

## **Christian Home Educators Community of Longview By Laws**

### **Article 1 – Name, Purpose, Location**

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be Christian Home Educators Community of Longview (CHEC Longview).

Section 2 – CHEC Longview is organized exclusively for educational and religious purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CHEC Longview is a Christian organization, members of which are like-minded Christian homeschooling families following Biblical commands including Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4. Members believe every family has a God-given and legal right to homeschool. CHEC Longview is not a church, nor is this organization intended to replace the ministry of the church to homeschool families.

The mission of CHEC Longview is to provide service and support to Christian homeschooling families including but not limited to the following ways:

- Aiding in establishment and growth of Christian homeschooling families in the community.
- Encouraging families to protect their right to homeschool and protect future freedoms to homeschool in the community, state of Texas, and in the nation.
- Promoting and providing sound, high quality homeschooling programs for the purpose of developing Christ-like character which will satisfy the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional needs of children.
- Reviewing and assimilating curriculum, information, and products that might be of aid to Christian homeschool families.
- Planning and conducting meetings and seminars to encourage and strengthen homeschooling families.

Section 3 – The principle office location of CHEC Longview shall be located in Gregg County in the State of Texas. The organization may have any number of offices at such places as the Board may determine.

### **Article 2 - Membership**

Section 1 – The qualifications for membership in this organization require agreement with the CHEC Longview Statement of Faith and Statement on Family & Education along with the other listed requirements.

#### **Statement of Faith**

- The Bible is the verbally inspired and infallible, authoritative Word of God, inerrant in the autographs. (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:20-21)
- God is one Being who eternally exists as three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit: all of the Persons are equal in power and glory (Matthew 28:19)
- Jesus Christ is fully God and man (John 1:1-2, 14), born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18), sinless in His life (Hebrews 4:15); He died vicariously on the cross as substitution for sinful men (Hebrews 9:15); He rose bodily from the grave (John 20:1-9, 24-31, Acts 2:24); and now reigns with the Father (Acts 2:33, Hebrews 10:12); He will return visibly

and personally to the Earth both in salvation and judgment (Acts 1:11, Hebrews 9:28, Matthew 24:30).

- All humans are sinful by nature (Romans 3:23, 5:12) and without Christ will spend eternity in hell (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48). We can only be forgiven by the expression of trust in Jesus as Savior (John 3:16) brought about by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7).
- We believe in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:1-17).

### **Statement on Family and Education**

- We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social, and spiritual unit created by God. In it, the child gradually learns self-government, social relationships, and develops a relationship to the Creator and Savior (Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20). The family also provides protection from over-extensive government and over-stimulating social involvements.
- We understand family to mean a male and female parent with one or more children, and we affirm the exceptions of a single parent, grandparent, and adopted children (James 1:27).
- We reject the anti-Christian tenets of secular humanism including, but not limited to, the general theory of evolution (Genesis 1-2:1), homosexuality, one world government, government mandated sex education, government mandated parenting courses, modern feminist ideology, abortion (Jeremiah 1:4-5; Isaiah 49:15; Psalm 139:13-14) and euthanasia (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13).
- We reject homosexuality as well as cohabitation outside of marriage because it is contrary to Scripture and the intentions of God in creation (Romans 1:24-27). In view of this, no homosexuals and no merely cohabitating parents are eligible for membership.
- We believe the ultimate responsibility of the education of children belongs to parents (Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:1-25, 4:1-4).

CHEC Longview recognizes that personal conviction shall vary from family to family and as such would exhort members to follow God's teaching in His Word, the Bible.

- Romans 15:5-7 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- This being so, CHEC Longview recognizes that not all activities or events will be suitable for every member family and asks that all members walk in love, grace, and faith, taking care not to damage our Father's reputation and our brother's conscience.

Membership qualifications also require that the family:

- Regularly attend a church and can provide such information as required on the membership application.
- Fulfill an annual service assignment.
- Underwrite the cost of activities in which they participate.

Section 2 - Membership to the organization is fee-based, requiring annual dues as established by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – All members from previous years shall reapply for membership each spring and shall complete the same membership application process as new members.

Section 4 – Revocation of membership is based on non-compliance with Article 1 – Membership, Sections 1-3.

Section 5 – Members of the organization shall have the right to one vote per family on matters submitted to a vote of the membership including election of the Board of Directors.

Section 6 – CHEC Longview makes no effort to verify adherence to Texas homeschooling laws by any of its members and, therefore, cannot be held responsible for the compliance to these laws by its membership.

Section 7 – CHEC Longview field trips, functions, and other activities are generally intended for the participation of homeschooled children and non-school-age children of member families. Regular or frequent participation in CHEC Longview activities by publicly or privately schooled children of member families requires approval by the Board. The following do not require any special notifications to or approvals by the Board:

- CHEC Longview activities that are intended for participation by the entire family, such as Christmas parties or picnics.
- Infrequent participation due to public or private school holiday in an activity that
  - Does not lend itself to continuity or continued involvement.
  - Would cause an undue hardship on the family if the child did not participate.
  - Has sufficient capacity for additional children to participate.

### **Article 3 – Meetings**

Section 1 – The date of regular organizational meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors who will also set the time and place.

Section 2 – Notice of all organizational meetings shall be provided to each member, by electronic means.

Section 3 – Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such place and time as shall be designated by a standing resolution of the Board.

Section 4 – Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors.

### **Article 4 – Board of Directors**

Section 1 – The business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors comprised of at least three (3) Board members. The Board is responsible for maintaining the overall policy and direction of the organization. The Board may delegate responsibility for events, meetings and activities to committees or individuals as deemed appropriate. Board members shall receive no compensation (other than reasonable expenses) for their service on the Board.

Section 2 – The Board shall meet at least four (4) times per year at an agreed upon time and location.

Section 3 – All Board members shall be confirmed by a majority of voting members of CHEC Longview, shall serve for a recommended two (2) year term and cannot exceed two (2)

consecutive terms. Unless filling a mid-year vacancy, terms of office shall commence in June of the year confirmed.

Section 4 – Any Director may be removed from office, with cause, by a majority vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board.

Section 5 – Any Director may resign at any time by giving notice to the organization.

Section 6 – In the event of a vacancy on the Board (including situations where the number of Board members has been deemed necessary to increase), the directors shall temporarily fill the vacancy until the next voting cycle.

Section 7 – A quorum must be attended by at least a majority of the Board members before business can be transacted or motions made or passed.

## **Article 5 – Board of Directors Positions & Responsibilities**

Section 1 – The Board of Directors shall oversee the daily operation of CHEC Longview activities and programs. Directors of the organization shall include, but are not limited to, Board President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

### **Section 2 – Board President**

The President shall convene regularly scheduled Board meetings and shall preside or arrange for another Director to preside at each meeting in the following order: Secretary and Treasurer. The President, as moderator of the meetings, shall not cast a vote except to break a tie.

### **Section 3 – Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records of Board actions, including overseeing the taking of minutes at all Board meetings, distributing copies of minutes and the agenda to each Board member, and assuring that corporate records are maintained.

### **Section 4 – Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall make a report at each Board meeting. The Treasurer shall assist in the preparation of the budget, manage state and federal filings, and make financial information available to Board members and the public.

Section 5 – Other Board positions may include, but are not limited to:

- Communications Director
- Membership Director
- Services Director
- Activities Director
- Co-Op Director (ELO - Extended Learning Opportunity)

Section 6 – The Board of Directors shall actively seek out qualified candidates for Board positions. Director positions shall be open to any individual who has been a member of CHEC Longview, in good standing, for a minimum of one (1) year.

Section 7 – Members who seek to fill Board of Director positions agree to fulfill these additional responsibilities:

- Accurately represent and seek to serve the best interests of the CHEC Longview membership as a whole.

- Regularly attend Board of Director meetings.
- Regularly attend organizational meetings.
- Keep CHEC Longview documents updated and in a safe place.

Section 8 – Board of Director Candidates shall be presented to the CHEC Longview membership for confirmation with biographical information that includes qualifications and goals for serving in the position.

Section 9 – No member of the CHEC Longview Board of Directors shall derive any personal profit or gain, directly, or indirectly, by reason of his or her participation in CHEC Longview. Each individual shall disclose to CHEC Longview any personal interest which he or she may have in any matter pending before the organization and shall refrain from participation in any decision on such matter.

## **Article 6 – Committees**

Section 1 – The Board may create committees as needed, such as fundraising, public relations, and program committees.

Section 2 – Each program or activity offered to the CHEC Longview membership shall have a sponsor who will act as the leader of that particular program or activity and shall serve as the liaison with the Board of Directors. This sponsor also will:

- Work under one of the Board members.
- Collect and administer funds for the program or activity as deemed necessary by the Board and coordinated with the Treasurer.

Section 3 – The sponsor and the appropriate Board of Director shall be responsible to follow facility agreements and policies, clean up the facilities and enforce the guidelines pertaining to the program/activity.

Section 4 – If a program or activity grows to a substantial size, as determined by the Board of Directors, then written guidelines outlining the organization and operation of that program/activity will be developed. These guidelines shall be created by the Board of Directors and the current sponsor of the program/activity.

Section 5 – NO committee or sponsor shall have any power to: fill vacancies on the Board, adopt amend or repeal the by-laws, amend or repeal any resolution of the Board, or act on matters committed by the by-laws or resolution of the Board to another committee of the Board.

## **Article 7 – Arbitrating Board**

Section 1 – The purpose of the Arbitrating Board is to address any issue that cannot be resolved by the Board of Directors.

- These issues shall be presented to the Arbitrating Board by the Board of Directors to be resolved in a timely and objective manner.
- The Arbitrating Board shall review any legal matter that may potentially affect CHEC Longview as an organization.
- In extreme cases of irresolvable conflict or dissention within the CHEC Longview organization, as determined by a majority of the Arbitrating Board, the Arbitrating Board may revoke the membership of one or more member families.

Section 2 – The Arbitrating Board shall be comprised of (3) three or (5) five men:

- Who have been a member of CHEC Longview at least two years and are in good standing with this organization and their local church
- Whose spouse is not a member of the Board of Directors
- No more than two of which can attend the same church

Section 3 – The Board of Directors shall appoint members to the Arbitrating Board for a term established by the Board. The Board shall be in place by August of each year.

Section 4 – The chairman of the Arbitrating Board shall be chosen by the Board of Directors.

Section 5 – The Arbitrating Board shall plan to meet with the Board of Directors once per year or when a need arises.

Section 6 – Any Arbitrating Board member may be removed from office without assigning any cause by the vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board.

Section 7 – Arbitrating Board members shall not be compensated via salary for their service as a member of the Arbitrating Board.

#### **Article 8 - IRC 501(c)3 Tax Exemption Provisions**

Section 1 - Upon the dissolution of CHEC Longview, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for public purpose.

Section 2 - CHEC Longview is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings of CHEC Longview shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.

Section 3 - No substantial part of the activities of CHEC Longview shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 4 - Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

#### **Article 9 – Amendments**

These by-laws may be amended when deemed necessary by a majority vote of the CHEC Longview members who exercise their right to vote. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Board President and sent along with regular board meeting notices.