**CONSTITUTION OF THE SERMON STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

**Article I. Name**

The name of this body, as founded in 2022 shall be the Sermon Studies Association (hereinafter referred to as “the Association” or “SSA”).

**Article II. Objectives**

The objectives of the Association shall be the following:

1. To promote and stimulate the study and research of the sermon and preaching generally;
2. To promote the results of the research of members in particular;
3. To facilitate interactions between those studying the sermon and preaching in a scholarly fashion and professional practitioners of preaching;
4. To establish research fellowships to promote the study of the sermon and preaching;
5. To establish and maintain endowments to facilitate the study of the sermon and preaching;
6. To hold conventions, conferences, and meetings which promote the study of the sermon and preaching;
7. To maintain a permanent presence for members and interested person to access information about the study of the sermon and preaching as well as the activities of the Association through a website and other means of communication and information storage;
8. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise, and to hold real and personal estate so far as may be necessary in carrying out the objectives of the Association; and to mortgage, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any real or personal estate according to law.

These objectives shall be interpreted as permissive and not mandatory.

**Article III. Membership**

Section 1. Membership in the Association is open to any individual in sympathy with the stated objects of the SSA.

Section 2. Prospective members shall send an application to the Director, who shall propose their names to the International Council for election. Persons so elected shall remain members in good standing so long as they participate in one conference, seminar, or meeting every two years.

Section 3. Members may end their membership by sending an e-mail or written request to the Director of the Association. On reviewing the records of attendance at conferences and meetings over a two-year period, the Council may recommend the suspension of a person’s membership.

**Article IV. Regions**

Section 1. The Association shall be divided into geographical regions: Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, and the Americas

Section 2. Each region shall be responsible for its organization in any way that its members see fit in consultation with the International Council.

Section 3. Members in each region shall elect a president. The Regional President shall serve for a term of two years. The Regional President may be reelected for a further one or two terms after the initial term.

**Article V. Officers and Management**

Section 1. The officers of each region of the Association shall be the president and any other persons so designated by the members of the region.

Section 2. The international officers of the Association shall be the five regional presidents, the Director, and a Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Association.  The Director and Treasurer shall serve a term of four years. The Director and Treasurer may be reelected for a further one or two terms after the initial term.

Section 3. A president for the Association shall be elected from the regional presidents. The President shall serve a term of two years. The President may be reelected for a further one or two terms after the initial term.

Section 4. Management of each region of the Association shall be vested in a council, the Regional Council, consisting of the Regional President and any other officers elected from the members of each region.

Section 5. Management of the whole Association shall be vested in a council, the International Council, consisting of the regional presidents, the Director, Treasurer and five additional members of the Association at large. The at-large members shall be elected for a term of four years. An at-large member who has served a full term of four years shall be eligible for re-election to the International Council. An at-large member elected to complete an unexpired term may be re-elected to a full term immediately.

Section 6. The regional councils and the International Council are charged with pursuing the objects of the Association and furthering its general interests by the exercise of powers granted in this Constitution and according to the duties stipulated in the accompanying By-Laws.

Section 7. The property of the Society shall be vested in the International Council and said council shall be responsible for conducting the business and legal affairs of the Association. The International Council may bind the Society to an obligation in excess of its current net assets only by the unanimous consent of every member of the International Council given in writing.

Section 8. A vacancy in any regional office of the Association shall be filled by the Regional Council for the remainder of the year in which the vacancy occurs. A vacancy in any international office of the Association shall be filled by the International Council.

Section 9. Upon recommendation from the International Council, the Association shall determine the amount of annual dues to be charged to individual members.

**Article VI. Meetings**

Section 1. Each region of the Association shall meet at least once annually for scholarly exchange and business at a time and place determined by the Regional Council. The regions may meet at other times during the year as the Regional Council shall determine.

Section 2. The Association shall meet once every four years for scholarly exchange and business at a time and place determined by the International Council.

Section 3. Not less than thirty days prior to any meeting, the Director shall send to each member of the Association notice of such meeting, along with a copy of the proposed program.

Section 4. Each region shall decide what constitutes a quorum for the transaction of its business. Twenty-five members of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business concerning the whole of the SSA.

**Article VII. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Association present and voting at any legally constituted business meeting, provided that the text of such amendment(s) shall have been submitted to the members at least three months before said meeting and published in the SSA’s main forms of communication.