

STUDIORUM NOVI TESTAMENTI SOCIETAS

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING AND LEADING SNTS SEMINARS

(Revised March 2020)

1. The Society offers up to a maximum of 18 seminars at any one time. Seminars normally meet for a minimum of three and a maximum of five years. At General Meetings there are usually three seminar sessions, each lasting for 90 minutes.

2. Seminar leaders (conveners) are appointed by the SNTS Committee, normally for a minimum of three and a maximum of five years. They are responsible for planning the three sessions at each General Meeting. Leadership is frequently shared by two, sometimes three, members, often (and preferably) from different countries or backgrounds. If leadership is shared, the seminar can continue even if one of the conveners is unable to attend in one particular year.

It is also recommended that the seminar leaders reflect a measure of diversity and inclusion, for example in gender, age, language and/or the inclusion of non-Western areas.

3. Those wishing to organize a new seminar must provide the following information to the *Secretary* by **1 July**:

- (a) the title of the proposed seminar;
- (b) the rationale for the new seminar;
- (c) the name of a willing co-convenor or two;
- (d) whether the new seminar is likely to impinge on the agendas of any other current seminars;
- (e) what kind of support from members it is likely to have;
- (f) what the likely programme will be (especially the first year);
- (g) the desired duration of the seminar (three or five years).

If the proposal is not received on time, there is no guarantee that it will be considered by the Committee when it next meets at the General Meeting.

4. Conveners desiring the continuation of their seminar beyond the originally approved term must submit a written application for continuation to the Committee. The application for continuation must be received by the Secretary **before** the second meeting of the Committee at the General Meeting on Friday afternoon. The application must provide the following information:

- (a) the title of the continuing seminar;
- (b) the rationale for continuing the seminar;
- (c) the name of a willing co-convenor or two (preferably from different countries or backgrounds);
- (d) whether the continuing seminar is likely to impinge on the agendas of any other current seminars;
- (e) what kind of support it has had from members during the past three or five years;
- (f) what the likely programme will be;
- (g) the desired duration of the seminar (three or five years).

If the application for continuation is not received on time, there can be no guarantee that the application will be considered by the Committee.

5. At the General Meeting itself, the *Secretary* reports to the Committee on the current status of the seminars, and so a brief report (on the status and progress of the seminar, and on the numbers attending) may be requested of seminar conveners during the General Meeting if there are indications that the seminar is not going well (e.g., the conveners are not in attendance, there are fewer than three

papers, the number of registered participants is very low). Proposed changes in the leadership of a seminar must also be reported to the Secretary and approved by the Committee at the General Meeting.

6. The Committee recognizes that the format of the various seminar groups will differ considerably: conveners are encouraged to develop their own pattern (in consultation with their group).

7. Seminar conveners are asked to send to the *Secretary* by **1 February** each year the names of those giving papers and the titles of their papers, and respondents, so that these may be included in the information about the General Meeting which is sent out to all SNTS members in the spring mailing, usually in mid-February. Delay may hold up the general mailing and impinge on the registration of delegates.

Diversity among the seminar presenters/respondents is now strongly encouraged.

8. Guests may be invited as presenters/respondents or as 'Seminar Guests', but seminar conveners are asked to observe the Society's normal procedures and deadlines for inviting them to the meeting. (Guidelines and information about inviting guests are given in the newsletters and may also be obtained from the *Assistant Secretary*.)

Seminars may make application to the *Assistant Secretary* to invite a seminar guest whose expertise is germane to the work of the seminar. Such guests can be invited for one, two, or three consecutive years, but not necessarily to present a paper each year. A seminar may have multiple guests at a seminar, but can only have one guest main presenter each year. (Other seminar guests may be asked to respond to a paper.) Seminar conveners are required to provide a clear and strong rationale for the invitation, including the expertise that the seminar guest has to offer, and the intended outcomes of the seminar.

A combination of personal invitations and guest invitations should not exceed 3 in 5 years. Thus, if a scholar is invited to participate in a seminar as a seminar guest for 3 years, s/he would be ineligible to accept a further personal invitation within a 5-year period. And a scholar who had been a personal guest for one or two years could become a seminar guest for only 3 minus the number of personal invitations.

9. Shortly after the closing date for registrations has passed, the **Local Organizing Committee** will send to each seminar convener a list of the members who will be attending their group. Queries regarding these seminar lists should be taken up with the local organizers, and not with the *Secretary*. Conveners should make their own arrangements with the local organizers for sessions requiring special projection or electronic equipment, and should do so well in advance of the meeting.

10. In recent years most seminar conveners have emailed copies of seminar papers to the registered participants early in July so that there can be plenty of time for discussion at the Meeting. Seminar conveners are asked to arrange for the distribution of seminar papers. Please note that it is not possible for the Local Organizing Committee to undertake this task. Please also note the following points:

(a) It is usually **not possible** to photocopy papers at the General Meeting.

(b) Many members find that they have little time to read seminar papers distributed only on arrival at the General Meeting.

(c) Papers distributed prior to the General Meeting should not be read in full at the seminar. The extra time should be used for discussion.

11. The Editor of *New Testament Studies* will be pleased to consider papers for publication in *NTS*. Seminar conveners are invited to identify papers of quality and to encourage authors to submit them for possible publication in *New Testament Studies*. All such papers, will be subject to the normal reviewing process.

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