



Institute for Biblical Scholarship in Africa (IBSA-West Africa)

CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS

Article I - Name and Purpose

SECTION 1: The Institution shall be known and called **Institute of Biblical Scholarship in Africa, West Africa (IBSA – West Africa)**.

Strategic Mandate: The furtherance of New Testament studies internationally, including within its interests charitable initiatives (Constitution).

Vision: Correct understanding of Scriptures based on critical studies.

Mission: Promoting biblical scholarship for peaceful interactions.

Aim: Serving critically and peacefully, people associated with the Biblical faith.

Purpose: Coordinating scholarly activities pertaining to the mission.

Objectives:

- 1) Methodologically sound study of the Scripture in original or translated texts.
- 2) Learning and teaching biblical original languages or any of the translation languages.
- 3) Publishing locally and globally items which reflect the mission statement of the Institute.

Units and Officers: The Institute operates with three Study Units and one Executive Committee. The Study units include New Testament Studies Unit, Old Testament Studies Unit, and Scripture Translations Unit.

Governance structure: Executive committee, trustees and officers.

Editorial Board: Runs the Society's journal (New Testament Studies/Old Testament Studies/ Bible Translation Studies) and the Monograph Series (yet to be established).

SECTION 2: A copy of this Constitution and by-law shall be circulated to all members upon joining the Institute and on the Institute's website.

Article II – Membership

SECTION 1: Membership requirements: A PhD, D.Theol holder in the area of New Testament Studies, Old Testament Studies, or Bible Translation Studies shall be admitted as Full members. MPhil or MTh students in the above disciplines shall be admitted as Associate members.

Article III – Meetings

SECTION 1: Two (2) meetings in a year. First meeting – Last Saturday in June; second meeting – First Saturday in December.

SECTION 2: The fiscal year of the Fund shall be 1st January through 31st December.

SECTION 3: The Executives of IBSA – West Africa shall meet at least once in a year or as often as deemed necessary for the transaction of business regarding the future of IBSA - West Africa. All members must be notified of all meetings.

SECTION 4: One third (1/3) Membership of IBSA- West Africa shall constitute a quorum for each meeting.

Article IV – Elections

SECTION 1: Each Study Unit is spearheaded by a President who is assisted by a Secretary. They are both elected for a period of a non-renewable two year-office term by fee-paying members. They are also elected among and by the Institute members who have previously chosen to support the Institute through that particular Unit for a minimum period of two years. Each unit can operate with a minimum of two or three members wherever they are available and after they have been endorsed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is made of the Institute's President, Vice President, Secretary-General, Vice Secretary-General and a Treasurer. They are both elected among and by the officers of the Study Units for a period of a non-renewable two year-office term by fee-paying members. They have the responsibility of coordinating all the activities of the Institute. This shall take place during any of the two annual meetings.

Article V – Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of fee-paying members present at the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the IBSA – West Africa called for this purpose. The Secretary General shall hand a copy of the proposed amendment to each fee-paying member of the Institute, at least five (5) and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be voted on. Amendments may be proposed by a majority vote of the Executives or by a petition signed by at least twelve (10) fee-paying members of the Institute. This is to be submitted to the Secretary-General.

Article VI - Fees and Other Money

SECTION 1: **Annual Membership Fee**: \$30 or it's equivalent for full members and \$15 or its equivalent for Ph.D. students. This amount which may be adjusted periodically shall be set and made payable on or before the end of the year by bank transfer/mobile money(MoMo)/cheques, online payment or at any such time as shall be determined by the Members.

SECTION 2: Accounts

Bank Account – The bank account shall be in the name of the Institute.

Email Account – The email address admin@ibsafrica.org would be used in all official communications of the institute. This would be managed by the Secretary General.

SECTION 3: Management of Fund/Signatories – The Institute’s bank accounts will be managed by Three (3) Executives (The President, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer). The Secretary General would be the sole signatory to the account at any point in time. The Secretary General can however only withdraw money from the account based on a signed memo approved by the President and Treasurer.

The current Executives of the IBSA – West Africa are

Prof. John David Kwamena Ekem	- President
Prof. Olubiyi Adeniyi Adewale	- Vice President
Prof. Jonathan Edward Tetteh Kuwornu-Adjaottor	- Secretary-General
Dr. Daniel Nii Aboagye Aryeh	- Vice Secretary General
Dr. Matilda Alice Nsiah	- Treasurer

SECTION 4: Salaries and Fees - No office holder is to receive compensation for services rendered. However, re-imbusement of reasonable expenses, fully documented/validated and approved by the chairman/membership may be allowed.

SECTION 5: Loan/Advances – There shall be **no** borrowing from the Institute.

Article VII – Dissolution

SECTION 1: On the dissolution of the Institute, any amount remaining in the Institute’s accounts will be shared according to fees paid to all members, except that members who have not benefitted from the accounts in any way shall receive twice what is received by other members of the Institute who have benefitted in one way or the other.

Article VIII - By-law

SECTION 1: Members shall, by majority vote have the power to adopt, change, or amend by-laws as they deem necessary.

SECTION 2: Institute By-laws - The funds will be restricted for the benefit of members of IBSA – West Africa who are fee paying members, payment of a reasonable monthly allowance for the website manager, and annual website fees only.

DENUNCIATION

A member of the Institute shall reserve to itself the right to denounce this Constitution and cease to be a member subject to the condition that he/she shall not be able to recover any fees he/she has made to the Institute.

DISQUALIFICATION/REMOVAL OF A MEMBER

A member shall cease to be part of the Institute if He/She: -

1. **Stops paying fees** to the Institute without any notification or reasonable excuse communicated in writing to the Secretary-General for three (3) consecutive years.
2. Shows willful and blatant disregard for any of the provisions of this Constitution.
3. Proven that a member is undermining the Institution.