

Bylaws of Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators A Homeschool Non-Profit Organization

Article 1 – Name, Purpose, Location

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators (informally known as GRACE Co-op).

Section 2 – Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators is organized exclusively for educational and religious purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The corporation does not contemplate any pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise. Our purpose for this group is to offer support and provide educational opportunities to help Christian homeschool families in the fulfillment of our mission. The mission of Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators is to enrich and support the God-given privilege and authority of parents to educate their children at home by providing opportunities for academic, social and spiritual growth.

Section 3 - Statement of Faith

There is one self-existent, sovereign God who is eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Knowing God is the foundation of all knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and truth.

Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is the incarnation and supreme revelation of God. Jesus alone is the Promised Messiah, the Savior of mankind through His death on the cross, burial, resurrection from the dead and ascension to God the Father. He will return again and reunite with those who believe in Him, to reign with Him in power and glory throughout all eternity.

Man was created by God in the image of God, but fell into sin and therefore is lost, and can only be saved by faith in Jesus Christ alone (John 14:16, Acts 4:12). *God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).*

Every believer of Jesus Christ has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit, "...lives with you and will be in you..." (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit is the inspiration behind the writings of scripture, administrator of the church, the believer's counselor, the source of a believer's spiritual and physical strength, the believer's teacher, and the believer's confirmer of salvation.

There exists a community of believers who, through faith in Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, covenants with God and with other believers to live out faithfully the beliefs, practices, and mission of the church. As a community of believers, we are to carry out the work of Christ in the world and to love one another. *Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31).*

The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, the final authority of faith, truth, morality, conduct and life, without error in its original writing both in doctrine and historical details. All true knowledge is consistent with its revelation.

Section 4 - Statement on Gender, Marriage and Sexuality

In order to preserve the function and integrity of Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators Co-op and to provide a biblical role model to the Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators members and the community, it is imperative that all members, adults and children, agree to and abide by the following Statement on Gender, Marriage and Sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22).

- a. God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- b. The term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25).
- c. God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4).

Section 5 - The Board's Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The Statement of Faith and Statement on Gender, Marriage and Sexuality does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators' faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board, the Servant and Leader Team (SALT) and their spouses have the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The Board reserves the right to deny or revoke membership to any individual or family if it is determined by the Board that to allow such individual or family as participants would be detrimental to the group or would violate Christian principles which are reflected in the Statement of Faith and in the Bible.

Section 6 – The principal office location of Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators shall be located in Williamson County in the State of Texas. The organization may have any number of offices at such places as the Board may determine.

Article 2 - Membership

Section 1 – For the purposes of this Organization, the term "member" refers to all participating families who meet all requirements set forth by the governing documents of Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators.

Section 2 – The organization will not have voting members. All decisions will be made by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 - The qualification for non-voting membership in this organization are:

- a. Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators is a homeschool cooperative ministry that is open to Christian families who educate their children at home according to Texas homeschooling laws and who agree with Georgetown Regional

Area Christian Educators' Mission Statement, Statement of Faith, Statement on Gender, Marriage and Sexuality and The Board's Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct.

- b.** For the purposes of this Organization, "family" is defined as a natural-born male and a natural-born female parent, married or a single parent with one or more natural born male or female biological, adoptive, step or foster children or grandchildren or other children under their legal guardianship. In view of this, no homosexual or unmarried cohabiting couples are eligible for membership (Article 1, Section 4), (Romans 1:18-32). Other examples of individuals and families who will be denied membership include, but are not be limited to, the following:
 - 1.** Individuals who have committed or have been convicted of crimes involving children or moral turpitude, as defined by the Holy Bible.
 - 2.** Families of unlike faiths (Article 1, section 3), (Galatians 1:6-9).
 - 3.** Families who are not homeschooling in a bona fide manner according to state law. (Leeper vs Arlington)
- c.** The family must be currently homeschooling at least one of their children, including their biological, adoptive, step or foster children or grandchildren or other children under their legal guardianship. Rare exceptions might be made for alumni parents who are able to make special contributions to GRACE co-op, with SALT approval.
- d.** Any homeschool family seeking membership must complete an application and go through an interview process with the Board.
- e.** The family will sign and honor the statement of faith and behavior contract and agree that they will accept that all members have made the same profession of faith and will regard all members as equal members of the home school organization Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators.
- f.** Students enrolled in a Public/Charter/Private/UMS Elementary or Secondary Institution will not be able to concurrently take Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educator Classes.
- g.** Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators has restrictions regarding ages of students and grade levels as outlined in their handbook.
- h.** Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators membership is limited. New members are accepted based on a number of factors including, but not limited to: prayer, available classroom space, ratios in grade levels, the limited number of families in our group, the needs and well-being of the co-op as well as the needs of the applicants.
- i.** All families agree to pay an annual membership fee, as set by the board of directors.
- j.** All attending parents must be periodically background checked for any sexual crimes or crimes against children prior to working in a classroom or with children.
- k.** All families must complete registration forms via the Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators website each year and must remain in good standing each year in order to be eligible to return in future years.
- l.** All teachers in Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators must be a current co-op parent, unless approved by the Board. Teachers/Leaders are volunteers and are teaching/leading through Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators as a gift to families participating in the co-op. Rare exceptions might be made for alumni parents, whose children have graduated from GRACE Co-op to work as sub-contractors, with SALT approval.
- m.** Each family/parent must submit and be willing to teach at least one class per year

and are expected to volunteer for and carry out one extra-curricular activity each year.

- n. Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators admits families of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.
- o. Members that have withdrawn from GRACE Co-op more than one time will not be eligible for membership at GRACE Co-op.

Section 4 – Membership in the organization is fee-based, requiring a membership fee consisting of an administration fee paid to Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators and a registration fee paid to the facility, both to be paid annually. Class fees are paid twice a year as outlined in the handbook. Teachers shall not profit from the class fees.

Section 5 – The Board of Directors may determine to adjust the amount due for any fees. The amount of the membership fees, administrative fees, and registration fees shall be determined as an amount necessary to cover the costs to carry out the organization's purpose. All fees paid by the families shall be non-refundable.

Section 6 – The Board of Directors, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of board members, may suspend or expel a family or individual for cause, including, but not limited to non-compliance with the Statement of Faith, the Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators Handbook or Behavior Contract. The Board may, by a majority vote of those board members present at any regularly constituted meeting, terminate the membership of any member who becomes ineligible for membership, or suspend or expel any member who shall be in default in the payment of any dues or assessments.

Section 7 - Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators admits families of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin. Harassment on the basis of any characteristic is strictly prohibited. Harassment is unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct toward an individual for any reason when the conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Article 3 – Meetings

Section 1 – The date, time and place of the regular annual meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. This meeting will consist of a brief overview of the guidelines and rules of the organization along with emergency procedure protocols. Members are expected to attend each year.

Section 2 – Regular and special meetings of the organization shall be held at 1333 W. University Ave., Georgetown, TX 78628; or other location as determined by members of the board.

Section 3 - Regular and special meetings of the organization may be called by any board member.

Section 4 – Notice of meetings of the organization shall be announced via email by any member of the Board, at least seven days prior to the meeting, with exceptions for special called meetings in the event of an urgent matter, which require two days' notice prior to

the meeting.

Section 5 – Regular and special meetings of the Board may be called by any Board member, may be held at such place and time as shall be designated by the Board. Board meetings and minutes are closed to any non-Board participant of the organization.

Section 6 - Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as members participating in such meeting can hear one another.

Section 7 - Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through the use of email communication, text or other electronic means. These communications are confidential and are closed to non-board members.

Section 8 - Members of the Board may vote by telephone, e-mail, text or other electronic means.

Article 4 – Board of Directors

Section 1 – The business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors and officers, named the Servant and Leadership Team, or SALT, comprised of no fewer than three Board members. The Board is responsible for maintaining the overall policy and direction of the organization. The Board shall delegate responsibility of day-to-day operations to all members. Board members shall receive no compensation (other than reasonable expenses) for their service on the Board.

Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall appoint officers or directors for a term established by the Board.

Section 3 – The Board shall meet at least three times per year at an agreed upon time and location. Board members shall not miss more than one meeting per year.

Section 4 – All Board members shall serve for one year terms and can be eligible to continue in their position as long as the majority of the board members agree that their service is beneficial to the group as a whole.

Section 5 – Any Director or officer may be removed from office without assigning any cause by the majority vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board.

Section 6 – Any Director or officer may resign at any time by giving notice to the organization.

Section 7 – In the event of a vacancy on the Board (including situations where the number of Board members has been deemed necessary to increase), the remaining board shall nominate future board members and may elect a board member with a majority vote of the board.

Section 8 – A quorum must be attended by at least 50 percent of the Board members

before business can be transacted or motions made or passed.

Section 9 – Directors and officers of the Board will not be compensated via salary for their service as an officer or director of the Board.

Article 5 – Directors and Officers of the Board

Section 1 – The Board of directors shall consist of the following Directors and officers: Co-Director (President), Co-Director (Co-President), Secretary, Treasurer, Staffing & Clubs Officer, Facilities Officer and Activities & Events Officer. The Board of Directors shall appoint each of these directors and officers. The Board may also appoint other officers or directors it deems necessary. A board member may hold more than one position on the board.

Section 2 – Co-Directors (2)

The two Co-Directors shall convene regularly scheduled Board meetings and shall preside or arrange for other Directors or officers to preside at each meeting, if needed. The Co-Directors will announce meetings and distribute agendas to each Board member. The Co-Directors shall direct the day to day operations with the help of the other directors. The Co-Directors shall set the school year calendar, assign classrooms, serve as the contact for the facility, reserve facility space, open and close the facility, handle membership questions and communication, present membership issues to the board, maintain rosters, nametags, and all other administrative or principle duties outside of the other Directors' responsibilities.

Section 3 – Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all board meetings, distributing copies of minutes and, and assuring that corporate records are maintained. The Secretary will also inventory and track the co-op supplies.

Section 4 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall make a report at each Board meeting. The treasurer shall assist in the preparation of the budget, collect membership fees, monitor, track & disperse class fees, reimburse members for expenses, maintain receipts and make financial information available to Board members and the general group.

Section 5 – Staffing

The Staffing officer shall assist the Co-Directors with staffing assignments, communicate with absent members, track absences and assign weekly substitutes and helpers.

Section 6 – Facilities Officer

The Facilities Officer shall assist the Co-Directors with classroom assignments, assign, monitor and supervise all set up and clean up responsibilities required of each member, provide large equipment (TV's, etc.) to the teachers when needed, sending reminders to members, and shall be responsible for the overall set up, clean up and closing of the facility each week.

Section 7 – Activities & Events Officer

The Activities & Events Officer shall assign, monitor and oversee all coordinators and

committees. The Activities & Events Officer shall relay information regarding activities and events to the Board periodically and shall be responsible for relaying budget information and reminders to each of the coordinators.

Article 6 – Committees and Coordinators

Section 1 – The Board may create committees and assign coordinators as needed, such as fundraising, public relations, parties and program committees. The Activities & Events Officer shall appoint all committee chairs.

Section 2 – NO committee or coordinator shall have any power to: fill vacancies on the Board, adopt, amend or repeal the by-laws, amend or repeal any resolution of the Board, or act on matters committed by the by-laws or resolution of the Board to another committee of the Board.

Article 7 – Indemnification

Section 1 – The organization shall indemnify any agent of the organization including Co-Director (President), Co-Director (Co-President), Secretary, Treasurer, Staffing Officer, Facilities Director and Activities & Events Officer who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding, administrative or investigative, as such a person was or is an authorized representative of the organization. This indemnification against expenses, judgments, fines, and amount paid in settlements actually or reasonably incurred by such a representative of the organization is contingent upon the determination that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he/she believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the organization. With respect to any criminal proceeding, indemnified persons shall have had no cause to believe that their conduct was unlawful.

Section 2 – To satisfy indemnification obligations the organization may maintain insurance, obtain a letter of credit, act as a self-insurer, create a reserve trust, cash collateral, enter into indemnification agreements, or use any other arrangement whatsoever in such amounts, at such costs, and upon other terms and conditions that the Board shall deem appropriate.

Section 3 – This indemnification shall be made only if the organization shall be advised by its Board of Directors acting (1) by a quorum consisting of directors who are not parties to such action or proceeding upon a finding that, or (2) if a quorum under is not obtainable with due diligence, upon the opinion in writing of legal counsel that, the director or officer has met the foregoing applicable standard of conduct. If the foregoing determination is to be made by the Board of Directors, it may rely as to all questions of law, on the advice of independent legal counsel.

Article 8 - Amendments

Section 1 – These By-laws may be amended at any time when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Amendments must be announced and published to all members on the Georgetown Regional Area Christian Educators website within 14 days of passing.

Section 2 - The following items may only be amended with a 2/3 majority vote:

- a.** Dissolution of the Organization
- b.** Removal of a Director or Officer
- c.** Amendment of the Bylaws
- d.** Removal or suspension of a member