

THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE

THE CONSTITUTION

Adopted at the first Annual General Meeting of the Members and Associates, May 27th 1867, with revisions of 1874-75, 1910, 1912, 1920, 1939, 1952, 1967, 1979, 1982 1989 and 2008.

1. OBJECTS

The Victoria Institute or Philosophical Society of Great Britain (hereinafter referred to as the Society) is established to advance the Christian religion as revealed in Holy Scripture.

In furtherance of the foregoing object the Society shall have the following powers:

- (1) To investigate fully and impartially the most important questions of Philosophy and Science, but more especially those that bear upon the great truths revealed in Holy Scripture, with the view of reconciling any apparent discrepancies between Christianity and Science; and to associate together men of Science and authors who have already been engaged in such investigation, and all others who may be interested in them, in order to strengthen their efforts by association, and, by bringing together the results of such labours, after full discussion, in publishing the printed Transactions of an Institution to give greater force and influence to proofs and arguments which might be little known, or even disregarded, if put forward merely by individuals.
- (2) To consider the mutual bearings of the various scientific conclusions arrived at in the several distinct branches into which Science is now divided, in order to get rid of contradictions and conflicting hypotheses, and thus promote the real advancement of true science; and to examine, discuss and publish the results of such research concerning all supposed scientific results with reference to final causes, and the more comprehensive and fundamental principles of Philosophy proper, based upon faith in the existence of one Eternal God, who, in his wisdom created all things very good.
- (3) To publish Papers read before the Society along with full reports of the discussions thereon, in the form of a journal or as the Transactions of the Institute.
- (4) When subjects have been fully discussed, to make the results known by means of Lectures of a more popular kind, and to publish such Lectures.
- (5) To publish English translations of important foreign works of real scientific and philosophical value, especially those bearing upon the relation between the Scriptures and Science; and to co-operate with other philosophical societies at home and abroad, which are now or may hereafter be formed, in the interest of Scriptural truth and of real science.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Society shall consist of Members elected as hereinafter set forth and signifying interest in the Society's charitable work by financial contributions thereto.
- (b) The roll of Members of the Society shall include all those designated on the 16th day of May 1989 as Fellows, Members, and Associates, and all others subsequently admitted by the Council.

3. COUNCIL

- (a) The government of the Society shall be vested in a Council, the members of which shall be elected from amongst those Members of the Society who sign, if elected, a Basis of Faith approved by the Members. The Basis of Faith is that of the IVF, in its shorter form, namely:
 1. I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord and my God, whose atoning sacrifice is the only and all-sufficient ground of my salvation
 2. I will seek, both in life and in thought, to be ruled by the clear teaching of the Bible, believing it to be the inspired word of God.

(b) The Council shall consist of the President, the Honorary Treasurer, and not exceeding ten others.

4. ELECTION OF COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

The President, the Vice-Presidents, and the Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, originally held in the month of May. At the Annual General Meeting in each year, one third of the other members of the Council or if their number be not a multiple of three then the number nearest to one third shall also retire in order of seniority of election to the Council, and be eligible for re-election; as between members of equal seniority the members to retire shall be chosen from among them by ballot unless such members shall agree between themselves. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Council and shall require ratification at the next Annual General Meeting.

5. NOMINATION FOR ELECTION

For such annual elections nominations may be made by any Member of the Society and sent, together with a statement by the Nominee that he or she is prepared to stand, to the Secretary not later than the 1st March in any year. The Council may also nominate for vacancies, and all nominations shall be submitted to the Members at the time when notice of the Annual General Meeting is posted. If more nominations are made than there are vacancies on the Council the election shall be by ballot amongst the Members in good standing. Ballot papers shall be sent to Members with the notice of meeting, and may be returned, completed, to the Secretary, either at the meeting or, by post, not later than a week before the meeting.

6. MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE

Any person desirous of becoming a Member shall send to the Secretary an application for admission. Upon such application being transmitted to the Secretary, the candidate shall be proposed to the Council and if elected, enrolled as a Member of the Victoria Institute, in such manner as the Council may deem proper. Such application shall be considered as *ipso facto* pledging the applicant to observe the rules of the Society, and as indicative of his or her desire and intention to further its objects and interests. The Council shall have power to remove from the roll a Member who by reason of improper conduct or lack of qualifications is considered to be in breach of the rules, objects and interests of the Society, but subject to a right of appeal.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS AND RULE MAKING

The quorum for meetings of the Council shall be four. The Council may make such rules as it considers desirable for furthering the objects of the Society and regulating its business including:-

- (a) the setting up of an Executive Committee to include the Chairman of Council, the Honorary Treasurer and another or others of the Council to transact routine business
- (b) the setting up of other *ad hoc* committees to which may be appointed persons who, though not members of Council, are specially qualified to advise on some particular subject.

8. PAPERS

Papers presented to the Society shall be considered as the property of the Society unless there shall have been any previous engagement with its author to the contrary, and the Council may cause the same to be published in any way and at any time it may think proper.

9. PROPERTY TRUSTEESHIP

The whole property and effects of the Society shall be vested in such Bank or Trust Corporation as the Council may direct and held in trust for the Institute. The Council is empowered to invest from time to time in or upon any investments for the time being authorised by statute for the investment of trust funds by trustees, and in and upon such other investments as the Council shall be advised by competent stock and share brokers and the Council shall have the usual powers of trustees in regard thereto.

10. FUNDS, etc.

All moneys received on account of the Institute shall be duly paid to its credit at the Bankers, and all cheques shall be drawn, under authority of the Council, and shall be signed by any member of the Council and countersigned by the Honorary Treasurer or the Secretary.

11. AUDIT

The accounts shall be audited annually by the Auditor (or Honorary Auditor, not a serving member of Council), who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and who shall make a written report to the Council at the first meeting after such audit, and also to the Society upon the day of the Annual General Meeting next following, stating the balance in the Treasurer's hands and the general state of the funds of the Institute.

12. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION

No change in the Constitution or the policy of the Society shall be decided upon by the Council without prior notice being given in writing to the full Council and all Vice-Presidents and past Presidents at least six weeks before the meeting at which such change shall be voted upon and all those entitled to receive such notice shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at such meeting. Any such change shall require ratification at the next Annual General Meeting.

Reference to the date of the Annual General Meeting in clause 4 was modified after due Notice, as proposed by the Council, and passed unanimously by the members on 18th October 2008. Mention of the month of May is retained, the month of Queen Victoria's birthday, who was an early Patron.

In clause 5 all nominations for appointment at annual general meetings must be delivered no later than 31st March. The time required for giving Notice of the date and venue of annual general meetings, and its receipt by members, enables Council to select a date in any month from May to December, believed to suit the greatest number of members, without the expectation that it will be a spring meeting.