

# CARIBBEAN EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association."

### ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be as follows:

(a) to provide for professional association among administrators and other professionals of theological institutions in the Caribbean area.

(b) to assist in the development and promotion of standards of excellence among member institutions.

(c) to facilitate the sustainability of Caribbean theological educational institutions by providing a platform for the integration of programmes and services.

### ARTICLE III GOVERNMENT

The Association shall be governed by the Association Meeting. In the interim of meetings its affairs shall be directed by an Executive Committee composed of the President and other Executive Officers, and such other members as the Association Meeting shall establish.

### ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that there is one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious atonement through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal and visible return in power and glory.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he was tempted by Satan and fell, and that, because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life, and by whom the church is empowered to carry out Christ's great commission.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

### ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

#### (a) *Full Membership*

Full membership in the Association shall be open to all evangelical theological schools that subscribe to the above doctrinal Statement of Faith, accept the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association and pay an annual membership fee. Such members shall have both voice and vote.

#### (b) *Associate Membership*

Associate membership in this Association shall be open to any other evangelical organization or individual, within the Caribbean or without, with theological educational related interests. They shall subscribe to the above doctrinal Statement of Faith, accept the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association,

and pay an annual membership fee. Such members shall have voice but not vote.

### ARTICLE VI REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Regional Chapters may be established by the Association Meeting to represent the cause of the Association within the various regions and to assist in carrying out the work of the CETA Commissions.

### ARTICLE VIII COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Commissions and Committees may be appointed to fulfill special tasks for the Association or the Executive Committee. Commissions may be appointed by the Association Meeting. Special committees may be appointed by the Executive Committee or the Association Meeting.

### ARTICLE VIII CARIBBEAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

The Caribbean Graduate School of Theology shall be sponsored by the Association as a graduate training institution. The Association shall appoint the School's Board of Governors and Presidents to give oversight to the operation of the School.

### ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the Association, provided that the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the membership 60 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered. A two-thirds vote of all members present shall be necessary for adoption.

# CARIBBEAN EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

#### (a) *Regular Meetings*

Regular meetings of this Association shall be held biennially, the time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee according to guidance given at the previous Association Meeting. Notification of all regular meetings shall be made by the Secretary at least 60 days in advance.

#### (b) *Special Meetings*

Special meetings shall be called by the President, when member schools by a two-thirds vote so request.

#### (c) *Representation*

Each member school may be represented at the Association meetings by one voting delegate. Those delegates present at a duly called meeting shall be considered a quorum for the meeting.

### ARTICLE II CHAIRMAN

The chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Association and shall represent CETA on the Board of the Graduate School and shall, with the other officers, represent the Association when necessary.

### ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Commission Coordinators, and one (1) Country Representative from each of the member territories.

(b) The Executive Officers and the members-at-large shall be elected by the delegates from member schools at the Biennial Meeting for terms of four years. The initial election shall stagger the terms of office. By virtue of their office the Executive Officers shall be voting delegates at Association Meetings.

(c) Executive officers, with the exception of the Country Representatives shall serve for a period of four (4) years and may succeed themselves.

(d) Country Representative shall be nominated by a duly called meeting of the institution Presidents of each territory and shall serve for a period of two (2) years which is renewable at the discretion of the Presidents.

(e) Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled at the next Association Meeting. In the interim acting appointments may be made by the Executive Committee.

(f) The Executive Committee shall be authorized to appoint such officers as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the association and to set the remuneration for such officers as is considered appropriate.

### ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### (a) *President*

The President shall be chairman of the meetings of the Executive Committee, and the Association in the absence of the Chairman; he shall give overall leadership to the activities of the Association in

achieving its objectives and implementing its policies; and shall, with the other officers, represent the Association when necessary.

#### (b) *Vice-President*

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President, and carry out such responsibilities as may be delegated to him.

#### (c) *Secretary/Treasurer*

The Secretary/Treasurer shall record and distribute the Minutes of all Association Meetings, including the meetings of the Executive Committee. He shall receive all membership fees and other funds of the Association and shall disburse funds in accordance with the policies of the Association and the Executive Committee. He shall present an itemized account of all income and expenditures to the biennial meeting of the Association. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Executive Committee.

### ARTICLE V REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Regional Chapters shall operate within the framework of this Constitution and doctrinal statement and shall be responsible to the Association. The Coordinator of each Chapter shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Coordinator shall be nominated by the Chapter and elected by the Executive Committee for a term of two years.

### ARTICLE VI ACCREDITING COMMISSION

The Accrediting Commission will be responsible for supervision of all aspects of the accrediting programme. Members of the Commission shall be chosen by the Association

Meeting upon recommendation of the Executive Committee for four years staggered terms, and shall be eligible for reappointment. The Commission shall be composed of up to nine members. They shall be selected on the basis of their competence as evaluators, their seasoned judgment, and their professional abilities. The Commission will normally conduct its business by correspondence. It may also conduct some form of business by regional sub-committees. Commission meetings will be arranged when the need arises.

*(a) Coordinator*

The Coordinator of the Commission, who shall be appointed by the Association Meeting, will be responsible for giving leadership to the Commission, and for administering the accrediting programme for the Commission. His term of service shall be for four years, and he may succeed himself.

*(b) Finances*

Except for some help with travel costs exceeding a certain limit, the accrediting programme shall be planned to be self-supporting and its fees set accordingly by the Commission.

## **ARTICLE VII THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION**

The Theological Commission shall provide a platform for theological reflection from which evangelical theology may speak to assist in giving direction to the church in the Caribbean. Members of the Commission shall be chosen by the Association Meeting upon recommendation of the Executive Committee for four-year staggered terms, and shall be eligible for reappointment. The Commission shall be composed of up to twelve members. They shall be selected on the basis of their competence in the field of theology, their commitment to writing and their professional abilities. The Commission will

normally conduct its business by correspondence. Commission meetings will be arranged when the need arises.

The Coordinator of the Commission, who shall be appointed by the Association Meeting, will be responsible for giving leadership to the Commission. His term of service shall be for four years, and he may succeed himself.

## **ARTICLE VIII COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS**

There shall be a Council of Presidents comprised of the Presidents (or similar designated officers) of all CETA member institutions.

The Council shall be chaired by one of its members on a rotating basis and shall meet at least twice each year for fellowship, interaction and discussions of matters of mutual interest.

The CETA executive shall facilitate a meeting with the Council at least twice each year to discuss matters of mutual concern.

## **ARTICLE IX MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The annual fees for membership in the Association shall be set by the Association Meeting.

## **ARTICLE X MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Application for membership shall be made to the CETA Association Meeting through its Executive Committee. Each application should be accompanied by the following:

- 1) Approval by the institution's board for membership of CETA.
- 2) A statement of agreement with CETA's Statement of Faith and Constitution and By Laws.

- 3) A copy of its latest Catalogue, including curriculum, teaching staff, etc.
- 4) A written recommendation from a CETA member school.

## **ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any duly called meeting of this Association.

*(Amended August 2021)*