

Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology and Faith

— BYLAWS — (amended April 2007)

I. INTRODUCTION. The Episcopal Church Network for Science, Technology and Faith serves as an Association for Episcopalians interested in how faith and ethics interact with technology and science (including medicine, environmental studies, and other disciplines). The membership serves as a pool of expertise and experience for the Executive Council's Committee on Science, Technology and Faith (ST&F).

II. MEMBERSHIP.

A. Regular Members. Any Episcopalian, lay or ordained, with an interest in the interactions of faith with science and technology may belong to Network. There is no limit to its size. No formal training in a scientific or theological discipline is required.

B. Associate Members. Non-Episcopalians are welcome to join and enjoy the benefits of the Network, with the exception of membership on the Steering Board.

C. Duties. Regular Members pay annual dues and support the activities of the Network, including:

1. serving as resource and research persons on special topics, according to expertise, interest, and ability;
2. assisting in publicizing the existence and activities of the Network in publications at the diocesan and provincial level;
3. bringing topics of local, national and global interest to the attention of the Steering Board for possible further research and/or action;
4. contribute news items, book reviews, etc. to the electronic Network Newsletter; and
5. serving on the Steering Board if able and if elected.

II. STEERING BOARD

A. Membership. The Steering Board shall be comprised of the Officers, four at-large members of the Network, and two ex-officio members of the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith.

B. Duties. Members of the Steering Board shall do the following:

1. provide guidance and leadership for the Network;

2. foster and maintain communication among Network members;
3. identify Network members who may serve as resource and research persons on special topics;
4. bring topics of interest on science, technology and faith to the attention of the Committee, the Network membership, and this Church at large;
5. assist the work of the Committee as called upon; and
6. encourage and publicize the ministries of individual members who work at the science/technology/faith interfaces.

C. Elections. Members of the Steering Board shall be elected every third year, in the year following the General Convention. Officers shall be elected by a quorum of members of the Steering Board from a slate of candidates presented by a subset of the Steering Board. Additional candidates may be nominated.

A quorum shall be defined as more than half of the actual Board constituency at the time of the vote. Elections may be held via email.

The Chair of the ST&F Committee, if not serving in some other capacity on the Board, shall be one of the two ex-officio members, the second to be appointed by the Chair from the other members of the ST&F Committee.

Attention shall be paid to reflecting the constituency of the Episcopal Church in terms of gender, ethnicity, order (lay/ordained), and geographical/provincial residence.

When an officer's position becomes vacant, it may be filled by a special election held by a quorum of the Steering Board, as soon as is practical following the vacancy. When an at-large position becomes vacant, the Convener may appoint another Network member to fill out the remainder of the term.

Members-elect shall assume the duties of their positions and/or offices upon election.

D. Officers. The Officers and duties are as follows:

Convener: is a member of the Committee on ST&F; convenes and presides at meetings; represents the Steering Board at meetings of other organizations as requested or invited.

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: maintains current information on members; solicits and receives membership dues; maintains the bank account; reimburses expenses.

Records Secretary: is a member of the Committee on ST&F; records and distributes minutes of meeting; manages the Network's archives of documents.

Communications Officer: maintains the web page; manages the listserve; assists in designing and updating Network brochures, fliers, and other publications to stay in

contact with members, prospective members, and other networks of people with similar interests.

Newsletter Editor: solicits, writes and edits articles for the electronic newsletter, published 2 or 3 times per year; maintains the listserv of newsletter recipients (members of the Network and the Executive Council, bishops, seminary deans, selected faculty members at seminaries, and others as identified by the Editor and others on the Steering Board).

Episcopal Ecological Network (EpEN) Liaison: maintains communications between the two Networks; identifies ST&F Network members who might become EpEN members or consultants; keeps ecological concerns before the Steering Board.

Seminary Liaison: identifies faculty members at the Episcopal seminaries, and Episcopalian faculty members at other seminaries, who are interested in topics at the science/technology-religion interfaces, or in issues on which science and technology have something to say to theology, ethics, and faith; networks with these faculty members, encouraging them to teach courses about these topics and issues; supplies Network brochures and other materials to Episcopal seminaries and selected others; introduces the Network and its mission to seminary presidents and academic deans; identifies seminarians with a background in science and technology and/or special interest in science/technology-religion interactions.

At-large members (4): promote the vision, mission, and activities of the Network.

Ex-officio members (2): The Chair of the Committee on ST&F is one of the 2 ex-officio members. The second one is appointed by the Chair.

Other officers, as needed, may be appointed informally by the Convener from among members of the Network.

E. Terms. Each member of the Steering Board shall serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible for election to a second three-year term.

III. MEETINGS. The Steering Board shall meet at least once per year either in person or via telephone conference call or the internet. A quorum is required to make decisions requiring a vote or consensus. More than half of the actual Board constituency at the time of the vote shall constitute a quorum. Depending upon space availability, Regular and Associate Members, especially ST&F Committee members, may be encouraged to attend meetings, with voice but without vote.

IV. AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS. A vote of two-thirds of the Steering Board is required to amend the bylaws.