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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE
SYNOD OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA;

ADOPTED AT ITS SESSIONS IN COLUMBIA, DECEMBER, 1844.

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*Report of the Committee appointed to revise the Constitution of the Theological Seminary, and adapt it to the prospective division of that Body.*

The Committee respectfully submit the annexed draft of a Constitution for the consideration of Synod—premiering that in their view the charter of the Seminary need not be changed—that the property is secure under the existing charter—and that the style and title of the Institution is only an appellative, or a name, and not necessary to designate the body or bodies, to whom its management belongs—but a name that aptly designates the body by whom it originated, and if preserved, will perpetuate the historical remembrance that the two Synods, about to be constituted, were originally one, and are ever after to be regarded as equally and jointly succeeding to the rights and privileges of the existing Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, in respect to this Institution.

SECTION I.

*Name and Design of the Seminary.*

The Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, with a view to the glory of God and the extension of the knowledge of Christ, through an enlightened Ministry, resolved to establish an Institution of Sacred Learning, to be called the "*Theological Seminary of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.*" The design of this Institution was ever to be to educate young men for the Gospel Ministry, who shall believe, teach, and defend the doctrines of the Bible, as summarily exhibited in the Confession of Faith, Form of Government, and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

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## SECTION II.

*The Power of the Synods.*

ART. I. In pursuance of this design, the Synod founded the Institution, and exercised a control over all its concerns, until the division of that body into the Synod of South Carolina and the Synod of Georgia; and to the concurrent action of these two bodies, according to the general rules hereinafter defined, the entire management of this Seminary is, and shall be committed.

ART. II. These Synods shall elect a Board of Directors, consisting of twenty-four Ministers and eighteen Laymen—each Synod electing one half of the number—that is to say, each Synod shall, annually, elect four ministers and three laymen, who shall hold their office for three years. And to complete the number needed, the Synods shall each supply their quota in such manner, that the term of service of one-third of the whole number shall expire each and every year. In cases of death, resignation, or otherwise, the Synod, within whose bounds these shall occur, shall annually supply the deficiency.

ART. III. These Synods shall also elect all future Professors, and fix their salaries in the following manner:—That is to say, the Synod of South Carolina shall elect the first Professor, and fix his salary, and the Synod of Georgia the second, and so alternately—the action of each Synod in the premises to be confirmed by the other Synod. And in order that no protracted vacancy in the Professorships may occur, the Synod, whose right it is to elect, shall uniformly meet earlier than the other Synod, that the election may be had and confirmed with the least possible delay. But in cases of vacancy during the recess of the Synods, the Board shall have the power of appointing temporary Assistant Instructors.

ART. IV. In the trial or impeachment of a Professor for immorality, error, unfaithfulness, or incompetency, the trial or impeachment may be before either of the Synods; and if the decision of the one body shall be confirmed by the other, there shall be no further appeal.

ART. V. Alterations or amendments in this Constitution may originate in either of the Synods. But they can only be adopted by the concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members of each Synod.

## SECTION III.

*Mode of Election.*

ART. I. In the election of Directors, each Synod shall cause its roll to be called, that the members may nominate: and from this nomination, a list of which shall be placed in a public situation, the

election shall be made by ballot, but not on the same day with the nomination, nor without a specific order as to the time of such election. The persons on the list having the largest number of votes, shall be considered duly elected.

ART. II. In the election, or in confirming the election of a Professor, it shall be done by ballot, it having been previously made the order of the day, and a season of special prayer observed for the Divine direction in the choice.

## SECTION IV.

### *Board of Directors.*

ART. I. The Board of Directors, at their annual meetings, shall choose a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer; and also two Committees of Investment, (one in each Synod.) They may also, when necessary, elect a President and Secretary pro tempore. Seven members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, provided four of them be Ministers.

ART. II. The meetings of the Board shall be on their own adjournments, and special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President, or, in his absence, by the Vice-President, whenever so requested by any four Directors—such call to be valid, requiring a circular letter to be addressed to each member of the Board, at least twenty days before said meeting, and specifying the time, place, and object of the call—and no other business, but that embraced in the circular, shall be transacted at such special meetings.

ART. III. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Board, and carefully preserve on file the papers of the same; he shall also keep a record of their proceedings, which shall be submitted to the Synods for inspection.

ART. IV. The Treasurer shall receive, manage, and (with the advice and consent of the appropriate Committee of Investment,) invest the funds of the Seminary, under the direction of the Board. He shall give, (if required,) bond for their faithful management, in such sum as the Board shall direct, with sufficient sureties, to “the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia.” He shall give receipts for all monies received; pay all monies appropriated by the Board; and make an annual report of the state of the funds, and of the expenditures of the Seminary, to the Board of Directors. It is further specified, that all the permanent funds raised in the State of Georgia, shall be invested in that State, and shall be considered as belonging to the Synod of that State, after the division of the present Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, and after the Synod of Georgia shall have established a Theological Seminary within the State of Georgia. Provided, nevertheless, should the Synod of Georgia withdraw for the purpose above specified, the funds raised in Georgia, then and

in that case it shall relinquish all right to and control over the remaining funds of the Institution, which shall thenceforward remain under the exclusive management and control of the Synod of South Carolina, and of the Directors elected by that Synod.

ART. V. The Investing Committees shall aid the Treasurer in investing the funds of the Seminary; such investments always to be made in the corporate name of the Institution; and the Investing Committees are further required to make an annual report to the Board, of whatever funds may be entrusted to their management.

ART. VI. The Board of Directors shall inaugurate the Professors, and prescribe the forms and service of the occasion. They shall also direct and instruct them in regard to the subjects of instruction, so far as not prescribed in the Constitution. And they shall inspect their conduct and doctrine; and if any Professor be found immoral in his conduct, unsound in the faith, opposed to the government of the Presbyterian Church, unfaithful in his trust, or incompetent to discharge his duties, they shall report him to one of the Synods, or should his continuance in office be thought highly injurious or dangerous, the Board may immediately suspend him, until his case be tried by the Synods.

ART. VII. The Board of Directors shall watch over the conduct of the Students, redress their grievances, and, when necessary, expel them from the Seminary.

ART. VIII. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee of five, viz: three Clergymen and two Laymen, to attend each regular examination of the Seminary. And in the presence of the Committee and the Faculty, the examination shall be conducted by the several instructors. The Committee shall report the result of the examination to the Board.

ART. IX. The Board of Directors shall make a full and written report of the state of the Seminary, at each stated meeting of the Synods; and they may, at the same time, recommend the adoption of any measures they may deem necessary for the benefit of the Seminary.

ART. X. The Board shall further make all rules and regulations, appoint agents, and generally do whatever they deem for the welfare of the Seminary; provided it shall not be repugnant to this Constitution, the orders of the Synods, or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church.

ART. XI. The Board shall open and close all their sessions by prayer.

## SECTION V.

### *Professors and Faculty.*

ART. I. The number of Professors in this Seminary, when fully organized, shall not be less than five, (viz.) a Professor of Biblical

Literature, of Christian Theology, of Church History and Polity, of Pastoral Duties, and of Sacred Rhetoric. There may also be a Tutor of the Hebrew Language, to be appointed by the Board, and his salary to be fixed by them.

ART. II. Every Professor shall be an ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

ART. III. Every Professor, when inaugurated, shall publicly subscribe the Confession of Faith, agreeably to the following Formula :—“ In the presence of God and this Board, I do solemnly subscribe the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, as a just summary of the doctrines contained in the Bible, and promise and engage not to teach directly or indirectly any doctrine contrary to this belief, while I continue a Professor in this Seminary.”

ART. IV. Every Professor shall ordinarily attend a private recitation every day with his own class, and shall publicly deliver a regular course of written Lectures before all the Students during their course of studies in the Seminary—the text books and plan of instruction to be approved by the Board, and shall precede and follow every public lecture, and precede every private recitation with prayer.

ART. V. The Professors, when desirable, shall, under the direction of the Board, supply the Students with the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of its ordinances.

ART. VI. Any Professor, intending to resign his office, shall give six months notice of his intention to the Board.

ART. VII. The Professors shall constitute a Faculty, who shall meet at least monthly, on a given day—and at all meetings of the Faculty, the Senior Professor shall preside, but in every other respect the Professors shall be on an equality, and all questions before them shall be decided by a majority of votes.

ART. VIII. The Faculty shall appoint a Clerk, and keep a fair record of their proceedings, which shall be submitted to the inspection of the Board at their annual meeting. They shall also, in accordance with this Constitution, receive and act upon all applications for admission to the Seminary, and for charitable assistance; give certificates to Students applying to Presbyteries or other ecclesiastical bodies for license, and to those leaving the Seminary after completing their regular course of studies. They shall fix the time for social worship morning and evening,—the hours for private recitations,—and the days for public lectures. They shall decide all questions of order, and cases of discipline; suspend any Student, (until tried by the Board,) who, in their opinion, is unworthy the privileges of the Seminary, or whose connexion with the institution would be injurious to its interests. They shall do generally whatever is deemed necessary for the successful regulation of the internal concerns of the Seminary; and report, in writing, the state of the same to the Board of Directors, at their annual meeting.

And they may suggest or recommend subjects for the consideration of the Board.

## SECTION VI.

### *Admission and Duties of Students.*

ART. I. Students to be admitted, must furnish the Faculty with satisfactory testimonials of their talents, piety and prudence; of having been regularly educated at some College or University, or made attainments deemed equivalent, and of being in full communion with some Christian Church.

ART. II. Candidates furnishing these testimonials shall be examined by the Faculty, in the learned languages, on experimental religion, and with reference to their object in studying Theology. This examination being satisfactory, they shall be presented with the Constitution of the Seminary, and received on trial for three months; during which time they shall enjoy all the privileges of the Institution, and conform to all its requisitions.

ART. III. At the end of this period, those whom the Faculty deem worthy, shall be admitted to a full standing in the Seminary, by subscribing the following declaration, viz:—"Deeply impressed with a sense of the importance of improving in knowledge, prudence and piety, preparatory to the Gospel Ministry, I solemnly promise, in reliance on Divine grace, that I will faithfully and diligently attend to all the instructions of this Seminary, and that I will conscientiously and vigilantly observe all the rules and regulations specified in the Constitution, and also obey all the lawful requisitions, and readily yield to all the wholesome admonitions of the Professors and Directors of the Seminary, while I shall continue a member of it." Should any Student continue, for the space of one month, to refuse to subscribe the above declaration, after being regularly called upon by the Faculty to do so, he shall no longer enjoy the privileges of the Institution.

ART. IV. The Students thus admitted to the Seminary, shall continue members of it three years, and be divided into three classes, to be called Senior, Middle and Junior. The Junior, shall embrace those of the first year; the Middle, those of the second; and the Senior, those of the third.

ART. V. The Students of the several classes shall reside at the Seminary, during the whole of each term, and be under the particular charge of their respective Professors. Nor shall any Student leave town, or be absent from any regular exercise of the Seminary, without permission. And for each offence, he shall render a satisfactory excuse to the Professor of his class, or in case of his absence, to the senior Professor present.

ART. VI. The Students shall sustain good moral and religious characters; manifest a due regard for the Directors, Professors, and

each other ; pursue the course of studies approved by the Board ; observe the regulations of the Faculty respecting the hours of study, private recitations, public lectures, and social devotions ; and obey the requisitions of their several instructors.

ART. VII. The Students of the Junior and Middle Classes shall write compositions on such subjects, and at such times, as their Professors may direct ; and shall submit the same to them for criticism. The Students of the Senior Class shall write, during the year, at least three Sermons, which shall be submitted to the Professor, to whom the Board shall assign the duty, for private criticism and approval ; and they shall alter and transcribe them, until approved by his signature. And the Students of all the Classes shall, if practicable, deliver a piece of their own composition before the Students and Professors, at least once in each month.

ART. VIII. Any Student who neglects his regular studies, is guilty of any indiscretion, exhibits an indifference to practical religion, or otherwise violates this Constitution, shall be faithfully admonished in private or before his class, as the Professor may deem expedient ; if the Student perseveres in the same course, he shall be publicly admonished or suspended from the Seminary, and reported to the Board by the Faculty ; and if he still refuses to acknowledge, and make satisfaction for his offence, he shall be immediately cut off from the Institution by the Board.

ART. IX. Every Student, having completed a regular course of three years studies, in this Seminary, settled all his term bills with the Treasurer, and returned and replaced all the books taken from the Library, shall receive a certificate from the Faculty, specifying the time he has been connected with the Seminary, the diligence he has manifested in his studies, and the moral and religious character he has sustained.

## SECTION VII.

### *Course of Studies.*

ART. I. The course of studies pursued in this Seminary, shall embrace a period of three years ; it shall cover, in general, the ground of Biblical Literature, Christian Theology, Church History and Polity, Pastoral Duties, and Sacred Rhetoric ; and none, who do not complete this course, shall be entitled to a regular certificate of the Faculty.

ART. II. The studies of the Junior year, shall be confined principally to the Department of Biblical Literature. Those of the Middle, to Christian Theology and Church History ; and those of the Senior, to Christian Theology, Church History and Polity, Pastoral Duties and Sacred Rhetoric. The more particular division of the course to be made by the Faculty, under the direction of the Board.

ART. III. This course of studies shall be varied or extended, as the improvements of the age may require; provided it never deviates from the Word of God, and the Standards of the Presbyterian Church.

### SECTION VIII.

#### *License, Ordination, and Preaching.*

ART. I. No application for licensure or ordination shall be made by a Student of the Seminary, without first procuring from the Faculty a certificate, stating the time he has been connected with the Institution, the character he has sustained, and that he makes the application with their consent.

ART. II. Members of the Seminary, who have been regularly licensed, may occasionally preach in the Institution, if the Faculty desire it—their sermons having been previously examined and approved by one of the Professors. And they shall not preach out of the Seminary, under any circumstances, but with the permission of the Faculty.

### SECTION IX.

#### *Resident Licentiates.*

ART. I. Licentiates or Students, who have honorably completed a course of theological studies, may reside at this Institution, and enjoy the privilege of the Library, and also the public lectures and private recitations of the Professors.

ART. II. Persons thus residing at the Seminary, shall be under the inspection of the Faculty, and be required to attend the devotional exercises of the Institution.

### SECTION X.

#### *Devotion and Personal Piety.*

ART. I. Sacred devotion and ardent piety, shall ever be considered by all connected with this Seminary, an object of the first moment. And every Professor, resident Licentiate and Student, shall feel himself bound by the most solemn obligations, to employ all the means in his power, private and social, to promote it. Nor shall either be satisfied without high attainments in personal piety.

ART. II. To secure this object, all connected with the Institution shall enjoy the privilege of spending a portion of each day in reading the Scriptures, private meditation, and secret prayer. Every Sabbath shall be sacredly devoted to religious services, private and

social. And other periods may be appropriated to social prayer and praise, for the mutual and spiritual benefit of those so engaged.

ART. III. Religious service shall be performed in the chapel every morning and evening, during each term, as the Faculty may direct, and in the following order, viz: The service shall commence with a short prayer, imploring the aid and blessing of heaven; a portion of Scripture shall then be read, and accompanied with such remarks or written exposition as the presiding officer may think proper; after which, a psalm or hymn shall be sung, and the whole concluded with an appropriate prayer. These services shall be under the direction of one of the Professors; though a Senior Student may officiate.

ART. IV. There shall be, at least, one weekly Conference appointed by the Faculty, with a design to promote the personal piety of the Students, and qualify them for the practical duties of the Ministry. And if deemed expedient, the Faculty may occasionally set apart a day for fasting, humiliation, and prayer, which shall be strictly observed by all members of the Institution.

ART. V. Every member of the Seminary shall, regularly, conscientiously, and devoutly, attend all these religious services, and such others as the Faculty may appoint.

## SECTION XI.

### *Examinations and Anniversary.*

ART. I. There shall be at the close of every term an examination in each year, at such time as the Board may direct.

ART. II. At the close of each year, there shall be a public anniversary, the exercises of which, embracing the whole course of instruction, shall be limited to the Senior Class. The performances on the occasion shall all be written, and previously examined and approved by the Professors.

ART. III. No member of the Seminary shall be absent from the examination of his respective class; if so, he shall be examined by the Faculty, at the commencement of the next term: And if his examination be not satisfactory, he shall be required to make up the deficiency, otherwise he may not proceed with the class.

ART. IV. The Examinations shall be conducted by the several Instructors, under the inspection of the Examining Committee of the Board: And the exercises of the Anniversary shall be arranged by the Faculty.

## SECTION XII.

### *Vacations.*

ART. I. There shall be one or more vacations in each year, at such times and of such lengths as the Board may direct.

ART. II. During each vacation, the Students shall be responsible to the Faculty of the Seminary for their conduct; and for any unworthy course that may injure the Institution, they shall be admonished, or may be suspended, as the case requires.

ART. III. At the close of every vacation, the Students shall immediately return to the Seminary; and no excuse for absence, after the term commences, shall be deemed satisfactory, except sickness and unavoidable necessity.

### SECTION XIII.

#### *Library.*

ART. I. The Library shall be deposited in a suitable room provided for the purpose, and committed to the care of a Librarian appointed by the Board.

ART. II. The Librarian shall give bond, when required by the Board, for the faithful management of the Library, in such sum, and with such sureties, as the Board may direct; and he shall, if necessary, be allowed a suitable sum for his services. He may also appoint a substitute, who shall, during the absence of the Librarian, discharge his duties.

ART. III. The books of the Library shall be regularly numbered and arranged by a Committee of the Board and the Librarian, who shall also furnish an alphabetical catalogue for the use of the Library. And a fair record of all the books given, and of the names of the donors, shall be kept by the Librarian, for the inspection of all men.

ART. IV. Any book or books which the above Committee may deem too valuable to be loaned from the Library, shall be marked and kept there for occasional reference; and they shall never be loaned by the Librarian, without a special order from the Board.

ART. V. The Directors, Professors, and Instructors, resident Licentiates, Students of the Seminary, and others, to whom the Board, by a special order, shall grant the privilege, may take books from the Library.

ART. VI. No person shall ever borrow or return a book without the knowledge of the Librarian, or his substitute,—who shall examine the state of the book, and keep a record of its title, also of the time and person. This record shall be signed by the person borrowing or returning the book; unless he be a Director, Professor, or Instructor, who may obtain books by a written order. They may also have access to the Library, on all occasions, whether to return or receive books, or to consult them in the Library.

ART. VII. The Library shall be open for loaning and returning books during term time, one hour a day four days in a week. And no books shall be loaned or returned, at any other time, except as

specified in the preceding article, or by the special order of a Professor. And no Student or resident Licentiate, shall ever have more than three books, at the same time, in addition to the classics received upon the written order of an Instructor; nor shall he retain any book from the Library more than four weeks; nor further, shall he ever carry any such book out of town.

ART. VIII. Any person injuring or defacing a book taken from the Library, shall make due satisfaction to the Librarian; any person detaining a book beyond the specified time, shall have no other till that be returned; any person losing or destroying a book, shall replace it, or pay its full value—and if belonging to a set, he shall take the remaining volumes and furnish a new set, or pay for the whole.

ART. IX. The Library shall be aired every week, and oftener, if necessary; swept and dusted every month; and at the close of each term before the examination, the books shall be removed from the shelves and each shelf brushed; and at the end of every year all the books shall be returned to the Library, and the whole prepared for the inspection of the Board—to whom the Librarian shall make a full and written report of the state of the Library at each annual meeting.

#### SECTION XIV.

##### *Funds and Charitable Assistance.*

ART. I. The funds of this Seminary shall ever be kept distinct, and entirely separate from all others; and they shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasurer, to be managed as required by this Constitution.

ART. II. All funds invested for the benefit of the Institution, shall be invested in the name of the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, or as they may otherwise direct. And no part of the funds, or their income, shall ever be appropriated, except by an order of the Board, subject at all times to the direction and control of the Synods. And the moneys thus appropriated by the Board shall be paid by the Treasurer, only at the order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary.

ART. III. A sacred regard shall ever be paid to the wishes and directions of all Testators or Donors, who may bequeath or give any thing to the funds of the Institution. Any individual or individuals, who shall, by will, or otherwise, found or endow a Professorship, with \$25,000, or a Scholarship, with \$2,000 or more dollars, or a fund of any considerable amount, may designate the name by which it shall ever be called. And any Church-Session, Presbytery,

Synod, or other Association, which shall found or endow a Professorship, Scholarship, or Fund, may also fix the name by which it shall ever after be known.

ART. IV. The regular and incidental expenses of the Institution being defrayed from the general funds, or their income, all the remaining moneys of these funds may be, and all funds, or their incomes, specially designated for charitable assistance, shall be sacredly appropriated to the use of worthy Students in need of pecuniary aid.

ART. V. To entitle any Student to this aid from the funds of the Seminary, he shall furnish the Board with a certificate from the Faculty, that he possesses the requisite qualifications, viz., has been admitted to a full standing in the Seminary, according to the Constitution, and is in need of charitable assistance.

ART. VI. If any Student, to whom this assistance has been extended, shall be found not to make due proficiency in his studies, or otherwise to be unworthy, he shall no longer receive it. And if any shall leave the Seminary, or be expelled without finishing the regular course prescribed by the Constitution, he shall be held responsible to the Treasurer for the full amount of all the moneys received, unless released by a special vote of the Board.

ART. VII. A regular account of all the funds and expenditures of the Institution, and also of the number and names of the Students receiving charitable assistance, shall annually be laid before the Board by the Treasurer.

ART. VIII. To ensure full meetings of the Board, a sum may be annually appropriated to defray the actual travelling expenses of the members, not to exceed ten cents a mile. But no travelling expenses shall in any case be allowed when the members of the Board are at the same time in attendance upon the meetings of their respective Synods.



