

NEMAAR

New England/Maritimes Region
American Academy of Religion

BY-LAWS
AMENDED JUNE 17, 2009

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the American Academy of Religion, New England/Maritimes Region, also abbreviated as NEMAAR.

II. AFFILIATION

This organization is a regional division of the American Academy of Religion, and nothing in these by-laws shall be construed in a sense inconsistent with the by-laws of the American Academy of Religion.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization shall be to encourage scholarship and research, to stimulate effective instruction and the exchange of information, to promote publication in the field, and to encourage, develop and support the scholarly study of religion at all levels of education.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the American Academy of Religion in good standing, who work within the geographical limits of the Region, are *ipso facto* members of this regional organization. The geographical limits of the region are currently co-extensive with the six New England states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and the five Maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. The classes of membership are those chosen by the American Academy of Religion.

V. MEETINGS

The organization shall help to sponsor, support, and promote initiatives and events proposed by regional members. No such event shall conflict with the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. The goal is to contribute to events in different parts of the region, to benefit the greatest possible number of NEMAAR members.

- A. *Eligibility*: All regional members are eligible to submit proposals. Graduate students are welcome. Students must provide evidence of a faculty mentor or advisor who has made a commitment to help supervise the planning. Proposals must demonstrate a clear benefit to the region. The NEMAAR provides funds for special projects that promise to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members in the region, as well as the work of the region. Conferences, workshops, special programs, training events and other innovative regional projects may be funded through this source. Where possible projects should be designed so that they may be duplicated or transported to other regions
- B. *Applications*: Should include a narrative description of the project, not to exceed two pages, detailing how the project promises to benefit the scholarly and professional life of AAR members and the work of the region. The application should state the time period covered by the project

and provide a detailed budget. Funds may *not* be used to cover institutional overhead costs. No grant will exceed \$800.00.

C. *Deadlines*: Applications may be submitted at any time.

D. *Attendance*: All members of the American Academy of Religion in good standing, irrespective of their work or place of resident, are eligible to attend and to participate in discussions.

VI. REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

A. *The Regional Steering Committee (RSC)* shall consist of up to ten members, who will be responsible for such functions as proposal solicitation, review and mentoring; and outreach. The members of the RSC shall include: Regional Elected Director (RED), President, Vice President, Proposal Review Chairs, Past RED (for one year), Past President, and up to two Student Members.

B. *Regional Officers and Terms of Office*

1. The Regionally Elected Director (RED) shall be elected for a term of three years, and may be re-elected for one additional consecutive three-year term. Following the end of his or her terms(s), the RED shall remain on the RSC as Past RED, to assist the new RED during the first transitional year.
2. The President and Vice-President shall each be elected for terms of one year each. The President shall have served as Vice-President.
3. The Proposal Review Chairs shall each be elected to serve for three years.
4. The Past RED shall serve on the RSC for one year, to assist with the transition, and to provide institutional memory and continuity.
5. The Past President shall serve on the RSC for a term of two years. In some cases, the Past President may also have become the RED, in which case s/he shall fulfill the term(s) and responsibilities as designated for the RED.
6. Student Members: Up to two graduate students can serve on the NEMAAR steering committee.

C. *Duties of Regional Steering Committee Members*

1. The Regionally Elected Director (RED) serves as the region's liaison to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Religion. The duties and responsibilities of this role are governed by the by-laws of the American Academy of Religion, and laid out in the American Academy of Religion Regional Officers' Handbook (<http://www.aarweb.org/about/reghandbook.asp#VI2>). The RED will attend the two AAR Board of Directors' meetings each year, and will keep the RSC members informed of related developments and decisions in order to develop strategies for their implementation at the regional level.

When proposals have been accepted by the RSC, the RED will conduct all necessary and related correspondence with the Atlanta office of the AAR, to facilitate the support of these events.

The RED will also serve as the Region's treasurer. As such, s/he will provide the annual

financial report to the AAR, arrange for the disbursement of the grants awarded within the region, and keep the RSC fully informed of the financial condition of the organization.

2. The President shall oversee the functioning of the academy within the NEMAAR Region, and shall call, and preside at, meetings of the RSC. The President shall appoint a Nominations Committee, subject to the approval of the RSC. The President shall also work closely with the RED to coordinate implementation of directives from the Board of Directors.
3. The Vice President: As chair of the Nominations Committee, the Vice President shall foster the development of the board and its leadership. The Vice President shall work together with the RED to coordinate regional elections, with the technical support of the AAR office in Atlanta. In the absence or inability of the President, the Vice President shall assume the duties and powers of the President, in collaboration with the RSC.

D. *Committees*

1. The Regional Steering Committee shall consist of the Regionally Elected Director (RED), the immediate Past-President, the President, the Vice-President (who shall be President Elect), and the Proposal Review Chairs (currently, Conferences, Teaching Workshops, and Salon Series). Two additional members of the RSC shall be members at large elected by regional members, and two student members.

The RSC shall generally conduct its business by email, but shall meet at least once a year to review the work of the previous year, and plan for the following year.

2. The Nominations Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President and consist of the Vice President and two other members of the RSC appointed by the President.
3. The RSC shall constitute such ad hoc committees as are deemed advisable for the effective functioning of the organization.
4. The Proposal Review Chairs shall be designated on the NEMAAR website as the point persons for specific types of proposals (e.g., Conferences, Teaching Workshops, Salon Series). Upon receiving a proposal, the Proposal Review Chair shall review it and circulate it to the rest of the RSC, with any pertinent recommendations or concerns. The PRC will correspond with the person submitting the proposal, until such time as the proposal is either accepted or rejected. The RED, together with the Proposal Review Chair, shall then notify the person of the results.
5. The Student Members shall consist of two graduate students chosen from among interested graduate students in the NEMAAR region.

VII. ELECTIONS

- A. *Candidacy of RED*: The candidate for the RED position must have served on the RSC for a minimum of four years.
- B. *Candidacy of President*: The candidate for the presidency must have previously served as the regional Vice President.
- C. *Candidacy of Vice-President*: Any members from among the Regional Steering Committee may enter their candidacy for the Vice-Presidency after a minimum of two years on the RSC.

- D. *Recruitment of Candidates for the Regional Steering Committee*: In coordination with the RED, the Vice President shall circulate an email to NEMAAR members, with an open call for nominations to serve on the RSC for all positions except the RED, President, and Vice President. These potential positions include Program Review Chairs and the two members at large.
1. Nomination Materials: Candidates must provide a Nomination Letter, a CV, and a Candidate Statement for the particular role they are interested in filling. These materials will go to the Vice President, who will circulate them to the RED and to the Nominations Committee.
 2. Selection of Candidates: The Nominations Committee will narrow the list of candidates for each role down to no more than two.
 3. Confirmation of Candidates' Willingness to Run: The RED and/or the Vice President will secure a firm commitment from the candidates that, if elected, they are willing to serve.
- E. Election Process: In coordination with the AAR office in Atlanta, an annual election will be held by email balloting.
1. One month in advance of the election period, email notices will be sent to NEMAAR members announcing candidates and the start- and end-dates of the one-week balloting period.
 2. A second reminder notice will be sent to all NEMAAR members two weeks before the start date of the election period.
 3. On the start date of the election period, an e-ballot will be sent to all regional members, allowing members up to one week to enter their votes.
 4. Votes will be sent to the Atlanta office, where they will be tabulated.
 5. Within one week of receiving the election results, the RED will send out an email to regional members announcing the results.

VIII. REVISION OF THE BYLAWS

- A. The NEMAAR bylaws shall be reviewed every five years by the RSC, and revised as deemed necessary.
- B. Proposed revisions shall be formulated by the RSC and emailed to NEMAAR members for review. The draft shall be posted on the NEMAAR section of the AAR website for one month following their circulation to members. Members will be invited to submit feedback to the RED.
- C. At the end of the month, all revisions will be reviewed and approved by the RSC. The revised by-laws will be posted on the NEMAAR section of the AAR website.
- D. One month prior to a regional voting period on the bylaws, an email reminder will be sent to all NEMAAR members.
- E. Two weeks before the start-date of the voting period, a second reminder will be sent to regional members.
- F. An e-ballot will be sent to all NEMAAR members one the start date of the one week voting

period. Regional members will have one week to submit their votes to the Atlanta office, where they will be tabulated.

- G. Within one week of receiving the election results, the RED will send out an email to regional members announcing the results.