

Constitution of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Society

1. Name

The name of this society is "The Saint Thomas Aquinas Society". The official abbreviation for the name of the society is "STAS".

2. Purpose and Nature of STAS

STAS exists for three essential purposes:

1. To educate the King's community, especially altar servers at the King's College Chapel, in the theology, spirituality, and practice of liturgy in the Catholic tradition as it is embodied in the Book of Common Prayer. STAS stimulates discussion about and encourages the practice of corporate spiritual disciplines oriented towards the growth in holiness of the Church as a whole and of all its members.
2. To ensure that altar servers and officiants at the King's College Chapel are prepared spiritually and practically to lead the King's community in regular worship.
3. To celebrate the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas annually on March 7.

STAS shall seek to be ratified by the King's Student Union each year. Though closely affiliated with the King's College Chapel, STAS is an independent body in that it represents the student side of participation in the liturgical life of the Chapel. The person who merely attends Chapel services, though this is profitable both to the student in question and to the Chapel, is a passive spectator to what goes on there. A student who desires to actively devote himself or herself to the study and practice of liturgy does so by the mediation of STAS. STAS is the body of students with common interest in spiritual life in the tradition represented at King's by the Chapel, and not a branch of the Chapel itself.

3. Membership

- a. All officiants and altar servers (any person who officiates or serves at the altar once or more in the academic year) at the King's College Chapel is a member of STAS.
- b. Anyone else who has attended one or more STAS events during the year, or is a regular (as determined by the executive) participant in the worship of the King's College Chapel, may declare himself or herself a member of STAS at the Annual General Meeting or any other meeting at which the general membership is called upon to vote on any matter.

4. Executive Members

The executive of STAS will have a minimum of three members: a President (a.), a Vice-President (b.), and a Treasurer (c.). A Secretary (d.) and/or Members at Large (e.) may be added to the executive if it is deemed necessary by the executive.

- a. The role of the President is to take final responsibility in planning, actualizing, and completing any follow-up work for any educational events run by STAS. He or she, in consultation with the rest of the executive, shall determine the dates, times, and places of

Constitution of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Society

such events, and ensure that they be promoted. He or she is too form and keep in mind the long-term vision of STAS for the academic year and for future years, and present a report based on these considerations at the Annual General Meeting. The President must, inasmuch as possible, be informed about the liturgical life of the Chapel and be a faithful participant in it.

- b. The Vice-President of STAS is, by default, the Sacristan of the King's College Chapel. He or she shall take primary responsibility for the practical training of altar servers and officiants, ensuring that they are aware of their responsibilities and capable of performing them in the offices of worship. The President and Vice-President are, as a matter of regular habit, to correct and inform one another about the theology and practical details of liturgical life in the Chapel.
- c. The Treasurer shall take final responsibility for any and all financial matters of STAS, should there be any of which to take care.
- d. The Secretary shall take minutes at all executive meetings, and is responsible for re-ratification of STAS in the year of his or her term. Other duties may be added informally, as is deemed necessary at the time that the decision is made that a Secretary is necessary.
- e. A Member-at-Large shall attend executive meetings, engaging there in discussion with other executive members, and give generously of their time and energy to the advancement of the projects and general aims of STAS. Further specific duties may be enumerated at the time of a Member-at-Large's election, as is deemed necessary by the executive.

5. Meetings

- a. The Annual General Meeting will take place immediately prior to, immediately after, or as an interruption to, the Annual General Meeting of the King's College Chapel. At this meeting, the executive for the coming academic year shall be elected, and the President shall present his report. The Annual General Meeting must be advertized. Quorum at an annual general meeting shall be the entire executive and five other members.
- b. Any advertized STAS event at which two-thirds of the executive and five other members are present shall be considered a "meeting" of STAS. This is an opportunity for any members to ask the executive questions about STAS and its activities. Any matter unrelated to the election or impeachment of a member of the executive or a change to the STAS Constitution may be voted on at such a meeting.
- c. A STAS event shall be considered "advertized" if it was announced after a Thursday Choral Solemn Eucharist at the King's College Chapel, and posterred or announced on the "Dal/King's Chaplaincy" Facebook page.
- d. The executive shall meet at their convenience to discuss matters related to STAS. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, each being entrusted with a different role in the

Constitution of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Society

society, do not need the approval by vote of the executive to carry out activities related to their role.

6. Nomination and Election of Officers

- a. The President and the Treasurer will be elected at the Annual General Meeting, in the following manner:
 - i. The outgoing executive will nominate a candidate for President and a candidate for Treasurer, as decided beforehand by a unanimous vote of the executive.
 - ii. Nominations will then be taken from the floor for each of these positions.
 - iii. If there are no nominations from the floor, the candidates put forward by the outgoing executive will be elected by default.
 - iv. If there are nominations, a vote will take place by show of hands. All non-executive members will vote. This vote must be taken by secret ballot if it is so requested by any member. The candidate with the most votes will win the position.
 - v. In the case of a tie, the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer will add their votes to break the tie.
- b. A Secretary, if there is to be one, and/or Members-at-Large, if there are to be any, shall be elected in the same manner as the President and Treasurer.
- c. The Vice-President of STAS is by default the Sacristan of the King's College Chapel, and is therefore neither nominated nor elected.
- d. Quorum shall be the entire executive and five other members.

7. Impeachment

A member of the executive may be impeached for one of two reasons:

1. Failure to adequately fulfill his or her role as outlined by the STAS Constitution.
2. Consistently teaching incorrectly, whether through willful ignorance or conscious disagreement, about the liturgical life of the King's College Chapel and its theological significance. "Orthodoxy" in these matters shall be determined by the Priest-in-Charge and Chaplain of the King's College Chapel.

The process for impeachment is this:

- a. Three or more members of STAS may meet with the Priest-in-Charge and Chaplain of the King's College Chapel at any time if they believe that a member of the executive of STAS ought to be impeached. This meeting may lead to attempts on the part of the Chaplain as a mediator, or the by members in question, to settle the matter without an impeachment vote. Without the approval of the Chaplain, being wholly satisfied that all possible attempts at

Constitution of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Society

reconciliation have been made, there shall be no impeachment vote.

- b. The Chaplain shall inform the executive that an impeachment vote must be called.
- c. The executive shall advertize the event.
- d. Voting by show of hands (or secret ballot, if requested by any member), a two-thirds majority shall impeach a member of the executive. Members of the executive shall not vote.
- e. If an executive member is impeached, the position shall remain unfilled until the next Annual General Meeting. The remaining members of the executive may in the interim assume into their roles the roles of the impeached member.

8. Finance and Audit

- a. STAS shall have access to the physical resources of the King's College Chapel for educational programs related to the practical details of the liturgy.
- b. For other educational events, STAS may decide in advance to apply for funding from the KSU to reimburse expenses for food purchases, especially ones which make it possible for students to linger on campus for events before dinner without being hungry.
- c. Any financial matters, especially reimbursements for purchases approved by the KSU, will be handled by the Treasurer in a responsible and clear manner, adequate records being kept.
- d. The fiscal period shall be the academic year.