

# The Mercersburg Society

## Name and Purpose

The Name of the religious organization shall be “The Mercersburg Society”.

The Purpose shall be:

1. To affirm a vision of the Christian faith: apostolic, catholic, evangelical and reformed, as affirmed by Scripture, catechisms and ecumenical creeds.
2. To celebrate the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ as the foundation for the church’s life and practice in worship, sacraments, fellowship and service.
3. To engage in worship and theological discussion, which draw upon the writings of John Williamson Nevin and Philip Schaff, for the sake of the church and world in our time.

Pursuing this purpose, the Society shall, as time and funds allow:

1. Provide opportunities for theological reflection.
2. Support and encourage research and publications regarding Christ and the church, liturgy, sacraments and ecumenism.
3. Engage congregations and church structures by encouraging them to honor our history in order to more fully affirm and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.

## General Membership

Membership in the Society provides an opportunity to interested persons, church bodies and other organizations to commit to the study of the Mercersburg Theology and its relevance and application to contemporary Church life and mission. Membership shall consist of those persons paying annual dues and registered attendees at Society events. Members shall receive notice of all general meetings and subscription to the New Mercersburg Review. and other publications of the Society.

## Corporate Board

The Corporate Board shall be the governing body of the Society. The Board shall consist of six officers ( President, Board Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of the *New Mercersburg Review*, and Planning Chair) and three others, all elected by the General Membership.

### A. Meetings

The Board shall meet at least once a year, if possible, in conjunction with an annual meeting/Convocation of the full membership. The President, or any officer, may call additional meetings. A quorum shall consist of five members. The meetings of the Board shall be open to members of the Society and/or those invited by members of the Board.

#### B. Term of Office and Election

The term of office for all members of the Board shall be one year. In the event that any position on the Board becomes vacant during the year of service, the Board shall fill the position for the remainder of the term.

Each year the Board shall serve as a nominating committee and present a slate of candidates for all positions of the Board to the general membership for election. An election shall take place (e.g., the annual meeting or elsewhere) in a manner (e.g., voice vote or mail ballot) as determined by the nominating committee. Nominations may be made from the floor of an official meeting or by write in on mail ballots.

#### C. Planning.

The Board shall have responsibility for planning the work of the Society. Toward that end the Board and Planning Chair shall appoint a committee to develop specific plans for any event (e.g., the annual convocation, special meetings or programs for members or churches. Committees formed to develop an event or program may consist of members and non-members of the Society. All plans for such events shall be approved by the Board.

### Officers

A.. The President shall preside and create an agenda at all Convocations and business meetings and shall lead the Society in the development of long-range planning for the program and the work of the Society. In the event that the President is unable to complete a term of service, the Secretary shall serve as Acting President for the remainder of the term.

B. The Board Secretary shall record all transactions at meetings of the Corporate Board and the membership, shall be responsible for keeping appropriate records of the Society, shall distribute minutes of members of the board in good time, and shall attend to all correspondence related to the Society.

C. Membership Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a current list of members, with addresses and e-mail addresses, as well as any other relevant data deemed necessary by the Board.

D. The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all moneys due to the Society, shall keep bookkeeping records of such funds, shall disburse all moneys as the Society may direct and present a statement of finances to the Corporate Board.

E. The Editor of the *New Mercersburg Review* shall be responsible for all decisions concerning the main publication of the Society.

F. The Planning Chairperson shall have responsibility for the planning and execution of the annual Convocation. The Planning Chair and the Board shall appoint members each year to the planning Committee. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to any members wishing to attend. The Chair shall report to the Corporate Board all proposals for the annual meeting and any other programs and events sponsored by the Society, requesting approval by the Board.

### Amendments

Amendments may be made to the Bylaws with 30 days notice prior to the annual or special meeting of the Corporate Board.

### Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Society shall be administered by the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, located in the Library of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James St. Lancaster, Pa.

### Order

The administration of these bylaws and the functioning of the business meetings shall be by *Roberts Rules of Order, revised*.

### (excursus)

A word about the changes between this document and its predecessor, with respect to the organizational constructs. Both documents place the decision-making authority with the Corporate Board. The former Charter designated the Corporate Board as self-perpetuating, with no action required by the membership. The replacement Charter gives a vote for the Corporate Board to the membership even though the Corporate Board will designate the nominees. (*Roberts Rules* states that the membership does have the right to add nominees from the floor.)

It remains to be seen if this change does mean anything in practice, but it does give every member a constitutional stake in the process of the organization.