



## Rules & Regulations

### **Name**

The name of this association will be Home Educating And Ready To Serve, hereinafter referred to as "HEARTS."

### **Description**

HEARTS, a Christian homeschool support group, that has been established to foster relationships between like-minded families. We encourage and minister to one another as well as provide social and educational activities that enrich our lives. We ultimately aim to reach the hearts of our children for Christ. We are families committed to God's admonition that we raise our children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4)

HEARTS supports the work of the local church and encourages families to be active and accountable in a body of believers. It is our intent and design that this group be neither a replacement for nor a hindrance to your own church commitment and involvement. For this reason, we stay single-minded in our function to serve as a tool for your homeschool, with our emphasis on providing meaningful educational and social experiences for you and your children. We strive to select activities that do not duplicate those which are generally considered to be the function of your local church.

HEARTS is not a legal entity unless we incorporate which is recommended by HSLDA after receiving 75 or more members. It cannot sue nor be sued.

HEARTS is a "not-for-profit" group. It is not organized for business purposes or profit. Being a private association, HEARTS reserves the right to refuse or terminate membership. The HEARTS Steering Team has the authority to review all membership applications and grant a waiver, or deny an application, upon unanimous vote of the steering team. Application review is confidential, as is the final vote by the Steering Team. Biblical guidelines for conflict resolution will be followed.

### **Our Purpose**

The purpose of HEARTS is to encourage member families to grow and thrive in their respective homeschool environments and to facilitate their success by providing information and support services, while upholding the Biblical principles on which the association is founded.

### **Statement of Faith**

1. We believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God which constitutes completed and final revelation, and to be the sole and final authority for faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Psalm 119:89; Psalm 12:6,7)
2. We believe there is one living and true God - an infinite, intelligent Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1-13; Matthew 3:16-17; II Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:8)
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection

from the dead, His ascension into Heaven, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory. (John 1:1,14; Luke 1:31-35; Philippians 2:6-8; I Corinthians 15:1-8;

15:21; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:12; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

4. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin through the disobedience of Adam and is, therefore, lost, unable to justify himself before God. (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:16,17; 3:6; Romans 3:10,23; 5:12,18)

5. We believe that salvation is the free gift of God given to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in Jesus Christ alone, as Savior and Lord, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin. This free gift of salvation is not received by any personal works whatsoever. (Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; John 1:12; 5:24; Romans 5:15; 6:23; 10:9-13; Acts 16:31)

6. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict and regenerate mankind, and to indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service. (John 16:7- 14; Titus 3:5; I Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Romans 8:14; Ephesians 5:18)

7. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:4-5; 20:12-15)

8. We believe that God ordained the family to be made up of one man and one woman as defined in Genesis 2:24.

## **Obtaining Full Membership**

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

In order to be accepted as full members of HEARTS, a family must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be a "family" as defined by one of the following:

a. One man and one woman as ordained by God in Genesis 2:24, legally recognized as married under the laws of the State of Mississippi, or who are the biological or adoptive parents or legal guardians of one or more minor children,

OR

b. A single man or woman, not living in a "domestic partnership" or like arrangement with any other man or woman, who is the biological or adoptive parent or legal guardian of one or more minor children.

2. The family, as defined by Eligibility Requirement # 1, does not have any member thereof who has been convicted of criminal activity including, crimes against a child or children under the laws of the state of Mississippi, any other state or territory of the United States of America, or the United States of America.

3. Be a family, as defined by Eligibility Requirement # 1, actively home schooling in compliance with the laws of the state in which they legally reside, at least one child in kindergarten through high school.

4. Read and agree to our Terms of Service under the Request Membership area on our website, thereby declaring agreement with and compliance to the HEARTS Rules and Regulations and Mission Statement, including the Statement of Faith and all eligibility requirements.

5. Pay the required annual dues of \$40.00 by the appointed deadline.

6. Complete a scheduled interview with the Steering Team.

7. Each member must sign a “Waiver and Release of Liability” form(s) which will be notarized.
8. Be willing to volunteer and support HEARTS with your time, talents, and abilities.

### **Member Benefits**

HEARTS members will have access to the following services and privileges:

1. Online access to the HEARTS website member-only areas
2. Attendance at all HEARTS Nights and events.
3. Participation of homeschooled children in HEARTS-sponsored clubs and activities
4. Access to online Membership Directory
5. Notification of field trips and activities
6. Placement on the HEARTS e-mail loop within the website for news, updates and prayer requests
7. Access to the HEARTS private Facebook page.

### **Member Responsibilities**

1. As the home school movement grows, our reputation as home educators in both the Christian community and the world is important to maintain. The manner in which we or our children conduct ourselves is noticed by those not home schooling and judgments will be made based upon what is seen or heard. The following is a list of standards which will help to uphold the reputation of home education.

- a. Members are expected to educate their children in compliance with the law of their state.
- b. It is vital that members be familiar with area truancy laws.

**2. Members are required to attend a minimum of one (1) HEARTS night per semester.**

**3. Members are required to take an active role in planning/hosting/assisting in a minimum of one (1) event or activity during the school year.**

**4. Members must understand that it is their responsibility to check email and website weekly, or enough to know what is happening within the group.**

5. Members are responsible for keeping their information on the website current especially their contact information.

6. Members are expected to keep the information on the Membership Directory in strictest confidence and are not to give out this information to nonmembers. The directory is not to be used for commercial or marketing purposes.

**7. Members must understand and agree that HEARTS is not a legally organized corporation, and therefore has no officers or insurance. In all group sponsored activities, attendees, and members assume liability for their own actions, will not hold group leaders liable, and will rely on their own insurance or other means to cover any accidents which require treatment for themselves or their children. (Signature on notarized “Waiver and Release of Liability Form(s)”)**

**8. Failure to meet Membership Responsibilities will deem family ineligible for HEARTS membership the following school year.**

### **Leadership**

#### **Steering Team**

The Steering Team shall consist of at least 5 members of HEARTS. The Steering Team will be persons that have held membership for at least 2 consecutive HEARTS school years. The team

will hold responsibilities such as; Planning Hearts Events and Meetings, Distributing Funds, Conducting Membership Interviews, Organizing Special Speakers, etc. In order to maintain proper focus, it is respectfully requested that the Steering Team limit their active involvement in other homeschool support groups during their term in office.

### **Qualifications of the Steering Team:**

1. Must be actively homeschooling at least one or more of their school age (K – 12th) children
2. Must adhere to the Statement of Faith and have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord
3. Must have been members of HEARTS for at least 2 or more consecutive years

### **Duties of the Steering Team:**

1. Responds to telephone inquiries regarding HEARTS
2. Maintains records of income and expenses
3. Sets agenda for meetings of the group
4. Presides at the meetings of the group.
5. Ensures that group activities are in line with the Purpose Statement
6. Will meet as necessary to discuss any unforeseen issues or circumstances as they arise.
7. Keeps minutes at monthly meetings
8. Website administration

### **Treasurer –**

1. Keeps membership and dues records
2. Maintains records of income and expenses
3. Ensures that requests for reimbursement are accompanied by appropriate documentation
4. Documents scholarships for HEARTS membership dues to families that have shown a specific need

### **Other Functions of the Steering Team**

The Steering Team will govern policies and procedures for the operation of HEARTS including, but not limited to:

1. Special speakers, displays and vendors
2. Website content
3. Field trip procedures
4. The Steering Team must be informed of suspected child maltreatment and the Steering Team must report it to the proper authorities. According to the statutes of the state of MS Ann.Code 43-21-353.

### **Revenues**

#### **Membership Dues**

HEARTS has been formed for the benefit of its member families and not for profit. Earnings from membership dues are exclusively for the benefit of HEARTS and its members.

**Amount of Dues**

Membership dues shall be set according to the needs and expenses of HEARTS.

**Record of Dues**

The Treasurer will receive and disburse all money for HEARTS and will keep all records in a ledger. The monthly treasurer's report will be available to any member upon request.

**Other Monies**

The Steering Team may approve income from sources other than HEARTS dues and disburse the same at its discretion.

**HEARTS/Steering Team Meetings**

Minutes of the official business portion of the general meetings will be taken. All records are the official records of the group.

Meetings of the Steering Team may be called, held and conducted in accordance with such rules and procedures as they may adopt.

Voting at Steering Team meetings –

The presence of all Steering Team members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. Each member shall be allowed one vote. A simple majority vote will carry or defeat motions.

**Amendments**

Suggested amendments to these Rules and Regulations must be submitted in writing to the HEARTS Steering team. Any amendments made to these Rules and Regulations must be voted upon by current HEARTS members. Votes can be taken by email or at any scheduled HEARTS meeting.

Amendments shall then be approved by majority of quorum. Quorum consists of members who provide their vote within the specific time frame given.

A copy of these Rules and Regulations shall be in the possession of the Steering Team conducting any meeting. A copy shall be kept by each of the Steering Team members and on the HEARTS website. A copy of these Rules and Regulations shall be available online for each prospective member family for their consideration prior to joining HEARTS. Upon agreeing to our Terms of Service under the Request Membership area on our website (thereby indicating agreement with and compliance to the HEARTS Rules and Regulations, Mission Statement, including personal belief in the Statement of Faith) and upon interview and payment of the required annual dues, the member family will have adopted these Rules and Regulations and is required to abide by them.

Failure to comply with these Rules and Regulations is grounds for membership termination by the HEARTS Steering Team.