

## What's A Co-op, Anyway?

Homeschool co-ops, like clouds, take many shapes and forms, each group changing to meet the needs of its members. They come in more flavors than Baskin Robbins' ice cream. One size doesn't fit all, either. While some groups seem to work more harmoniously than other groups, there is no single group that makes 100% of its members happy, 100% of the time. Nor do 100% of the members take 100% advantage of all the wonderful opportunities available to them through their group. Firmly Planted is unique in that we come at homeschooling and all of its wonderful and challenging facets from a decidedly Christian perspective. Our commitment to assist parents in their homeschooling journey is boosted by the support of the local church.

**Our primary goals rest on one desire:  
To see children and families come to a saving trust in Jesus Christ.**

We are not a "support group" in the traditional sense of the word, either. Our co-op functions because each person in it assumes the responsibility of partnering with us in many different ways. In this booklet, you will see many ways that you can become involved. We hope that you will! It is our prayer that as a member of Firmly Planted, you will find not only friends, but family.

**Are you ready? Let's get to know each other!**

### ***Firmly Planted was God's idea!***

Firmly Planted was founded in 2013 as an answer to prayer. The desire was to have a group of families who could get together for support and encouragement ~ and just maybe we could offer classes to students as a way to form friendships and enrich our homeschooling curriculum. God's hand has blessed Firmly Planted, and we have seen it grow in leaps and bounds in a relatively short period of time. Over the years, we have been blessed by the talents of many committed parents who have stepped forward to offer themselves as servants in an effort to see this ministry succeed.

We began with 12 families and a handful of classes in the fall of 2013, this school year we have 49 families with over 100 students in 3 dozen classes. Our students range from nursery/preschool through high school.

### ***What is the Cost?***

Membership dues for Firmly Planted are \$120 per year per family, renewable each June. There is a \$35 background check fee upon initial enrollment. When a family enrolls half way through the year, the dues are prorated to \$60 and a \$35 background check fee (The full cost for classes is charged). This covers building costs, insurance, mailings, postage, website, legal fees, and other costs.

## *What is the Benefit?*

Your Firmly Planted membership fee allows your family to participate in all Firmly Planted activities. Membership is open to all homeschooling families.

## *Communication*

Email is our primary form of communication — announcements are sent out on a regular basis to advise of upcoming events and changes to previous plans. We also utilize our membership only webpage, where friendships are built and member-initiated gatherings and field trips are announced.

## *We believe:*

- The Bible is the inspired, infallible, literal, and authoritative Word of God.
- God has existed for all eternity in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is God and came in human flesh being fully God and fully man, except without sin.
- All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act.
- The central purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross, the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent bodily resurrection.
- Salvation is offered as a gift, free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to in individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone.
- Marriage is a sacred vow between a man and a woman.

## *A note from the Leadership Team*

Firmly Planted Westside Homeschool Co-op is continuing to change and grow. We look forward to a year filled with exciting new activities and opportunities.

1 Corinthians 12:4-31 tells us we all have unique talents and gifts. We are instructed to use these for the glory of the Lord and to serve the body. No gift (or job) is more important than another. No person in the body is more important than another. Let all of us work together, extending grace where needed, helping each other, loving each other with the love that God gave us.

Because we are changing and growing, at times it will be necessary to re-evaluate certain areas of the co-op. In light of this, and to serve you better, we reserve the right to change policies and procedures without notice. We are looking forward to a great year and we hope you are too!

In His service,

FPW Leadership

