

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

Art. I. This society shall be called “The American Missionary Association.”

Art. II. The object of this Society shall be to send the Gospel to those portions of our own and other countries which are destitute of it, or which present open and urgent fields of effort.

Art. III. Any person of evangelical sentiments,* who professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is not a slaveholder, or in the practice of other immoralities, and who contributes to the funds, may become a member of the Society; and by the payment of thirty dollars, a life-member; provided that children and youth, who have not professed their faith, may be constituted life-members without the privilege of voting.

Art. IV. This Society shall meet annually, in the month of September, October, or November, for the election of the officers and the transaction of other business, at such time and place as shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

Art. V. The annual meeting shall be constituted of the regular officers and members of the Society at the time of such meeting, and of delegates from churches, local missionary societies, and other co-operating bodies—each body being entitled to one representative.

Art. VI. The officers of the society shall be a President, Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, two Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, two Auditors, and an Executive Committee of twelve, of which the Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members.

Art. VII. To the Executive Committee shall belong the collecting and disbursing of funds; the appointing, counselling, sustaining, and dismissing (for just and sufficient reasons) missionaries and agents; the selecting of missionary fields; and, in general, the transaction of all such business as usually appertains to the executive committees of missionary and other benevolent societies; and its doings to be subject always to the revision of the annual meeting, which, by a reference mutually chosen, and whose decision shall be final, shall always entertain the complaints of any aggrieved agent or missionary.

The Executive Committee shall have authority to fill all vacancies occurring among the officers between the regular annual meetings; to apply, if they see fit, to any State Legislature for an act of incorporation; to fix the compensation, where any is given, of all officers, agents, missionaries, or others in the employment of the Society; to make provision, if any, for disabled missionaries, and for the widows and children of such as are deceased; and to call in all parts of the country, at their discretion, special and general conventions of the friends of missions, with a

view to the diffusion of the missionary spirit, and the general and vigorous promotion of the missionary work.

Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

Art. VIII. This Society, in collecting funds, in appointing officers, agents, and missionaries, and in selecting fields of labor, and conducting the missionary work, will endeavor particularly to discountenance slavery, by refusing to receive the known fruits of unrequited labor, or to welcome to its employment those who hold their fellow-beings as slaves.

Art. IX. Churches and other local missionary bodies, agreeing to the principles of the Society, and wishing to appoint and sustain missionaries of their own, shall be entitled to do so through the agency of the Executive Committee, on terms mutually agreed upon.

Art. X. No amendment shall be made in this Constitution without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at a regular annual meeting; nor unless the proposed amendment has been submitted to a previous meeting, or to the Executive Committee in season to be published by them [as it shall be their duty to do, if so submitted] in the regular official notification of the meeting.

*By evangelical sentiments we understand, among others, a belief in the guilty and lost condition of all men without a Saviour; the Supreme Deity, Incarnation and Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world; the necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit; repentance, faith, and holy obedience, in order to [achieve] salvation; the immortality of the soul; and the retributions of the judgment, in the eternal punishment of the wicked, and salvation of the righteous.

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