

CONSTITUTION
of the
E. A. SUTHERLAND
EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

February 18, 1999
Revised February 8, 2002
Revised April 14, 2003
Revised February 11, 2005

DEFINITION: E.A. Sutherland Education Association is an education association for the self-supporting ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It provides membership for educational institutions, individuals and organizations. It provides a method of school accreditation within the association and support services for the school's improvement.

HISTORY: The Layman Foundation was formed in 1924. Its mission was to support institutions implementing the Madison Model of Education. For the first 40 years its interaction with the institutions was on a broad administrative assistance program. In the 1960's and 70's the Foundation appointed an individual to serve as Educational Director for the Foundation. The Educational Director began working more closely with the schools and their programs and also brought them together through Bible Conferences, workshops, work bees and continuing education programs.

In the mid 1980's the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as it re-evaluated its relationship with independently operated, self-supporting SDA schools, suggested that the Foundation ought to consider forming its own educational association. (For many years the Layman Foundation schools operated under the umbrella of the SDA Church school system.)

After considerable study the decision was made, in 1991, to start the process of developing a Layman Foundation educational association. For the next few years study and progress was made till in 1999 the organization was formed under the name of E. A. Sutherland Educational Association (EASEA). A study committee, that became the first EASEA Board of Directors, was formed in 2001. The association was incorporated in 2002. An Educational Director was appointed 2003 and that same year the association received 501(c) (3) tax exempt status from the Federal Government. In 2004 EASEA received approval from the State of Tennessee as a private school accrediting agency.

MISSION: To promote the improvement of educational & vocational programs that demonstrate a distinctly Christ-centered educational philosophy based on the Bible and writings of Ellen G. White.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Association is to:

- A. Promote the improvement of EASEA schools.
- B. Establish guidelines, criteria, and procedures for the evaluation of K-12 schools.
- C. Maintain a program for evaluating member schools according to their stated objectives and established standards.
- D. Provide accreditation to its member schools and oversee compliance.
- E. Give counsel, guidance, and encouragement in all areas of Christian education.
- F. Facilitate networking among member institutions.
- G. Work with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its institutions.
- H. Act as a liaison with the State and other educational and compliance agencies.
- I. Establish and maintain policies, criteria for the membership, and by-laws for the operation of EASEA.
- J. Engage in such other services and activities that promote, support and develop EASEA programs as the Board of Directors may direct.

GOVERNANCE: The governance of this association will be in accordance with the by-laws.

CURRICULUM: Curriculum and educational guidelines will be as stated in the EASEA Accreditation and Agency-Approval Standards manual.