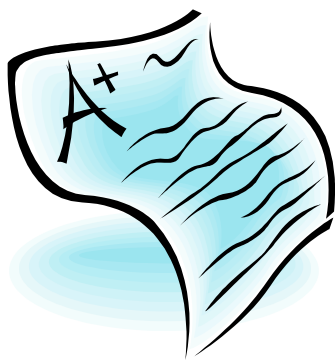


# **Christian Home**

## **Educators**

### **Fellowship**

**(A ministry of Open Door Baptist Church)**



### **Member**

## **Handbook**

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## **Introduction**

Welcome to the **Christian Home Educators Fellowship (CHEF)**!

This group was formed many years ago by several home school families at Open Door Baptist Church. They shared a common desire to establish a support group for Christian home schooling families in their church. The name was originally Open Door Home Educators Fellowship (ODHEF), but has now been re-named to the current title.

All CHEF members are requested to assist with the activities in which their students participate. Your assistant may be needed in planning, leading or setting up a particular event or activity. Set up and clean up is always needed at events that require either. Members should be willing to do their part to equally distribute the duties and therefore the burdens are light for everyone.

Our goal is to have a complete, strong, and healthy support group that we all can benefit from.

Whether you are new to home schooling or a familiar friend of the group, we ask that you review this handbook thoroughly. We desire for all members to have a clear understanding of the benefits of belonging to CHEF and the responsibilities of membership. Through this handbook we aim to provide information that your family will find useful in the home education of your children.

### **Benefits of CHEF Membership**

- A sense of belonging and support in your home-schooling endeavors
- Monthly support meetings with current information
- Membership directory
- Socialization and friendships with like-minded individuals for you and your children
- Group discounts into FPEA (with benefits) and Home school Legal Defense Association
- Mentoring and Guidance from experienced home educators
- Variety of field trips, classes, activities and special events
- Graduation ceremony for high school seniors
- Information and access to year end testing sites and evaluators

## Responsibilities of CHEF Membership

*“that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” Philippians 2:2*

- Read and agree with Statement of Purpose and understand the focus of CHEF Ministry Statement and be in agreement and abide by its guidelines
- Pay membership fee ( non refundable , includes funds for FACCS, and FPEA
- Offer to assist when helpers are needed
- Maintain a standard of dress that is modest, appropriate and God honoring for each activity or event
- Maintain a standard of conduct that is appropriate and God honoring for each activity and event
- Attend monthly meetings if possible and provide supervision for your own children. These meetings are structured to keep members abreast of events and meet the needs of parents.

### CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS FELLOWSHIP (CHEF) a ministry of Open Door Baptist Church

#### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

CHEF has been established because the Lord has led us to educate our children at home. We have banded together to support one another in the task of raising our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). CHEF shall encourage academic excellence in our children and provide a support network to parents.

#### GUIDELINES

1. The doctrinal statement of Open Door Baptist Church shall be the doctrinal statement of CHEF (see Appendix A).
2. Participation in CHEF activities, meetings, fellowships, etc., will be limited to those in the fellowship. However, there will be several opportunities throughout the year in which visitors will be invited to participate.
3. Because of the father's Biblical role as spiritual leader, we would earnestly exhort CHEF fathers to be actively involved in planning, support and attendance at CHEF functions (Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:6-7). We will support single parented families in our fellowship.
4. We believe as home educators that we should be submissive to civil authorities, unless the mandates laid down by those authorities clearly violate God's Word (Romans 13:1-5, I Peter 2:13, 14, 17).
5. CHEF does not intend to dictate curriculum; however, each family must be committed to a standard of excellence in their educational practices or fellowship with CHEF will be jeopardized (I Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23).
6. Neat and modest attire will always be worn for meetings and field trips, ie slacks and shirts for men and boys; loose fitting, below knee length dresses or skirts for women and girls (six years and up). For picnics following activities, boys may bring knee length shorts and girls may bring loose fitting, below knee length culottes into which to change. All shirts will be free from any design with words or pictures that have a worldly emphasis. Please call the day before the outing if there are any questions (I Timothy 2:9-10, I Thessalonians 5:22).
7. As our children are a reflection of our home life, and as their behavior bears directly on the quality of our Christian testimony to others, parents agree to keep careful watch over their own children, always maintaining proper conduct and conversation that is becoming to the name of Christ (Titus 2:9-10, I Thessalonians 5:22).
8. The continued fellowship of any family in the CHEF activities or meetings is contingent upon their adherence to these guidelines.

## **CHEF Ministry**

As Christian Home Educators we are to:

- Know we are representatives of The Church and conduct ourselves for the glory of God.
- Recognize that our call to home educate our children offers many opportunities to share Christ to the lost. (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
- Be good law-abiding citizens (*1 Timothy 2:12*). Members are also expected to abide by the Florida State Law which governs the home education program. ( See Florida Law p.9)
- Be given to hospitality ( *1 Timothy 2;12*). Every CHEF activity is an opportunity for all to sense the presence of God and to feel at home, welcomed and loved. We attend for not only the benefits received, but also to come prepared to give and to serve other members.
- Have a supernatural love for fellow home schoolers. We are an extended family of God and need to lift up one another, love unconditionally and to bear one another's burdens.
- Be gracious, understanding, and quick to forgive an offense. Jesus had a strong inner conviction and yet was willing to hear another's point of view and be compassionate. He said: "Go and do likewise". (*Luke 10:31*)

*"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:12*

### **Disclaimer and Release of Liability**

CHEF is not incorporated, therefore it exists only as an association of parents performing our duty to protect and educate our children. CHEF activities are merely cooperative activities participated in by various families in the group. As an unincorporated association, all members need to be aware that the association cannot be sued.

CHEF leaders and its members are all volunteers. We do not provide professional advice or counseling. Although volunteers active in CHEF coordinate some activities, we are responsible for our own children and ourselves, unless other arrangements have been made with another member in advance to watch over your children in your absence.

### **Leadership Positions and their Responsibilities**

The offices of leadership are as follows:

President-?

Secretary-?

### **This section not complete**

#### **Our Website**

Our website is on-line at <http://www.homeschool-life.com/fl/chef>. This website is maintained basically for those considering membership in CHEF. It has information for our members on what's going on in our group. There are photos of events and activities. It covers pertinent information on upcoming events or classes that are offered.

## **Florida Parent Educators Association**

Your statewide support group

**The Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA)** was established in 1984 by parents from across Florida who realized that the legislature might be more likely to listen to the organized voice of many rather than varied opinions of individual home educators throughout Florida.

**The Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA)** is a nonprofit, self supporting, statewide home school association serving Florida home school families. It provides information, encouragement, and connection to both individuals and many local support groups. The state is divided into 12 districts, each with a contact person or FPEA director available for its members.” (From the FPEA publication *The Guide to Home schooling in Florida. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*)

As a member, you will receive the **Almanac**, a bimonthly publication produced by the FPEA. You will also receive discounted admission to the annual FPEA Convention in Orlando where you can learn more about home schooling and the resources that are available to you.

The following purposes are quoted from the FPEA’s Articles of Incorporation; Article 11:

*The purposes of the Association shall be to promote home education through the following means:*

- 1.) Promotion of sound home education programs by families, dissemination of helpful information to home school families, and encouragement of families engaged in home education programs; through organization of an annual conference and distribution of a regular newsletter.
- 2.) Education of public officials, including state policy makers, and the general public concerning the virtues of home education and the constitutional rights of citizens to engage in home education
- 3.) Assistance in legal-judicial proceedings to families whose right to choose home education is challenged by local authorities.

Lake County is part of District 6 of the FPEA. You can find the current director’s name on their website at [www.fpea.com](http://www.fpea.com), then search their site for districts. You will find their name and contact email or phone number.

### **Home Education Foundation**

*‘Home educators voice in Tallahassee’*

**The Home Education Foundation (HEF)** was founded to raise the necessary funds to hire a full-time lobbyist for home educators. It was designed to provide us with effective, competent and meaningful representation in the Florida Legislature and State Agencies. HEF gives home schoolers a respected voice in Tallahassee regarding the laws, regulations, rules and policies directly affecting home education. Craig Dickinson and his wife, Brenda, founded HEF. A home educator and attorney, Craig authored the Home Education Act of 1985 (our current law). He voluntarily worked in Tallahassee on behalf of the home educators from 1984 until his death in 1993. HEF has been very influential in stopping negative legislation and building bridges between home school organizations.

HEF is an independent organization that operates on donations from home schoolers across the state. If you would like more information about HEF, contact them at PO Box 12563, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2563, or 850-878-3029. Website is [www.flhef.org](http://www.flhef.org)

### **Home School Legal Defense Association**

HSLDA is a non-profit national membership made up of home schooling families. For more information go to their website at [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org) or their sister company NCHE, National Center for Home Educators. They are located in Purcellville, VA.

## **CHEF Field Trips**

Preparing for a home school field trip provides a perfect opportunity for parents to exhibit consideration and manners for their children's benefit as well as representing Jesus Christ. Strive to be above reproach. We are to be "a light in the world", therefore we need to conduct ourselves with promptness, courtesy, and attentiveness. This not only reflects well our Saviour, but may well be the only examples of home schooling that "others" see.

### **Preparing for the Field Trip;**

Make reservations well in advance

Keep copy of the information about the field trip on hand. **BE RESPONSIBLE!** If there is a fee, make sure all the money is collected in advance. (If your money is turned in late you may not be able to attend and your money will be refunded back to you.)

There will be **NO** refunds for any field trip you paid for and did not attend. Forty eight hours is required for cancellations, or if you have to make a last minute cancellation, you may know of another member who is welcome to go in your place.

Only sign up for field trips that are age appropriate for your children.

### **Day of the Field Trip;**

**BE ON TIME!** Arrive 15- 20 minutes early for organizational time and prayer.

Dress in appropriate attire. CHEF uniforms are Navy polo shirts and khaki slacks for boys and khaki skirts or culottes for girls. Uniforms should always be clean and neat.

Parents or designated adult should stay with their child/children. Remember this is not free babysitting day. It is an educational event. You are responsible for your child's behavior.

Children should behave in appropriate manner with courtesy and respect.

Stay quiet when an adult is speaking. Raise your hand when asking a question. Walk on sidewalks where provided.

Observe all the rules of the facility you are visiting. (Hebrews 10:24)

It is especially important that your child exhibit obedience and respect for you, their parents. Children should also respect each other.(Ephesians 6:1)

### **Follow Up To The Field Trip**

Field trip facilitator should have a thank you note ready for the children to sign to give or send to the staff of the facility.

Field trip facilitator could have "Field Trip Questionnaires" to hand out to the children to complete. Parents will oversee this and keep for children's school portfolio.

Florida's Home Education Act- How to Comply  
Appendix A

Approximately 60 % of families in Florida who home educate their children do so under the Home Education Act of 1985. That law was revised in the 1998 legislative session and the statutes were moved in 2003. The following is a simplified version of what your responsibilities are if you choose to home school under this option. Please take time to read the actual text of the Home Education Act below.

The following excerpts are from the Bill 3951re and amendments. You can access the complete bill at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/>.

**1002.01 Definitions.—**

(1) A "home education program" means the sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent in order to satisfy the attendance requirements of ss.1002.41, 1003.01(4) and 1003.21(1)

**1003.01 Definitions.—** As used in this chapter, the term:

(13) "Regular school attendance" means the actual attendance of a student during the school day as defined by law and rules of the State Board of Education. Regular attendance within the intent of s. 1003.21 may be achieved by attendance in:

- (a) A public school supported by public funds;
- (b) A parochial, religious or denominational school;
- (c) A private school supported in whole or in part by tuition charges or by endowments or gifts;
- (d) A home education program that meets the requirements of chapter 1002; or
- (e) A private tutoring program that meets the requirements of chapter 1002.

**1002.41 Home Education Programs**

(1) A "home education program" is defined in s. 1002.01. the parent is not required to hold a valid regular Florida teaching certificate.

(a) The parent shall notify the district school superintendent of the county in which the parent resides of her or his intent to establish and maintain a home education program. The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent, and shall include the names, addresses and birthdates of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. The notice shall be filed in the district school superintendent's office within 30 days of the establishment of the home education program. A written notice of termination of the home education program shall be filed in the district school superintendent's office within 30 days after said termination.

(b) The parent shall maintain a portfolio of records and materials. The portfolio shall consist of the following:

1. A log of educational activities that is made contemporaneously with the instruction and that designates by title any reading materials used.
2. Samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks or creative materials used or developed by the student. The portfolio shall be preserved by the parent for 2 years and shall be made available for inspection by the district school superintendent, or the district school superintendent's agent, upon 15 days written notice. Nothing in this section shall require the district school superintendent to inspect the portfolio.
- (c) The parent shall provide for an annual educational evaluation in which is documented the student's demonstration of educational progress at a level commensurate with his or her ability. The parent shall select the method of evaluation and shall file a copy of the evaluation annually with the district school superintendent's office in the county which the students resides. The annual educational evaluation shall consist of one of the following:
  1. A teacher selected by the parent shall evaluate the student's educational progress upon review of the portfolio and discussion with the student. Such teacher shall hold a valid regular Florida certificate to teach academic subjects at the elementary or secondary level;
  2. The student shall take any nationally -normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher;
  3. the student shall take a state student assessment test used by the school district and administered by a certified teacher, at a location and under testing conditions approved by the school district;
  4. The student shall be evaluated by an individual holding a valid, active license pursuant to the provisions of s. 490.003(7) or (8); or
  5. The student shall be evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon by the district school superintendent of the district in which the student resides and the student's parent.
- (2) The district school superintendent shall review and accept the results of the annual educational evaluation of the student in a home education program. If the student does not demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate with his or her ability, the district school superintendent shall notify the parent, in writing that such progress has not been achieved. The parent shall have 1 year from the date of receipt of the written notification to provide remedial instruction to the student. At the end of the 1 year probationary period, the student shall be reevaluated as specified in paragraph (1) (c). Continuation in a home education program shall be contingent upon the student demonstrating educational progress commensurate with his or her ability at the end of the probationary period.
- (3) A home education program shall be excluded from meeting the requirements of a school day.
- (4) Home education students may participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.15.
- (5) Home education students may participate in the Bright Futures Scholarship Program in accordance with the provisions of ss.1009.53-1009.539.
- (6) Home education students may participate in dual enrollment programs in accordance with the provisions of s.1007.27 (4) & 1007.27 (10).
- (7) Home education students are eligible for admission to community colleges in accordance with the provisions of s.1007.263.
- (8) Home education students are eligible for admission to state universities in accordance with the provisions of s.1007.261.
- (9) Home education program students may receive testing and evaluation services at diagnostic and resource centers, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1006.03.

**1002.43 Private tutoring programs.—**

(1) Regular attendance as defined in s. 1003.01(14) may be achieved by attendance in a private tutoring program if the person tutoring the student meets the following requirements:

- (a) Holds a valid Florida certificate to teach the subjects or grades in which instruction is given.
- (b) Keeps all records and makes all reports required by the state and district school board and makes regular reports on the attendance of students in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.23(2).
- (c) Requires students to be in actual attendance for the minimum length of time prescribed by s. 1011.60(2).

(2) Private tutors shall keep and prepare records in accordance with the provisions of s.1003.23 (2).

**Home Education Defined**

"sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his or her parent or guardian..."  
as defined in the Florida Statute.

**"Notice of Intent" to Home School**

Under the law you must file a letter of intent to home school with the superintendent of schools in your district. The Florida Statutes say:" the parent of guardian shall notify the superintendent of schools of the county in which the parent or guardian resides of his or her intent to establish and maintain a

home education program. The notice shall be in writing, signed by the parent or guardian, and shall include the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who shall be enrolled as students in the home education program. The notice shall be filed in the superintendent's office within 30 days of the establishment of the home education program."

Simply put, the notice must;

1. be in writing
2. to be signed by the parent or guardian
3. contain the names, addresses, and birthdates of all children being home schooled

**Mail your intent to:** Coordinator of Student Services, Equity and Compliance. For the current name of the person and address in this position call the Lake County Superintendent of Education at 352-253-6515.

**Keep a copy of this notice for your records.** It is also recommended that you send this notice and any other written correspondence, by certified mail, return receipt requested. When you receive the "signed green card", you can then attach it to your copy of the notice as proof that you mailed the intent.

#### **A Note on Age Requirements**

In the state of Florida it is mandatory that children from 6-16 attend an education program (FS 232.01). If your child will turn six sometime before February 1 of the school year, then you will need to register your intent to home school with the office above. In addition, Lake County will continue to maintain your child's file from the age of 16 until graduation if this is needed for the purpose of dual enrollment in the local community college.

#### **Sample Letter of Intent**

Coordinator of Student Services, Equity and Compliance:

Notice of Intent to Establish Home Education Program

In compliance with 1002.41 (1) (a), Florida Statute, this serves as written notice of intent to home educate. The following information is required by law.

Child's Name, Date of Birth

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian

#### **Maintain a Portfolio**

It is your responsibility to maintain a portfolio of records for each child. According to Florida Statute:

*"The portfolio shall consist of the following:*

1. a log of educational activities which is made contemporaneously with the instruction and which designates by title any reading materials used.
2. samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student."

The activity log should be made "contemporaneously" with the instruction. This means the documentation must be occurring at the same time as the instruction.

The law goes on to say that the portfolio;

1. must be maintained for 2 years
2. must be made available for inspection by the superintendent, upon 15 days written notice.

#### **Submit an Annual Evaluation**

The law requires an annual evaluation be filed with the county superintendent. This should be mailed to the same address as the intent and using the certified mail method. (See letter of intent section)

This means the evaluation needs to be filed within 365 days of the start of your home education program and annually thereafter. Our county would prefer it if most families could have their evaluation filed by the end of June for ease of their work. If you fail to send your evaluation in annually, you could be deemed out of compliance and subject to truancy proceedings.

#### **Five Options for Evaluation Given by Law**

1. Individual evaluation by a Florida certified teacher of your choice
2. Nationally –normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher of your choice
3. State student assessment test- Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) your students may take it with the county. Call the school office ahead of time for details.
4. Psychological evaluation
5. Any other method that is mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent

#### **Terminating your Home Education Program**

When you cease to home educate one or more of your children, either because they will be attending another education program, you are moving from the county, or your child has graduated for your home education program, you must submit a **letter of termination** to the county office. A **letter of termination** should contain the same information as your letter of intent and should be mailed to the same current county office address.

This is the most often failed requirement of the home educators.

**REMEMBER:**

1. Terminate if you move from the county
2. Terminate if your child completes your home education program (graduates)
3. Terminate if you place your child in public, private or parochial school.

#### **Sample Letter of Termination**

Coordinator of Student Services, Equity and Compliance:

Notice of Termination of Home Education Program

In compliance with 1002.41 (1) (a), Florida Statute, this serves as written notice of termination to home educate the following children. The following information required by law.

Include: Child's name, Date of Birth, Home address, Date, Signature of Parent or Guardian

### **Commonly Asked Questions & Answers**

1. Do I have to keep attendance? **No. Your portfolio with log of activities, samples, etc. validates your attendance.**
2. Do I have to comply with the definition of a “school day” which is required of public and non-public schools? **No. We do not have a requirement for hours a day or number of days. Essentially, learning at home is an every-day event.**
3. Who provides my curriculum? **You are responsible to find and pay for all books, supplies, materials, special classes, etc.**
4. Can my child participate in special classes, services, or sports at my zoned public school? **Yes. Contact the office of the Coordinator of Student Services, Equity and Compliance to request and extracurricular activities information packet. It will contain all of the information that your need to enroll your child in extracurricular activities.**

### REMEMBER!

If you choose to home educate your children under the Home Education Act, please take the time to read and truly understand your responsibilities under that law and be faithful to fulfill those responsibilities. The responsibilities are few and simple and your diligence in keeping them will help to increase the favorable reputation of home educators throughout Florida.

### [Appendix A](#)

### [Open Door Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement](#)

#### **THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible (consisting of 66 books) is the inspired Word of God, that every part is fully and equally inspired, and that every single word of Scripture was produced under the control of the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3: 16).

We also accept the Scriptures in their entirety as being inerrant and infallible. For this reason, we are committed to the Bible as being our final authority in all matters of doctrine and practice (John 17:17; Matthew 5:17).

We believe God's word has been preserved in the manuscripts of the Received Text. Therefore, the 1611 King James Version of the Bible will be the only acceptable translation used for the purpose of preaching and teaching in any of our classes or the pulpit ministry of this church.

#### **GOD**

We believe that there is only one true, eternal, living God, who is sovereign over all things. God can be known through the many absolute and relative attributes revealed in the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 3:14; Colossians 1:15-17).

#### **THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD**

We believe that, although there is only one true God, that God consists of three distinct Persons, each of whom is co-eternal and co-equal.

We believe that the Father is God, that the Son (Jesus, the Christ-Messiah) is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1-3 & 14, 6:27; Acts 5:3-4).

#### **CHRIST**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be absolute Deity, the eternal Son of God, who became man without ceasing to be God. In the incarnation, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25; Hebrews 1:8; Isaiah 9:6-7; John 3:16).

We believe that Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man at the same time (Philippians 2:5-8).

We believe that He was totally holy by virtue of His miraculous birth and sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; II Corinthians 5:21).

We believe that Jesus Christ voluntarily laid down His life, the just dying for the unjust, making it possible for man to be saved (John 10:17; Hebrews 9:14, 28; I Peter 3:18).

We believe that He rose bodily from the dead on the third day after His death, and that He ascended into Heaven to the right hand of the Father (John 2:19-22; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

We believe that, presently, He is our Intercessor and Advocate, the only true Mediator between God and man (Hebrews 4: 14, 7:25; I John 2:1; I Timothy 2:5).

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is Deity, and Divine Person of the Godhead. He is not a force, but is truly a Person and is equal with the Father and the Son (Acts 5:3-4).

We believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer at the moment he or she is regenerated, and that these gifts are to be used for the edification and perfecting of the believer in the Church. We believe that the miracle and sign gifts were given for a unique purpose to the first-century church, but that they ceased at the end of that century (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:7-16; Hebrews 2:3-4).

Therefore, we of Open Door Baptist Church declare our conviction, that the present tongues movement is not in harmony with the teaching of the Word of God for our times, and that we will not receive nor retain in membership any who participate in or promote this movement.

### **MAN**

We believe that God created man directly and instantaneously from the dust of the ground. Man was created in the image of God and was able to have intimate fellowship with God. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7).

We believe that all of humanity fell away from God when Adam first sinned, and that the fall resulted in both physical and spiritual death for man. In this fallen condition, man was left totally depraved and unable to remedy his own situation (Genesis 3:6-13; Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2),

### **SIN**

We believe that sin is anything that does not conform to the character and nature of God (I John 3:4).

We believe that all of mankind sinned in Adam, the head of the human race, and that each human being has a sin nature and also has committed personal sin (Romans 5: 12, 1.18, 3:20; I John 1:8-10).

### **SALVATION**

We believe that salvation is the act of God whereby man is brought into a proper relationship with God. It is that act where spiritually dead man is made spiritually alive (Psalm 3:8; Ephesians 2:1-2)

We believe that this is accomplished by the grace of God through man's faith in the death (shed blood), burial and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-10; I Corinthians 15:1-4).

We believe that salvation involves three things for the believer: deliverance from the penalty of sin at the moment of regeneration, victory over the power of sin during the Christian life, and deliverance from the presence of sin at the return of Christ.

We believe that salvation positionally sanctifies the believer, but that the believer needs to experience, in his daily life, progressive sanctification (II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 6:14; Philippians 3:20-21),

### **SATAN AND ANGELS**

We believe in the existence of the person of Satan. He was created by God as the greatest of angels, but later rebelled against God. After he fell, he organized his own kingdom which consists of both evil angels and also unregenerate man. He is currently the ruler-god of this age. Satan's ultimate goal is to overthrow God. He seeks to keep the unsaved from becoming saved. He seeks to hinder and destroy the Christian's testimony and ministry of God.

We believe that both Satan and his evil angels will be consigned to the eternal lake of fire after the Millennium (Matthew 25:41; John 8:44; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 20:7-10).

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe that the true Church is a living organism and that it is the "body of Christ", who is Himself the head of this body. The Church is made up of regenerated, redeemed believers only (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18; I Corinthians 12:13).

We believe that the Church began on the day of Pentecost; that every believer was indwelt-baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ which is the Church (Acts 2:1-4, 1:4-5; John 14:16-17; I Corinthians 12:13).

We believe that the Scriptures teach that there are to be local churches. These are to be the visible representation of the body of Christ in the local community. Local churches are to observe the ordinances of Christ and to seek to do the will of God (Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 1:2; Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-28).

We believe that the local church should be totally committed to the edifying (developing to maturity) of the believers and also should have an active outreach in evangelism (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 14).

We believe the ordinances given to the local church are two, baptism and the Lord's supper: that baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ; that the Lord's supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ (Matthew 29:19-20; Acts 2:41: 8:38-39; Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-24).

We believe in the premillennial and pretribulational return of Jesus Christ. This means that Christ's return for His "bride" (the Church) is imminent and, therefore, can happen at any moment (I Thessalonians 4:13-17, 5:6.)

We believe that, following the rapture of the Church, the Tribulation Period (Daniel's 70th Week, or the Time of Jacob's Trouble) will take place (Daniel 9:24-27; II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

We believe that, following the Great Tribulation, the Millennium will begin. This will be brought about by the literal, physical, visible, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to rule and to reign for 1,000 years (Zechariah 14:1-4; Revelation 19-20).

## **THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK**

We believe that we are called with a holy calling, separated unto the Lord and from the world, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and so to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. And the flesh, which is our old sinful nature, which in this life is never eradicated, needs to be constantly reckoned dead, and our new life yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 6:14-17; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:1-10, 3:1-17; Peter 1:14-16; I John 2:15-16;; Romans 6:6-13).

## **ASSURANCE AND SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER**

We believe that because of the eternal purpose of God toward the objects of His love, because of His freedom to exercise grace toward the meritless, on the ground of the propitiatory blood of Christ, because of the prayer of the Son of God in John 17, because of the very nature of the divine gift of everlasting life, because of the present and unending intercession and advocacy of Christ in heaven, because of the unchangeable promises of God, because of the regenerating, permanent indwelling, of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all who are saved, all true believers everywhere, from the moment they are saved shall be kept saved forever. (John 10:27-29, 17:11; Romans 8:29-36; I Corinthians 6:11, 19; Hebrews 7:25; I John 2: 1-2, 5:13).

## **THE ETERNAL STATE**

We believe that at death those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence, but the unbelieving pass immediately into hell until the final judgment of the great white throne at the close of the millennium when they shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be separated from God and punished forever (Luke 16:19-26; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8)

## **SEPARATION**

We believe in the Biblical doctrine of separation which encompasses the following: (1) the separation of the local church from all affiliation, fellowship and cooperation with those who deny the true Christian faith, and (2) the separation of the individual believer from all worldly practices that would dishonor the Savior. We believe that the church should refuse to be drawn into compromising alliances, even with well-meaning evangelical people, whereby our testimony would be impaired and our position confused. Specifically, we reject the concept that our church should cooperate with unbelievers and apostate churches even if by so cooperating beneficial results may seem to be produced (II Corinthians 6:14; II Timothy 3:5; Ephesians 5:11; II John 9:11).

#### **CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the Conscience, and the coming King of Kings (Romans 13:1-7; Acts 23:5, 5:29, 4:19-20; Matthew 22:21; Daniel 3:17-18).

#### **ISRAEL**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37).

#### **FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH**

We understand that the above articles do not by any means exhaust the content of our creed which is the whole Word of God, and they are not intended to set a limit beyond which faith cannot go within this Word; but we do believe that in so far as these extend, they are a true presentation of the sound doctrine taught in the Scriptures.

## **Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools [www.faccs.org](http://www.faccs.org)**

FACCS is delighted to offer competition for our elementary, jr. high and high school students. These competitions are designed for the purpose of allowing our students to gain valuable experiences through the process of competition and evaluation. We want our young people to develop their talents and have a platform for their God-given abilities. Thank you for your help and support in achieving this goal.

Quote from 2003 FACCS Student Competitions manual.

### **Fees**

We consider these fees an investment in the educational opportunities of our children. Annual FACCS administrative fee is \$200. Annual per student assessment is \$7 per student. FACCS competition fee is \$35 per event. We register to participate in 4 events – Spelling Bee, Regional Creative Writing Festival, Jr. Fine Arts Festival and Sr. High Fines Arts Festival. If any of our students compete at the State and National levels, we incur an additional competition fee. There are also individual competition fees of \$12 per student. In the past, CHEF has made the annual investment and competition investments, while passing along to its membership the individual fees.

### **FACCS Opportunities**

- Regional Spelling Bee competition designed for students in grades 1-8.
- 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of Regional Spelling Bee are eligible to compete at the State level.
- Regional Creative Writing Festival designed for students in grades 1-8
  - Grades 1-3: Short Story, Two Word Poem, Sense Poem
  - Grades 4-6: Haikon/Haiku, Poetry and Essay (specific FACCS topics)
  - Grades 7-8: Scripture Poem, Poetry and Essay (specific FACCS topics)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of Creative Writing Festival move onto State
- Regional Jr. Fine Arts Festival designed for students in grades 1-8. Many categories of competition in Musical Performance, Art and Speech.
- 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of Regional Jr. Fine Arts move onto State
- State Sr. High Fine Arts Festival designed for students in grades 9-12. Many categories of competition in Bible, Musical Performance, Art, Academics and Speech.
- 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of Sr. High Fine Arts move onto Nationals in Greenville, SC