

# **The Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### 1 NAME

The Association shall be known as "The Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain" (hereinafter referred to as "The Association").

### 2 OBJECT

The object of the Association shall be to promote the study of theology and in particular of the doctrines and tenets of the Roman Catholic faith for the benefit of the public. In furtherance of this object the Association shall facilitate communication among Catholics engaged in theological work and allied disciplines, through regular conferences of the Association and such other activities as may be judged to further the object of the Association.

### 3 MEMBERSHIP

(i) Membership of the Association shall be open to Catholics who, in the judgment of the Committee of the Association, are eligible by virtue of their academic qualifications and their work and ministry in teaching, research or writing in theology or allied disciplines.

(ii) Other scholars who are engaged with Catholic theology in a professional capacity may be admitted as Associate Members; they shall not vote in the AGM.

(iii) Theology students who have yet to complete a masters degree may be admitted to Student Membership; they shall not vote in the AGM.

(iv) Members shall pay an annual subscription to be determined from time to time by the Association.

(v) The subscription of new members shall be payable on admission, and thereafter subscriptions shall be payable in advance by all members on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March each tax year.

(vi) Non-payment of the annual subscription for two consecutive years shall be construed as resignation from the Association.

(vii) Membership of the Association shall entitle members to attend and vote at Annual General Meetings and general business meetings of the Association, to receive regular information on the activities of the Association, and upon payment of such additional fees as shall be decided from time to time to attend conferences and participate in other activities of the Association.

### 4 ORGANIZATION

(i) The activities of the Association shall be organized and administered by a Committee elected by and from the members of the Association. The Committee shall comprise: a President, a Vice- President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and six other Ordinary committee members. Six members, one of whom shall be the President or Vice-President, shall form a quorum of the Committee.

(ii) The Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than three Temporary Members for specific purposes including the filling of casual vacancies.

(iii) The Committee shall have power to appoint from amongst their number sub-committees which shall be responsible to the Committee provided that all actions and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully reported back to the Committee as soon as possible.

(iv) All Officers and Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and shall assume office and be eligible for re-election for periods determined by the Ordinances of the Association.

(v) Nominations for election to the Committee shall be made in writing before the Annual General Meeting to the Secretary of the Association by a proposer and a seconder with the consent of the nominee. Election to each office shall be by a simple majority ballot of members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

### 5 THE COMMITTEE

The duties of the Committee shall be

- (i) To admit members to the Association;
- (ii) To administer the funds of the Association, and to provide an account of such funds to the Annual General Meeting of the Association;
- (iii) To arrange annually a theological conference at which the Annual General Business Meeting of the Association shall take place. Such conferences shall be either limited to members of the Association and such additional guests as the Committee shall decide, or shall, as decided by a General Meeting of the Association, be public conferences of the Association. In making arrangements for the annual conference the Committee shall have careful regard for suggestions made by members of the Association;
- (iv) To conduct elections to office of the Association in a manner agreed by the Association;
- (v) To maintain an up-to-date Directory of the members of the Association, to be distributed to members and such others only as the Committee may with discretion decide;
- (vi) To produce at least annually a Newsletter of the Association for distribution to members and such others as the Committee may decide;
- (vii) To organize and support such other undertakings and projects aimed at furthering its object as the Association shall from time to time decide;
- (viii) To prepare the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting and to communicate it to all members not less than one month before the meeting.

## 6 BRANCHES

Members of the Association who so wish may be empowered by the Committee to form a Branch of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain for the purpose of furthering the object of the Association. The Committee shall give all reasonable aid to such branches of the Association, which shall present an account of their proceedings to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

## 7 AWARDS

The Association shall be empowered to make awards from time to time in recognition of outstanding contributions to the service of Catholic theological reflection and study. Such awards may include the conferring of Honorary Membership of the Association, which shall entitle the recipient to all the benefits of membership save those connected with elections in the Association.

## 8 INTERPRETATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- (i) Questions concerning the interpretation or application of any articles of this Constitution shall be decided by a majority vote of the meeting of the Committee, pending any decision taken to the contrary at the next Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (ii) This Constitution, except Clause 2 and Clause 8 (iv) (see below), may be amended by any Annual General Meeting of the Association by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, and provided that notice of such proposed amendment be supported by five members of the Association and be communicated to all members not less than one month before the meeting.
- (iii) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall establish such Ordinances as are judged necessary for the good running of the Association. Ordinances, and amendments to existing Ordinances, shall be established by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting. Ordinances established by the Annual General Meeting shall have immediate effect.
- (iv) The Association may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for this purpose of which 21 days' notice shall have been given to members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Association as the Association may determine and if and insofar as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

Adopted 12 September 1985  
Amended 7 September 1986  
Amended 3 September 1992  
Amended 9 September 2008

Ordinance 1 – The Officers and Committee of the Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall elect Officers and ordinary Committee members in accordance with the following norms:

- (i) The President shall hold office for two years.
- (ii) The Vice-President shall hold office for two years.
- (iii) The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President immediately upon the end of the term of the previous President.
- (iv) The Vice-President shall immediately assume the office of President if it becomes vacant for any reason; in which case the standard two year term shall begin at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (v) The Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election indeterminately.
- (vi) Ordinary Committee members shall hold office for three years and shall not be eligible for re-election as an ordinary member for a period of one year.
- (vii) A rota of elections shall be established so that a proportion of the ordinary Committee membership is elected each year. To achieve this, the Committee may propose to the Annual General Meeting that specific elections be for less than the standard three years.
- (viii) If a Committee member leaves office in mid-term, the Committee may appoint a substitute to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (ix) The retiring President shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee for one year after leaving office.

Adopted 9 September 2008