

Constitution of the Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators

Updated: May 2022

Article 1: Description / Mission Statement

The Northeast Arkansas Christian Home Educators (CHE) exists to support and encourage families who have chosen to educate their children at home from a distinctly Christian perspective. We do so in part by providing student activities, corporate educational opportunities and forums designed to encourage those facing the practical challenges of home education. Additionally, we seek to raise awareness of legal and political issues affecting home educators. Our hope is that as iron sharpens iron, we will sharpen one another for the task of raising and educating our children to live for the glory of God.

Article 2: Government

CHE shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of eight to twelve members. The Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of all business affairs engaged in by CHE; review and acceptance or denial of all applications for membership, and the calling of all Business Meetings. Policies are governed by the Board of Directors and changes to them will be at the discretion of that governing body during scheduled meetings, on a case by case basis. Board meetings require at least 50% attendance to comprise a quorum.

Members of the Board of Directors are elected to serve a two year term with only six of the twelve Board positions being voted on at the Annual Meeting held each year between April 15 and May 15. If a current Board member declines to complete the second year of his term on the Board that position may be filled through election at the Annual Meeting as well. Unless they decline such nomination, board members are automatically nominated for reelection provided they meet all CHE membership qualifications and they have attended at least half of the scheduled board meetings. The past President typically serves for one year after being President, but will not sit for re-election while serving in this position.

All other nominations for service on the Board must be submitted in writing (physically, e-mail, or text) to the current Board President at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominees must be fathers who have been members of CHE for a minimum of twelve months and submit a short biography to the president at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting. All qualified nominees shall be presented to the CHE membership on an official ballot at the Annual Meeting. A current Board member is automatically re-nominated unless the member revokes this nomination. A simple majority vote of all ballots received is required for election to the board. Board members lost by attrition may be replaced by the Board of

Directors. If the number of Board members drops below six, the vacancies shall be filled at a Business Meeting of the CHE membership called by the remaining board members.

The date, time and location of the Annual Meeting and any special called Business Meetings shall be announced by the Board of Directors to the CHE membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. Any proposed revisions to the Constitution shall be made available to the CHE membership by the Board of Directors at least one month prior to presentation at a special Business Meeting or Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors will review any amendment on a case by case basis and may require additional justification for any change. The members present at the special Business Meeting or Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Officers of the Board of Directors are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers shall be elected by the Board within three weeks of the Annual Meeting. Board officers shall be announced to the CHE membership in the first newsletter following election.

Article 3: Membership

The membership of CHE shall consist of homeschooling parents who are committed followers of Jesus Christ and active participants in a local church. All applicants for membership must receive a 100% affirmative vote by the Board of Directors before membership is conferred.

Applicants for membership must provide the Board of Directors a completed CHE application and a letter of recommendation from their Pastor or other person approved by the Board.

Membership for parents living together is contingent upon marriage as defined by the Bible: the legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to dismiss any member(s) from the Association on a simple majority vote. The member(s) in question has the right to a hearing before the Board.

When families join CHE they are obligated to maintain membership qualifications: all membership requirements, have kept their commitments, have maintained control over themselves and children, made every effort to maintain peace and unity within CHE, and utilize conflict resolution procedures if and when disagreements arise.

Each family membership to CHE may be reviewed at any time to verify that they are maintaining these requirements in the CHE community. During this review, the board will take testimony and obtain evidence to verify that the family under review has tried to meet their obligations. Should it be determined that the family has failed to pass the review, they will be invited to

give testimony on their own behalf. However, if the reasons are insufficient, that family's membership may become provisional or suspended from CHE for at least one year. If the membership is suspended, that family may reapply for CHE membership after one year.

Article 4: Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, the final authority of faith and life, without error in its original writing both in doctrine and historical details, and that all true knowledge is consistent with its revelation.

We believe that there is one self-existent God who has always been and will always be, manifest in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that knowing Him truly is the foundation of all knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God manifest in the flesh, born of a virgin, that He is the Savior of mankind through His death on the cross, that He rose from the dead and ascended to God, and that He will return again and will raise those who have believed in Him to reign with Him in power and glory throughout all eternity.

We believe in the brotherhood of all believers who, through faith, have received the salvation provided by God's grace through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We believe that children belong to God who has given the responsibility and authority for their education to their parents and that it is their responsibility to protect this parental right.

Article 5: Conflict Resolution

The proper process for handling conflict within CHE, whether between individuals, families or an individual and a committee shall be as follows:

A) The offended party should speak privately to the offender, or in the case of a committee they shall speak to the committee chairperson and seek to resolve the issue.

B) If no resolution can be reached by personal interaction, the offended party may submit a letter to the CHE Board president detailing the incident and their concerns. The letter should be limited to personally observed facts and avoid ascribing motives or discussing personality and/or character issues. While awaiting the action of the Board, all parties should seek to keep the matter private and not engage in discussions regarding the conflict.

C) The president will bring the matter before the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting or via email if the meeting is more than one week away.

D) Board representatives will be chosen to arrange a meeting with all parties involved in the conflict. If the person who wrote the letter refuses to attend, the matter will be dropped. After meeting with all involved parties, the Board representatives will take the matter back to the Board who shall then determine a course of action. All parties involved will be notified of the Board's decision by the representatives or a Board officer within one week. If it becomes evident that a member of CHE (be it the offended party, the offender or any other members) is stirring up dissension within the group by broadcasting information about a conflict, the matter will be addressed by the Board and that member and their family may be removed from membership within CHE.

Article 6: Members and Student Conduct

A) Behavior:

Refrain from careless, unkind, foolish, or rude behavior. Commit to representing Christ in all situations: bullying, physical aggression, recklessness, abuse of property, or violent behavior that endangers others will not be tolerated.

Honor others with your speech, by refraining from rudeness or off-color discussions or topics to include cursing, using the Lord's name in vain, and offensive and unwelcome speech, i.e. lies, gossip, insults, slander, or shaming.

B) Sexual Immorality:

If it becomes evident that any member/student participating in CHE is involved in sexual immorality: or becomes pregnant the following actions will be taken:

1) If it is clearly determined that a member/student has been participating in consensual sexual immorality (either evidenced by a pregnancy or confession), the member/student will be suspended from all closed CHE activities (activities that only CHE member/students may attend, i.e.: Co-op, Teen Nights, Spring Formal, etc.) for one year. After the one year suspension, the member/student may petition the Board for reinstatement to closed CHE activities. The Board will seek to determine at that time if the member/student has rejected a lifestyle of sexual immorality. If the member/student has not come to a point of rejecting that kind of lifestyle, he or she will not be allowed to participate in closed CHE activities. If a member/student has a second offense after being reinstated to CHE activities, they will be suspended permanently.

2) If a pregnancy is involved, the Board will seek to determine the nature of the pregnancy: if it is the result of rape, the Board will work with law enforcement, parents, and the member/student to help continue their involvement with CHE.

3) This policy applies to all genders who are clearly involved in sexual immorality.

C) Misdemeanors, Crimes, & Substance abuse:

Members and students who have been accused or charged with misdemeanors, crimes, and/or substance abuse will have their membership

status reviewed on a case by case basis. The Board will determine previsions or suspensions after a thorough review of accusations and/or charges.