

Constitution of the Biblical Commission

1. Name and definition

The Biblical Commission (hereinafter the Commission) was founded at the Tenth International Congress of Slavists (Sofia, 1988) and is an organ of the International Committee of Slavists (hereinafter the Committee) and conducts its activities in accordance with the Committee's needs, requirements and aims.

2. Representation and location

The Commission is represented by its President, who is responsible to the Committee for its activities. He is assisted in his work by the Secretary. The Commission is located at the institution where the President works.

3. Aims and activities of the Commission

The Commission supports research into the Slavonic Bible in its various scholarly aspects: text-critical, linguistic, literary, cultural and historical, over a broad historical period beginning with the time of the appearance of the first Slavonic written language and ending with modern translations into the various Slavonic languages. Since the Commission was first founded, textual studies on the earliest Slavonic translations of the Bible and their manuscript tradition have been at the centre of its activities.

The Commission promotes communication between individuals, research centres and institutions engaged in research on the Slavonic Bible, and supports academic projects in this field.

The Commission organises regular sessions to discuss the condition and prospects of Slavonic Biblical Studies and to exchange information about developments in this field of research.

The Commission supports seminars and conferences in the field of Slavonic Biblical Studies, assists in their organisation and in the publication of their materials, and likewise promotes publications about the Slavonic Bible. It is desirable that sessions of the Commission should take place jointly with these seminars and conferences and be accompanied by round tables at which the most topical questions in Slavonic Biblical Studies may be discussed.

4. Duties of the President and Secretary

The President convenes the sessions of the Commission and oversees its work with the assistance of the Secretary. They are both responsible for keeping the minutes of the sessions. If the President is unable to be present at a session, the Secretary deputises for him.

5. Election of the President

The President is elected by a simple majority of votes of members of the Commission in advance of each International Congress of Slavists. Voting is open and may be either in person or remote. The President is elected for a period of five years or until the following Congress. His tenure may be extended for one further period of five years by a new vote, subject to approval by the International Committee of Slavists. The Secretary is proposed by the President and confirmed by a simple majority in open voting, both in person and remotely.

6. Approval of the Commission by the International Committee of Slavists

Every five years, or else in advance of an International Congress of Slavists, the members of the Commission are asked to continue or discontinue their membership and to confirm the President for a second term or to elect a new one. In advance of each International Congress of Slavists the President in office must apply to the International Committee of Slavists for accreditation of the Commission in its new composition.

7. Acceptance of new members of the Commission

In the period between Congresses the Commission may accept new members, aiming for broad and

multinational representation. Membership of the Commission is open to persons engaged in the study of the Slavonic Bible (as confirmed by their specific activities, based on their publications or teaching). A candidate is proposed for membership by a letter from one or more members of the Commission and the candidate's *curriculum vitae* (including a list of publications), which should reach the President and Secretary in a timely manner, so that they can distribute them to the members of the Commission in advance of one of its sessions. The candidate is accepted as a member of the Commission by means of an open vote at the session, both in person and remotely.

8. Rights and duties of members of the Commission

The members of the Commission undertake to play an active part in the work of the Commission, beginning with events organised or initiated by the Commission, taking part in the definition and accomplishment of the aims and objectives of the Commission, suggesting initiatives and proposals and encouraging co-operation.

The Commission may constitute working groups for the study and consideration of significant questions, for the determination of proposals or for establishing a consensus among specialists. The size and composition of particular working groups are determined at the time of their formation. Working groups must consist of at least three members of the Commission.

9. Communications and website

The members of the Commission shall receive regular communications with reports of the sessions and seminars organised by the Commission, and also news of events concerning the Slavonic Bible. The Commission shall have a special portal or webpage carrying its documentation and list of members. Communication with members of the Commission shall be through the President and Secretary.

10. Age limits and cancellation of membership

There are no age limits for membership of the Commission. Individual members may resign from the Commission during any five-year period by informing the President and Secretary in writing. A member may be required to resign from the Commission at the request of the President, the Secretary, or no fewer than three members of the Commission, for conduct inconsistent with academic ethics. Any such decision must be confirmed by a simple majority in open vote (in person or remotely).

11. Reports of activities

The Commission shall inform the International Committee of Slavists of its activities by a report presented at the end of the second year of its operations and by a final report which must be dispatched no later than three months before the next International Congress of Slavists.

The Constitution of the Commission was confirmed at the session of the 28th August 2025 during the Congress of the International Committee of Slavists in Paris. The Constitution shall come into effect after confirmation by the International Committee of Slavists.

Marcello Garzaniti

President of the Commission

Tat'jana Afanas'eva

Secretary of the Commission