



## Article III: Membership

### **SECTION 1: Definition**

Membership in this Society shall be on an individual rather than an institutional or denominational basis.

### **SECTION 2: Categories**

The categories of membership of the Society shall be composed of:

1. Full membership: Those persons who hold an earned graduate degree from a recognized institution of higher education, persons currently engaged in Christian higher education (administrative or instructional), or persons who have made significant scholarly contributions to Pentecostal literature as determined by the membership 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.
2. Associate Membership: Persons not eligible for full membership but who, in the judgment of the membership committee, are otherwise qualified for membership shall be eligible for associate membership. Associate members shall be entitled to vote, except on amendments to these bylaws, to attend all meetings and to present papers. Associate members may be transferred to full membership status by a majority vote of the membership committee following application for transfer.
3. Student 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 vote or hold office. Upon completion of their studies student members may apply for associate membership or full membership.

### **SECTION 3: Qualifications for Membership**

1. All full members must subscribe to the statement of purposes as specified in Article II Section 3 of the bylaws.
2. All categories of membership shall pay an annual membership fee.
3. All applicants approved by the membership committee shall be submitted to the annual meeting for ratification.

### **SECTION 4: Dismissal**

In the event that the continued membership of an individual is deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Society, this person may be removed from the membership roll upon the recommendation of the majority of the membership committee made at the annual meeting of

91 the Society and approved by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the voting members present and voting.  
92 Prior to the membership committee deciding to make a recommendation to terminate a person  
93 from membership, that individual must be given the opportunity to present a defense against the  
94 charges. The member shall be given at least thirty (30) days' notice of the intent of the  
95 membership committee to consider a recommendation to remove the member from the Society's  
96 rolls prior to the meeting of the committee at which this action may be taken. The member may  
97 also provide a defense against any charges that could provide for termination of membership at  
98 the annual meeting.

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100 **SECTION 5: Dues**

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102 Dues for membership will be determined as prescribed in the Standing Rules of the Society.  
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104 **Article IV: Officers**

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106 **SECTION 1: Officers**

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108 The officers shall consist of a president, a first vice President, a second vice president, an  
109 immediate past president, an executive director and a secretary/treasurer.  
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111 **SECTION 2: Qualifications**

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113 To be qualified to serve, each officer shall be a full member and shall affirm faith in Jesus  
114 Christ with the hope of eternal life in him, and belief in the continuing operation of gifts of the  
115 Spirit today including manifestations of the miraculous. No more than two persons from the  
116 same denomination shall at any one time serve in any of the following offices: president, first  
117 vice president, second vice president and immediate past president. No more than three persons  
118 from the same denomination shall at any one time serve as officers of the Society.  
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120 **SECTION 3: Term of Office**

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122 The president, first vice president and the second vice president shall serve a term of one year  
123 or until their successors have been elected. They are not eligible to serve more than one term in  
124 any one office. The executive director and secretary/treasurer shall serve a term of five (5) years  
125 or until their successors have been elected. They are eligible to serve two terms in office.  
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127 **SECTION 4: Vacancies**

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129 In case of a vacancy in the office of president, the first vice president shall succeed to that office.  
130 In case of the vacancy in the office of first vice president, the second vice president shall succeed  
131 to that office. In case of a vacancy in the office of second vice president, the executive committee  
132 shall elect a successor to serve until the next annual meeting, after which the membership shall  
133 elect. In case of a vacancy in the office of executive director that occurs prior to ratification of  
134 an executive director-elect, the executive committee shall elect an interim executive director to  
135 serve until the next annual meeting, after which the membership shall elect a new executive  
136 director for the remainder of the term. In case of a vacancy in the office of secretary/treasurer,  
137 the executive committee shall elect an interim secretary/treasurer to serve until the next annual

138 meeting, after which the membership shall elect a new secretary/treasurer for the remainder of  
139 the term. Any vacancy of the office of executive director that follows ratification of an executive  
140 director-elect shall be filled by said executive director-elect.

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142 **SECTION 5: Duties of Officers**

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144 The duties of each officer shall be as follows:

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146 1. President. The president shall present an address to the annual meeting, preside at all  
147 business meetings and represent the general interests of the Society.  
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149 2. First Vice President. The first vice president shall serve as program chair for the annual  
150 meeting which occurs during his/her term of office.  
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152 3. Second Vice President. The second vice President shall serve as chair of the membership  
153 committee.  
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155 4. Immediate Past President. The immediate past president shall serve as chair of the  
156 nominating committee and the bylaws committee and shall serve as a member of the  
157 library and research committee.  
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159 5. Executive Director. The executive director shall administer and maintain the Society's  
160 central office; propose the agenda for the annual business meeting in consultation with  
161 the president; coordinate the annual meeting of the Society in conjunction with the  
162 program chair, program committee and on-site coordinator; promote the Society; chair  
163 the editorial committee and fulfill other responsibilities as authorized by the executive  
164 committee and the annual meeting of the Society.  
165  
166 6. Secretary/Treasurer. The secretary/treasurer shall maintain all records of the Society  
167 including membership records; collect and disburse all funds of the Society upon  
168 authorization of the executive committee; furnish an annual financial report to the  
169 executive committee and to the Society; and make the financial records of the Society  
170 available for an annual audit as directed by the executive committee.  
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172 **SECTION 7: Executive Director-elect.**

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174 Should the current executive director not wish to stand for re-election to a second term, the  
175 following procedure shall be followed:

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177 1. In the fourth year of the current executive director's term, the nominating committee  
178 shall nominate at least one but not more than two individual(s) as executive director-  
179 elect(s).  
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181 2. The qualifications of the executive director-elect shall be the same as those specified  
182 in ARTICLE IV, Officers, SECTION 2: Qualifications.  
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3. In the fall of the fourth year of the current executive director’s term, the executive committee shall vet and subsequently endorse at least one and not more than two nominee(s) for executive director-elect.
  4. All executive director-elect nominees must ensure institutional support for the five-year term of executive director.
  5. At the annual meeting that begins the fifth year of the current executive director, the SPS full membership shall vote to ratify one of the nominees for executive director-elect.
  6. Following ratification, the executive director-elect will attend all meetings of the executive committee as a non-voting yet fully engaged listener/observer, shadowing the executive director for one year.
  7. Upon completion of the term of the executive director, the executive director-elect will take office as executive director.
  8. The same procedure shall be followed at the end of the current executive director’s term should that executive director be completing his or her second term.

204 **SECTION 7: Nominations and Elections.**

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1. Nominations for each office shall be made by the nominating committee. Nominations also may be made from the floor for each office except for the position of executive director-elect, which may only come through the nominating committee.
  2. Election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting and shall be conducted by ballot, except that in the case of only one nominee for an office, that vote may be by the use of voting cards. A majority vote of those members eligible to vote for officers who are present and voting shall be required for election.

215 **Article V: Meetings**

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217 **SECTION 1: Annual Meetings of the Society**

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1. The Society shall hold annual meetings, the time and place to be decided by the executive committee with the program to be determined by the program committee.
  2. All program participants must be members of the Society during the year of their participation with the exception of guests invited by a member of the program committee.

225 **SECTION 2: Quorum**

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227 Fifty (50) full and associate members of the Society present shall constitute a quorum for the  
228 transaction of business at the annual meeting.  
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230 **SECTION 3: Special Meetings of the Society**

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- 232 1. The executive committee may call special meetings of the Society at a time and place decided
- 233 by the executive committee for the purpose of transacting such business as may be in the
- 234 notice of the meeting described in paragraph 2 below.
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- 236 2. Notice of any special meeting shall be given to the members of the Society at least thirty (30)
- 237 days in advance of the meeting.
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239 **SECTION 3: Other Meetings**

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241 Other meetings, including those of a regional nature, may also be held as desired, with the

242 concurrence of the executive committee.

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244 **Article VI. Board of Directors**

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- 246 1. The executive committee shall serve as the board of directors of the Society as required
- 247 under the laws of the state in which the Society is incorporated.
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- 249 2. The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the Society. It shall superintend the
- 250 operation of the Society between annual meetings and shall be responsible for the routine
- 251 business of the Society.
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253 **Article VII. Committees and Interest Groups**

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255 **SECTION 1: Standing Committees**

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257 The following standing committees shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society:

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- 259 1. Editorial Committee. The editorial committee shall be composed of the executive
- 260 director, who shall serve as chair, together with the editor/s of the journal, the editor/s
- 261 of the Society's *Newsletter*, and four other persons, one to be elected at each annual
- 262 meeting, the senior member retiring.
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264 The main responsibility of the editorial committee is to oversee the Society's *Newsletter*,

265 and to serve as judges for the *Pneuma* book award given at the annual meeting of the

266 Society. Because of this responsibility, the editorial committee shall include no more

267 than two interest group leaders in any one year.

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269 The editorial committee shall select the winner of the annual *Pneuma* book award in

270 consultation with the editor/s of the journal of the Society.

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272 Length of term for the editor/s of the Society's *Newsletter* will be at the discretion of

273 the executive director in consultation with the editorial committee.

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- 275 2. Program Committee. The program committee shall be composed of the first vice  
276 president, who shall serve as chair, together with the on-site coordinator and the leaders  
277 of the special interest groups. This committee shall advise the chair in the selection of  
278 program personnel, and complete arrangements for all programs and annual meetings  
279 sponsored by the Society.  
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- 281 3. Membership Committee. The membership committee shall be composed of the second  
282 vice president, who shall serve as chair, together with six other members, two of which  
283 shall be elected at each annual meeting, the two senior members retiring. The  
284 membership committee shall help promote membership in the Society and review all  
285 applications for the membership to the Society and make recommendations to the  
286 Society in accordance with the qualifications established in Article III of these bylaws.  
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- 288 4. Library and Research Committee. The library and research committee shall be composed  
289 of the immediate past president and four other members, one of whom shall be elected  
290 at each annual meeting, the senior member retiring. At the annual meeting the committee  
291 shall serve as convener of librarians, archivists and persons involved in Pentecostal  
292 collections. It shall also serve as an instrument for doing research and for the gathering  
293 and dissemination of information in the area of research, resources and collections. The  
294 library and research committee shall be allowed to elect its own chair who shall serve on  
295 the program committee.  
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- 297 5. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of the immediate past  
298 president, who shall serve as chair, together with the interest group leaders of the  
299 Society. The nominating committee shall consult with each of the other Society  
300 committees and interest groups to identify potential nominees for office. The committee  
301 shall then nominate candidates for all available offices and committee assignments.  
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- 303 6. Bylaws Committee. The bylaws committee shall consist of the immediate past president,  
304 who shall serve as chair, and four other members appointed by the immediate past  
305 president and approved by the board of directors of the Society. The responsibilities of  
306 the bylaws committee shall be to compile and review all suggested amendments to the  
307 bylaws submitted by the required date, put them into proper form for consideration by the  
308 annual meeting and make recommendations on each proposed amendment to the annual  
309 meeting. In addition, the bylaws committee may initiate proposed bylaws amendments  
310 for the consideration of the annual meeting. The bylaws committee shall not have the  
311 authority to withhold or alter any amendment properly submitted to the annual meeting.  
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313 **SECTION 2: Election of Standing Committee Members.**  
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- 315 1. Nominations for standing committee members shall be made by the nominating committee  
316 and may also be made from the floor.  
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- 318 2. Election of standing committee members shall take place at the annual meeting and shall be  
319 conducted by use of voting cards. A majority vote of those members eligible to vote for  
320 standing committee members who are present and voting shall be required for election.  
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322 **SECTION 3: Special Committees**

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- 324 1. Special committees may be created by action of the annual meeting or by action of the
- 325 executive committee and shall be charged with a specific task, at the conclusion of which
- 326 and submission of their final report, the committee shall go out of existence.
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- 328 2. The members of any special committee shall be appointed by the president unless the
- 329 motion establishing the committee specifies the members.
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- 331 3. The president shall designate one of the members of the committee as its chair.
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333 **SECTION 4: Interest Groups**

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- 335 1. An interest group may be formed when at least 5% of those holding full membership in
- 336 the Society submit a petition to the executive committee requesting recognition, such
- 337 recognition being reviewed on each change of chair in a group. The executive committee
- 338 may grant formal recognition unless it feels that this is not in the best interests of the
- 339 Society.
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- 341 2. Time shall be provided on the annual program for interest groups to meet.
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- 343 3. Each interest group shall elect its own chair, subject to the ratification of the executive
- 344 committee, who shall serve a three-year term. A chair may serve two consecutive terms.
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- 346 4. The chair of all recognized interest groups shall serve on the program committee.
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348 **Article VIII. Journal**

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350 **Section 1: Official Journal**

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352 The Official Journal of the Society shall be called *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for*

353 *Pentecostal Studies*.

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355 **Section 2: Appointment of Editors**

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357 The editor/s shall be appointed by the executive committee to serve a five-year term. The process

358 for filling vacant editor/s positions shall be thus: The executive committee will announce to the

359 Society any anticipated vacancies in the editorship of the journal. Any current SPS member may

360 submit nominations to the nominating committee. The executive committee will then vet all

361 nominations, including but not limited to those submitted by members. The incoming editor/s

362 will “shadow” the outgoing editor/s in the final year of the outgoing editor’s/editors’ term. The

363 editors may serve two consecutive terms.

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365 **Section 3: Ex-Officio Membership**

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367 The editors shall serve as ex-officio members of the executive committee without the right to vote.

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## **Article IX. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the meetings of this Society in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order adopted by the Society.

## **Article X: Amendments**

### **SECTION 1: Submission of Proposed Amendments**

Proposed amendments to these bylaws may be submitted by the bylaws committee, the executive committee, or any full member of the Society. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the bylaws committee no later than October 1 of the year prior to the annual meeting. The bylaws committee shall review all proposed amendments, put them into proper form for the consideration of the annual meeting, and see that they are sent to members of the Society as required by section 2 of this article.

### **SECTION 2: Required Notice**

Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be sent to all the members of the Society at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting to which they will be submitted.

### **SECTION 3: Required Vote**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the full members present and voting in a regular business meeting of the Society.

## **Article XI: Internal Revenue Status**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation (The Society for Pentecostal Studies) shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II of these bylaws. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be used for the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

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**Article XII: Indemnification**

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The Society shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as an officer, director, or employee of the corporation against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the corporation; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment shall be approved by a majority vote of a quorum of directors who are not at that time parties to the proceeding.

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No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article which adversely affects the right of an indemnified person under this Article shall apply to such person with respect to those acts or omissions which occurred at any time prior to such amendment or repeal, unless such amendment or repeal was voted by or was made with the written consent of such indemnified person.

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This Article constitutes a contract between the society and the indemnified officers, directors, and employees. No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article which adversely affects the right of an indemnified officer, director, or employee under this Article shall apply to such officer, director, or employee with respect to those acts or omissions which occurred at any time prior to such amendment or repeal.

## Society of Pentecostal Studies Standing Rules

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1. **Dues.** Dues for membership will be determined by a majority vote of the voting members at the annual meeting of the Society. The current rates will be made known through the regular publications of the Society.
2. **Officers' Affirmations.** Upon their nomination, each officer shall be asked by the executive director to make the affirmations described in the opening paragraph of Article IV: Officers, Section 2. If there is no incumbent executive director, or if the executive director is newly elected and has not yet made this affirmation, then any current officer who is qualified and serving, or any officer who qualified and served during the previous year, may ask for these affirmations. A record of these affirmations shall be recorded in minutes of the next meeting of the executive committee of the Society.
3. **Amendments.** Proposed amendments to the Standing Rules of this Society must be submitted to the bylaws committee by October 1 of the year prior to the annual meeting at which they will be considered. They must then be sent to all members of the Society at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting to which they shall be submitted. The Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting at the annual meeting of the Society.