

STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CATHOLIC MISSIOLOGISTS

ARTICLE I

The Name of the Association

The name of this society shall be “The International Association of Catholic Missiologists” (to be known also by the acronym: IACM).

ARTICLE II

The Purpose of the Association

The IACM exists for the purpose of promoting missiological research, studies and educational activities and encouraging collaboration among Catholic missiologists. Although the Association and its members affirm their specifically Roman Catholic identity, the IACM seeks to promote the unity and common witness of all the disciples of Jesus Christ, to foster true dialogue

with all people, with their own religious and cultural traditions, and to participate in interdisciplinary approaches to understanding human beings in their relations to God, to each other and to all of God's creation. The Association is at the service of missionary activity in its specific sense, as it has come to be understood since the Second Vatican Council, without, however, losing sight of the missionary dimension of other activities of the Church.

The specific objectives of the IACM include the following:

1. To foster fellowship among Catholic missiologists, thus encouraging them to contribute personally and collectively to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Association;
2. To promote scholarly studies of questions relating to the missionary nature and activity of the Church, encouraging theologians in their delicate work of developing an inculturated theology, carried out with courage, in faithfulness to the Church's tradition and in full ecclesial communion (cf. *Ecclesia in Asia*, 22);
3. To contribute to the content and quality of missiological education and formation, not only in Catholic academic Faculties and Institutes dedicated to this specialization, but also in programs for the initial and continuing formation of the clergy, religious and laity in the local Churches;
4. To be at the service of the diverse local Churches in their mission of evangelizing all peoples and all human situations;
5. To identify, investigate and analyse the missionary challenges present in both per-during and newly emerging human contexts;
6. To further biblical, theological, historical, pastoral, religio-cultural and social science studies related to the evangelizing mission of the Church;
7. To promote mutually enriching relationships with other Christian missiologists and with other scholars dedicated to mission-related studies;
8. To organize academic encounters (scientific congresses, symposia, workshops, etc.) on missiological questions of current and fundamental importance;
9. To cooperate with existing missiological reviews, by means of articles produced by its members and eventually publish its own Bulletin or Review.

The IACM shall work in close collaboration with other international, regional, national missiological societies.

ARTICLE III

The Members of the Association

1. There shall be two types of Members: individual and corporate;
2. Individual Members shall be those who hold a graduate or post-graduate degree in Missiology (a Doctorate, Licentiate or or Master's, or the equivalents of these degrees) or

in related disciplines, who actually are engaged in missiological education and research, who adhere to these Statutes of the IACM and share in its activities;

3. Corporate Members shall be Catholic missiological Faculties or Institutes that offer graduate programs in this specialization, as well as other centers that engage in missiological research and publication;

4. The Executive Board of the IACM may also designate as Honorary Members those persons who have made a notable contribution to the advancement of the discipline of missiology;

5. It shall be the task of the Executive Board to lay down the particular norms for membership and to admit new Members upon the recommendation of one or more persons who already are members;

6. Associates of the IACM shall be students who are candidates for a graduate degree in missiology. These become full members upon earning their degree and upon the recommendation of their moderator, in keeping with the norm above stated;

7. Members shall contribute to the continuing operations of the Association through the payment of an annual membership fee to be determined by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV

The Leadership of the Association

1. The leadership of the IACM shall reside in an Executive Board composed of the President, Vice-president, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and a number of Continental Representatives.

2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

a. The President shall be responsible for convening meetings of the entire Association and of its Executive Board and for presiding at these meetings.

The President shall be the ordinary official representative of the IACM before other entities. The President shall work closely with the other officers, particularly the Executive Secretary. The President shall exercise a particular responsibility for maintaining the Association's faithfulness to its purpose, shaping its evangelizing thrust, animating its spirit, fostering its unity, and for channeling its activities towards a truly effective contribution to the mission of the Church.

b. The Vice-president shall take the place of the President in those cases to be determined by the Bylaws of the Association.

c. The Executive Secretary, personally or with the aid of appointed assistants, shall keep an accurate record of the membership, keep the minutes of its meetings, send out mailings in coordination with the President and the Executive Board and perform other duties incumbent on this office.

d. The Treasurer shall be in charge of receiving and disbursing the funds of the Associ-

ation, solicit membership dues and perform other duties of a financial nature. A financial administrator may be appointed by the Executive Board to assist the Treasurer.

e. The Continental Representatives shall promote the objectives and activities of the IACM in the continents. Each continent will have regional groups organized according to their needs for networking.

The Continental Representatives will communicate the apostolic experiences, activities or concerns of these regions in meetings of the Executive Board as well as in other instances.

f. The Executive Board shall have two types of meetings: reduced operative meetings of certain officers on a regular and frequent basis and plenary meetings of the entire Board to be held at times established by the Bylaws of the IACM or otherwise decided by its appointed officers.

3. For the purpose of relating the IACM to other entities and other aspects of effective leadership, the seat of the Association shall be the habitual residence of the President, normally where an academic institution can offer the needed infrastructure for efficient operations.

ARTICLE V

Meetings of the Association

1. The Association shall have a plenary Assembly in which all Members have the right and duty to attend, normally at intervals of every four years.

2. This plenary Assembly shall elect the Executive Officers of the IACM, make decisions relating to its Statutes and modifications of the same and establish the major policies, which guide the operations and activities of Association.

3. The Executive Board shall meet at times and places established by the Bylaws otherwise decided by its President and Executive Secretary in a process that involves proper consultation and dialogue with the other members of the Board.

4. The President and Executive Secretary shall meet on a regular and frequent basis to ensure the most effective and properly coordinated operations of the association.

ARTICLE VI

The Election of the Officers of the Association

1. A full majority (more than 50%) of the Members present at the plenary Assemblies of the Association shall elect the Executive Officers of the IACM. The Bylaws of the Association shall determine the quorum needed for elections and other decisive actions of the Assembly.

2. All individual Members shall have an active vote in these Assemblies; the modality and weight of the votes of corporate Members shall be determined by the Bylaws. Associates do not have the right to vote for Officers, approve or modify Statutes or determine the major policies of the IACM, but shall otherwise be able to participate actively in the deliberations and activities of the Association as determined by the Bylaws.

3. A Nominations Committee may be asked to prepare “straw ballots” or employ other means to present the names of persons or slates of persons to be voted on as Officers of the Association.

4. The detailed modalities of elections and the manner of filling vacancies shall be determined by the Bylaws of the IACM.

ARTICLE VII

The Committees of the Association

The Executive Board of the IACM may designate “Standing Committees,” for Missiological Faculties or Institutes, for Publications, for Nominations and for the organization of scientific missiological congresses or similar encounters. “Ad hoc” committees may be named to carry out specific tasks.

ARTICLE VIII

The Approval and Modification of the Statutes

The formal approval and modification of the Statutes are the competency of the plenary Assembly of the Association.

APPENDIX

The Bylaws of the Association

A point that should enter into the Bylaws of the IACM:

The normal operating language of the IACM shall be English, with particular attention given to the need to facilitate the full participation of its members of continental areas where another language (e.g. Spanish) is widespread.

Recapitulation of other items to be included in the Bylaws:

1. The determination of those cases in which the Vice-president shall take the place of the President (IV, 2,*b*).

2. The determination of the frequency of the plenary meetings of the entire Executive Board (IV, 2,*f*; V, 3).

3. The determination of the modality and weight of the votes of Corporate Members in the Assemblies (VI, 2).

4. The determination of the modalities for the participation of Associates in the activities of the Association (VI, 2).

5. The determination of the detailed modalities of elections and the manner of filling vacancies (VI, 4).

6. The modalities for the designation of the “Standing Committees” of the Association (VII).

Recapitulation of Matters of Policy to be Established by the Executive Board

1. The determination of the particular norms for membership and the admission of new Members (III, 5).

2. The determination of the amount of the annual membership fee to be paid by the Members of the IACM (III, 7).

These Statutes were approved by the First Plenary Assembly of the Association in Rome (21 October, 2000) and revised the following day by the “ad hoc” committee charged with this task on the basis of the amendments recommended.

Here are included the modifications approved by the Third Plenary Assembly of the Association in Pieniezno, Poland (1 September, 2007). Cf. Report of the Third Plenary Assembly, Pieniezno, Poland, 1 September, 2007.

THE BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

(Updated at the 5th General Assembly, Nairobi, 20 July, 2013)

1. Bylaws are made by the Executive Board and can be changed with the consent of the Executive Board.

2. The normal operating language of the IACM shall be English, to facilitate the full participation of members of continental areas. Particular attention shall be given where another language (e.g. Spanish, French) is widespread.

3. The Vice-president shall take the place of the President (Statutes IV, 2, *b*) when he or she is delegated by the President to represent the Association, when the President is not able to be present at a board meeting or assembly. When the President is no longer able to fulfill the duties of the President, the Vice-president will act as President until the end of the term of the Executive Board.

4. There will be six Continental Representatives on the Executive Board representing: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean islands (2013 update), North America and Oceania (Statutes IV, 2, *e*)

5. Ideally the plenary meetings of the entire Executive Board shall be held at least once a year (Statutes IV, 2, *f*; V, 3)

6. Associates of the IACM can participate in all activities and missiological deliberations of the Association. They may not participate in elections, in the modification of the Statutes or in any major policy decisions (Statutes VI, 2). Associates can be, for example, students invited to attend the conference.

7. Those who gather for an Assembly constitute the quorum needed for elections and any policy decision of the Association (Statutes VI, 1).

8. Elections:

a. Those to be elected at the full assembly are first the President, second the Executive Secretary, third the Vice President, and fourth the Treasurer (Statutes VI, 4).

b. Ideally, President, Vice President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the executive board serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same position. However, the association recognizes the need for continuity in the Executive Board and may make exceptions. The regional representatives have no limit of terms. (2013 update)

c. An Ad Hoc Nominations Committee of three (3) should be appointed by the Executive Board. This Committee will be responsible for the gathering of the names of candidates for each position. The committee will actively solicit nominations to ensure that there are proposed candidates for each position (Statutes VI, 3).

d. The process of nominating candidates: any three (3) persons can nominate a person for any position. The name of the nominee is written on a piece of paper with the signatures of the three people who propose that candidate. They should ask the person to be nominated if he/she will accept the nomination. A nominator can be a nominator for a number of candidates for the same position if they so desire. Any member can be nominated simultaneously for any number of positions (Statutes VI, 4).

e. The closing time for the nomination shall be decided by the President (Statutes VI, 4).

f. Voting at the assembly will be by written ballot (Statutes VI, 4).

g. If after two ballots no one has a majority, only the two top names will be included in the third ballot. If the third ballot results in a tie, the ballot will be repeated (2013 update).

h. The Continental Representatives will be chosen by the members present at the Assembly who are from those Continental areas.

9. If any vacancies occur during the term of the Executive Board, the Executive Board will appoint any member to fill out term of the vacant position except for the president who will be replaced by the vice-president (Statutes VI, 4)

10. Applications for new Individual and Corporate Members are presented to the Executive Board (Statutes III, 5). Applicants should have the required credentials as stated in the Statutes (III, 2, 3). At least one Member of the Association should recommend an applicant. The Executive Board will approve the applications for membership. The Executive Secretary will inform the applicant of the decision of the Executive Board.

11. Associates of the IACM need to apply in the same manner as those who apply for membership. The Statutes state there are only two types of members, Individual and Cor-

porate. Associates will be accepted by the Executive Board in the same manner as members and they will be notified by the Executive Secretary of their acceptance as Associates.

12. The Standing Committees shall have a convener and members. The number of persons for the Standing Committee shall be decided by the Executive Board (Statutes VII). The Standing Committees could be viewed as study groups.

13. The annual membership fee to be paid by the members of the IACM (Statutes III, 7) will be \$30.00 (USD) per year for individual members and \$150.00 per year for Corporate Members. Associates will pay an annual fee of \$10.00 (USD).

14. As in any international Church-based association there is the need to uphold the moral integrity of its members, hence in case of grievous ethical misconduct the executive board shall review the membership of the person concerned. (2013 update).