



EUROPEAN PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Constitution

This constitution was agreed by vote of a duly called business meeting of the Association held on 28 June 2016 at Sofia, Bulgaria.

1. Name of the Association

The European Pentecostal Theological Association (EPTA).

2. Vision and Purpose of the Association

The European Pentecostal Theological Association seeks to provide a forum which promotes active fellowship and networking between Pentecostal educational institutions primarily in Europe and scholars from all over the world, and promotes research, education, and reflection in the broad area of Pentecostal theology.

EPTA was established in 1981 as a fellowship of institutions and individuals in Europe for mutual encouragement with the desire to exchange theological and educational ideas to help their professional work. It acts as a motivational forum for theology, pedagogy, history and leadership formation for Pentecostal educators, colleges and institutions in Europe and further afield. Through the *Journal of the European Pentecostal Association (JEPTA)* and its regular conferences, EPTA also seeks to inform others concerning Pentecostal scholarship. Through all this activity, EPTA seeks to further the work of God's kingdom, as expressed in Christ, on earth.

3. Membership

All members must subscribe to the Vision and Purpose statement of the Association, as set out in section 2 of this Constitution, above.

Membership in this Society shall be on an individual and an institutional basis.

A. Individual members shall be in three categories: full, associate and student.

Full individual membership: Those persons who hold an earned graduate degree from a recognized institution of higher education, persons who either have been or are currently engaged in Christian higher education (administrative or instructional), or persons who have made significant scholarly contributions to Pentecostal literature as determined by the Executive Committee shall be eligible for full membership. Full members are entitled to vote, to attend all meetings, to present papers, and to hold offices for which they are qualified.

Associate individual membership: Persons not eligible for full membership but who, in the judgment of the Executive Committee, are otherwise qualified for membership shall be eligible for associate membership. Associate members shall be entitled to vote, except on amendments to this Constitution, to attend all meetings and to present papers. Associate members shall not be entitled to hold office. Associate members may be transferred to full membership status by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee following application for transfer.

Student individual membership: Students currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning shall be eligible to join the Society as student members. Student members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society and to present papers, but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office. Upon completion of their studies student members may apply for associate membership or full membership.

B. Institutional members will be drawn from Pentecostal and charismatic institutions in Europe. Each institution may nominate a representative and at least two seats on the Executive Committee will be preferably occupied by these representatives. These Executive Committee representatives should be drawn from different institutions.

All categories of membership shall pay an annual membership fee.

All applicants approved by the Executive Committee shall be submitted to a general business meeting for ratification and then approved by a simple majority.

C. Dues for membership will be determined as prescribed by general business meetings of the Association.

D. Dismissal. In the event that the continued membership of an individual or institution is deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Association, this person or institution may be removed from the membership roll upon the recommendation of the majority of the Executive Committee made at a general or special (see section 7A) business meeting of the Association and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at the business meeting and voting.

E. Qualifications for Executive Officers. To be qualified to serve, each officer of EPTA shall be a full member and shall affirm faith in Jesus Christ with the hope of eternal life in him, and belief in the continuing operation of gifts of the Spirit today including manifestations of the miraculous. These qualifications will apply both to individual members and institutional representatives.

4. Applications and alternative statuses

A. Candidate for membership: candidate status is given on initial application and payment. A general business meeting can ratify or reject the application. If rejected, candidates can continue as observers at that general business meeting.

B. Observer status shall be available for non-Europeans, or scholars from other traditions and institutions that provide Pentecostal studies and do not wish to subscribe to the Vision and Purpose statement of EPTA, as set out in section 2 of

this Constitution, above. These observers, as with student members and those who simply subscribe to *JEPTA*, will not have voting rights.

5. Discontinued Membership

Membership of an institution or individual that is deemed detrimental to the fellowship, and is thus terminated, upon the recommendation of the majority of the Executive Committee and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at a business meeting and voting (see section 3D), shall lose membership privileges with immediate effect.

6. Executive Committee

A. The officers of the Association shall constitute its Executive Committee as follows: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer and *JEPTA* Editor (together with any other full members at the discretion of a general business meeting). At least two of these officers should preferably represent or have in the past represented or worked at two different member institutions.

B. Terms of Office:

1. All officers shall be elected for four-year terms of office.
2. The election of each member shall be in rotation with Chair and Vice-chair being elected in the first year, Secretary second year, Treasurer third year and the *JEPTA* Editor and other members as necessary in the fourth year.
3. Normally no officer should be elected for more than two consecutive terms to the same office. However if there are no new candidates available the old officer can be re-elected if s/he is willing to serve. Alternatively, a member of the Executive can take the vacant role if s/he is willing thereby temporarily occupying two roles.
4. If an officer shall not complete his/her term, the successor shall complete the unexpired term and shall still be eligible for two additional terms of office.

C. Duties of Officers:

The above-mentioned officers have the following duties:

1. The Chair shall call and preside at all business meetings, and shall represent the general interests of the Association to other associations and forums.
2. The Vice-chair shall assist the Chair and perform other such duties as are assigned to him/her by the Executive Committee.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for the correspondence of the Association and keep up-to-date records of institutional and individual membership. He/she shall keep records of all business meetings.
4. The Treasurer shall keep records of all funds received and disbursed, and shall render an account of such at the meetings of the Executive Committee and the general business meetings of the Association. On ceasing to hold office the Treasurer shall give all records and funds of the Association to his/her successor.
5. The other members of the Executive Committee should assist with the organising of conferences and the promotion of the Association across other networks.

D. Eligibility for Office:

1. Any individual member of EPTA is eligible subject to the qualifications listed in section 3E of this Constitution, above.
2. No more than one person currently working at one institution shall serve at one time on the Executive Committee, without specific reason for such an appointment.

7. Conference Meetings:

A. The conference meetings of the Association are open to all interested in Pentecostal practice, history, theology and life. General and special (see below) business meetings are for institutional and individual members only and by the decision of the meeting open also to observers. In the business meeting of the Association, voting members shall

1. elect officers,
2. approve the minutes of the previous meeting,
3. receive the Chair's, Secretary's Treasurer's and *JEPTA* Editor's reports
4. fix the date and venue of the next conference meeting
5. consider applications for membership, and
6. conduct any other business of the Association.

Special business meetings may be called following the agreement of at least fifty percent (50%) of the voting members for debating specific issues [such as constitutional reforms] as necessary between general business meetings, which are normally held annually. Notification of all members of these issues must be given in writing at least sixty (60) days prior to any such meetings.

B. Voting

1. Each member has a vote for general matters, except for student members, who are not entitled to vote.
2. Institutional members shall delegate a representative to attend general and special business meetings. They shall not have double vote as an individual as well as institutional member.
3. For all matters apart from Constitutional change (see section 7C), the members present – institutional representatives and both full and associate individual members – second, and accept or reject by simple majority vote, proposals made by or through the Chair at general and special business meetings.
4. Voting by ballot or by show of hands shall be at the discretion of the Chair. Secret ballots are generally only necessary for matters of personalities (e.g., for nominations to the Executive Committee: in such cases, the nominees will absent themselves from the meeting for that discussion and voting).

C. Constitutional change

All full individual members and official representatives of a member institution can vote on Constitutional changes. For adoption, these require at least a 66% majority of those present and voting provided that all the Institutional representatives on the Executive Committee agree to the proposal. Associate members are not entitled to vote on Constitutional changes.

Any individually proposed amendment to the constitution shall be submitted to the Secretary at least six (6) months prior to the meeting, for study by the Executive Committee. The full text of the proposed amendment to the constitution shall be included in the agenda for the next meeting and sent to all members not later than sixty (60) days in advance of the next general or special business meeting.

8. Finances

- A. There shall be annual membership fees for institutional and individual members of the Association. These will be determined at general business meetings.
- B. The Treasurer shall coordinate all accounts.
- C. The Treasurer should report on all the accounts at each general business meeting and present an annual anticipated budget for the coming year at each conference.
- D. Any person associated with EPTA, in good standing and nominated by the Executive Committee may be a signatory to EPTA bank accounts.

9. Agreement

All members agree to this constitution on application for membership.