

**BYLAWS**  
**OF**  
**THRIVE ENRICHMENT CO-OP**

Adopted: June 22, 2023

**BYLAWS**  
**OF**  
**Thrive Enrichment CO-OP**

**Bylaws**

**ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of this organization shall be THRIVE ENRICHMENT CO-OP, also known as THRIVE. It will be referred to as “CHAPTER” or “the Chapter” or “this Chapter” henceforth in these Bylaws. “Homeschool NY” shall refer to the statewide organization Homeschool NY – Loving Education at Home, Inc, of which this Chapter is a member.

**ARTICLE II DEFINITION**

**Section 1 Biblical Basis**

- 1.1 THRIVE is a Christian organization, the members of which are like-minded families dedicated to observing the Biblical commands of Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4.

**Section 2 Philosophical Statement**

- 2.1 We believe that every family has the God-given legal and constitutional right to home-educate, regardless of their philosophy of education or religious affiliation.
- 2.2 The Chapter exists primarily for its membership, member families who voluntarily assist and support each other in the endeavor of home education through a variety of activities.

**Section 3 Legal Standing**

- 3.1 THRIVE is a member chapter of Homeschool NY – Loving Education at Home, Inc, a New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation. As such, its establishment, Board of Directors, operations, and final dissolution are subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors of Homeschool NY according to the bylaws of Homeschool NY. THRIVE is under the guidance of THRIVE CHURCH and will abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the church.

**ARTICLE III PURPOSE**

**Section 1 Purposes of the Organization**

THRIVE is organized primarily for the purpose of providing service and support to member families, including but not limited to the following ways:

- 1.1 Providing and promoting opportunities for children and families to interact with others through planned educational and recreational activities.
- 1.2 Providing information regarding the regulatory climate of home education
- 1.3 Encouraging home education families to seek appropriate legal counsel
- 1.4 By instituting whatever programs or services as may be deemed necessary by the membership of this organization in support of home education.

**ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**Section 1 Preface**

1. Our Statement of Faith includes only those truths upon which Christians historically agree. It concerns the Authority of Scripture, Deity of Christ, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) as revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 2, Ephesians 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe, but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity. (Romans 15:7).

2. We affirm the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal or practical differences which may exist, outside of the succeeding should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

## **Section 2 We believe:**

- 2.1 The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
- 2.2 That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2.3 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, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
- 2.4 That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
- 2.5 That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
- 2.6 That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

## **Section 3 Statements on Gender and Sexuality**

- 3.1 That God created man and woman after His own Image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity.
- 3.2 God created mankind to be kind and loving to one another. In an effort to follow these guidelines, the definitions of marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, pronouns, and discussions on LBGTQ topics shall be omitted from all Chapter gatherings and events. Matthew 7:1-2 Isaiah 33:22

## **ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 Specifications**

- 1.1 Membership in THRIVE is open to all home-educating families who are in agreement with our Statement of Purpose and who agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and the Bylaws of this organization.
- 1.2 It shall be required of all member families to affirm, via a signed statement, that they: Understand that the purpose and activities of THRIVE are governed and guided by the THRIVE Statement of Faith, and that the member family agrees to abide by those core values

### **Section 2 Requirements & Expectations**

- 2.1 THRIVE is a mutual support group. As such, all member families are expected to support each other and THRIVE in the fulfillment of THRIVE's purposes.
- 2.2 All member families are required to promptly pay their annual dues as specified by Article XI.
- 2.3 The Board of Directors of THRIVE may determine, in its sole discretion, the form of proof of membership given to Chapter members. Membership is not transferable.

### **Section 3 Applying for Membership**

- 3.1 Applications for family membership must be approved by the THRIVE board of directors.
- 3.2 The application process shall consist of the following:
  - 3.2.1 Completion and submission of any application materials that the Chapter Board of Directors may require. This will include personal affirmations by the member family of their agreement to abide by the documents referenced in §1 of this Article.

### **Section 4 Discipline and Revocation of Membership**

- 4.1 If and when any member family is accused of being in confessional or ethical non-compliance with the Statement of Faith, Statement of Purpose, Code of Conduct, or bylaws of this

organization, including conduct and/or activities within the chapter which are contrary to Biblical principles or the Code of Conduct, an investigation shall be conducted by the board of directors of THRIVE.

- 4.2 If the Board concludes that the allegations have merit or need further investigation, the Board may, at its discretion, immediately suspend said member from any or all privileges of membership until a final disposition of the matter is made. There shall be an opportunity given to the party or parties involved to petition for a hearing before the Board to consider the matter. Such a hearing must take place within thirty (30) days of the request, with one-week prior written notice of the hearing date given to the party or parties involved. LEAH and/or a member of THRIVE CHURCH may be requested at either the board of directors or member's discretion as a mediator for said hearing.
- 4.3 After the time set for the hearing, the Board of Directors shall have fifteen (15) days to consider the options of taking no action, of requiring specific corrective actions by the party or parties involved as a condition of continued membership in THRIVE, or of dropping the family from membership. All decisions by the Board, both interim and final, shall be promptly communicated to the parties involved.

## **ARTICLE VI CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS AND VOTING**

### **Section 1. Semi-Annual Meetings of The Board of Directors.**

1.1 Semi-Annual Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held for the sole purpose of discussing chapter-specific duties. Such as, but not limited to, the election of additional board members, the direction and goals of the chapter, expenses, membership fees, chapter expenses, and any outstanding issues. Meetings may be held using remote communication methods. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting provided that all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and each individual may participate in all matters before the Board, including, but not limited to, proposing, objecting to and voting upon a specific action taken at the meeting. Meetings shall be at minimum twice per year, once prior to the commencement of the school year and once at the completion of the school year.

1.2 Meetings of The Board of Directors shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation or at such other place, within or without the State of New York, as may be fixed by the Board of Directors.

1.3 Written notice shall be given of all the Board of Director meetings. The notice shall state the place, date, and time of the meeting.

1.3.1 A copy of the notice of any meeting shall be given personally, by first class mail or by e-mail not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting. If mailed, such notice is given when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid, directed to the Member at the address the Member provides to the Chapter. If sent by e-mail, such notice is given when directed to the Member's e-mail address the Member provides to the Chapter. A copy of the notice, when appropriate, shall be hung in a visible location and announced during the commencement of the school day.

### **Section 2. Qualification of Voters.**

1.1 Every Board member, in good standing, shall be entitled at every meeting of the Board of Directors to one (1) vote.

1.2 Every family, in good standing, shall be entitled to one (1) vote when the Board of Directors calls on a chapter vote or when a new Board Member shall be elected into office.

### **Section 3. Voting.**

1.1 Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at a meeting of Chapter members except as otherwise required by law.

1.2 All Board Members and Chapter Members must be physically present to cast a vote

except as outlined below:

1.2.1 Video communication is an acceptable alternative to cast a vote when an individual is unavailable to be physically present.

1.2.2 Members may opt to cast their votes prior to the voting session; all early votes must be submitted to the election inspector in a sealed envelope if applicable or submitted to the Board of Directors. All sealed votes shall be opened at the commencement of the voting session and counted promptly.

#### **Section 4. Inspectors of Election.**

1.1 The Board of Directors may appoint one or more inspectors to act at the meeting or any adjournment thereof. Each inspector, before entering upon the discharge of his duties, shall take and sign an oath faithfully to execute the duties of inspector at such meeting with strict impartiality and according to the best of his ability.

1.2 The inspectors shall determine the number of Members eligible to vote and the number of Members present at the meeting. The inspectors shall receive and count votes, hear and determine all challenges and questions arising in connection with the right to vote, determine the result, and do such acts as are proper to conduct the election or vote with fairness to all Board Members. On request of a Board Member present, the inspectors shall make a report in writing of any challenge, question or matter determined by them and execute a certificate of any fact found by them. Any report or certificate made by them shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts stated and of the vote as certified by them.

### **ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Section 1. Power of Board and Qualification of Directors.**

1. The CHAPTER shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Each Director shall:

1.1 be at least eighteen years of age;

1.2 sign a statement agreeing to all parts of the Corporation's Statement of Faith and Practice, Bylaws and all corporate policies;

1.3 be a member of a Chapter in good standing; and

1.4 have educated their children at home for at least one (1) years.

1.5 must not have any other household member currently serving on the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 2. Number and Composition.**

2.1 The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) Directors. The number of Directors may be changed by action of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must always be held with an odd number of members, three (3), five (5), or seven (7).

2.2 The Board of Directors shall appoint, by the majority vote, one (1) board member to lead and/or coordinate all board meetings. This board member shall not hold any higher authority than other members in good standing.

2.3 As used in these bylaws, "Board of Directors" means: the actual number of Directors set by the Board pursuant to subsection (1.1) above; or the actual number of Directors within the range set forth in subsection (1.1) above as of the most recently held election of directors.

### **Section 3. Election of Office.**

3.1 In the event of a board member providing their resignation or having been removed by the Board of Directors, notice of an election will be provided to the Chapter members, and an election date shall be set within thirty (30) days if the resignation or removal occurs September through May. If the resignation occurs from June through August, the vote must be scheduled at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the fall session.

### **Section 4. Resignations and Removal of Directors.**

4.1 Any Board Member of the Chapter may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein or, if no time be specified, then on delivery. The Board of Directors is not required to accept the resignation for the resignation to take effect.

4.2 Any Board member may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of all other Board Members.

### **Section 5. Vacancies.**

5.1 Vacancies occurring in the Directors for any reason shall be filled by a majority vote of the Directors remaining in office. Individuals elected to fill vacancies in any Director position shall serve until the next annual meeting at which elections are in the regular order of business and until their successors are elected and have qualified.

### **Section 6. Regular Board Meetings.**

6.1 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held without notice at such times as may be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors.

6.2 All decisions regarding the operation and activity of the Chapter will be made by the Chapter Board of Directors, and at their discretion, with the input and direction of any committees or groups that they deem valuable to the membership and operation of the Chapter.

6.3 The Board of Directors will work together for the effective administration of Chapter activities.

6.4 The Board of Directors is expected to work through any disagreements in policy or practice with Christian grace and charity. In the case of irresolvable disagreement concerning chapter governance, the Board of Directors shall have the final authority.

### **Section 7. Special Board Meetings.**

7.1 Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held whenever called by a Board member. Notice of a Special meeting shall be given orally, by fax, by e-mail or by mail and shall state the purposes, time, and place of the meeting. Only business specifically set forth in the notice shall be conducted at the special meeting. If notice is given orally, in person or by telephone, it shall be given not less than one (1) day before the meeting; if it is given by e-mail or by mail, it shall be given not less than five (5) days before the meeting. If notice is sent by e-mail, notice is given when directed to the individual's e-mail address provided by the individual to the Chapter, provided that notice shall not be deemed delivered if: (a) the Chapter is unable to deliver two (2) consecutive notices to the individual by e-mail; or (b) the Chapter otherwise becomes aware that notice cannot be delivered to the individual by e-mail or fax.

### **Section 8. Quorum.**

8.1 Three (3) members or the majority of the entire Board of Directors shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

8.2 Three (3) members or the majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place without notice to any Director.

## **Section 9. Voting by the Board of Directors.**

9.1 Each Board Member shall have one vote.

9.2 The vote of a majority of the Board Members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall constitute action by the Board of Directors.

9.3 The following items must be approved first by majority vote of the Board of Directors at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

- (i) amendment of the Chapter's bylaws and/or Chapter rules;
- (ii) approval of a merger or consolidation;
- (iii) approval of dissolution of the Chapter; and
- (iv) approval of the sale of all or substantially all of the Corporation's assets.

## **Section 9. Board Vote Without Meeting.**

9.1 Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board consent to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. The resolution and the written consents of the Board shall be filed with the minutes of the Board. Consents may be provided:

- 9.1.1 in writing signed by the Director either in hard copy or by affixing a signature by any reasonable means (e.g., fax signature); or (ii) by e-mail that includes information from which the recipient can reasonably determine that the transmission was authorized by the Director.

## **Section 10. Participation in Meetings by Conference.**

10.1 Any or all Directors or any committee members may participate in a meeting by means of a telephone conference, electronic video screen communication or similar communications equipment. Participation may be for the entire meeting or only a specific vote; provided the participating Board or member must be present for discussion of the voting matter before casting a vote. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting provided that all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and each individual may participate in all matters before the Board or committee, including, but not limited to, proposing, objecting to and voting upon a specific action taken at the meeting.

## **Section 11. Financial Matters.**

11.1 The Board of Directors shall complete the following actions with respect to oversight, management and reporting Chapter assets:

11.1.1 Cause accurate accounts to be kept regarding donor Chapter related assets separate and apart from the accounts of other assets of the Board Members.

11.1.2 Yearly audits by at minimum two (2) members of the Board of Directors, which shall be responsible for overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes. All audits shall be public record and available for the Chapter Members to access as requested.

## **ARTICLE IX - CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DRAFTS AND BANK ACCOUNTS**

### **Section 1. Execution of Documents/Contracts/Loans.**

1.1 The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, in the name of and on behalf of the Chapter to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument

(including stocks, bonds, subscription rights or other securities), and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; but, unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, or expressly authorized by these bylaws, no officers, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Chapter by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable pecuniarily in any amount for any purpose.

## **Section 2. Checks, Drafts, etc.**

2.1 All checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money out of the funds of the Chapter, and all notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the Chapter, shall be signed on behalf of the Chapter in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution or policy of the Board of Directors.

## **Section 3. Deposits.**

3.1 All funds of the Corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall from time to time be determined by resolution or policy of the Board of Directors.

## **Section 4. Compensation.**

4.1 Members of the Board of Directors shall not receive any stated salaries for serving on the board. Nothing herein stated shall preclude any member from being reimbursed for expenses incurred while fulfilling board duties, i.e. travel related expenses, phone calls, etc.

# **ARTICLE X GENERAL**

## **Section 1. Office.**

1.1 The office of the Chapter shall be at such place in the State of New York as the Board of Directors may determine.

## **Section 2. Adoption of Policies and Procedures.**

1.2 The Board of Directors by resolution, shall adopt such rules, regulations, policies and procedures as it may deem necessary and appropriate to the operation of the Chapter, including, but not limited to, a Conflicts of Interest Policy and Contract Approval Policy; provided, however, that no rule, regulations, policy or procedure may be adopted by the Chapter that is contrary to these bylaws and applicable law as may be amended from time to time.

## **Section 3. Books and Records.**

3.1 There shall be kept at the office of the Chapter and/or at the office of the Board of Directors provided it is available to access by all Board members: (1) correct and complete books and records of account (2) a list of all Board of Directors or classes of membership, including name and address; (3) a copy of these bylaws; (4) copies of the past three (3) years' tax return filed with the Internal Revenue Service. Where permitted by IRS and NY State Law, these records may be maintained electronically.

3.2 All member files, financial records, and Chapter related items shall remain in the office with the exception of:

3.2.1 documents are needed for a meeting at a location outside of the Chapter building

3.2.2 a Chapter event is taking place, and documents are needed for reference

3.2.3 a member of the board of directors is working off-sight and/or remotely and informs the remaining board members of the removal.

## **Section 4. Loans to Directors and Members.**

4.1 No loans shall be made by the Corporation to its Directors or Members or to any other corporation, firm, association or other entity.

## **ARTICLE XI BUDGET AND DUES**

### **Section 1 Fiscal Year**

1.1 The fiscal year shall be from July 1 to June 30. An annual financial report listing income, expenses, and cash balance on hand shall be provided to the Homeschool NY Regional Representative for this Chapter.

### **Section 2 Adoption of Budget**

- 2.1 A proposed budget for each year shall be developed by the Board of Directors.
- 2.2 The budget for the upcoming fiscal year shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and made available to the membership of the Chapter.

### **Section 3 Determination of Annual Dues**

- 3.1 Chapter dues for each member family will be set at a level necessary to support the budget, taking into account other estimated sources of income.
- 3.2 The dues for each member family shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors and made available to the membership of the Chapter.

### **Section 4 Collection of Dues**

- 4.1 Each member family shall submit dues in the amount of the Chapter dues plus that member family's share of the annual dues levied on the Chapter by Homeschool NY.
- 4.2 In cases of financial hardship, the Chapter may, at its discretion, establish a means to provide for the dues of those families unable to pay their dues.
- 4.3 Dues are required to be paid in cash, check, or money order to THRIVE ENRICHMENT.

## **ARTICLE XII DISSOLUTION**

1.1 Upon the recommendation of the Chapter Board of Directors and any other provisions of the bylaws contained herein, a petition to dissolve shall be submitted to the Homeschool NY Regional Representative. Upon approval of Homeschool NY, this chapter may be dissolved and its activities closed. After payment of all bills and proper claims, remaining assets shall be disposed of in cash or in kind by transfer to a similar home education organization, approved by Homeschool NY, or by transfer to Homeschool NY.

## **ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1 AMENDMENT PROCEDURE**

1.1 The bylaws of the Corporation may be amended or repealed by the three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, provided that the Board of Directors may amend, modify or repeal these bylaws, in whole or in part, that is required in order to comply with applicable state or federal law or regulation that is applicable to the Chapter.

1.2 All members shall be promptly provided a copy and/or reasonable access to a copy of the new bylaws.