

CONSTITUTION

WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

PREAMBLE

The World Alliance for Pentecostal Theological Education (WAPTE) is a global cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal/Charismatic theological associations, denominational offices and missions agencies that provide educational services to theological and/or ministry training schools. It exists to assist and encourage these organizations in their endeavor to promote the development of Pentecostal/Charismatic theological education and leadership training. The Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF) has appointed WAPTE to serve as the PWF Education Commission.

ARTICLE I

History

The initial meeting of a working committee to discuss the establishment of WAPTE was held in Singapore on September 12-13, 2008 with attendance by representatives from theological associations from Africa, Latin America, Europe, Eurasia and Asia Pacific. At that meeting it was agreed to proceed with the development of a constitution for WAPTE and explore a connection to the Pentecostal World Fellowship. At a meeting of the working committee held in Springfield, MO on July 28-30, 2009, WAPTE was formally established. In September 2009 the endorsement of PWF was received and in August 2010 WAPTE organized the theological consultation for the Pentecostal World Conference (PWC) in Stockholm, Sweden and was subsequently appointed to serve as the PWF Education Commission.

ARTICLE II

Name and Location

The name of the organization will be the WORLD ALLIANCE FOR PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (hereinafter referred to as WAPTE), and its location shall be at: Steenweg op Waterloo 45, 1640 Sint-Genesius-Rode, Belgium.

ARTICLE III

Purposes

The purposes of WAPTE are:

- A. To promote close working relationships, the sharing of resources and communication among the members of WAPTE;
- B. To organize meetings and consultations for members to encourage networking and create awareness of trends in theological, leadership and ministry education;
- C. To provide mechanisms for fostering collaboration among members on matters of mutual concern;
- D. To encourage research and scholarship that informs the development of theology, leadership and ministry education within the Pentecostal tradition;
- E. To provide criteria for member theological associations to assess the effectiveness of their working relationships with their member schools;

- F. To promote the adoption of accreditation/endorsement standards and procedures by member theological associations which 1) provide direction in the development of Pentecostal theological education and leadership training programs, and promote effectiveness in such programs within their respective regions and 2) ensure that accreditation status is based on the association's standards as criteria for a school's self-study;
- G. To encourage excellence in the implementation of the accreditation/endorsement standards, procedures and activities of member theological associations to enhance the credibility and recognition of member theological associations;
- H. To provide a means for member theological associations to ensure that their accreditation/endorsement standards and procedures are oriented towards promoting within the schools they serve:
 - 1. The distinctives of the Pentecostal movement;
 - 2. Academic excellence;
 - 3. Effective governance structures and financial management procedures;
 - 4. Effective student spiritual life development;
 - 5. Effective and practical leadership and ministry training;
 - 6. Education and training programs that are developed to meet the needs of the students, churches, communities and contexts they serve.
- I. To implement services that facilitate the work of member theological associations and agencies in encouraging the development of the schools they serve.

ARTICLE IV

Statement of Faith

WAPTE subscribes to the following Statement of Faith.

We believe:

- the Bible to be inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God;
- that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory;
- that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ is absolutely essential;
- in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance according to Acts 2:4, and in the operation of the spiritual gifts and ministries.
- in the ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life;
- in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved to eternal life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation;
- in the church of Jesus Christ and in the unity of believers;
- in the practical application of the Christian faith in everyday experience and the need to minister to people in every area of life, which includes not only the spiritual, but also the social, political and physical.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

SECTION 1. **Composition.** There shall be a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) representing all geographical regions served by WAPTE, consisting of Africa, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean and North America.

SECTION 2. **Number of Members.** The Board shall be composed of, two members from each geographical region, up to four members-at-large appointed by the Board, and the Executive Director, who serves as a non-voting member.

SECTION 3. **Manner of Selection.** Board representatives shall be selected to serve renewable six-year terms by the members from each region at the triennial Pentecostal World Conference (PWC) or a regional meeting (including electronic meetings) held within three months prior to the PWC. Each region shall establish its own procedures for selecting its representatives. The terms of the two representatives shall be staggered to ensure continuity of representation.

SECTION 4. **At-Large Members.** At-large members are appointed on the basis of their specialized expertise and/or experience in areas of relevance to the development of Pentecostal theological education and ministry training. They may be appointed to serve renewable three-year terms. Except by special action of the Board, an at-large member may not serve as an officer of the Board.

SECTION 5. **Vacancies.** Should a vacancy occur in a Board position, a representative to serve the unexpired term will be selected at the next regional meeting. In the interim, the Board will appoint a new representative from within the region.

ARTICLE VI

Powers and Responsibilities of the Board

SECTION 1. **General Powers and Responsibilities.** The Board is the governing body of WAPTE and shall implement the provisions of this constitution. The Board has governing authority concerning all policies, fiscal transactions, relationships with external bodies, arrangements for the election of new Board members, election of members of the Executive Committee and appointment of interim members of the Board when vacancies occur between regional meetings. The Board assumes final responsibility for fulfilling the purposes of WAPTE.

SECTION 2. Further Powers and Responsibilities.

- A. To elect its officers, including a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. To receive, approve, and act upon reports from the Officers and Executive Director.
- C. To initiate and/or approve services, programs and projects in accordance with the aims of WAPTE.
- D. To review the finances of WAPTE, authorize funding requests, approve its annual budget, and receive the annual audits.
- E. To establish and review the membership fees and any other fees for WAPTE.
- F. To review and approve applications for membership to WAPTE.
- G. To appoint individuals to fill unexpired and/or vacated positions on the Board.
- H. To submit annual reports and financial statements to the members of WAPTE.
- I. To make rules for its governance, change the same, and undertake whatever may be deemed proper to implement the objectives of WAPTE.

- J. To keep records of its proceedings and books of accounts showing its financial condition.
- K. To appoint the Executive Director.
- L. To perform such other duties as may be necessary for the development and operation of WAPTE.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings of the Board of Directors

SECTION 1. **Annual Meetings.** The Board will meet annually to conduct the business of WAPTE.

SECTION 2. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings, including those by electronic means, may be called by the Chairperson or by one-third of the members of the Board upon submission of a signed request to the Chairperson.

SECTION 3. **Notice of Meetings.** Written notice, by email, shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the date named for an annual meeting. Notice of a special meeting must be in writing, must state the purposes of the meeting, and must arrive at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. All meeting notices must be sent to the last known email address of each Board member; it shall be the duty of the Board member to keep the secretary informed of any change of email address. For e-mail ballots, the sending of the ballot shall constitute notice with a period of fourteen (14) days provided for response.

SECTION 4. **Voting.** Every Board member, in order to exercise his or her right to vote, must attend the meetings in person; voting by proxy is not permitted. At meetings conducted by Internet or telephone conference, voting will be conducted and recorded by roll call with voice response. Written ballots submitted by email may be used to decide a matter without a meeting as long as a quorum of voting members respond.

SECTION 5. **Quorum.** For any Board meeting, annual or special, a quorum consists of 50% plus one of the membership of the Board. Meetings may be by electronic means except those held in conjunction with the triennial PWC. Unless otherwise specified in this constitution, the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board participating in any annual or special meeting for which there is a quorum (including those by electronic means and e-mail ballots), shall be sufficient for the passage of any motion or resolution, including the election of Board members.

ARTICLE VIII

Officers of WAPTE

SECTION 1. **Officers of WAPTE.** The officers of WAPTE shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Director. These officers shall be members of the Board.

SECTION 2. **Election of Officers.** Unless a vacancy in an office occurs at another time, all officers shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority vote of the Board members, so long as there is a quorum of Board members in attendance.

SECTION 3. **Terms of Office.** The term of office of Board members shall be for three years and SHALL commence immediately after the close of the Board meeting at which they are elected. They shall continue through the last regular Board meeting of their terms or until their successors qualify. Officers are eligible for reelection.

SECTION 4. **Appointment of the Executive Director.** There shall be an Executive Director who will be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Board in promoting the concerns of WAPTE. The Executive Director shall serve on a full or part-time basis according to the terms established by the Board regarding his or her time commitment and compensation. In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall appoint an acting Executive Director and a special search committee to submit nominations of candidates for the office.

SECTION 5. **Vacancies.** In the event that the Chairperson cannot serve the entire term, the Board shall be notified and the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson until the next regular meeting of the Board at which time a new Chairperson will be elected to serve the unexpired term. If the Vice-Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer cannot fulfill their respective terms, the Chairperson shall appoint a replacement from among the Board members to serve until the next regular scheduled meeting, at which time a new officer will be elected to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX

Powers and Duties of the Officers of WAPTE

SECTION 1. **Chairperson.**

- A. To preside at all sessions of the Board and serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- B. To carry on the designated business of the Board between meetings as appropriate and necessary, with supporting documentation supplied to other members of the Board.
- C. To work in cooperation with the Executive Director to establish agendas for the meetings of the Board and Executive Committee.
- D. To preserve records appropriate to the office and to bring them to the meetings of the Board and Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. **Vice-Chairperson.**

- A. To preside in the absence of the Chairperson.
- B. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson of the Board.

SECTION 3. **Secretary.**

- A. To record and maintain minutes of the Board and Executive Committee and distribute them to the Board.
- B. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson of the Board.
- C. To preserve records appropriate to the office and bring them to the meetings of the Board and Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. **Treasurer.**

- A. To be responsible to the Board and WAPTE for overseeing finances and financial reporting.
- B. To be responsible for keeping all financial records and the preparation of financial reports and budgets.

- C. To arrange for an audit of WAPTE financial records by an independent auditor prior to each annual Board meeting.
- D. To preserve records appropriate to the office and to bring them to the meetings of the Board and Executive Committee.
- E. To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson of the Board.

SECTION 5. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the effective direction and organization of WAPTE. The Executive Director shall have power, on behalf of the Board, to perform all acts before all public and private entities as may be necessary and appropriate, and to execute all documents to make effective the actions of the Board.

A. Qualifications:

- 1. The Executive Director must hold ministerial credentials and be in good standing with one of the member bodies of the PWF.
- 2. The Executive Director is to manifest spiritual maturity, administrative ability, experience and expertise in theological education and leadership training.

B. Responsibilities:

- 1. To be responsible to the Board for the development and general management of all areas of WAPTE and to prepare and distribute regular reports to the members.
- 2. To maintain and regularly distribute to the Board lists of members, partners, and schools accredited by any member theological association.
- 3. To oversee the continuing development of WAPTE and implement policies and programs approved by the Board or Executive Committee.
- 4. To arrange for regional meetings of members as determined by the Board or Executive Committee.
- 5. To promote relationships and communication among members and with other accrediting associations and support ministries.
- 6. To receive applications for membership or renewal of membership and process them for action by the Board.
- 7. To work with the accrediting associations of each region in identifying potential visiting team members from other regions.
- 8. To make arrangements for meetings of the Board, Executive Committee and any other meetings of WAPTE that may be required.
- 9. To serve as a non-voting member of the Board and Executive Committee.
- 10. To work with the Board to raise the necessary funds for the work of WAPTE.
- 11. To perform other duties as assigned by the Board or Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

Committees of the Board of Directors

SECTION 1. Executive Committee. The Chairperson of the Board shall be the chair of the Executive Committee. The Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and another member selected by the Board shall serve as members. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, without power to vote. Three (3) voting members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The committee shall meet as required during the year, including by electronic means. Minutes of the meetings shall be taken and distributed promptly to each member of the Board following each Executive Committee meeting.

SECTION 2. Duties and Responsibilities.

- A. To facilitate the work of the Board, prepare meeting agendas, and ensure the current status of the constitution.
- B. To perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board except approval of the annual budget, receiving of the annual audit, approving membership applications, appointing the Executive Director, and revising the statement of mission and purpose.
- C. To perform other duties of the Board on an interim basis subject to subsequent review by the Board.

SECTION 3. Standing Committees: The Board shall appoint the following committees and their chairpersons to address specific areas of WAPTE operation and development. Committees may include resource persons who are not members of the Board.

- A. **Accreditation and Endorsement Committee.** Reviews the documents and procedures used to provide accreditation and/or endorsement services by WAPTE members, or applicants for membership, per Article XII, Section 1, A, to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements for these services as detailed in Article XIII. Recommends appropriate actions to the Board based on this review, including approval or disapproval of membership.
- B. **Conference Planning Committee.** Plans and coordinates theological consultations for the triennial PWC (Article XIV, Section 1) in conjunction with the PWC organizing committee, and such other conferences as may be approved and scheduled by the Board.
- C. **Research and Resource Committee.** Works with the Executive Director to develop and maintain the WAPTE website and identify resources to be linked to the website. Identifies and proposes research projects for consideration by the Board.
- D. **Advancement Committee.** Reviews the promotion and fund raising needs of WAPTE and proposes strategies and programs for enhancing the recognition and financial sustainability of the Alliance.

SECTION 4. Committee Actions. No committee appointed by the Board shall take any action on behalf of the Board unless persons who constitute a majority of the members of that committee and a majority of such committee members who are also members of the Board have approved such action.

SECTION 5. Reports to the Board. Every committee to which the Board may delegate any of its powers or duties shall keep minutes or records of its meetings, signed by the committee secretary, reflecting attendance and all actions taken at such meetings. Any action taken by such committee on behalf of the Board shall be reported to the Board no later than the date of the next

Board meeting following the date of such action.

SECTION 6. **Other Committees.** The Board may appoint any other committee it deems necessary.

ARTICLE XI

Finances

SECTION 1. **Operating Expenses.** Contributions, offerings, fees and dues shall supply the finances of WAPTE. The Board shall establish annual membership fees for Members and finances shall be used for the general operating expenses of WAPTE.

SECTION 2. **Annual Budget.** The annual budget shall be submitted 90 days prior to the ensuing fiscal year and be approved by the Board.

SECTION 3. **Annual Audit.** The Board shall authorize an annual independent audit of the financial records and operations of WAPTE and make the audit available to all Board members at the annual meeting.

SECTION 4. **Annual Financial Report.** After the fiscal year has ended, the Board at the annual meeting shall approve the annual financial report.

ARTICLE XII

Membership

SECTION 1. **Categories of Membership.**

- A. **Member** - Membership is open to Pentecostal/Charismatic theological associations, denominational offices and missions agencies, which are in harmony with the purposes and statement of faith of WAPTE, and will promote theological education and/or research, on issues relevant to Pentecostal theological education. As a condition of membership, any member association providing accreditation or endorsement services must conform to the accreditation/endorsement standards and procedures approved by WAPTE.
- B. **Partner** - Partners are organizations or individuals that provide significant support and funding for the activities of WAPTE.

SECTION 2. **Application.** Application for membership is to be made to the Board through the Executive Director. The Board shall have the prerogative to grant membership to any applicant considered qualified.

SECTION 3. **Financial Support.** Members are expected to participate in the activities of WAPTE and are required to financially support WAPTE as per budgetary policy.

SECTION 4. **Withdrawal of Membership.** The Board has the prerogative to withdraw membership from any member that fails to promote the objectives of WAPTE or to fulfill its obligations as a member.

ARTICLE XIII

Accreditation and Endorsement Services

SECTION 1. **Minimum Requirements.** In order to establish the credibility of the endorsement and accreditation services offered by the member theological associations, WAPTE has established minimum requirements as contained in the Accreditation and Endorsement Manual.

SECTION 2. Accreditation Evaluation. Accreditation is a service of various theological associations that hold membership in WAPTE. Accreditation is defined to mean that a determination has been made that an institution is being guided by well-defined, appropriate goals, has established conditions and procedures under which its goals can be realized, is substantially accomplishing its goals, and can be expected to continue to do so. WAPTE evaluates and approves the accreditation services of applicant and member theological associations.

SECTION 3. Acceptable Accreditation Standards. Member theological associations of WAPTE that offer accreditation services must agree to implement the following practices regarding their accreditation activities:

- A. Each member theological association offering endorsement and/or accreditation services shall adopt a set of accreditation and endorsement standards that conform to the requirements of WAPTE and that are reviewed and approved by the Board.
- B. The theological association shall adhere to the accreditation term and status designations approved by WAPTE.
- C. The theological association shall require that an institution applying for accreditation or endorsement complete a self-study based on the standards of the association. This self study is to be the focal point of the endorsement or accreditation process and provide a clear, realistic and comprehensive look at all areas of the institution's programs as perceived by its administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the community it serves, and provide a basis for the association's evaluation of the school for accreditation or endorsement.
- D. Following submission of the school's self-study, an on-site visit must be conducted by the association to review, evaluate, certify and assist the institution regarding the accreditation and endorsement standards of the association. At least one member of an accreditation visiting team must come from outside the theological association conducting the accreditation visit.
- E. The association shall provide documents and materials to member institutions to facilitate the process of accreditation.

SECTION 4. Periodic Reviews. Members providing accreditation/endorsement services are subject to periodic reviews to ensure continued conformity with the standards of WAPTE based on annual reports and documentation as required by the Board.

ARTICLE XIV *Services of WAPTE*

SECTION 1. Theological Consultations. The Board will organize a consultation on issues relevant to theological education at least once every three years to facilitate and encourage the development of its member associations and the schools they serve and to provide an occasion for the election of Board members.

SECTION 2. Regional Meetings. WAPTE may organize regional meetings of members.

SECTION 3. Other Services. The WAPTE Board may establish support services to assist its member associations and/or to advance Pentecostal theological education around the world. Such services may include library development, website development, teacher training and certification, curriculum development, faculty development, coordinating theological forums, publishing a theological journal or such other services as may be considered of value to Pentecostal theological education and leadership development.

ARTICLE XV

Limitation of Powers

The actions of the Board shall not be construed to imply policy control or limitations of freedom of action of members. Membership in WAPTE shall not restrict or limit the autonomy of members in any way.

ARTICLE XVI

Dissolution

In the event WAPTE shall cease to function for the purposes as declared heretofore in the Articles of this Constitution, then after providing for the payments of its debts, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets shall be distributed to the PWF.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments to the Constitution

The Constitution of WAPTE may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the full membership of the Board. The specified date of a meeting at which constitutional amendments will be considered shall be no less than thirty (30) days from the date of notification of the proposed change. When members are polled by email regarding constitutional changes, provision shall be made on the ballot for objection to consideration by email. If ten percent of the members responding object to the amendments being considered by email, then the proposed amendments shall be held over to the next Board meeting. When members approve constitutional changes by e-mail, the proposed changes shall take effect thirty (30) days after their approval.

Adopted: July 30, 2009
Revised: February 12, 2010
Revised: April 14, 2011
Revised: December 20, 2011