



The Association for
Biblical Higher Education
Advancing and Assuring Quality Biblical Higher Education

***Constitution and
Bylaws
(Revised February 2007)***

Association for Biblical Higher Education

Constitution

Article I — Name

The name of this organization shall be the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

Article II — Mission, Purposes and Goals

Section 1. Mission

The mission of the Association for Biblical Higher Education is to provide accreditation and services for institutions and programs of biblical higher education within Canada, the United States, and related territories.

Section 2. Purposes

The Association seeks to fulfill its mission by:

- a. Promoting excellence among institutions (schools/institutes/ colleges/universities/ seminaries) and programs of biblical higher education through the process of accreditation. (Hereafter in the constitution and related bylaws, the term institution shall be understood to apply also to qualified programs where appropriate.)
- b. Promoting cooperation among member and affiliate institutions and the larger higher education community.
- c. Promoting the distinctives of biblical higher education to the higher education community, the church and society.
- d. Providing services that will stimulate excellence among administrators, board members, faculty, and students at member and affiliate institutions.

Section 3. Goals

- a. To implement its purpose of accreditation, the Association seeks to fulfill the following goals:
 1. To establish policies and procedures that safeguard the integrity of the accreditation process.
 2. To establish Standards for Accreditation (hereafter referred to as Standards) that induce institutions to achieve the following objectives:
 - (a) Have a soundly conceived educational mission that is clearly understood and supported, serves the cause of Christ, and is consonant with the distinctives of the Association;
 - (b) Have established adequate structures and procedures for governance and administration to achieve its mission;
 - (c) Have sufficient faculty, instructional, and facility resources to achieve its mission;
 - (d) Provide appropriate curricular structures and content to achieve its mission;
 - (e) Provide appropriate programs for student admissions, development, and services to carry out its mission.
- b. To implement its purpose of communication, the Association seeks to fulfill the following goals:
 1. To establish communication services that will provide information and that will promote cooperation among member institutions and affiliate institutions.
 2. To communicate the Association's higher education distinctives to society at large and to the higher education community in particular.

- c. To implement its purpose of professional development, the Association seeks to fulfill the following goals:
1. To conduct research related to biblical higher education and to prepare outcomes instruments for the use of member and affiliate institutions.
 2. To stimulate excellence among member and affiliate institutional administrators through workshops, conferences, and other activities.
 3. To stimulate excellence among member and affiliate institutional board personnel through workshops, conferences, and other activities.
 4. To stimulate excellence among member and affiliate institutional faculties through workshops, conferences, and other activities.
 5. To stimulate excellence among member institution students through the Delta Epsilon Chi honor society and other activities.

Article III — Tenets of Faith

We believe that there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his vicarious atonement through his shed blood, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his personal and visible return in power and glory.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he was tempted by Satan and fell, and that, because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation.

(Tenets of Faith, Cont'd)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life, and by whom the church is empowered to carry out Christ's Great Commission.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Article IV — Membership

Membership in the Association shall be divided into two categories: accredited and candidate.

Section 1. Accredited membership

Accredited membership shall be granted to those institutions that have been awarded institutional or programmatic status by the Commission on Accreditation to be established by the membership.

Section 2. Candidate membership

Candidate membership shall be granted to those institutions that have been awarded candidate status by the Commission on Accreditation.

Article V — Affiliate Membership

An affiliate, non member status is available for institutions that either cannot or do not wish to qualify for accredited status. This allows affiliate institutions the opportunity to take advantage of many of the programs and services that the Association provides without becoming an accredited member.

Article VI — Governance

Section 1. The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the executive officers of the Association, seven members-at-large elected from accredited

members of the Association, and two public members appointed by the board. Theological representation on the board shall be in accord with the “Policy Regarding the Nominating Committee.”

a. The executive officers

The executive officers of the Association shall be president, vice president, and secretary. These officers, together with the treasurer, shall constitute the executive committee of the Board of Directors.

b. Terms of office

The president shall serve a two-year term. The vice president shall serve a two-year term as vice president and then a two-year term as president. The secretary will serve a four-year term. Neither the president nor the secretary shall succeed themselves on the board. The vice president and secretary shall be elected in different years.

c. Members-at-large

Members-at-large are to be elected each year in classes for staggered four-year terms. For purposes of representation on the board by members-at-large, accredited members shall be divided into four quadrants of Association based on the size of their FTE enrollment. Institutions within each quadrant of Association student FTE enrollment shall be represented on the board by no more than two members-at-large. No member-at-large shall be eligible for immediate reappointment. At least one member of the board shall be from each represented nation. Institutions holding membership based on programmatic accreditation may provide as many as two of the 10 elected board members. The two public representatives shall serve four-year terms and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

d. Treasurer

A treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors from among its members-at-large and shall be a part of the executive committee.

Section 2. The Commission on Accreditation

a. Functions

The Association for Biblical Higher Education exercises its accrediting authority through the Commission on Accreditation. Through its Standards and accreditation process, it will endeavor to be a catalyst toward excellence among institutions in accord with the Association's distinctives of education.

b. Organization

1. The Commission on Accreditation will consist of twelve Commissioners, comprised as follows: nine elected from among accredited member institutions (including as many as two from institutions holding programmatic accreditation); two public representatives, not associate with ABHE member or applicant institution; and one active ministry practitioner who does not currently have a relationship with an ABHE member institution.
2. Commissioners, except for public members, will be elected by the Commission on Accreditation after selection by the membership in the same manner as used for the election of the Board of Directors. The nominating committee shall submit a slate of two or more names for each office to be filled. The nominating committee shall assure that the composition of the slate will be based on the Association's "Policy Regarding the Nominating Committee." The slate, with any other names nominated from the floor, shall be voted upon until a candidate receives a majority vote. The Public members and practitioner shall be appointed by the Commission on Accreditation.

Article VII — Meetings

Section I. Regular meetings

Regular meetings of this Association shall be held annually, the time and the place to be determined by the Board of Directors. Notification of all regular meetings shall be made by the secretary

at least 60 days in advance, by announcement at the prior annual meeting, or publication in an official periodical of the Association, or by mail. A majority of the Board of Directors shall institute a quorum for its meetings.

Section 2. Special meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors at any time, provided that the purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the notices calling the same. Such notices shall be mailed at least one month before the date of such meeting. The right of initiative in calling a special session shall be granted each member of the Association. A petition for same, stating the reasons therefore, and signed by at least 20 percent of the membership of the Association may be filed with the secretary at any time and shall be considered sufficient reason for such a call, whereupon the Board of Directors shall call the special session, setting the time and place.

Article VIII — Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the Association, provided that the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the membership 60 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered. Those delegates present at a duly called meeting of the Association shall be considered a quorum. A two-thirds vote of all members present shall be necessary for adoption.