

# Creation Theology Society

## By-Laws

**I. Purpose:** In the tradition of theology as the queen of the sciences, the Creation Theology Society seeks to develop a community of biblical scholarship that initiates and undergirds interdisciplinary creation research.

### **II. Principles and Values**

- a. The Bible is God's self-revelation to humanity, forming the foundation for truth and knowledge.
- b. Thus, Divine revelation must be the respected and authoritative lens through which we seek to understand the world around us.
- c. Consequently, theology, historically understood as the "queen of the sciences," must inform scientific investigation, since correct interpretation of creation depends upon correct interpretation of God's Word.
- d. Biblical research is an indispensable activity for Christians.
  - i. As a discipline that studies Scripture, theology is a means of coming to know the Creator.
  - ii. As a discipline that interprets Scripture, theology is a means of worshiping the Creator.
- e. Community is an important component of all Christian activity.
  - i. Community provides an environment of encouragement.
  - ii. Community provides opportunities for personal and collective growth.
  - iii. Community promotes agreement and unity.
  - iv. Community provides opportunities for irenic discussion in areas of disagreement

### **III. Goals**

- a. To motivate and encourage researchers and specialists interested in creation studies.
- b. To develop and communicate a compelling understanding of creation based on faithful interpretation of God's Word.
- c. To promote excellence in Christian scholarship, especially as it pertains to the pursuit of advanced training, the practice of biblical research and education, and the publication of research results.
- d. To set a standard for interdisciplinary research, in which collaboration models how the body of Christ operates.
- e. To exhibit Christian character by irenic interaction should disagreement arise due to different research findings.

IV. **Doctrinal Statement.** The CTS has been organized by Christians and shall be directed and led by Christians. In particular, the Executive Board of the CTS affirms by signature the following doctrinal points:

- a. The Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in its original autographs, and authoritative in all areas on which it speaks.
- b. There is one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each is co-eternal and equal.
- c. God is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent; He is holy in all His attributes.
- d. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who also became fully human being born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on the cross in payment for our sins, was buried, rose bodily from the dead on the third day, was received into heaven, and will return bodily to reclaim believers in Christ.
- e. Salvation is available to all who by faith accept the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Those who accept Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection by faith will live forever with God in heaven; those who reject Christ will experience the second death.
- f. God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh. According to biblical chronology, creation occurred less than ten thousand or so years ago.
- g. The original creation was very good, lacking predation, disease, and death. After Adam sinned, physical death, suffering, and natural evil entered creation.
- h. The Flood of Genesis 6-9 was a catastrophic historical event, global in scope, sent to punish mankind for sin, with the result that all that were not on the ark died and the earth that then existed was destroyed.
- i. The diversity of human language was miraculously introduced at the Tower of Babel, resulting in the origin of the geographically dispersed nations.

V. **Functions**

- a. *Conferences.* The CTS, in cooperation with the with the Creation Biology Society and the Creation Geology Society shall organize and sponsor annual conferences, which include (but are not limited to):
  - i. Research papers/presentations selected from submitted abstracts/papers
  - ii. Themed Interdisciplinary Session, which includes: invited papers on a selected biblical matter of interest to creation science, an invited paper from the relevant scientific discipline, an interdisciplinary panel discussion, and an audience Q&A.
  - iii. The CTS board meeting (as necessary)
  - iv. The CTS, CBS, and CGS joint board meeting (as necessary)
  - v. The CTS, CBS, and CGS business meeting(s)
- b. *Publications.* The CTS, in collaboration with the CBS and CGS, shall produce publications to promote the goals of the CTS.
  - i. Newsletter. The CTS shall regularly publish an informal and informational publication in the style of a newsletter and distribute it to all its

members. This newsletter will specifically contribute to the CTS purpose to motivate and encourage researchers.

- ii. **Journal.** The CTS, in coordination with the CBS and CGS, shall publish a formal peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal that presents the proceedings from the annual conference: abstracts from each paper/presentation, full papers from the Themed Interdisciplinary Session, and a transcription of the panel discussion, along with any other articles and book reviews approved through the peer-review process. This journal will be distributed to all members. This journal further contributes to the CTS purpose to promote excellence in Christian scholarship, communicate results of biblical research, and set a standard for interdisciplinary creation research.

## **VI. Organization**

- a. **Membership.** Conditional upon acceptance of application and receipt of dues at a rate set by the Executive Board, membership in the CTS shall be organized according to the following categories:

- i. **Full members:** Full members must affirm and sign the CTS doctrinal statement and shall have an earned graduate degree (masters or doctorate) in a relevant discipline (biblical studies in all its forms). They will receive CTS publications, may attend and are eligible to present at annual meetings, may vote at the business meeting, and may be eligible to serve on the Executive Board.
- ii. **Associate Members:** Associate Members do not have to affirm or sign the CTS doctrinal statement. They will receive CTS publications and may attend and are eligible to present at annual meetings, but are ineligible to vote at the business meeting or serve on the Executive Board.
- iii. **Student Members:** Student members are not required to, but may affirm and sign the CTS doctrinal statement. They must be enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral program in a relevant discipline (biblical studies in all its forms) and have a recommendation from a Full Member. They will receive a discounted rate on membership and CTS publications. They may attend and are eligible present at annual meetings, but are not eligible to vote at the business meeting or serve on the Executive Board.

*Note:* In keeping with 1 Tim 3:7, all members of the society must have a good reputation. Consequently, membership may be denied due to egregious violation(s) of biblical standards and/or felony conviction(s) as stated more fully in the "Biblical Standards for CTS Membership" document.

- b. **Membership Termination.**
  - i. Membership becomes inactive if dues are delinquent by at least six months or if the business meeting has not been attended for five consecutive years. An inactive member cannot vote or hold office. Upon due payment membership may be reinstated.

- ii. Membership may be terminated by the Executive Board if a member is determined to be in violation of either the CTS “Principles and Values,” “Goals,” or the qualifications listed for his/her category of membership provided in these By-Laws. A terminated member may appeal the decision by the Executive Board. The appeal will be considered by an independent committee recommended by the Executive Board and voted on by Full Members.
    - iii. In keeping with 1 Tim 3:7, membership may be terminated due to egregious violation(s) of biblical principles and/or felony conviction, whether the violation(s) are discovered or committed while a member, as stated more fully in the “Biblical Standards for CTS Membership” document.
  - c. Executive Board.
    - The CTS shall be governed and guided by an Executive Board of seven or nine members that shall be elected by the Full members at the annual business meeting.
    - All Board members will have voting privileges in Board business.
    - The Executive Board will do business as less than seven or nine only until open positions are filled at the earliest possible business meeting.
    - All elected officers of the Board shall be voting members and shall be required to affirm by their signature the CTS doctrinal statement, along with the CTS Statement on Biblical Creation, at each annual business meeting.
    - The officers shall be elected by the membership of the Executive Board, and no Board member may hold more than two offices.
    - The President may serve a maximum of five years in this office, unless the Board unanimously votes for extension of service.
    - The offices consist of the following:
      - i. President
        1. Serves as official public representative of the CTS
        2. Acts as moderator for the annual business meeting and board meetings
        3. Oversees responsibilities of elected officers
      - ii. Secretary-Treasurer
        1. Maintains membership and mailing list(s)
        2. Handles all incoming correspondence
        3. Sends out call for business before the business meeting and receives written business items
        4. Handles all outgoing CTS mailings
        5. Produces minutes from business meeting and Executive Board meetings, and submits minutes for approval at the following meeting
        6. Coordinates budgets and expenses with the President and other Board members
      - iii. Executive Editor
        1. Oversees all CTS publications
        2. Coordinates peer review for the annual conference and journal

3. Selects an appropriate editorial board to assist in editorial responsibilities
4. Supervises publication and distribution of publications
- iv. Conference Chair
  1. Supervises organization and scheduling of any CTS conferences and coordinates with the Chair of the annual conference
  2. Works with local conference coordinator to prepare facilities
  3. Works with Executive Editor and President to create theme and content
  4. Works with President and Secretary regarding communications for the conference
- v. Board members not holding office serve in the following capacity:
  1. Primarily participate by advising in matters concerning the CTS.
  2. Ensure continuity of the CTS in case of emergency (death, debilitating illness, etc.) that might prevent an elected officer from carrying out his/her duty.
  3. Assist the elected officers as needed.
  4. Perform miscellaneous duties determined by the Board.

## **VII. Business Procedures**

- a. CTS business shall be conducted in person at the business meeting held at the annual conference or at an otherwise designated venue. Because the CTS meets only annually, special procedures must be followed to ensure that the meeting is conducted “decently and in order.” Any Full, Associate, or Student member may introduce new business to be discussed at the meeting, but all such business must be submitted in writing prior to the meeting. There will be no accommodation for introducing new business at the meeting itself. To facilitate this plan, the Secretary shall issue a “Call for Business” to the Full, Associate, and Student members at least ninety days prior to the meeting. The Call for Business shall include the requirement that all items to be considered for the business meeting agenda must be received by the Secretary at least one month before the start of the conference. When the Secretary receives a proposed item of business, he/she must share that item with the Executive Board. All items of business must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board in order to go before the CTS for vote. The member who submitted the business item will be notified by the Secretary of the outcome of the Executive Board’s vote. During the business meeting, items of business will be presented for discussion by the members of the CTS and for vote by the Full members. A quorum is defined as at least 10% of the active Full members at the time of the annual meeting. Normal items of business must receive a simple majority vote to pass (exceptions are noted below).
- b. Elections. In addition to the business of the CTS, any election for replacing Executive Board members shall also take place at the annual meeting. There shall be no term limits for any Board member. As with business items, all

nominations for Board members must be called for in the "Call for Business" and received by the Secretary at least two months prior to the conference. Nominees must accept their nominations before the business meeting. All nominees must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The member who submitted the nomination will be notified by the Secretary of the outcome of the Executive Board's vote and/or the acceptance of the nomination by the nominee. All nominees' qualifications shall be presented to the membership at the business meeting prior to the vote, but a nominee need not be present to win.

- c. Business meeting. The Secretary shall create the business meeting agenda in consultation with the officers of the Board, and the President shall moderate the meeting. Attendance of Full members shall be taken. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's rules of order. The Conference Chair shall confer with the Secretary and President to schedule an appropriate amount of time at the annual conference for the business meeting, not less than one hour.
- d. Amending the By-Laws. Suggestions for modification of the By-Laws will be considered by the Executive Board from any member of the CTS at any time. If a majority of the Board deems the modification necessary, the Board will draft the amendment by agreement of at least 2/3 of its members. The amendment will then be presented for discussion and vote at the business meeting. Amendments must be approved by at least 3/4 of the Full (voting) members at the meeting.