

CONSTITUTION OF  
THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF  
BRYN ATHYN COLLEGE OF THE NEW CHURCH

Approved by the Faculty and President on January 17, 2011 and the ANC Board on February 5, 2011

**PREAMBLE**

The mission of collegiate New Church education is to enhance students' civil, moral, and spiritual life by serving as a New Church intellectual center, enriched and structured by the Old and New Testaments and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. This document provides structure and orderly processes to facilitate achievement of the mission. Furthermore, this document assists Bryn Athyn College and the Academy of the New Church in meeting the professional standards of institutions of higher education in the United States.

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

There shall be the Faculty Council of Bryn Athyn College of the New Church (hereinafter referred to as the Faculty Council or the Council).

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

2.1 The Faculty Council subscribes to the purpose of the Academy of the New Church as proclaimed in Article II of its Charter of 1877: "propagating the Heavenly Doctrines of the New Jerusalem and establishing the New Church signified in the Apocalypse by the New Jerusalem, promoting education in all its various forms, educating young men for the Ministry, publishing books, pamphlets, and other printed matter, and establishing a Library."

2.2 The Faculty Council subscribes to the mission of Bryn Athyn College as published in the *Catalog*: "Bryn Athyn College of the New Church serves as an intellectual center for all who desire to pursue a higher education in the liberal arts and sciences, enriched and structured by the Old and New Testaments and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. The purpose of this education is to enhance students' civil, moral, and spiritual life, as well as to contribute to human spiritual welfare."

2.3 The Faculty Council shall be the voice of the faculty in matters of concern to them and establish effective means by which the faculty can contribute to, and participate in, the governance of the College.

2.4 The Faculty Council shall be a means for collaboration, effective communication, inquiry, proposing and responding to policies and procedures, and mutual understanding between the faculty and other constituent parts of the Academy of the New Church.

**ARTICLE III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY**

3.1 The Board of Trustees, as set forth in this Constitution, has delegated, subject to revocation, certain responsibilities and functions to the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council is hereby declared to be the official body of the Bryn Athyn College faculty in the conduct of its business.

3.2 The Faculty Council shall take the lead in matters concerning curriculum design and review; instructional methods; standards and procedures for evaluating teaching, scholarship, and service; and those aspects of student life related to the educational process. The Faculty Council shall make recommendations to the Dean of Faculty and President regarding degree candidates. The Faculty Council shall select from its membership the members for the Tenure and Promotion Committee which shall make recommendations to the Dean of Faculty and President regarding candidates for tenure or promotion.

3.3 The Faculty Council shall have opportunities for consultation and collaboration with any appropriate administrator on matters connected to educational policy, the general welfare of the faculty, and the priorities and plans of the College prior to decisions being made on these matters.

3.4 The Faculty Council shall make recommendations to the President and other administrators on matters concerning resource allocation, academic infrastructure, and policy implementation.

3.5 The Faculty Council shall designate a person to attend Board meetings and to represent its views at Human Resource Committee meetings except when these meetings are in executive session.

3.6 Any proposal the Faculty Council wishes the Board of Trustees to consider shall be done by resolution via the office of the President. Such resolutions passed by the Faculty Council shall be presented to the President for approval and acted upon within 30 days. If approved, then the President shall present the resolution to the Board of Trustees for its approval. The resolution shall take effect upon approval by the Board.

3.7 If, after consultation with the Faculty Council, the President vetoes the resolution or fails to act upon it, then the Faculty Council, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may override the veto or inaction and submit the resolution through its Chair for approval by the Board.

3.8 If the Board of Trustees rejects the resolution, then the Faculty Council through its Chair may request that the Board provide the faculty with the reasons for its decision.

3.9 The Faculty Council, or its delegates, shall consult with the Chancellor in the selection of a President of the College.

3.10 The Faculty Council, or its delegates, shall consult with the President of the College during the search process for administrators responsible for the faculty, academics, student life, and enrollment management.

3.11 While accepting the “limitations clause” in section two of the A.A.U.P.’s *1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*, the Faculty Council shall support the exercise of academic freedom throughout the College, investigate matters endangering such freedom, and recommend remedies as these are warranted.

3.12 The Faculty Council shall publish such information as will be useful to its members, students, administrators, and the Board of Trustees.

3.13 The Faculty Council shall make Bylaws it deems necessary to facilitate the transaction of its business.

#### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 Only members of the Faculty Council shall have the right to vote upon Council business.

4.2 The Faculty Council shall consist of all full-time and percentage-time faculty holding the rank of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, or Instructor in the undergraduate or graduate schools of the College who have met New Church qualifications as specified in its Bylaws and such other members of the faculty as may be specified in its Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

5.1 The Faculty Council shall establish and elect a Chair and Secretary to conduct its business.

5.2 The Faculty Council may create such other officers as needed by amending its Bylaws.

5.3 The officers of the Faculty Council shall perform their duties in good faith.

#### **ARTICLE VI. THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

6.1 The Faculty Council shall establish a Steering Committee whose membership is set forth in its Bylaws.

6.2. The Steering Committee shall coordinate the business of the officers and manage the affairs of the Faculty Council.

6.3 The Steering Committee shall undertake such tasks as the Faculty Council grants them in its Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS**

7.1 The process for nominating and electing officers of the Faculty Council shall be set forth in its Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS**

8.1 The Faculty Council shall hold regular meetings.

8.2 The Faculty Council may call special meetings.

8.3 The Faculty Council shall conduct all meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order*, unless these are at variance with any provision of the Faculty Council's Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES**

9.1 The Faculty Council shall have such Standing Committees as it deems appropriate for the conduct of its business.

9.2 The Faculty Council may have Sub-Committees and Special Committees as it deems appropriate for the conduct of its business.

## **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

10.1. The Steering Committee shall consider proposed amendments to this Constitution. The Steering Committee shall then present the proposed amendments to the Faculty Council with its recommendation regarding approval or non-approval.

10.2 If the Faculty Council approves the amendments by two-thirds (2/3) of the membership then it will submit the amendments to the Board of Trustees through the office of the President of the College.

10.3 Amendments are effective from the date of their approval by the Board of Trustees.