

# Australian & New Zealand Theological Library Association Constitution

## **Preamble**

The first Library Consultation of the Australian & New Zealand Association of Theological Schools was held in Melbourne in 1978. Subsequent consultations were held in 1979, 1983, 1984 and 1985. At the Sydney consultation in 1984 it was resolved to request the ANZATS to instigate the formation of a theological library association. The concept was endorsed for investigation by that year's Annual General Meeting and subsequently approved by the ANZATS Council in May 1985. The decision to form the association was made at the 1985 consultation at Luther Seminary, North Adelaide on Tuesday 27 August 1985. The Interim Executive was instructed to draft a constitution for presentation to the inaugural conference of the ANZTLA in Canberra on 26 August 1986. Following further revisions, it was adopted on 24 August 1987, Amendments to clauses IV and VI were made on 23 September 1995; further amendments to clause VI were made on 12 October 1996 and 2 July 1998.

## **I. NAME**

The name of the Association is the AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"), commonly abbreviated to ANZTLA.

## **II. AIMS**

The aims of the Association are:

1. To provide a forum for interaction between librarians of and others interested in theological and religious libraries.
2. To foster the development and improvement of theological and religious libraries.
3. To support the development and implementation of acceptable standards of librarianship among theological and religious libraries.
4. To foster inter-library cooperation on both national and regional levels.
5. To publish and disseminate literature relevant to theological and religious librarianship.
6. To foster contacts with other library associations and groups.

## **III. RELATION TO ANZATS**

The Association seeks to co-operate with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools (hereinafter referred to as 'ANZATS') and to promote its aims and objectives insofar as they apply to libraries and librarianship.

## **IV. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Libraries and other organisations and other individuals involved in or interested in theological education or religious studies may become members of the Association on the payment of a prescribed fee.
2. An institutional member shall be represented by its librarian-in-charge or his/her deputy.
3. Honorary life membership may be conferred by the Association on a person who has rendered distinguished service to the Association.

## **V. MEETINGS**

1. The Association shall hold a General Meeting at least every two years, and annually where practicable, to elect officers and to transact the business of the Association.
2. The Association shall hold a conference at least every two years, where practicable in association with the annual conference of ANZATS.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE**

1. There shall be an Executive to act for the Association between meetings in all matters, subject to any direction of a General Meeting of the Association. The Executive shall report to every meeting of the Association and, save where it has acted within an authority expressly conferred on it by the Association, its actions shall be subject to approval and endorsement by the General Meeting,
2. The Executive shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one additional member from the region in which the next conference of the Association is to be held.
3. Members of the Executive shall hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting.
4. If for any reason a vacancy occurs on the Executive, the remaining members of the Executive may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term for which the member was elected.
5. The Executive shall endeavour to meet at least once a year.

## **VII. REGIONAL CHAPTERS**

1. In any region, a chapter of the Association may be formed with its own officers.
2. For this purpose, members in a region may draw up their own constitution which, however, must be in accord with the constitution of the Association and must be approved by the Executive of the Association.
3. Subject to any resolution of the Association, the role of the chapters is to deal with matters of regional concern.

## **VIII. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. The Executive is empowered to administer the funds of the Association in accordance with the resolutions of the General Meetings of the Association.
2. The Executive shall compile a budget, including membership fees, to be adopted at each General Meeting.

## **IX. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Alterations to the constitution can only be made by a meeting of the Association at the motion of a member. Three months' notice of such a motion must be given through the Executive.