

BYLAWS
Division 36 – American Psychological Association
Psychology of Religion and Spirituality

ARTICLE I
Name and Purpose

1. The **name** of this Division shall be Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality: A Division of the American Psychological Association and hereafter referred to as the Society.
2. The **purpose** of this Society shall be:
 - (a) to encourage and accelerate research, theory, and practice in the psychology of religion and spirituality and related areas.
 - (b) to facilitate the dissemination of data on religious, spiritual, and allied issues, and the integration of these data with current psychological research, theory, and practice.

ARTICLE II
Membership

1. Membership of the Society shall consist of four classes, viz. Fellows, Members, Associates, and Graduate Student members.
 - (a) **Members:**
 - (1) Charter members are those APA members who signed the petition for the establishment of the Society and paid Society dues for the calendar year 1976.
 - (2) The APA members, applying for Society membership, may be admitted to the Society upon recommendation of the Membership Committee.
 - (3) Early Career Professional members are those members within ten years of graduation from a doctoral program and are sufficiently interested in the mission and goals of Division 36.
 - (4) Members may vote and hold office.
 - (b) **Fellows.** To be eligible for nomination by Division 36 to APA Fellow status a person must:
 - (1) be an APA member and must meet the minimum standards for Fellow status established under APA Bylaws;
 - (2) have been a member of Division 36 for at least one year;
 - (3) have made an outstanding contribution to the study of religious or spiritual issues in psychology as demonstrated through research, teaching, professional practice, or supervision thereof;
 - (4) at the time of nomination be actively engaged in advancing scholarly or professional goals relevant to the concerns of Division 36.

(5) may vote and hold office within the Society, pursuant to the criteria established by the Bylaws of the American Psychological Association.

(c) Associates:

(1) **APA Associates:** Associates of the APA applying for Society membership in the same status held in the APA may be admitted to the Society upon recommendation of the Membership Committee.

(2) Associates may not hold office but are eligible to vote after five years in APA.

(d) Graduate Student members. Those persons who are pursuing graduate studies in the field of psychology and who have met the requirements described below. They do not hold full membership in the Society:

(1) The minimum requirement for acceptance to Graduate Student member status shall be enrollment in good standing within the past twelve months in an accredited institution of higher education, such as a graduate or professional school for graduate work in the field of psychology or human sciences, as well as be sufficiently interested in the work and aims of the Society.

(2) APA Graduate Student members are eligible for the same Graduate Student membership status in Division 36 and will be admitted to the Society upon recommendation of the Membership Committee.

(3) The Graduate Student members shall achieve voting privileges after one year membership in the Division in the status of Graduate Student members. They may not hold office or vote in the election of officers. They may vote for the Graduate Students Committee Chair and on issues of interest to the students in relation to the aims of the Society.

(4) Graduate Student members may serve on Division committees/task forces in a position other than Chair (unless a committee/task force is designated for the Graduate Student members specifically). A Graduate Student member may serve as co-chair, as long as the other co-chair or Chair is a Member or Fellow.

(e) Affiliates are not members of the Society, but are persons sufficiently interested in the work and aims of the Society to wish to affiliate themselves with it. There are two classes of Affiliates as follows:

(1) **Professional Affiliates.** These shall be persons who may be or may not belong to APA but whose qualifications are at least equivalent to those required for membership in the Society. They may be either psychologists or professionals from disciplines bearing on the central interests of the Society. They may include professionals from other national or international associations. Affiliates may not hold office or vote.

(2) **Student Affiliates** are not Members of the Division. They do not qualify for the Graduate Students member category and may not be Student Affiliates of APA. They may include college students. They shall have such privileges as may be granted by Executive Committee,

including special rates for subscriptions and publications. Student Affiliates may not hold office or vote.

(f) The minimum **membership dues** are set by the Executive Committee, including for Graduate Student members and Student Affiliates. Professional Affiliates pay Society dues equal to those of regular members. Additional dues or assessments may be imposed by vote of the Society.

ARTICLE III

Officers and Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Society: President, President-Elect, immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Representatives to the APA Council of Representatives, three Members-at-Large, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer, who shall be elected to membership on the Executive Committee. The Society President shall serve for a period of one year and the Secretary and Treasurer will each serve three-year, overlapping terms. Members-at-large, one of whom is elected each year, serve for three years. The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Officer will serve for three years. The Graduate students' representative (Graduate Students Committee Chair) and the Early Career Professionals representative (Early Career Professional Committee Chair) will serve as members of the Executive Committee for three years.

2. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or absence, his/her duties shall devolve successively onto the President-Elect, the Secretary, and then the Treasurer. In the event of succession, The President-Elect will gain the title of "President" and hold office for the remainder of the previous president's original term, plus their elected term.

3. Unless otherwise stated, candidates for office in the Society shall be Fellows or Members of the Society. The nomination and election of officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall be carried out by means of an electronic ballot. A vacancy in any office may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, be filled by the runner-up for that office at the last election. A sincere and timely effort will be made to inform members who are not able to be contacted electronically about impending votes, so that they may vote.

ARTICLE IV

Duties of Officers and Executive Committee

1. The **President:**

(a) Shall have all the duties usually ascribed to the presiding officer by a standard manual of parliamentary procedures.

(b) Shall be empowered to appoint appropriate representatives wherever necessary.

(c) Shall be further empowered to establish and appoint such committees of a temporary nature as are important to his/her adequate function as executive officer.

2. The **President-Elect:**

- (a) Shall act in place of the President whenever the latter shall be unable to carry out his/her assigned duties.
- (b) Shall carry out other duties as assigned.

3. The **Secretary:**

- (a) Shall keep appropriate records of all business.
- (b) Shall take minutes of all official meetings and maintain a permanent file of business transacted.
- (c) Shall issue an annual report which includes a summary of all business transacted.

4. The **Treasurer:**

- (a) Shall issue an annual financial report, a budget for the next year, and file necessary papers to maintain tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.
- (b) Shall be in charge of all financial matters, unless otherwise assigned. Funds received either shall be kept with the APA or deposited in an appropriate financial institution. Funds shall be paid out only when properly allocated according to the budget adopted at the annual meeting, and when invoices have been rendered indicating services provided.
- (c) Shall be responsible for mailing any special assessment notices other than those which are collected for the Society by APA.

5. The **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Officer:**

- (a) shall ensure that the guiding principles of APA's EDI Framework are reflected and implemented in Division 36.
- (b) shall work collaboratively with the Executive Committee, the Committees/Task Forces, and Division members to advance the EDI framework and related initiatives to create a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive Division and discipline of the psychology of religion and spirituality.
- (c) shall serve as the Division's liaison to the APA office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, including in the collaborative work of deconstructing inequalities and inequities that exist within psychological science of religion and spirituality, especially with respect to how science is conducted, reported, reviewed, and disseminated.
- (d) shall ensure that the Division adopts inclusive policies and practices in all areas of the discipline and in the profession, including the elimination of policies and practices that reinforce structural injustices and amplify socio-cultural and religious inequities.
- (e) shall also ensure that the Division cultivates a culture and climate that is welcoming and engaging across the field of psychology of religion and spirituality.

6. The **Executive Committee:**

- (a) Shall act as a deliberative body on all issues involving the government of the Society and shall conduct the business of the Society between annual meetings. When major issues of policy arise, the Executive Committee shall make necessary decisions in the interim between annual meetings; such decisions, however, to be subject to the approval of the membership either through mail ballot or at the annual business meeting.
- (b) Exceptions to the responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be where power is delegated otherwise in these Bylaws either to an officer, or to a committee, or to the membership.

ARTICLE V
Committees

1. The Committees of the Society shall consist of such standing Committees as may be provided by these Bylaws and such special Committees as may be established by the Executive Committee or by the President. In accordance with Article V, Section 7 of the Bylaws of the American Psychological Association, all committees shall be subject to review by the Association's Board of Directors.

2. The **Membership Committee.** There shall be a Membership Chairperson appointed annually by the President. The Chairperson, in turn, may appoint two members of the Society to serve with him/her on the Membership Committee. The ECP Representative and the Graduate Students' Representative shall collaborate with the Membership Chair and Committee for the recruitment of new members to the Society. It shall be the responsibility of the Membership Committee to publicize the Society so as to attract new members, and to recommend new applicants to the Executive Committee for admission as Members, Associates, Graduate Student members, Professional Affiliates or Student Affiliates.

3. The **Program Committee** shall consist of a Chairperson and four other members of the Society. In order to provide continuity on this Committee, the President-Elect, on assuming office, shall appoint two members to serve on the Committee for two-year terms. One of the members shall be designated to become Chairperson of the Program Committee when the President-Elect becomes President of the Society. The remaining one member of the Committee is appointed each year by the President for a one-year term. This Committee shall be responsible for organizing the Convention Program of the Society.

4. The **Committee on Fellows** shall consist of three Fellows of the Society. The incoming President-Elect shall appoint one person to the Committee who shall continue into the second year. The two others of the Committee shall be appointed by the President each year. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Fellows to receive all nominations for Fellowship, to collect and consider such supporting materials as are necessary, and to recommend nominees for Fellow status in the Society, in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society and those of APA, to the Executive Committee.

5. The **Election Committee** shall consist of the Past-President as Chairperson and two other members appointed by the Chairperson. The Election Committee shall secure nominations by December first of any given year to the Election Committee Chair. The Committee shall ascertain whether the nominees are qualified and willing to serve, if elected. The list of nominees for each office shall be reported to the American Psychological Association Central Office for inclusion in the election ballot issued by the Association at a date specified by the Association. If possible, there shall be at least two nominations on the election ballot for each office to be filled. If not possible, then a space for a write-in candidate shall be provided.

6. The **Publications Committee** shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, the Editor, and the *Newsletter* Editor. This committee shall have the responsibility for the publication(s) of the Society.

7. The **Early Career Professionals Committee (ECPC)** shall consist of the Chair (elected by the Members and who is also the ECP Representative on the Executive Board/Committee) and four other ECPs. The ECPC chair-elect will be elected on the second year of the ECPC Chair's term. Three other ECPs may be recommended to the President for appointment on the committee to serve for two years. Each year, one new ECP may be appointed to the Committee by the President-Elect for two-year terms in order to provide continuity on this Committee. The ECP Committee Chair shall collaborate with the Membership Committee to attract new ECP members to the Society. The ECP Committee shall organize programs and activities that are of particular interest to ECP members in the Society as well as promote their greater involvement and leadership opportunities in the Society. The Chair and/or their Committee members may be delegated to serve on other Division Committees/Task Forces, including as liaison person to the APA Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP)

8. The **Graduate Students Committee (GSC)** shall consist of the Chair (who is also the Graduate Student Representative on the Executive Board/Committee) and four other Graduate student members. The GSC Chair-elect will be elected on the second year of the GSC Chair's term. Three other student members may be recommended by the GSC Chair to the Division President for appointment on the GSC to serve for two years. Each year, two new GS members may be appointed to the GSC by the President-Elect for two-year terms in order to provide continuity on this Committee. The GSC Chair shall collaborate with the Membership Committee to attract new Graduate Student members to the Society. The GSC will organize programs and activities that are of particular interest to GS members in the Society as well as promote graduate student leadership development in order to communicate and advocate for the concerns of graduate students. The GSC Chair and/or their Committee members may be delegated to serve on other Division Committees/Task Forces, including as liaison person to the APA Graduate Students (APAGS) Committees.

ARTICLE VI

Activities

1. The **annual meeting** of the Society shall take place at the same time and place as the annual convention of the American Psychological Association for the transaction of the business of the Society.
2. In order to carry out the work of the Society, **the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees** shall meet at the time of the annual convention of the Association. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called during the year by the President, as needed. The meetings will be presided by the President. Any member of the Society may attend these meetings, but participation is restricted to invitation by the Executive Committee.
3. The Society shall issue a newsletter to inform the members of the business of the Society and of any other matters related to the purposes of the Society.

ARTICLE VII

Parliamentary Authority

1. The Parliamentary Authority for the Society shall be Roberts' *Rules of Order Revised* unless specifically superseded in some areas by provisions of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee or by a majority vote of the members present at any annual meeting. Proposed amendments that come from the Executive Committee will be announced prior to vote for ratification in the *Newsletter*. Ratification of the amendment(s) proposed requires a two-thirds majority of those members voting. Voting will be by electronic ballot (unless an individual makes a special request to the President to submit his or her ballot by mail). A sincere and timely effort will be made to inform members who are not able to be contacted electronically about impending votes, so that they may vote.

Revised to reflect results of Fall, 1992 Bylaws amendment vote. Submitted by Margaret Gorman, Secretary.

Revised to reflect results of Fall, 1993 Bylaws amendment vote on affiliates. Submitted by Margaret Gorman, Secretary.

Revised to reflect the results of Summer, 2011 Bylaws amendment vote. Submitted by Everett L. Worthington, Jr., Immediate Past-President (Elections Chair).

Revised to reflect the results of Winter, 2021 Bylaws amendment vote. Submitted by Innocent Okozi, President