



Society of Women in Theology Inc. (SWT)
Constitution & Bylaws

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Nonprofit 501(c)(3)

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RATIFICATION

These Bylaws are hereby ratified by the current authorized Board of Trustees of Society of Women in Theology Inc. Signatures below indicate that these bylaws have been read, understood, and approved by this governing body.

Rev. Dr. Iria L. Abram
Trustee; Board Chair

Date

Rev. Dr. Oleria A. Treadwell
Trustee; Board Vice-Chair

Date

Rev. Helen Rainey
Trustee; Board Secretary

Date

Alycia J. Moorman
Trustee

Date

Rev. Dr. Percy D. Johnson, Jr.
Trustee

Date



I verify on this ____ day of ____ in the year ____ that this instrument was signed electronically via DocuSign.com with which each signer received the document to a specific personal email address to review and sign acknowledging their approval and ratification.

Signature

Notary Expiration

ARTICLE 1: NAME

Registered Name:
Society of Women in Theology Inc.

Registered DBA/Alias:
SWT

Also Known As:
Sigma Gamma Theta, the Greek initials of the Greek translation, *Sunōn Gunōn Theologō*

ARTICLE 2: VISION

A safe space providing platforms that empower women to be and do what God has called them to be and do.

ARTICLE 3: MISSION

To empower women to engage in theological dialogue and scholarship that intentionally identifies the voices of women and includes those voices in the creation of quality contributions to global academia, ministry, and society.

ARTICLE 4: PURPOSE

The Society of Women in Theology (SWT) is an organization designed for those who desire to substantiate their academic, ministerial, social, or professional experience within a society offering education services and practicum focusing on the many unique experiences of women in the twenty-first century through the lens of theology.

ARTICLE 5: VALUES

SWT is primarily made up of women whose “steps” are divinely ordered by God. There are five core values at the heart of SWT that reflect this concept. SWT believes in:

- S. Sisterhood – Bonding through sisterhood.
 - T. Theology – Performing theological research and making contributions to ecclesia.
 - E. Exposure – Exposing the world to SWT, and exposing SWT to the world.
 - P. Platforms – Creating platforms for member practicum and for guest invitation.
 - S. Scholarship – Contributing fresh and relevant scholarship to academia.
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ARTICLE 6: NONPROFIT

SWT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized pursuant to the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code and shall have no capital stock and no shareholders. The corporation shall be neither organized nor operated for pecuniary gain or profit. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, any Member, Officer, or Trustee of the corporation, or any other private person outside of documented board-approved benevolent assistance.

ARTICLE 7: GOVERNANCE

The principle governing body of SWT is the Board of Trustees (referred to herein as “Board”). In addition, governance shall be implemented by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the corporation who shall be responsible to the Board, and who may determine to delegate a subsidiary leadership body who may serve as fiduciaries and be responsible for leadership decisions, including but not limited to planning, evaluation, and procedure setting. Robert’s Rules of Order as last revised may govern the proceedings of all meetings of the Board of Trustees. The organization, its Board of Trustees, CEO, Executive Leadership Council, Members, Chapters, and Community Partners shall be governed by the most currently approved edition of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society of Women in Theology Inc.

ARTICLE 8: TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall have management and final settlement of financial, business, educational, leadership and facility matters. Elected officers of this board may consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, or General Trustee. The CEO shall serve as an ex-officio officer and Trustee. The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than five and not more than twelve persons. Trustees may serve for a term of three years, and may serve for an unlimited number of successive terms based on reelection by the current board at the conclusion of their term. Board of Trustee governance shall be based on majority vote on matters presented in an official agenda for deliberation during scheduled semi-annual meetings or emergency sessions. An emergency session may be requested by any current Trustee and may only be approved by the current Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

ARTICLE 9: LEADERSHIP

The Board may delegate a subsidiary Leadership body or individual to manage operations, fiscal reporting, members, public relations, or organizational procedures. Such delegates must be active members and demonstrate alignment with the Vision, Mission, Purpose and overall Bylaws of SWT as determined by election or direct appointment. The subsidiary leadership body is referenced to as the Executive Leadership Council. Its members are referenced to as Officers. The official document, *SWT Executive Leadership Council Duties and Responsibilities*, paired with the Constitution and Bylaws, is a governing document for this body.

SECTION A: ELECTION

Officers may be nominated by active members of the organization through an election process. This process includes nomination, campaigning, voting, and acceptance of the leadership role a member has been elected to. Election guidelines shall be published and provided to active members during election times. Outcomes are determined by a majority member vote. Votes are presented to the Board for review. The Board reserves the right to deny an elected individual or the entire election. Elected officers must be ratified by the Board to be final and official.

SECTION B: APPOINTMENT

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to appoint an individual to the Executive Leadership Council for a designated term. An appointment must be presented at an official Board meeting and receive a majority Board vote. Appointed officers must be ratified by the Board to be final and official.

ARTICLE 10: MEMBERSHIP

Membership is established by declaring agreement and acceptance of all elements of the official Constitution and Bylaws of the organization as indicated by signed documentation. The official document, *SWT Membership Agreement*, paired with the Constitution and Bylaws, is a governing document for establishing membership. A member must adhere to the Dues requirement. Dues must have been paid applicable to last ninety days from the current date of inquiry for a person to be considered an active member. After ninety days of nonpayment of dues, a person is considered a part of the larger community of supporters. Membership may be reestablished with the payment of dues. It will not be necessary to back-pay months or years that were unpaid to be reinstated. A member must have submitted a signed *SWT Membership Agreement* of the most recent Board approved edition and agree to all current amendments at the time of reinstatement. Membership may be sought by interested adults, age eighteen years or older, who would like to support the furtherance of this vision, mission, and purpose regardless of race ethnicity, nationality, sex, gender or religion. Membership may be sought by interested persons who are members of other fellowships and societies. As SWT is not a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, it remains open for membership to those who are members of such chartered corporations. A member may be revoked by the Board of trustees if an individual conducts themselves in any manner or business that is a conflict of interest or contrary to this Constitution and these Bylaws.

ARTICLE 11: CHAPTERS

A Chapter within SWT references a concentrated number of active members with a unique identifying characteristic, such as location. A chapter may only be established by two or more active members who are in good standing with the corporation and who secure an endorsement by a Trustee. These members must present an executive document requesting to establish a chapter of SWT to the Board according to the requirements to have a matter added to the official Board agenda as outlined in Article 8 of the Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION A: REQUIREMENTS

The members seeking to establish a chapter must demonstrate that there is committed leadership and genuine interest from prospective individuals and the potential for stabilization and sustainability of the chapter. Committed leadership may be demonstrated by documentation of active members who commit to serving in subsidiary leadership capacities, such as Chapter President, Chapter Vice President, etc. This body shall be referred to as the Chapter Executive Leadership Council and shall report directly to the Board. The official document, *SWT Executive Leadership Council Duties and Responsibilities*, paired with the Constitution and Bylaws, is a governing document for this body. Genuine interest may be demonstrated by documentation of no less than five interested persons who agree to become active members if the requested chapter is approved.

SECTION B: PROBATION

If the Board of Trustees approves the establishment of a chapter of SWT, that chapter shall operate within a six-month probationary term. During this term a specific Trustee, designated by the Board, will directly oversee all business and activity, and must be included in all meetings of the chapter executive leadership. Chapters shall not be established as registered corporations separate from the originating organization, Society of Women in Theology Inc., unless expressly instructed by the Board. At the conclusion of the appointed probationary term, the Board will confirm the permanent establishment of the chapter.

ARTICLE 12: INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent permitted by applicable law, members, vendors, and associates of SWT agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Society of Women in Theology Inc., its Board of Trustees, individual Trustees, the CEO, the Executive Leadership Council, Chapter Executive Leadership Councils, Officers, Employees, Staff and volunteers of the Society of Women in Theology Inc. from and against any and all claims, damages, obligations, losses, liabilities, costs or debt, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees). This defense and indemnification obligation will survive this agreement. No Trustee, no Officer, and no Member of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the Trustees, Officers and Members be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

ARTICLE 13: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of this organization, the Board of Trustees shall, after making provisions for all debts and liabilities, dispose of all of its assets that are exclusively for the purposes of the corporation by distributing such assets to an organization operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, theological, or women's empowerment purposes and that has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law, as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

ARTICLE 14: ACCOUNTING

The fiscal year shall begin January 1st and shall end on December 31st.

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENT

Amendment, modification, revision, or rescinding of these bylaws may be made by majority vote of the Board of Trustees after being presented in the form of an executive document submitted to the Board for review at least thirty days before the Board meeting in which it will be voted on. All requests for amendment must be endorsed by a minimum of two Board of Trustee members to be added to the agenda of a Board meeting for consideration. Endorsement by Trustees does not imply approval, only that it may be added to the agenda for deliberation. This Board meeting minutes must reflect a motion to be approved, that a majority approval was accomplished, and a signed ratified revision of the final draft of the approved Bylaws must be provided to all Board members for the amendment to be complete and official.
