



**Constitution
of the
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF LITURGY**

PREAMBLE

In December 1980 a meeting of people who had an interest in fostering the cause of Liturgy in Australia took place in Adelaide. Convened by Fr Anthony Kain, with the support of Sr Mary-Anne Duigan, it included from the onset representatives of various Christian churches. Out of the meeting grew a national ecumenical body calling itself the Australian Academy of Liturgy. Its principal activity from 1983 has been a regular conference. Operating under a brief statement of aims from its inception, it now defines itself in the terms of this Constitution.

Constitution Of the AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF LITURGY

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organisation is the Australian Academy of Liturgy, hereafter referred to as the 'Academy'.

ARTICLE II - GOALS AND PURPOSES

1. The Academy is an ecumenical association of specialists in Christian Liturgy and related disciplines, with a particular commitment to the understanding and development of liturgy in the Australian context.
2. It is the Academy's purpose:
 - a) To provide channels for mutual professional assistance and for sharing of methods and resources;
 - b) To exchange information concerning recent developments in liturgical matters;
 - c) To communicate information concerning research projects and activities of its members;
 - d) To foster liturgical research, publication, and dialogue at a scholarly level;
 - e) To publish the *Australian Journal of Liturgy*;
 - f) To encourage exchanges with individuals and communities of other religious traditions.
3. It is the intent of the Academy that the work detailed above will ultimately serve to animate the liturgical spirit of the traditions and congregations to which its members belong.

ARTICLE III - ADMISSION

1. Admission to the Academy is open to persons of demonstrated competence in liturgical studies or related disciplines which contribute to worship in a significant way.
2. Members have permanent standing in the Academy pending payment of their annual dues.

3.
 - a) Candidates for the Academy must be recommended to the local Chapter by a member.
 - b) Applications approved by the local Chapter will be forwarded to the Executive.
 - c) The Executive will examine the credentials of the prospective members and accept those who qualify for membership.
 - d) The Council is to be notified of the acceptance of new members.
4. The Council, from time to time, may grant Honorary Life Membership to persons deemed appropriate for such recognition.

ARTICLE IV - STRUCTURE

The Academy shall consist of several Chapters, each Chapter corresponding to a state or other regional division, as approved by the Council. Each Chapter shall elect a convenor to represent it on the Council and co-ordinate the work of the Academy within the Chapter, including liaison with the Executive.

ARTICLE V - COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Academy are the **president**, the **secretary** (or **secretary-treasurer**), the **convenor of each Chapter**, the **editor** of *Australian Journal of Liturgy*, and the immediate **past president**.
2. These officers constitute the **Council** of the Academy.
3. The **Executive** of the Council is comprised of the president, the secretary, the treasurer (or secretary-treasurer), and the convenor of the Chapter of which the president is a member.
4.
 - a) The president, the secretary, the treasurer (or secretary-treasurer) are elected by the members at the General Meeting, and shall hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting.
 - b) Chapter convenors hold office for the same term as the Executive.
 - c) The office-bearers are eligible for re-election.
5. In the event of a vacancy occurring, the Council is empowered to make a suitable appointment until the General Meeting.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

1. The Academy shall have standing committees as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws, and such committees as the president may establish.
2. The **Conference Committee** shall be responsible for the programme of the Conference. It will consist of the Executive of the Council plus the convenor of the Chapter which is hosting the Conference. This committee will appoint a Conference Arrangements Committee to attend to the local organisation for the Conference.
3. The **Editorial Committee** shall be a standing committee. The editor is appointed from time to time by the Council and will recommend other members for the Editorial Committee to the Executive. The committee is responsible for *Australian Journal of Liturgy* and such other publications as the Council will determine.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

1. The General Meeting of the members of the Academy is held during the Conference.
2. The Conference shall be held at least once every two years.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be presented in writing to the secretary, at least sixty days before the next General Meeting of the Academy. The secretary will circulate the petition to the members at least thirty days in advance of that same meeting.
2. A two-thirds majority of those members at the General Meeting is required for approval of amendments to this Constitution, provided that a quorum is present.

ARTICLE IX - QUORUM

A quorum for a General Meeting of the Academy will be one-fifth of the total number of members.

ARTICLE X - BY-LAWS

By-laws may be adopted by simple majority vote of those present and voting at the General Meeting.

ARTICLE XI - FINANCES

1. The Academy shall derive its revenue from membership dues, donations, and from such trusts as may support the goals and purposes of the Academy, and from such fund-raising activities as the Council may approve from time to time.
2. The Academy may receive donations from those who do not seek membership but who wish to support the work of the Academy by their donations.
3. The Council is empowered to set a minimum figure for the annual membership dues required for members.
4. Membership dues are to be paid in January and cover the period from January 1 to December 31. Any member whose dues remain unpaid by June 30 of the following year will be deemed unfinancial and removed from the membership. Such member will be notified in writing by the secretary and invited to reapply for membership, should they so desire.
5. All monies are to be deposited in the Academy's bank account. Cheques drawn on this account are to be signed by any two of the members of the Executive.

ARTICLE XII - TERMINATION

In the event of the dissolution of the Academy, any surplus funds after realising on assets and discharging liabilities will be paid to an educational institute or institutions having goals or purposes similar at least in part to the goals and purposes of the Academy.

BY-LAWS

SECTION I - ELECTIONS

1. *All elections are to be conducted under the auspices of the Academy Council.*
2. *Nominations for an office may be made by members.*
3. *All financial members are eligible to vote in elections and stand for office.*
4. *Balloting will be by standard preferential voting.*

SECTION II - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. *The **president** has the duty:*
 - a) *to call, convene and preside at meetings of the Academy;*
 - b) *to appoint committees;*
 - c) *to preside at the meetings of the Council and Executive;*
 - d) *to perform the duties applicable to the president.*
2. *The **secretary** has the duty:*
 - a) *to perform the usual duties of the secretary;*
 - b) *to keep a permanent record of all meetings and all the minutes;*
 - c) *to organise the General Meeting in consultation with the president;*
 - d) *to maintain an accurate membership list.*
3. *The **treasurer** has the duty:*
 - a) *to perform the usual duties of the treasurer;*
 - b) *to handle the monies of the Academy;*
 - c) *to submit for audit the Academy's books before each General Meeting.*

SECTION III - FINANCES

1. *The annual membership fee for individuals and for married couples shall include the annual subscription to Australian Journal of Liturgy.*
2. *If a person is admitted as a member after July 1, he or she will pay half the annual membership dues for that year.*

SECTION IV - MEETINGS

1. *General Meetings shall be conducted according to Joske's Law & Procedure at Meetings in Australia, unless otherwise determined by the Constitution or By-Laws.*
2. *At the General Meeting the president of the Academy shall make a report on the work of the Academy.*

SECTION V - PROCEEDINGS

1. *Those delivering papers at the Conference shall be invited to submit them to the editor for consideration for publication in Australian Journal of Liturgy.*
2. *A report for the Conference, including the General Meeting, shall be published in the Journal.*