



**GWCHE**

Greater Waco Christian Home Educators

BY-LAWS

OF

Greater Waco Christian Home Educators, Inc. (GWCHE)

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## Article I – Mission Statement

The Mission of GWCHE shall be to encourage and support home educating families to pursue excellence in education, to train their children to love and serve the Lord Jesus all their days and to positively impact the world.

## Article II – Statement of Purpose

The purpose of GWCHE shall be to further the interests of home education of children by all lawful means, including, but not limited to:

- Support – assistance to members of GWCHE who are educating their children at home through fellowship and networking opportunities
- Information – dissemination of legislative and other information affecting the rights of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children
- Education – participation in and sponsorship of conventions and educational seminars for teaching parents
- Enrichment – organization of field trips and extra-curricular activities for members of GWCHE
- Promotion – lobbying and public relation activities with local, state, and federal officials.

## Article III – Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God, and of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
2. We believe that there is one living and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, but eternally subsistent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. We believe in the fall of man; although originally created in the image of God, through the disobedience of Adam, man fell into a sinful and spiritually impotent state, totally unable to justify himself before God.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is the express image of the invisible God, which is to say He is God; that He became man, yet without sin, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; that He died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin; that He arose from the dead in the body in which He was crucified; that He ascended into heaven in the body glorified, where He is now, our interceding High Priest; and that He will return again personally, visibly, and gloriously.
5. We believe that salvation is wholly of God, by grace; that God in love gave His only Son to die on the cross for sin, thus procuring the redemption of those who come to Him; that this salvation is not merited in any way by man; and that God commands men everywhere to repent of sin and believe in Christ.
6. We believe that God ordained marriage to be the covenant union between one man and one woman, for a lifetime, and that any sexual relationships outside of this context are sinful.
7. We believe that God created mankind in His image: male and female, and adults and children should embrace the genders given to them by their creator at birth.

## Article IV – Powers

GWCHE shall have all of the statutory powers enumerated for non-profit corporations under the laws of the State of Texas.

## Article V – Board of Directors

### Section 1. Governing Authority

The governing body of GWCHE shall be known as its Board of Directors (Board), and it shall have plenary powers to do all things necessary and proper to operate and control the Corporation.

## Section 2. Composition and Qualifications

The Board of Directors shall be a self-perpetuating body. It shall consist of three or more members elected by the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors shall be active supporters of home schooling and shall be members in good standing of GWCHE. Each candidate for election to the Board of Directors must affirm before the Board of Directors their concurrence with the Statement of Faith of GWCHE, and must profess by credible testimony their faith in Jesus Christ.

## Section 3. Term of Service

Each member/couple of the Board of Directors shall be elected for an active term of two years, commencing with the transfer of duties in the final June board meeting. Board members shall serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms, regardless of position held. They shall have the option of serving on the Board again at a later date. This provision may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the Board if willing and qualified nominees have not been identified for the next term.

## Section 4. Manner of Election

The Board of Directors shall appoint a nominating committee chaired by a member of the Board of Directors other than the President. Nominations for election to the Board of Directors shall be submitted to the Board of Directors two months prior to the election meeting. This provision may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the Board if willing and qualified nominees have not been identified by the time specified in the previous sentence. Nominees may be required to appear before the Board of Directors at its regular meeting prior to the commencement of the proposed term of service for an interview and to comply with the provisions of Section 2 of this Article. Election of a nominee to the Board of Directors shall be by two-thirds (2/3) vote (or majority vote if Board is comprised of less than 6 members) of the members of the Board of Directors.

## Section 5. Vacancies

Vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by the death, removal or resignation of a member shall be filled by election of a qualified person to serve the unexpired

term of the member who has died or resigned. Members of the Board of Directors may be removed in the same manner as officers, as stated in Article VII, Section 3.

## Section 6. Delegation of Authority

The Board of Directors may delegate to one or more of its members or to any of its officers, agents or employees, or to any of its committees such powers and duties as it may deem appropriate and proper. In the absence of such delegation, either generally or specifically, no member of the Board of Directors shall have any authority to act for the board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have status co-equal with that of each other member, and each member shall have the right to vote on any and all questions coming before the Board of Directors.

## Section 7. Compensation

Members of the Board of Directors may receive reasonable compensation for their services when approved by the Board of Directors and may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the maintenance of their duties. Persons who serve as members and render service to GWCHE in some capacity other than as a member of the Board of Directors may be compensated for their services or reimbursed for actual expenses when approved by the Board of Directors.

## Section 8. Jointly Held Board Positions

- Whereas God has given parents the ultimate responsibility for the education of their children (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:1-25; 4:1-4; Ephesians 6:4) and
- Whereas GWCHE seeks to offer support to homeschooling families and
- Whereas God has given fathers the authority in all matters affecting their families (1 Cor 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-24),

It therefore behooves GWCHE to encourage the leadership of the fathers in the member families and to have male leadership on the Board of Directors as its authority structure.

Therefore, elected offices of the Board of Directors will be limited to married couples serving together or single members. This will not require both spouses to be present at every meeting but will require both spouses to be actively supportive of homeschooling, of GWCHE, and acknowledging Board membership as God's direction for their lives and not in conflict with it.

Each Board position has a single vote. A Board position will be jointly held by a legally married couple or single member.

## Article VI – Meetings

### Section 1. Quorum

The quorum for all meetings of the Board of Directors whether regular or special, shall be one-half (1/2) of the voting members.

### Section 2. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at times and places established by the Board of, and in the school months in between using technological modes of communication such as email, chat room, instant message, conference call, or the like.

### Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon three days' notice to board members. The Chairman of the board of Directors may call such meetings on their own initiative but shall be obligated to call such meeting when requested to do so by at least two other members of the Board of Directors.

## Article VII – Officers

### Section 1. Designation

The officers of the Board of Directors of GWCHE shall consist of a minimum of three positions. Additional officers may be assigned the title Member at Large.

## Section 2. Election and Term of Service

Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its first regular meeting in June. Officers shall serve for a term of two years. The initial June Board of Directors meeting shall be attended by the presiding and incoming Board officers. The incoming officers shall assume their official duties following the close of the June board meeting.

Board members shall serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms, in two separate roles. They shall have the option of serving on the Board again at a later date. This provision may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the Board if willing and qualified nominees have not been identified for the next term.

## Section 3. Removal

Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of GWCHE will be served thereby.

## Section 4. Vacancies

Any vacancy in any office, however, occurring, shall be filled by the Board of Directors by the election of an officer for the unexpired term of the office.

## Section 5. President

The President shall be the principal executive officer of GWCHE and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of GWCHE. The President shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and he may sign, with the secretary or any other proper officer thereunto authorized by the Board of Directors, and deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or these by-laws to some other officer or agent of GWCHE or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed, and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of president and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

## Section 6. Vice President

In the absence of the president or in the event of his death, inability or refusal to act, the vice president shall perform all the duties of the president, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president. The vice president shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the president or by the Board of Directors.

## Section 7. Secretary

The Secretary shall

- Keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for the purpose;
- See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provision of these By-Laws or as required by law;
- Be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the corporation under its seal is duly authorized; and
- In general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors

## Section 8. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall

- Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of GWCHE;
- Except in special circumstances, approved by the Board, receive and give receipt for monies due and payable to GWCHE from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of GWCHE in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors; and

- In general to perform all of the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors.

## Section 9. Distribution of Duties

In the event of the absence of the above mentioned offices, their duties will be distributed, as appropriate, among the remaining board members.

## Article VIII – Committees

Committees may be established from time to time as appointed by the President of the board of Directors to consider and report on matters assigned at the time of appointment or action.

## Article IX – Director and Officer Indemnification

Greater Waco Christian Home Educators, Inc. shall indemnify any and all of its offices, members of the Board of Directors, or former officers or members, or any person who may have served at its request or by its election as a member or officer of GWCHE, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been members or officers of GWCHE, except in relation to matters as to which any such member or officer or former director or officer or person shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in the performance of duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicted on the existence of such liability. The indemnification provided hereby shall not be deemed exclusive of any other right to which anyone seeking indemnification hereunder may be entitled under any by-law, agreement, or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office. GWCHE may purchase and maintain insurance on the behalf of any member, officer, agent, employee or former member or

officer or other person, against any liability asserted against them and incurred by him to the extent that GWCHE would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provision of this Article and the law of the State of Texas.

## Article X – Members

### Section 1. Membership

Membership in GWCHE shall be available to active supporters of home schooling. Applicants for membership must subscribe to and submit a signed copy of the GWCHE Statement of Faith and Standards of Conduct with payment of any membership fee set by the Board. The Board reserves the right to refuse any application by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of GWCHE will be served thereby.

### Section 2. Rights and Privileges

Members of GWCHE shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of membership in GWCHE as established by the Board of Directors and the laws of the State of Texas. Members shall be entitled to participate in all activities of GWCHE and to represent the interests of GWCHE, subject to any fees or qualifications, and subject to the authority of the Board.

### Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities

By submitting an application for membership in GWCHE, members agree to abide by all standards and policies of GWCHE as established by the Board. Members shall refrain from engaging in any activity which may bring reproach on GWCHE or home education.

Should a volunteer bring negative attention to GWCHE or home education, that volunteer may be asked to vacate volunteer position by a 2/3 vote of the Board. Said volunteer may be eligible for a future volunteer position upon approval by the Board.

## Section 4. Termination of Membership

Members may terminate their own membership in GWCHE at any time by providing written notice of the same to the President or Board. Membership of any member may be involuntarily terminated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of GWCHE will be served thereby. Termination notice will be sent by certified mail. Any fees and/or dues are non-refundable, except as authorized by the Board.

Terminated members will not be considered for reapplication of membership for a minimum period of one year. Reinstatement is subject to fulfillment of reinstatement policies and must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board. Reinstated members may not ever hold positions of leadership including, but not limited to, board positions, coordinators, directors, or committee members.

Any and all disciplinary action voted upon by the Board must be recorded and archived in permanent GWCHE Board of Director files.

## Article XI – Adoption and Amendment of By-Laws

With the exception of Articles XI and XII which are irrevocable and not subject to amendment, these By-laws shall be adopted and thereafter amended only by and two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

## Article XII – Dissolution

In the event that GWCHE should be dissolved for any reason, then, in that event, all assets of GWCHE, if any, shall be transferred to another eleemosynary corporation which is exempt from state income tax. This provision of the By-Laws is irrevocable and is not subject to amendment except necessary to designate the name of any transferee qualifying under the income tax laws of the State of Texas.