

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COLLEGE OF PASTORAL SUPERVISION AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

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### PREAMBLE

We, the members of the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), have formed a new theologically-based certifying and accrediting discipline in pastoral education, pastoral care, and pastoral psychotherapy. We have come into being from deeply held values, which are best expressed in the metaphor of the recovery of soul, and carefully delineated in our CPSP Covenant. As a covenant community we establish this Constitution so as to establish our pastoral authority, to promote the life of all members in the work of our Chapters, to establish our legislative character, and to insure the preservation of our highest standards for pastoral education and pastoral practice.

### GOVERNANCE

Legislative authority is vested in the Governing Council, which is composed of founding members, select officers (President, the President-elect, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chairpersons of the Chapter Life Committee, the Standards Committee, and the Registrar), two public representatives (non-CPSP Diplomates) and a representative of each CPSP Chapter duly elected by that Chapter.

All officers must be appointed annually by the Governing Council with the exception of the President and President-elect.

The Governing Council may be represented between its meetings by an Executive Committee composed of all officers and others appointed by the General Secretary. The Executive Committee will have authority to make decisions and disburse funds if it makes a full report of such decisions at the next meeting of the Governing Council. The Governing Council will meet at least once during the calendar year, and once again at the time of the annual membership meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Governing Council to administer the following:

1. **Annual Meeting of Membership.** The Governing Council will arrange for an annual meeting of all members so as to receive reports, appoint officers, and attend to all necessary legislation and functions of CPSP.
2. **Finance.** The Governing Council will create an annual budget for review and approval by the membership at the annual membership meeting, and subsequently supervise all receipts and disbursement of funds in accordance with the established budget.
3. **Accreditation Overview.** The Governing Council will receive annual reports from Chapters and programs, maintain central files for the accreditation process, and recognize and publicly announce a program's accreditation status.
4. **Relationship to CPSP Chapters.** The authority of each CPSP Chapter to function under the auspices of CPSP expires on March 17 of each year or on the date of the Members Annual Meeting, whichever is later. Re-authorization requires regular consultation with the Governing Council and a visit from a member of the Governing Council at least once over any three year period.

**CPSP CHAPTER LIFE**

The members of CPSP organize themselves so that each participates in a small group of six to twelve colleagues, a group known as a Chapter, each created in the spirit of the CPSP Covenant. All of the life, work and authority of CPSP derives from Chapters. Credentials for all members of CPSP expire on March 17th each year or on the date of the Members Annual Meeting, whichever is later. The Chapter Convener shall personally submit the names of all members in good standing for re-certification by the Governing Council. Chapters also shall invite into their community persons who are in process of gaining professional credentials. Transfer of membership from one Chapter to another requires the approval of the majority of the receiving Chapter's membership of both Chapters.

All CPSP fees and dues will originate within Chapters. The Chapter Convener or Chapter Treasurer will bill all membership candidates and credentialed members annually. All programs will also be billed by each Chapter. Billings will be presented effective January 1 of each year and fees will be due by March 17 of that year or on the date of the Members Annual Meeting, whichever date is later.