

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**  
**for**  
**The Academy of Religious Leadership, Inc.**

**CONSTITUTION**

**NAME AND ADDRESS**

The name of the organization is **THE ACADEMY OF RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP, INC.**

The address, including street, number, city, and county, of the registered office of the corporation in the State of Delaware is:

2711 Centerville Road  
Suite 400  
City of Wilmington, 19808  
County of New Castle

and the name of the registered agent of the corporation in the State of Delaware at such address is The Company Corporation.

**PURPOSE**

The Academy exists to enhance religious leadership education; convene a scholarly roundtable of leadership educators and professional practitioners for the purpose of faculty development and community; and foster and disseminate leadership education and research.

It is also organized for purposes which are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

The corporation shall not have any capital stock, and the conditions of the membership shall be stated in the bylaws.

### MEMBERSHIP

Graduate-level teachers and students of leadership, administration, and finance, as well as professional practitioners of leadership, who seek to engage faith, scholarship, and the practice of ministry shall be eligible for membership. Those considered members bear the rights and responsibilities of voting members.

### OFFICERS

The Officers of the Academy of Religious Leadership will include: President, President Elect, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Editor of the *Journal of Religious Leadership*.

## BY-LAWS

### I. ORGANIZATION

1. **The Officers** (President, President Elect, Past President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Editor of the *Journal of Religious Leadership*)
  - a) **The President** (one-year term) provides oversight of the operational details of the Academy, especially the organizing of the annual meeting. The President shall preside at meetings of the Steering Team and the annual meeting and facilitate the Academy's overall operation during the year.
  - b) **The President Elect** (one-year term) supports the President in his or her operational details and fulfills the duties of the President in his or her absence. The President Elect is responsible to recommend to the Steering Team, for its approval, the theme of the annual conference for the following year at the time of his/her service as President. The President-Elect is also charged with membership development, in collaboration with Academy membership.
  - c) **The Past President** (one-year term) is available to the President for counsel and advice as needed.
  - d) **The Secretary/Treasurer** (three-year term, renewable) shall prepare and maintain accurate, permanent records of the actions and official documentation of the Academy in consultation with the Steering Team, and shall provide notice to members about said actions. Additionally, the Secretary/Treasurer shall have charge of the finances of the Academy and shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of its funds. All deposits of Academy funds shall be in the name of the Academy, and shall be held, invested, and/or appropriated as the membership determines. An appropriation made by the Academy shall be paid by the Secretary/Treasurer



only in accordance with procedures established by the officers with the concurrence of the Steering Team.

**2. The Steering Team** (Officers plus three others elected by the Academy)

- a) The Steering Team, composed of the Officers and three (3) members, is elected by the Academy's membership at its annual meeting to provide guidance and support for the next year's annual meeting. Steering Team members are elected in classes of one (1) for three-year terms. Should a member of the team be unable to serve his or her full term, a new member will be elected at the annual meeting to serve for the remainder of that term. Members of the Steering Team, with the exceptions of the Secretary/Treasurer and Editor of the JRL, can only serve one (1) three-year term and will be eligible for reelection only after at least one year off the Team. The Steering Team shall act on behalf of the Academy within the range of its established purposes and policies.
- b) The Steering Team shall, upon recommendation of the President Elect, be responsible to approve the theme and location for the following year annual conference.
- c) The Steering Team shall develop a budget to be presented for approval of the members at each annual meeting.
- d) The Steering Team shall appoint individuals and committees to exercise other duties as necessary during its term. This includes the possibility of engaging paid staff to aid in the organizational management of the Academy.
- e) The Steering Team shall meet at the annual meeting and may meet other times as necessary.
- f) The Steering Team shall nominate the Editor of the *Journal of Religious Leadership* for a three-year, renewable term to be elected by the membership.

**3. The Nominating Committee**

- a) The Steering Team shall appoint two (2) of its members and also enlist three (3) members at large from the Academy who are present at the annual meeting to constitute a committee to nominate members for the next year's Steering Team.
- b) The slate of nominations must embrace the diversity represented among religious leadership programs in general as well as respect the need for a reasonable continuity in leadership.

**4. Membership**

- a) Membership, as defined in the constitution, shall be effective upon payment of annual dues.

## II. THE JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

The *Journal of Religious Leadership* is the Academy's peer-review publication. The Journal is supported by membership dues and institutional support from libraries and other organizations. Members of the Academy shall receive two (2) editions annually.

The Editor of the Journal is nominated by the Steering Team and elected by the Academy to serve a three-year term (renewable). The Editor will nominate to the Academy (at its annual meeting) members to serve on the Editorial Board for a one-year term (renewable).

## III. ANNUAL MEETING

There shall be an annual meeting of the general membership to pursue the purposes of the Academy, to elect Officer(s) and Steering Team members, to set dues, to approve annual budget, and to take any policy actions appropriate to the purposes of the Academy.

## IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be made at any annual meeting. Proposed amendments must be circulated among the members by the Secretary/Treasurer at least one month prior to that meeting. A two-thirds majority of the members voting is necessary to amend the Academy's Constitution and a simple majority to amend its By-Laws.

## ADDENDUM

### GUIDING ASSUMPTIONS OF THE ARL

*(as formulated and agreed to by those present at the 2006 ARL conference)*

1. There will be a continuance of the ARL and the JRL.
2. Participants in the ARL will include scholars and practitioners from a diverse range of Christian perspectives who are interested in bringing critical theological reflection to bear on the teaching and practice of religious leadership in diverse settings.
3. Space will be created for a conversation that respects the personhood of others while cultivating community.
4. We value engaging in generative conversations that explores the complexity, edges, shadows, problems, and intersections of religious leadership.
5. The conversations generated about religious leadership will seek to incorporate both biblical/theological foundations and theoretical insights from a diverse range of disciplines.
6. We will engage in critical reflection on the praxis of leadership in various contexts, including our classrooms.

7. We will engage in critical reflection on pedagogy in relation to the teaching of religious leadership.
8. Attention will be given to helping to identify, involve, and mentor the next generation of scholars and practitioners in the field of religious leadership.
9. We will attend to matters of organization and leadership carefully and creatively (structure, finances, and legalities).