

Constitution

I. Name

The name of the Society shall be the International John Bunyan Society (IJBS).

II. Purpose

The aims of the Society shall be:

- to promote scholarship devoted to the life, works and influence of John Bunyan (1628–1688), and to the literature, culture, history and heritage of British Nonconformity and Dissent;
- to facilitate communication between scholars sharing an interest in Bunyan and Dissenting studies, by such means as shall be available (website, listserv, social networks, etc.);
- to set up and maintain publications to promote scholarship in the fields of interest to the IJBS;
- to organise a triennial international conference;
- to encourage public awareness of Bunyan studies.

III. Membership

Any person interested in the purposes of the Society as listed in Section II of this Constitution can become a member by payment of a membership fee as determined by the Executive Committee.

IV. Officers

1. The elected officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer(s) and Editor of the Newsletter. The elected officers shall serve for a term of three years, renewable once, except for the President and Vice-President whose terms are generally non-renewable. In exceptional circumstances, elected officers may serve for another term.
2. The Vice-President is the automatic nominee for the position of President upon the current President's retirement, and is acclaimed as President if he or she accepts the nomination.
3. Names of candidates for the offices of Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer(s) and Editor of the Newsletter shall be proposed by the Executive Committee to members and honorary members at least sixty days in advance of the triennial Business Meeting. The officers will then be elected by a show of hands at the Business Meeting by a majority vote of members who are either present at, or have registered a proxy vote for, the meeting.

V. Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee, composed of the elected officers as described in Section IV.1 of the Constitution.
2. One of the editors of *Bunyan Studies* shall be an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee may appoint other *ex officio* members.

VI. Triennial conference

There shall be an international conference organised every three years by the President.

VII. Triennial Meeting

The Society shall hold a Business Meeting at least once every three years, normally at its triennial international conference. Ten members of the Society shall constitute a quorum. This meeting may be cancelled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. If a Business Meeting is cancelled, the Executive Committee shall continue to serve until such time as an election by mail (or other secure means) can be held.

VIII. Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and ratified by a majority vote of members who are either present at, or have registered a proxy vote for, the Business Meeting.