



**NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIANS IN SOCIAL WORK**  
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**BYLAWS**  
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## **Article I**

### **Corporate Identity**

#### **Section 1--Name**

The name of this organization shall be the North American Association of Christians in Social Work, hereinafter referred to as NACSW or the Association.

#### **Section 2--Auspices**

NACSW is a not-for-profit corporation duly organized and legally established under articles of incorporation in the State of Illinois.

#### **Section 3--Service Area**

NACSW shall primarily serve Canada and the United States of America, but persons who reside in any country are welcome as members.

## **Article II**

### **Purpose**

#### **Section 1--Objectives**

The basic objectives of NACSW shall be:

- (a) To equip NACSW members to ethically integrate Christian faith and professional social work practice.
- (b) To provide Christians in social work with opportunities for fellowship, support, networking, education, outreach, and a corporate witness to, and influence on, the world.

- (c) To articulate a thoughtful Christian perspective in social work and social welfare.
- (d) To encourage awareness within the Christian community of contemporary human need and of the social work profession as an avenue for ministering to this need.

## **Section 2--Statement of Faith and Practice**

### **Tenets Emphasizing Christian Beliefs**

- (a) There is one God, who created and sustains everything that exists, and who continues to be active in human history.
- (b) Humanity is the highest creation of God, but rebelled against its Creator, and is in need of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- (c) God became incarnate in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, was raised bodily from the dead to reconcile human beings to their Creator, and who has promised to return personally in judgment to complete the establishment of His kingdom.
- (d) God works in and through people in the person of the Holy Spirit.
- (e) The character and purposes of God are revealed in the Bible, the Word of God, which is the basis for what Christians are to believe and how they are to live.
- (t) Jesus Christ calls all Christians to be a caring community and a corporate witness to faith in Him.

### **Tenets Emphasizing Human Relationships and Responsibilities**

- (g) Every individual is a person of worth, with basic human rights and essential human responsibilities.
- (h) The uniqueness of each human being and the distinctiveness of social groups derive from factors such as age, gender; race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, life philosophy, family, culture, and economic and social structures.
- (i) Human beings are interdependent with each other and with their social and physical environments.
- j) Jesus Christ is Lord over all areas of life, including social, economic, and political systems.

### **Tenets Emphasizing Vocation**

- (k) A dynamic relationship exists between the Christian life and social work practice.

- (l) Christians in social work ought not to be motivated by temporal wealth, power, or security.
- (m) Christians in social work ought to examine and evaluate all human ideologies and social work theories and methods as to their consistency with the Bible, their consciences, social laws, and professional codes of ethics.
- (n) Christians in social work ought to work for the temporal and eternal well-being of all human beings, and for the redemption of human communities and social institutions.
- (o) Christians in social work ought to support and submit themselves to the highest standards of professional education, practice, and ethics.
- (p) Christians in social work ought to use the insights of their faith in helping people, and to treat everyone as Jesus Christ would have them treated.

## **Article III Membership**

### **Section 1--General Requirements**

Membership in NACSW shall be open to either:

A. Persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who support the objectives of the Association, who support its Statement of Faith and Practice (Article II, Section 2), and who pay the annual dues (Article XI, Section 1)

OR

B. Organizations for which an authorized individual in the organization signifies the organization's support of the objectives of the Association as well as NACSW's Statement of Faith and Practice (Article II, Section 2), and that pay the annual organizational membership dues.

### **Section 2-- Membership Criteria**

Membership is open to persons who either:

- Hold a baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree in social work; or
- Hold an associates, baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree in a social science discipline or are employed in a social service role; or
- Are enrolled in a social work educational program; or
- Are interested in social work or social welfare.

### **Section 3--Term of Membership**

The term of membership shall be twelve months.

## **Article IV Chapters**

Members of NACSW may establish and maintain chapters of NACSW under the corporate sanction of the Board of Directors. Chapters shall be governed in accordance with written policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors.

## **Article V Board of Directors**

### **Section 1--Powers**

The property and affairs of NACSW shall be under the general control and management of the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to, collectively, as the Board, and, individually, as Directors.

### **Section 2--Members**

The Board shall consist of no fewer than 9 members in good standing, assigned to 3 classes by year of election, with a minimum of 3/4 of the members holding a bachelors, masters or doctoral degree in social work.

### **Section 3--Term of Office**

The term of office of Directors shall be three years. A Director may be elected to serve no more than two full, consecutive terms, except that the President shall not be required to stand for reelection to the Board prior to the completion of a two-year term of office as President. After the completion of two full, consecutive terms, one full year must pass before a member may be elected to the Board.

### **Section 4--Nominations**

Candidates for election to the Board shall be nominated by the Board.

### **Section 5--Elections**

One class of Directors shall be elected annually. A ballot and information about each candidate shall be sent to each voting member of NACSW. The ballots shall be counted by two tellers, and the results shall be reported to the membership of the Association. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the case of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted..

### **Section 6--Appointments**

The Board may appoint as many as three additional directors to ensure

representation from countries in which there is an officially established chapter of the Association, and/or to ensure racial/ethnic, gender, denominational and/or geographical diversity of the membership of the Board. The Board may also appoint members holding editorial or other responsibilities to be ex officio Directors, with voice but without vote. The President of the Board will appoint up to two BSW/MSW students or new professional to the Board of Directors for two-year terms.

### **Section 7--Vacancies**

Vacancies occurring during a term of office may be filled by the Board through appointment of a Director to complete the unexpired term.

## **Article VI Officers**

### **Section 1--Election**

The Board shall elect from its membership, a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. No person shall be eligible for the office of President without first having served as a Director for one year.

### **Section 2--Terms of Office**

The term of office of the President shall be two years, and there shall be a limit of no more than two consecutive terms. The terms of the other officers shall be one year, and there shall be a limit of no more than four consecutive terms for the any other office.

### **Section 3--Responsibilities**

- (a) The President shall provide leadership to the Association and preside at official meetings of NACSW and of the Board. The President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or the Association.
- (b) The Vice-President shall perform, in the absence of the President, the duties of the President; and shall assume such other duties as may be assigned by the President, the Board, or the Association.
- (d) The Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the taking of minutes of the official meetings of the Association and of the Board, and shall assume such other duties as may be assigned by the President, the Board, or the Association.
- (e) The Treasurer shall be responsible for monitoring the financial records of the Association, and shall assume such other duties as may be assigned by the President, the Board, or the Association.

## **Article VII**

## **Committees, Subcommittees, and Task Forces**

The Board may establish ad hoc committees, subcommittees, and task forces as needed to facilitate the business of the Association. The President may ask persons from the general membership of NACSW to serve on a committee, subcommittee or task force, in an advisory or a voting capacity. Each committee and task force shall be accountable to the Board for its activities on behalf of NACSW. Each subcommittee shall be accountable to the Board through the committee of which it is a part.

There shall also be an Executive Committee of the Board. The Executive Committee shall consist of all the Board officers and shall be consulted by the President for the purpose of conducting urgent business that cannot wait for action by the Board. All actions of this committee are subject to ratification by the Board at its next meeting. The Executive Committee shall also be responsible for agenda coordination, officer nominations, and long-range planning.

## **Article VIII**

### **Meetings of the Board Section 1--Frequency**

The Board shall meet no fewer than two times each year, approximately six months apart, and at a time and place as shall be determined by the Board. One of the meetings shall be held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Association. Notice of all meetings shall be sent to all Directors no fewer than thirty days before the date of the meeting.

### **Section 2--Quorum**

A simple majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 3--Voting**

The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present shall be an official act of the Board.

## **Article IX**

### **Meetings of the Membership**

## **Section 1--Annual Business Meeting**

A business meeting shall be held each year at a time and place as shall be determined by the Board. A financial statement of the Association shall be presented at the annual meeting. Other reports concerning the state of the Association shall also be presented.

## **Section 2--Notification**

Notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be sent to members of the Association no fewer than thirty days before the day of the meeting.

## **Article X**

### **Conduct of Corporate Affairs Section**

#### **1--Parliamentary Procedure**

The most recent edition of Robert's "Rules of Order" shall be followed in conducting all official meetings of the Association.

#### **Section 2--Minutes**

The minutes of meetings of the Board and of the membership of NACSW shall be recorded and maintained as the official proceedings of the Association. A copy of the minutes shall be made available to any member of NACSW upon request to the Association Office.

## **Article XI Finance**

#### **Section 1--Membership Dues**

Membership dues will be increased annually by a percentage tied to the average of the annual cost of living adjustments (COLA) for the United States beginning January, 1999. Any other changes in the annual membership dues shall be recommended by the Board and submitted by referendum to the members of the Association for ratification. The members of NACSW shall be notified of any non-inflationary increase in dues no fewer than 60 days before the increase becomes effective.

#### **Section 2 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of NACSW shall be January 1 through December 31.

#### **Section 3--Audit**

The Treasurer or other official representative of the Board shall contract for an

audit or accountant's review as deemed appropriate by a Certified Public Accountant. The accountant's report shall become a part of the official records of the Association and shall be made available to any member of the Association upon request to the Association Office.

#### **Section 4--Gifts**

The Board may accept on behalf of NACSW any contribution, gift, or bequest for the general purposes or for any specified purposes of the Association.

#### **Section 5--Contracts**

The Board can authorize the President, Treasurer, or employee of the Association to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of, and on behalf of, the Association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

#### **Section 6--Deposit and Payment of Money**

The Board authorizes its appointed agents to sign or endorse checks on behalf of the Association.

#### **Section 7--Fund Raising and Indebtedness**

Individuals, groups, or committees may not raise money, or incur debts for the Association without approval by the association.

### **Article XII Liability**

The Board shall make adequate provision for indemnifying the professional staff of the Association against liability incurred while acting properly for the Association or on its behalf.

### **Article XIII Dissolution**

In the event of the dissolution of NACSW all property and funds remaining after payment of all obligations shall be distributed to one or more Christian charitable organizations as designated by the Board.

### **Article XIV Amendments to the Bylaws**

The authority to alter, amend, or repeal the Bylaws, or to adopt new Bylaws shall be vested in the Board. Ratification shall be by referendum to the voting members of the Association. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of members casting ballots within the thirty-day period to be specified on the ballot shall be required for ratification.

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NACSW Board President Date

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NACSW Board Secretary Date