



July Letter to Members

Dear Fellow Member of OTSA:

In response to suggestions and questions from the membership, the officers of the Society have decided to withdraw certain proposed amendments and to revise others that were sent for your consideration earlier in the year. We are also proposing a simplified version of one of the bylaws. Our reasons for doing so are as follows:

2010 OTSA Officers:

President

A. Gregg Roeber

Vice-President

Radu Bordeianu

Secretary

Maria McDowell

Treasurer

Will Cohen

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The Orthodox Theological Society in America was organized under the auspices of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) for the promotion of Orthodox theology, the cultivation of fellowship and cooperation among Orthodox Christians, and to coordinate the work of Orthodox theologians in the Americas.

1. With regard to our continued endorsement by the Bishops' Assembly, we can take no action on this until we receive specific instructions as to what the hierarchs will be asking us to do. We will therefore continue as per earlier instructions, to operate as we did before as an endorsed Society of SCOBA.
2. The proposed bylaw that would create new categories of membership for the Society has also generated both interest and requests for more clarification. Rather than attempting to proceed with this item now, the officers intend to place this on the agenda for the annual business meeting in September. Members have urged that we find a way to encourage seminarians, graduate students, and members of the clergy who are not academics to participate in the Society's activities. We are also aware, however, that the purpose of the Society also requires us to promote rigorous standards for papers and publications. Some members have also raised the question of whether it is time to consider allowing non-Orthodox scholars to join the Society. The officers propose therefore that we begin a discussion about the possibility of creating academic and non-academic memberships. The common criterion expected for each category is that each such member would be conversant with and contributing to Orthodox theology. Rather than trying to resolve all these questions by means of a new by-law, however, we would rather discuss the issues at the annual meeting, and prior to the meeting, via an on-line forum on the website.
3. The bylaw touching upon the invitation to other Orthodox groups to meet jointly with OTSA was largely deemed unnecessary since nothing in the Constitution or Bylaws stands in the way of the Society issuing such invitations.
4. The single, but significant by-law we are proposing, however, now reads as follows:

"The Society will publish an on-line journal that appears yearly, the contributors to be decided by the editor and editorial board. The name of this electronic journal shall be *Diakrisis: A Journal of Orthodox Theology, History and Culture*. The journal is maintained by an editor appointed by the officers for an initial three-year term to be confirmed by a majority vote of the membership in good standing at the annual meeting. The editor is eligible for re-appointment to this position for a second, and final three-year term. The

editor is responsible for soliciting and selecting submissions, for the publication process, and for promoting the journal. An editorial board of no fewer than four members shall be appointed initially by the editor in consultation with the officers of the Society to serve in staggered terms, two for two, and two for three years. These members shall also be eligible for a second and final term of service. The day-to-day workings of the journal are the responsibility of the editor in consultation with the Society's officers as needed. The editor reports to the officers of the Society. The editor is responsible to submit a budget to the officers for the journal. To guarantee the maintenance of the website and the appearance of the journal, the Society authorizes the position of website maintainer and editor. Compensations for this position will be included in the journal budget."

We deeply appreciate the contributions from many of you and your continued interest in our attempt to increase the Society's membership and profile. After August 1st, please visit the newly-revised website forum for further information and discussion of the proposed revision to the bylaws. Most importantly, however, please make every effort to register for, and to attend the annual meeting. Once again on behalf of the officers, I thank you for your support of the Society and look forward to greeting you at Holy Cross in September.

Sincerely in Christ,

(The Rev. Deacon) Gregory Roeber, President
The Orthodox Theological Society in America