Examples of these sessions may include, but are not limited to, meetings of religious traditions and denominational groups, professors at certain schools, and shared grant work.
    2. The inclusion of these sessions in the schedule will be negotiated with the Executive Secretary and the group's convener will identify participants.
  - f. Papers/Workshop Selection. Research Interest Group Papers, Resourcing Workshops, and Colloquia to be offered under the aegis of the forums will be selected by the Association's Papers Selection Committee and scheduled by the Annual Program Conference Planning Committee.
    1. Proposals for Research Interest Groups, Resourcing Groups, or Colloquia will be directed to the Papers/Workshops Selection Committee with or without specification of a preferred forum under which the paper or presentation would be offered.
    2. The Selection Committee will select and ~~to~~ designate papers and presentations for particular forums as it deems appropriate.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENT OR ALTERATION OF BYLAWS

- Section 1. These Bylaws may be modified, amended, or altered by a two-thirds majority vote at any annual or special meeting of the Association, if the legal notice of such meeting in advance contains a statement of the proposed alteration, amendment, or repeal.

ARTICLE XI IN EVENT OF DISSOLUTION

- Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the net assets after payment of debts

shall be transferred to one or more not-for-profit, tax-exempt organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the dissolving corporation and located in North America.

ARTICLE XII MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Rules. The Board may establish rules that are consistent with these bylaws for the policies, procedures, and programs of the Association.

Section 2. Rules of Order. The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Section 3. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.