

Christian Home Educators Fellowship of Lafayette

(CHEF of Lafayette)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS FELLOWSHIP OF LAFAYETTE

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Christian Home Educators Fellowship of Lafayette, hereafter, referred to as CHEF of Lafayette, a not for profit organization.

ARTICLE II - DEFINITION

CHEF of Lafayette is a Christian organization, the members of which are like-minded Christian home education families dedicated to observing the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4 - 10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4. We promote home education as the scriptural design for education whereas institutional education is the alternative to the home. We believe that every family has the God-given legal and constitutional right to home educate in the State of Louisiana, regardless of their philosophy of education or religious affiliation. CHEF of Lafayette is not a church nor is this organization meant to replace the ministry of the local church to the home education family.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

CHEF of Lafayette is organized exclusively for the purpose of providing service and support to Christian home education families including but not limited to the following ways:

1. By aiding in the establishment and growth of Christian home education families in our community.
2. By providing information regarding the political climate of home education in Louisiana and in our nation.
3. By doing whatever is necessary to protect the future freedoms of home education in our community and the State of Louisiana.
4. By promoting the advantages of home education over alternative forms of education outside the home.
5. By promoting sound, high-quality home education programs by parents or legal guardians for the purpose of developing Christ-like character, which will satisfy the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional growth needs of their children.
6. By reviewing and disseminating home education materials and information considered vital to home educators. Thus serving as a resource to parents desiring to educate their children in the home.
7. By publishing a regular newsletter.
8. By planning and conducting activities, seminars, forums, workshops and other educational opportunities designed to provide information and training that will help parents and others involved with or interested in home education.

9. By implementing other programs or services in the future as may be deemed necessary by the membership of the organization.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

1. The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God: the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His Ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
4. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
5. That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whose substitutionary death on the cross, paid the penalty for man's sin.
6. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind, and to indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
7. In the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal differences which may exist outside of the aforementioned (1-6), should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF FAMILY AND EDUCATION

Section 1:Family

We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social, and spiritual unit created by God. In it, the child learns self-government, social relationships, and develops a relationship to the Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, according to John 3:5 and 16, Ephesians 6:1 and Colossians 3:20. The family also provides protection from over-extensive government and over stimulating social involvement.

We understand "family" to mean a male and female parent, legally married, with one or more children (Genesis 1:26-28), although we recognize the exceptions of single parent, adopted, foster, and step children (James 1:27).

We reject homosexual marriages or homosexual orientation because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation (Romans 1:18-31), and we believe that such relationships are destructive to children and the very idea of family. Further, we reject transitory, cohabitational relationships as being equally in violation of God's laws and incapable of providing the long-term nurture and instruction needed by children and commanded by God (Proverbs 1:8 and 9, 2:1-11; Colossians 3:21; and Ephesians 6:4). In view of this, no homosexual or merely cohabiting "parents" are eligible for membership.

Section 2:Education

We believe that the ultimate responsibility for the education of children belongs to parents (Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:1-25, and 4:1-4). Thus, we believe this is an inalienable right given by God, which the State cannot create, destroy, or alter. Parents may allow another to teach some of the cognitive information that children need to know, but all education must be under the ultimate control and supervision of the parents.

We believe education in the home to be the best form of education, but we recognize that many parents cannot educate at home for valid reasons and support the right of the parents to send their children to

private Christian schools. We further recognize that because of economic or other reasons, a parent may have no other alternative but to place a child in a public school. Although this is acceptable, we do not, however, support in principle or condone public schools because of their ostensible, humanistic basis for teaching all subjects. We believe that the religions of secular humanism and Christianity are mutually exclusive.

We believe that all education is religious in nature since one's view of the world and life is inevitably involved in teaching (Proverbs 2:1-8 and 3:1-2, with 6:20-23; and Matthew 28:18-20). Every discipline of knowledge, whether it be a subject such as mathematics, science, or history will have as its final reference point theistic or, in the alternative, a humanistic view of reality (Colossians 1:15-20 and 2:8-15), and that there is no neutral academic discipline.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Specifications

Membership is open to all home education families who are in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Statement on Family and Education.

Section 2: Expectations

It is expected that all families who are members will support CHEF of Lafayette with their annual dues and will participate in supporting one another as Christian home educators. Members are to agree to keep names, addresses and phone numbers of the other members in strict confidence. Members are also responsible for underwriting their share of the cost of activities in which they participate. Special provision will be made for those families who desire to be members but are unable to pay.

Section 3: Applying for Membership

The parents or guardians of a family, which plans to educate at home, shall sign a Statement of Faith and Statement on Family and Education. This form shall be submitted to the Treasurer on an annual basis at the beginning of each school year by August 31, re-affirming their commitment to section one (1) of this article. At this time, membership roll records will be updated and a membership directory will be made available.

Section 4: Revocation of Membership

If and when any member is found to be in confessional or ethical non-compliance with the statement of faith or statement on family and education, then there shall be a hearing before the Board of Directors to consider the matter, with two weeks prior written notice given to the party or parties involved. If the matter remains unresolved, the Board of Directors may vote to determine if said member or members should be dropped from membership. This shall be done by majority vote at either a regular meeting or a special meeting of the Board of Directors

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNMENT

Section 1: General Powers

The affairs of CHEF of Lafayette shall be under the policy direction and implementation of a Board of Directors. This Board shall include all officers and any number of committee chairs for each active committee in accordance with Article VIII, Section 2.

Section 2: Quorum

A majority of the Board of Directors present at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present, a majority of those present may postpone the meeting to another time without prior notice. A quorum for purposes of any special meeting as set forth in Section 8 below shall either be a majority of the Board of Directors or the officers as defined in Section 1 Article VIII.

Section 3:Board Decisions

The act of majority of the Board of Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, unless the act of a greater number is required by this Constitution.

Section 4:Informal Action by the Board

Any action normally taken at meetings of the Board of Directors may be taken without meeting, if a consent in writing setting forth the action to be taken is signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board.

Section 5:Compensation

Members of the Board shall not receive any stated salaries for services on that Board. Nothing herein stated shall preclude any member from being reimbursed for expenses incurred while fulfilling board duties, i.e. travel-related expenses, phone calls, ect.

Section 6:Meetings of the Board of Directors

- 6:1 The Board of Directors shall meet monthly, at the date set at the previous Board meeting. The meeting may be cancelled for holiday or other special considerations by majority vote of the Board. This meeting may be held in conjunction with the Quarterly Membership meeting.
- 6:2 The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly (4 times). The last meeting will be held in May, and designated the Annual Meeting. The topic(s) reviewed at these meetings could consist of:
 - 1st Quarter, July - September: Activity planning for new school year.
 - 2nd Quarter. October - December: Membership review and plans to help new home educators.
 - 3rd Quarter, January - March: Review of budget and appointment of a nominating committee.
 - 4th Quarter, April - June: Elections, adoption of budget and transition to the next Board.
- 6:3 Two months before the Annual meeting a nomination committee consisting of three (3) or five (5) board members appointed by the President at the third quarterly meeting shall meet to form a slate of proposed officers for election.
- 6:4 A Board meeting of old and newly elected Board members for the purpose of reading the by-laws and grasping an understanding of the purpose and guidelines of CHEF of Lafayette as laid out in the By-Laws, shall be held in the month of June. This in a sense is a passing the baton, to insure the continued vision of CHEF of Lafayette for the greater benefit of its members.

Section 7:Activities of the Organization

- 7:1 The Board of Directors shall schedule regular monthly or bi-monthly activities throughout the year to accomplish the goals of CHEF of Lafayette as stated in Article III.
- 7:2 The Annual Meeting of the organization shall include election of officers and affirmation of committee chairs, adoption of the budget and determination of dues as well as any other necessary business deemed important by the Board of Directors.

Section 8:Special Meetings

Special meetings can be held at the discretion of the president, or when called for by a majority of the Board of Directors, or when one-fourth (1/4) of the membership petition the Board of Directors with a proposed agenda. A notice of the Special Meeting shall be mailed to all members at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date, when possible, and shall include the topic(s) to be considered. Only these topic(s) shall be dealt with in the Special Meeting. However, in the event of an emergency, the President may at his sole discretion, call a Special Meeting upon notice to the Board of Directors by telephone, within twenty four (24) hours prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1:Officers

With the exception of the immediate past President, the officers of CHEF of Lafayette shall be elected by the members present at the Annual Meeting from a slate presented by a nominating committee appointed by the President at the third quarterly meeting of the current operating year. There shall be six (6) officers consisting of President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Public Relations Director, Secretary and Treasurer. The office of Immediate Past President shall be held by the immediate past president of CHEF of Lafayette. The Offices of Vice-President and Public Relations or Secretary and Treasurer maybe combined if necessary.

Section 2:Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs shall be appointed, by the Nominating Committee, to head committees that have been approved by the Board of CHEF of Lafayette. A committee for which no chairperson has been found, either through appointment or volunteering, will be inactive. A list of Committee Chairs must be affirmed by a majority of the members present at the Annual meeting. Should vacancies or new committees be created, Committee chairs must be affirmed by a majority of the members present at the next quarterly meeting.

Section 3:Qualifications to for the Board Members of CHEF of Lafayette

All Officers:

- 3.1 Shall sign a statement that they agree with all parts of the Statement of Faith, Statement of Family and Education, Statement of Purpose and By-Laws of this organization.
- 3.2 Shall submit a brief, written personal testimony of their salvation experience.
- 3.3 Shall be a member of CHEF of Lafayette. (By July 1 of year serving)
- 3.4 Shall have at least one (1) year of home education experience by the time their term of office begins.
- 3.5 Shall be men. The basic unit or the organization is the family over which the man is to provide the leadership according the Scripture. CHEF of Lafayette is an extension of the home and should reflect the home. This does not exclude the officer (husband) and his wife participating as a team as in the family to fulfill the duties of office.

All Committee Chairs:

- 3.6 Shall sign a statement that they agree with all parts of the Statement of Faith, Statement of Family and Education, Statement of Purpose and By-Laws of this organization.
- 3.7 Shall be a member of CHEF of Lafayette. (By July 1 of year serving)
- 3.8 Shall have at least one (1) year of home education experience by the time their term of office begins.

Section 4:Duties of the Board of Directors

Duties of the Board of Directors shall include:

- 4.1 **President:** Shall be responsible for the overall functioning of the organization; presides over all meetings of the Board of Directors and the CHEF Annual Meeting; assigns members to committees: shall be an ex-officio member of all committees: coordinates the dates of activities and functions sponsored by the organization; oversees the work done by any individuals or organization whose services are contracted by the organization.
- 4.2 **Vice-President:** Shall execute functions of the President when the President is unable to carry out a given responsibility and any other duties as assigned by the President.
- 4.3 **Immediate Past President:** Shall contribute to stable and consistent leadership of the Board of Directors from one year to the next and shall execute such duties as assigned by the President.
- 4.4 **Public Relations Director:** Shall assist CHEF of Lafayette and the membership in

- developing and implementing public relations strategies.
- 4.5 **Secretary:** Shall record all business conducted at board or general meetings and submit such records to the President; shall prepare the minutes of the meeting in writing to be given to all officers; shall function as the editor of the newsletter and insure it is published on a regular basis.
 - 4.6 **Treasurer:** Shall be responsible for maintaining financial records of this organization, maintaining a list of member families; informing and advising board of new members; payment of bills of the organization not exceeding budget authorization for procurement of necessary equipment; providing regular financial reports; and preparing the annual budget. The treasurer will also be responsible for publishing the annual membership directory, which may, at his discretion, be handled by the membership committee.
 - 4.7 **Committee Chairs:** Shall handle all functions of their committee; report to the board on a monthly basis; schedule all events with the President prior to selecting a date for said event; and promote activities and involvement in events for their committee that will help all member families in their effort of home education.
 - 4.8 The Board of Directors may contract with individuals or organizations as necessary to carry out the stated purposes of CHEF as long as such contracts are approved by the Board of Directors and not inconsistent with this Constitution.

Section 5:Election and Term of Office

The officers of CHEF of Lafayette shall be elected at the CHEF Annual Meeting. The term of office shall be one year, from July 1 through June 30. During the transition period in which incumbent officers are still serving, the new officers shall work as the incumbent's assistants. There is no maximum number of terms a member shall be permitted to serve.

Section 6:Vacancy

A vacancy in any board position because of any reason may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors for the un-expired portion of the term.

- 6.1 Any member of the Board of Directors who is unable to fulfill his elected duties may resign by submitting a written letter of resignation to the President.
- 6.2 Any board member elected by the organization may be removed by majority vote of the organization, when in its judgment, such board member has been found to be in confessional or ethical non-compliance with the statement of faith, statement on family and education, statement of purpose or by-laws of the organization. This removal process should take place at a quarterly board meeting or at a special meeting.

ARTICLE IX - BUDGET AND DUES STRUCTURE

Section 1:Adoption of Budget and Dues

The budget and annual dues shall be developed by the Treasurer, approved by the Board of Directors, submitted to the membership at least four (4) weeks prior to the CHEF Annual Meeting, and adopted at the Annual Meeting by a majority of the members present.

Section 2:Determination of Annual Dues

Dues will be based on the operational expenses of CHEF, which include, but are not limited to, the cost of the newsletter, the membership directory, and membership fees payable to the state organization. No discount will apply for families joining during the membership year.

Section 3:Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 4:Collection of Dues

Member families will pay dues directly to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment is first submitted in writing to the Board of Directors of CHEF of Lafayette for a board decisions (VII: 3) within sixty (60) days of the meeting, who will then submit it to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors of CHEF of Lafayette and a majority vote of the members present at an Annual Meeting, this organization may be dissolved and its activities closed. After payment of all bills and proper claims, remaining assets shall be disposed of in cash or in kind by transfer to a similar home education organization, as designated by the board of CHEF of Lafayette seeking to achieve purposes similar to the Christian Home Educators Fellowship. If the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary, as per Article VIII section 1, are not filled within 90 day of a vacancy, the organization will become dormant until the next Annual meeting, at which time it may be dissolved by the membership.