

# **UNITED CHRISTIAN HOME SCHOOLS**

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I - Statement of Purpose**

1. To provide Christian home educators in Daviess County and surrounding counties with a central source of information, Christian fellowship, and cooperation. All activities will be consistently and forthrightly Christian, to the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To promote the Biblical mandate, as expressed in scripture such as Deuteronomy 6:4-10, Proverbs 22:6, and Ephesians 6:4, that parents are to train their children in the nurture and admonition of our Lord.
3. To work with groups such as CHEK (Christian Home Educators of Kentucky) and HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) to preserve parental freedom of choice in education and the right of conscience as recognized and guaranteed by the Kentucky Constitution, Section 5 of the Bill of Rights.
4. To preserve the right of privacy for parents who choose to educate their children in the sanctity of their home, without unwarranted or unconstitutional interference from the state.
5. To provide home educators and the general public with information and Biblical, academic, and legal aspects of home education and training.
6. To otherwise promote, assist, and encourage the furtherance of home education according to Biblical principles.

### **Article II - Statement of Faith**

#### **We believe that...**

1. God is one God; existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is God come in human flesh, being fully God and fully man, except without sin.
2. The Bible is the only inspired and infallible written Word of God.
3. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character, by both nature and act, and therefore are under His wrath and just condemnation. The central purpose of Christ's coming was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His death on the cross – the successful accomplishment of which is attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection.
4. Salvation is offered by the grace of God as a free gift to the sinner. This gift must be responded to in individual faith, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, but in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone.
5. Marriage: UCHS follows the traditional Biblical marriage model; marriage is between one man and one woman.
6. We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender/sex other than one's birth gender/sex is immoral.

## **Article III – Advisory Council**

### **Section 1. Governing Authority**

The governing body of United Christian Home Schools (hereinafter referred to as “UCHS”) shall be known as the Advisory Council, and it shall have the authority to do all things necessary and proper to operate UCHS.

### **Section 2. Composition and Qualifications**

The Advisory Council shall consist of five (5) married couples, with each couple representing one (1) seat on the Advisory Council. Members of the Advisory Council shall be home schooling parents and shall be members in good standing of UCHS for at least two (2) school years. Each candidate for election to the Advisory Council must profess by credible testimony his/her faith in Jesus Christ and be in complete agreement with the Statement of Purpose and Statement of Faith as outlined in Article I and Article II above.

### **Section 3. Term of Service**

The Advisory Council members will be elected for a term of two (2) years commencing with the beginning of the next fiscal year after election. The fiscal year is defined as the period of time from July 1 to June 30. Terms shall be staggered so that the terms of no less than two (2) seats and no more than three (3) seats shall expire each year. Council members may serve an unlimited number of terms, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive years.

### **Section 4. Manner of Election**

The Advisory Council shall create a list of Nominees for election to Council at least four (4) months prior to the commencement of the proposed term of service. The Nominees will be contacted until the open Council positions are filled. Nominees shall (a) meet with the Advisory Council three (3) months prior to the commencement of the proper term of service, and (b) comply with the provisions of Section 2 of this Article. The testimonies of Nominees shall be sent to all UCHS members through the InfoChain at least two (2) months prior to the commencement of the proposed term of service for election by the membership at large. Election of the Nominee to the Advisory Council shall be by popular vote of the full membership of UCHS. Each member family will be allotted one (1) vote. Election may include voting by proxy. In the event of a tie, the Advisory Council will be responsible for breaking the tie by secret ballot.

### **Section 5. Vacancies**

Any vacancies in any Advisory Council seat(s), however occurring, shall be filled by the Advisory Council by appointment of a qualified UCHS member couple to serve the unexpired term of the Advisory Council seat(s). Appointment to the vacated seat(s) will be made in accordance with Section 2 of this Article.

### **Section 6. Delegation of Authority**

The Advisory Council may delegate to one or more of its members, 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 Advisory Council shall have any authority to act for the Advisory Council. Each member of the Advisory Council shall share co-equal with that of each other member, and each shall have the right to vote on any and all questions coming before the Advisory Council.

## **Article IV – Advisory Council Meetings**

### **Section 1. Quorum**

The quorum for all meetings of the Advisory Council shall be at least three (3) seats.

### **Section 2. Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Advisory Council shall be held at times and places established by the Advisory Council and shall be held at least quarterly. It shall be the duty of the Advisory Council, on or before October of each fiscal year, to determine the budgetary requirements of the membership of UCHS.

# **Article V – Advisory Council Officers**

## **Section 1. Designation**

The offices of the Advisory Council of UCHS shall consist of Meeting Coordinator, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Secretary/Infochain Coordinator, and Activities Coordinator. Each office shall consist of one (1) husband/wife couple, which will be considered a single officer.

## **Section 2. Selection of Officers and Term of Service**

The Advisory Council, in the month after its election, shall meet for the purpose of determining officer positions for the coming year, which begins July 1. Officers shall serve for a term of at least two (2) years. Each officer shall hold office until their successor shall have been duly elected or until removal from office in the manner hereinafter provided.

## **Section 3. Removal of Officers**

Any officer may be removed by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of the Advisory Council whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Advisory Council or of the membership at large of UCHS will be served thereby. Because UCHS is a Christian organization, if a conflict arises that cannot be resolved, then the Advisory Council will follow the principle of Mathew 18:15-17.

## **Section 4. Meeting Coordinator**

The Meeting Coordinator shall (a) set the agenda and outline for at least quarterly support and Council meetings; (b) be the contact person for topics to be discussed at support meetings; (c) act as moderator or arrange for a moderator and/or speaker; and (d) arrange for a meeting place. Regular support meetings of UCHS shall be held at least quarterly. If the Daviess County Public Schools are closed due to snow accumulation on the date of a UCHS support meeting, then the UCHS meeting will be canceled.

## **Section 5. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be (a) responsible for depositing monies due and payable to UCHS; (b) preparing a simple quarterly budget; (c) administering funds; and (d) in general, performing all duties incident to the office of Treasurer.

## **Section 6. Membership Coordinator**

The Membership Coordinator shall be (a) responsible for taking membership applications; (b) preparing and maintaining the UCHS directory; (c) preparing and maintaining information packets and new member's packets; and (d) serve as administrator of the UCHS Owensboro Facebook page. The Membership Coordinator shall keep the current year's record; no archived records will be on file (e.g., membership applications).

## **Section 7. Activities Coordinator**

The Activities Coordinator shall (a) be the contact person for group activities; (b) maintain and update the calendar of events on the UCHS Owensboro website; (c) be available to advise the member coordinator of any activity; and provide guidelines for group activities (e.g., checklist for field trips, expected behavior, etc.).

## **Section 8. Secretary/Infochain Coordinator**

The Secretary/Infochain Coordinator shall (a) keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Advisory Council; (b) be the contact person for prayer requests or announcements that need to go through the group immediately (e.g., CHEK notifications, legislative issues, immediate family needs, etc.); (d) maintain the infochain account and send through messages to current UCHS members; and (e) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary/Infochain Coordinator.

The Info Chain is reserved only for UCHS events, homeschool support, conferences, or tutors. If a member has something to sell, service to offer, or educational website to share, they should post it on the UCHS Owensboro Facebook page. If a member is not a part of the Facebook group, they should contact the Membership Coordinator.

## **Article VI – Members**

### **Section 1. Membership**

Membership in UCHS shall be available to Christian home schooling parents who are in agreement with and sign the UCHS Statement of Purpose and Statement of Faith. A one year membership application for new members and renewing members is available online at [www.uchsowensboro.org](http://www.uchsowensboro.org). Renewing members who wait until after September 30<sup>th</sup>, will be assessed a \$10 late processing fee. Membership applications will not be provided at UCHS events—please bring or mail your completed UCHS membership form to the Membership Coordinator prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> for renewing members. First-time membership applications will be accepted throughout the year. Annual dues shall be collected from all members of UCHS.\* This fee covers costs associated with maintaining the UCHS Owensboro website, materials for group activities, group meeting facility fees, and expenses incurred by UCHS. The Advisory Council shall approve all expenditures.

As a courtesy to prospective members to observe home schooling in action, they may attend and observe one quarterly support meeting. Youth Group events are reserved for current active UCHS members only (See Article VII, Section 4 below).

\*A limited number of scholarships are available each year.

### **Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities**

By submitting an application for membership in UCHS, members agree to abide by all standards and policies of UCHS as established by the Advisory Council. Members shall refrain from engaging in any activity that may bring reproach to the name of Jesus Christ, UCHS, or home education in general.

Each Member family is responsible to help coordinate at least two events or activities (at the Activity Coordinator's discretion) each year.

### **Section 3. Discipline and/or Termination of Membership**

The Advisory Council has the right to deny membership to any applicant who does not meet membership requirements. This also includes termination of membership for false or misleading information submitted on an application. Membership may be terminated for living a lifestyle contrary to Biblical teaching. Because UCHS is a Christian organization, if a conflict arises that cannot be resolved, then the Advisory Council will follow the principle of Matthew 18:15-17.

### **Section 4. Standard of Conduct**

A member may be dismissed from an activity, or from group membership, if he/she is out of harmony with the Statement of Faith, the spirit, or the policies of UCHS, whether on or off property, as determined in the sole discretion of the Advisory Council. Readmission considerations following dismissal will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This implementation may also be applied to the conduct and support of parents. All members must be treated with dignity and respect, free of threats or harassment.

## **Article VII – Activities, Field Trips, and Clubs**

Minimal UCHS Behavior Expectations: (Parents should review these with his/her child(ren) prior to any UCHS Gathering, this applies to all Sections Below)

- act and speak in ways that are pleasing to the Lord;
- be respectful of all adults/parents at the event;
- be kind to and considerate of all of their peers;
- express gratitude to the coordinators/hosts who made this event possible;
- take care of the facility that UCHS has been blessed to use by behaving well, such as not running in the halls, not sitting on tables, not being excessively loud, staying only in the areas designated for our group or activity, and by helping with cleanup in one way or another before leaving (the "many hands make light work" principle); and
- be mindful of leaving in a timely manner when there is an end-time for an event, as sometimes UCHS is paying a facility fee for a specific allotted amount of time, OR sometimes we are in a private home whose owners would like folks to clear out by a particular time so that they may get things back in order.

- Do not drop off your child without ensuring another adult will be responsible for your child and, then, inform your child as to who is responsible.
- All UCHS Gatherings require a Host. That host is responsible for having a sign-up sheet prior to the event. UCHS Membership should be verified for those in attendance.

### **Section 1. Activities**

UCHS Activities (for example: Historical Days, Thanksgiving Banquet/Christ in the Arts and Bike Rodeo, etc.) are events, which typically involve the entire family. These events are planned as a way to include the whole family, and offer a means by which UCHS families can get to know each other better. These activities are open for the entire family to attend, however, only the UCHS home schooled students may participate.\*

\* Participate: Involvement which may require prior preparation (for example: speech, performance, or presentation).

### **Section 2. Clubs**

UCHS Clubs (for example, American Girls Club, Chess and Checkers Club, and Drama Club, etc.) are designed to offer opportunities for our homeschooled students that they cannot get otherwise. UCHS clubs are open to UCHS homeschooled students only.

### **Section 3. Field Trips**

UCHS field trips are planned for the benefit of allowing our home schooled children the joy of experiencing learning in different environments. It is also an opportunity for them to visit with friends. UCHS field trips are open to UCHS home schooled students and their families (e.g., fire station, dairy farm, and museum).

### **Section 4. Youth Group**

UCHS Youth Group was established to provide UCHS home schooled children, ages twelve (12) and up, an opportunity to socialize in activities with other UCHS home schoolers their age. UCHS offers an abundant amount of social activities that are open to students of all ages. The purpose of UCHS Youth Group is to provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship for our teen-aged youth. UCHS Youth Group activities are open to UCHS home schooled students (age limit 12 years old and up). Public and private schooled siblings, foster children, and foreign exchange students of UCHS families (12 and up), may attend at the discretion of their parental guardian who must attend the event and take responsibility for his or her children. All activities should be open for the youth parents' attendance if they so desire. ~~All~~ Alumni currently living in a UCHS membership home and spouses of alumni are welcome to any youth events or activities at the host's discretion. Only the UCHS home schooled students may participate.\*

\*Participate: Involvement which may require prior preparation (i.e., speech, performance, or presentation).

### **Section 5. Senior Banquet**

The Senior Banquet Youth Event was created to be an intimate goodbye/send-off between seniors and the underclassmen. This is a Youth Group function, (see Section 4) to which not only UCHS youth and their parents may be invited, but also grandparents and siblings of the seniors only.

## **Article VIII – Adoption and Amendment of By-Laws**

### **Section 1.**

In order to change or add to any part of Article I – Statement of Purpose, or Article II – Statement of Faith:

- 100% of the Advisory Council members must agree to the change or addition;
- 100% of the Advisory Council members must be in agreement to bring the change or addition before the UCHS members; and
- 90% of the UCHS members must be in agreement to the change or addition before it will be added to Article I – Statement of Purpose, or Article II – Statement of Faith.

### **Section 2.**

With the exception of Article VIII, Section 1, which is irrevocable and not subject to amendment, these By-Laws shall be adopted and thereafter amended only by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Advisory Council.

## **Article IX – Dissolution**

In the event that United Christian Home Schools should be dissolved for any reason, then, in that event, all assets of UCHS, if any, shall be distributed equally amongst the current membership as of the date of dissolution.

Revised Aug 2, 2023