



BYLAWS

HOMESTEADERS CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLERS

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**ARTICLE I
NAME and OBJECTIVES**

- Section 1. Name
The name of this organization shall be Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers, hereinafter referred to as Homesteaders.
- Section 2. Governing Authority
Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers is an independent non-profit ministry, overseen by a Governing Board, which informs the membership on issues of policy, governance, and discipline.
- Section 3. Purpose
Homesteaders is a Christian home school support group for home schooling families. Our main purpose is two-fold:
1. To provide a supportive community for Christian mothers where Christian home education can be learned and taught, and where a variety of educational activities can be shared among our children in an atmosphere of Christian love and discipline.
 2. To provide opportunities for God-glorifying friendships among our children and ourselves.

**ARTICLE II
GOVERNING BOARD**

- Section 1. Philosophy
The Governing Board of Homesteaders submits to the core beliefs established in Appendix E; and provides oversight and guidance with regard to mission, policy, and accountability, striving in accordance with Micah 6:8 to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. They focus on the big picture and are future-oriented. They act as a single entity in compliance and in concert with the bylaws. They serve as the final arbiter on Homesteaders issues identified and brought to them by the Homesteaders facilitator.
- Section 2. Title
The title of board shall be The Homesteaders Governing Board.
- Section 3. Officers

The Board shall be made up of six separate members, none of whom shall be currently homeschooling. Among these six members shall be those who meet the following minimum required criteria:

- a former Homesteader; this Board member shall have been a Homesteaders member in good standing for at least three school years in the past, but no longer homeschooling.
- a man ordained and in good standing or who is currently serving as a pastor, elder, deacon, or equivalent position in compliance with 1 Timothy 3:1-13 in a church that is home to at least one Homesteaders member or alumnus.
- a married couple.

Furthermore, while a single person might satisfy all three requirements, care should be taken to populate the Board with individuals who satisfy as many of these criteria as possible, resulting in a Board with breadth and depth. Conversely, it is possible that one or more members of the Board might satisfy none of the criteria, bringing only a heart for homeschoolers and a passion for a flourishing Homesteaders to his or her term.

Finally, the current Homesteaders facilitator shall sit ex officio (with no voting privileges except in the event of a need for a tie-breaking vote on an issue before the Board).

Section 4. Eligibility

The Governing Board shall be populated by individuals who have a heart for Homesteaders and a passion for homeschooling; in addition:

- a. Members of the Governing Board must be able to affirm each point of the Statement of Faith (Appendix E.) Such affirmation should be made prior to nomination, and then reaffirmed as the first order of business at the first (summer) meeting of the Board, annually.
- b. Members of the Governing Board must be members in good standing and under the authority of a local church.
- c. Members of the Governing Board must pass a background check as administered by the Homesteaders membership secretary.

Section 5. Selection Process

- a. The current Board shall, prior to the Board's Winter Quarterly Meeting, elicit from Homesteaders members-in-good-standing nominations for new Board members who will take office the following July 1. Any nominee to the Board must be nominated by two or more Homesteaders for the nomination to be valid. Additionally, Board members themselves may submit nominees to be considered.
- b. A list of all nominees with brief bios shall be published and presented to the general Homesteaders membership in advance of the Board's spring meeting. Homesteaders' members with feedback for the Board during this process may notify the facilitator who, at the Spring Quarterly Meeting, will inform the Board of any such concerns.

- c. The Board's final decision, and the names of the two new Board members, shall be announced at the Homesteaders May Business Meeting.

Section 6. Term of Office

The term for each member of the Governing Board shall be three years. Two of the six Board members shall begin new terms each year, thus establishing a continually renewable Board that provides both continuity and stability with fresh ideas and leadership potential. The term shall begin on the first day of the Homesteaders year, July 1.

Section 7. Vacancies and Discipline

In the event of an untenable situation on the Board, or in a matter of discipline among Board members, the principles from Matthew 18:15-20 shall be brought to bear by the moderator working with the full Board.

In the event of an unplanned or unforeseen Board vacancy, Board members may make a temporary appointment to fill the vacancy. The temporary appointee will serve until the next regular Selection Process (II.5.a-c.) is completed to seat a Board member who will serve out the remainder of the originally vacated term.

Section 8. Responsibilities

- a. Meetings. The Board shall meet quarterly on four dates during the Homesteaders year; dates shall be published after the Board's summer meeting, for meeting dates through the following summer. During the summer meeting a moderator shall be chosen by the Board. The moderator shall preside over Board meetings, and shall delegate a Board member to take and keep minutes and distribute those minutes to each member. The moderator shall open and close each meeting in prayer. All members of the Governing Board shall commit to attending the quarterly meeting and shall enthusiastically participate in discussion of issues that come before the Board.
- b. Duties. Board members shall stand ready to attend to specifics of Internal Affairs, External Affairs, and Discipline, as well as governance of the Board itself.
 - 1. Internal Affairs. These include but are not limited to strategy, policy, and financial concerns that the Homesteaders Executive Committee cannot resolve. In these instances, the Governing Board will sit as an appeal board to hear both sides of the issue and render a binding determination.
 - 2. External Affairs. These include but are not limited to public relations, fundraising, and facility issues and opportunities that Homesteaders Executive Committee brings before the Board.
 - 3. Discipline. The Governing Board recognizes that the Homesteaders bylaws speak to discipline issues among the Homesteaders membership; further, the Board is bound to

- deliberate on input from the Executive Committee before considering any further or final action.
4. Governance. The Board will receive and review the facilitator's annual report. Additionally, this is a self-governing Board wherein Board members will recruit, appoint, and, if needed, discipline one another. Finally, the Governing Board is bound to the general authority of these bylaws.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS

Section 1. Titles/Duties/Terms

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following offices:

- a. One ***facilitator*** shall oversee the organizational purpose and integrity of Homesteaders. She shall take primary responsibility for setting and stating annual goals and objectives. She shall be responsible for leadership and direction of the business aspects of all meetings. She shall initiate and be responsible for all Executive Committee actions, and she shall delegate a member of the Executive Committee to be responsible for taking minutes at the August Planning Meeting and the business portions of the January and May meetings. She shall be responsible for ensuring that the Executive Committee provides an end-of-year report to the Governing Board. Nominations of a new facilitator shall be approved by the Governing Board before ratification by the general membership. Additionally, she shall sit *ex officio* (without voting privileges) on the Governing Board, unless there is a tie vote in which case the facilitator shall be able to cast the tie-breaking vote. She shall serve a two-year term.
- b. One ***co-facilitator*** shall support, encourage and assist the facilitator as needed, and when necessary shall act in place of the facilitator at January or May business meetings, or at the business portion of any other meeting, or on the Governing Board as *ex officio* as outlined in Article II. Nominations of a new co-facilitator shall be approved by the Governing Board before ratification by the general membership. She shall serve a two-year term which begins during the second year of the facilitator's term.
- c. One ***membership secretary*** shall coordinate with the membership interview coordinator to register new members and accomplish the background check. She shall work with the committee secretary to assign members to committees, and she shall maintain a current membership directory to be made available upon request to any member in good standing. She shall prepare and disseminate monthly reports on membership and maintain archival records. She shall serve a one-year term.

- d. One *committee secretary* shall liaise on a regular basis between the other committees and the Executive Committee. She will work with the membership secretary to assign members to committees. She will provide each committee chair with up-to-date committee planning requirements. She will solicit and compile end-of-year reports from each committee. She will keep a master calendar of all scheduled events. She will serve a one-year term.
- e. One *treasurer* shall keep records of income from dues. Her records shall include expenses and disbursement requests from members. She shall maintain a monthly financial report to be made available upon request to any member in good standing and shall present regular reports to the Governing Board. She shall maintain bank records and shall have signature authority on bank accounts along with at least one other member of the Executive Committee. She shall serve a two-year term.
- f. One *membership interview coordinator* shall interview prospective members who make application to join Homesteaders and make membership recommendations to the Executive Committee, including resolution of background clearances as needed. Nominations of a new membership interview coordinator shall be approved by the Governing Board before ratification by the general membership. She shall serve a one-year term.

Section 2. Selection Procedure

Selection of officers shall be by election. See ARTICLE VII.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications

Qualifications for membership in Homesteaders shall be as follows:

- a. Members must be home schooling one or more children and must comply with all state and county laws and regulations relating to home schooling.
- b. Members must be believing Christians who can concur with, agree to abide by, and sign the Homesteaders' Profession of Faith (see Appendix A.) Furthermore, members must concur with and agree to abide by the Statement of Faith (see Appendix E) and Biblical Definitions (see Appendix F) as evidenced by their Signature of Intent (see Appendix B).
- c. Members must be an active participant of a Christian church.
- d. Prospective members must have a record of attendance at two Moms' Support Night (MSN) meetings.
- e. Members must have been interviewed by the facilitator, co-facilitator, or

membership interview coordinator. All membership is at the discretion of the Executive Committee, whose decision is final.

- f. Members must pay annual dues.
- g. Members must have paid for and completed a background check.

Section 2. Registration Procedure

Registration for the following school year opens at the May MSN for returning members. Registration for new members opens after the May MSN and closes on December 31 of that same year. Registrants shall complete and sign the Profession of Faith (Appendix A), Signature of Intent (Appendix B), Registration Form (Appendix C), and Liability Release Form (Appendix D). New registrants must complete a background check. These items and dues must be submitted in order for membership to be accepted.

Section 3. Special Considerations

In cases where other adult family members desire to work with Homesteaders' children as teachers or in teacher-like roles (including a one-time substitute), they must sign the Homesteaders' Profession of Faith (Appendix A), must pay for and complete a background check, and must sign the Homesteaders Liability Release form (Appendix D).

Section 4. Requirements for Members

Members shall be bound by the entire set of rules of participation as outlined in these bylaws. Membership in good standing assumes payment of dues and requires full and active participation in the following Homesteaders' functions:

- a. Monthly MSN
- b. Committee membership in one or more committees that are recognized during the current school year as assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Dues

Annual dues, as specified in Signature of Intent (Appendix B), shall be collected at the time of registration. Dues are non-refundable in case of member resignation.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section 1. Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Attendance at the following regularly scheduled meetings shall be mandatory whenever possible:

- a. Monthly Moms' Support Nights. MSN meetings may optionally include limited administrative issues and announcements. The main purpose of the monthly support nights is to provide opportunities where home education can be learned and taught and where home educators can fellowship in an atmosphere of Christian love and discipline.

- b. Business Meetings. Business meetings shall be held in January and May. The main purpose is to attend to administrative details. These meetings may be combined with support nights, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- c. August Planning Meeting. The main purpose shall be to plan the year's activities, establish participation in all committees, review goals and objectives, and initiate a Master Calendar of Events for the current school year.

Section 2. Provision for Special Meetings

Special meetings may be deemed necessary from time to time, and shall be called by any member of the Executive Committee, and must be called by the facilitator when requested to do so in writing by 10% of the membership, or no less than 5 members. Notification of members shall be by written notification (to electronic or residential address currently on file), such that members have at least seven days' notice of the intended meeting.

Section 3. Conditions of Advance Notice of Agenda Items

- a. There shall be no requirement for advance notice of agenda for monthly Moms' Support Night.
- b. Agendas for January and May business meetings, as well as the August meeting, shall be available only upon request, except in the case that the Executive Committee, at its discretion, decides to provide advance notice by written notification as a courtesy to the full membership.
- c. Members in good standing shall have the privilege of recommending action items for the agenda of any regularly scheduled January or May business meetings or monthly MSN. This may be accomplished by telephone or written request supplied to the facilitator or co-facilitator at least one day prior to the date of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 4. Rules for Protection of Absentee Members

In the event a member in good standing is aware that her attendance at a regularly scheduled January or May business meeting will be impossible, she may request of the facilitator a summary of action items from the agenda, any time up to the day of the meeting. Then the member may indicate her preference by proxy. Written proxy is not necessary. Verbal affirmation of a vote may be indicated and will be counted in the final vote tally by the facilitator.

Section 5. Rules for Guest Participation as Speaker, Leader, or Panelist

- a. An outside guest participant may be invited as a speaker, worship leader, or panelist providing there is majority member interest and Executive Committee affirmation.

- b. The member in good standing who issues an invitation to a guest presenter at a Homesteaders' meeting must familiarize the guest with Homesteaders' Profession of Faith and elicit a good-faith promise that no views contrary to that statement will be communicated.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. Foundational Committees

- a. Foundational Committees are those committees which purposefully accomplish the stated goals of Homesteaders without which the ministry could not exist. It shall be the duty of each Foundational Committee chair to adhere to the Committee Planning Requirements as provided by the committee secretary. Foundational Committees shall include the Executive Committee (current year officers) and shall also include but shall not be limited to:
 - 1. Moms' Monthly Support Night Committee
 - 2. Nominating Committee
 - 3. Communications Committee
 - 4. One committee to provide student enrichment (see Section 2)
- b. Membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of the current year's officers. Membership for the Nominating Committee is specified in ARTICLE VII. Membership for the remaining Foundational Committees shall consist of a minimum of three members in good standing.

Section 2. Standing Committees

- a. Standing Committees are those committees which are established to aid Homesteaders in fulfilling its stated objectives (see Article I). These committees may include, but are not limited to: the administration of enrichment or academic classes, field trips, special events, and service projects.
- b. Membership for all Standing Committees shall include a minimum of three members in good standing. This minimum number of members shall be maintained even if members must sit on multiple committees.
- c. Terms for each Standing Committee shall be for the current year only. Selection for each Standing Committee is confirmed by the Executive Committee which retains the final decision concerning committee placement. Each committee shall elect a chair by voice vote. In the unlikely event that members cannot mutually agree on a chair, the Executive Committee shall appoint one; and its decision is final.
- d. Additional Standing Committees may be called and may operate during the current school year at the initiation of any member in good standing, and with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Provision for Special Committees

Special task-oriented committees may be called by the Executive Committee at the affirmative vote of a simple majority of members in good standing when presented with the need for such committee at a regularly scheduled January or May business meeting. Selection of membership of such a committee, and presiding officer of such a committee shall be either voluntary or appointed as determined by the Executive Committee whose decision is final.

**ARTICLE VII
ELECTIONS**

Section 1. Nominating Committee

- a. There shall be a Nominating Committee which shall consist of at least two members, one of whom must be an officer from the prior year, and one of whom must be an officer from the current year, and optionally, any other members in good standing who are willing to serve and who notify the Executive Committee no later than the January business meeting.
- b. Prior to the April meeting the Nominating Committee shall nominate one member in good standing to serve during the following school year in each of the positions eligible (where facilitator/co-facilitator are elected on alternate years).
- c. At the April meeting the Nominating Committee shall present their report of nominees who have signified their consent to serve if elected.

Section 2. Time and Method of Elections

At the May business meeting, the report of the Nominating Committee shall be reiterated. After this point, additional nominations of eligible members for the officer positions about to be elected, excluding the facilitator, co-facilitator, and membership interview coordinator, may be made from the floor if the “floor” nominee has been approached ahead of time and given her consent to be nominated. A Homesteader member may not nominate herself from the floor for a position. If a member wishes to nominate a member for the positions of facilitator, co-facilitator, or membership interview coordinator other than those presented from the Nominating Committee, she must first seek the consent from the proposed candidate and propose the name to the current facilitator who will seek the approval of the Governing Board prior to the May business meeting. A vote shall be taken at the May business meeting to elect the slate of officers for the following school year. In the event of an unopposed nominee, a voice (Yea/Nay) vote will be sufficient for election. The facilitator/co-facilitator shall have authority to determine whether “Yeas” or “Nays” carry. In the event that additional nominations have occurred, voting shall be by written ballot for those offices that have more than one eligible candidate.

**ARTICLE VIII
QUORUM**

Section 1. For Assembly Meetings

A quorum at most regular or special meetings of Homesteaders shall be constituted by the members in good standing who are present at said meeting. However, there are two exceptions: 1) At any meeting where a vote shall be taken which affects the bylaws, a quorum shall be constituted by a 2/3 majority of the entire membership in good standing; 2) At the May business meeting when votes are taken to elect officers, a quorum shall be constituted by a 2/3 majority of the entire membership in good standing.

Section 2. For Committee Business

Since committee business may be conducted by telephone and/or by email, the decisions should be unanimous whenever possible, however a quorum could be as few as two members of a committee.

**ARTICLE IX
ORGANIZATIONAL DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. Eligibility for Participation

A prospective member shall not attend any official Homesteaders' event other than MSN until membership is finalized including a successful background check, full payment of dues, and completion of the Profession of Faith, Signature of Intent, Liability Release Form, and the Homesteaders' Registration Form.

Section 2. Lack of Participation

Since the planning and organization of Homesteaders is cooperative by nature, members in good standing are expected to participate in Homesteaders' functions in active and meaningful ways (see conditions for membership in ARTICLE IV, Section 4). Failure to participate in committee work and/or attend monthly Moms' Support Nights shall be sufficient grounds for termination of membership.

Nevertheless, the membership of Homesteaders recognizes that family priorities, matters of health and other unforeseen circumstances will from time to time preclude attendance at certain Homesteaders' functions. In the case of a member having a flagrant disregard for the participation component of Homesteaders' membership, the Executive Committee, may, at their discretion, initiate termination procedures for that member.

Section 3. Termination Procedures

The Executive Committee shall notify the member in writing that termination will be effective 30 days from the date of notification.

Section 4. Appeal/Reinstatement Procedures

In the event of notification of termination, a member's right to appeal is preserved under provisions for special meetings (see ARTICLE V, Section 2) and quorums (see ARTICLE VIII, Section 1). In the event that a special meeting results in a vote for reinstatement, her dues will be immediately due and payable and she must reestablish committee membership and attend the subsequent regular monthly Moms' Support Nights. In the event the member fails to accomplish these duties, her reinstatement status for the current year is revoked.

**ARTICLE X
PROCEDURES FOR BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

Section 1. Procedure

Bylaws can only be amended by a recommendation of the Bylaws Committee. The committee must first be established under the provisions of "Special Committees" (ARTICLE VI, Section 3). Once established, the committee must prepare a proposal for amendment. The proposal shall be presented at a regularly scheduled January or May business meeting. The vote to amend the bylaws can be accomplished only by a 2/3 majority vote of all members in good standing (see "Quorum," ARTICLE VIII, Section 1).

Section 2. Non-Amendable Portions of These Bylaws

Most ARTICLES of these bylaws or parts thereof are subject to revision via the Bylaw amendment procedure. However, the following sections are never to be amended nor deleted:

- a. ARTICLE I, Section 2, which grants oversight to the Governing Board.
- b. ARTICLE III, Sections 1.a. and b., and f., which state that the facilitator, co-facilitator, and membership interview coordinator must be approved by the Governing Board.
- c. Appendix A, the Profession of Faith, and Appendix E, the Statement of Faith, and Appendix F, Biblical Definitions.

Section 3. Provision for Noncompliance with ARTICLE X, Section 2

In the unlikely event that a 2/3 majority of all members in good standing should affirm in writing with handwritten signature that compliance with ARTICLE X, Section 2 is not possible for whatever reason, then the only alternative shall be to dissolve the organization known as "Homesteaders."

Section 4. Exempt Portions of these Bylaws

The following portions of these bylaws are exempt from regular amendment procedures and may therefore be amended by a simple majority vote of the members in good standing who are present at any regular, special, or January or May business meeting:

- a. Standing Rules
- b. Rules of Order
- c. Appendices: Signature of Intent (B), Registration Form (C), Liability Release Form (D), and any subsequent appendices.

STANDING RULES

- A. Notification of all meetings and events shall be announced on the Homesteaders website.
- B. All member assembly meetings shall be open to visitors who are interested in Christian home education.
- C. The August planning meetings and May Teas are closed to visitors.
- D. It shall be the responsibility of the committee planning the event/meeting to secure all desired and allowable refreshments, to clean up after serving and to secure the building at the end of the event.
- E. Changes to these STANDING RULES may be adopted by a majority vote at any meeting.

RULES OF ORDER

- F. Scripture reading and prayer shall be included in all meeting agendas and schedule of topics.
- G. In matters of parliamentary procedure, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be observed and followed.
- H. Member motion or debate time shall be limited to a maximum of five consecutive minutes.
- I. Votes on motions at meetings may be taken by voice or a show of hands.
- J. Unless by majority to the contrary, the adopted order of business (agenda/schedule of topics) shall take precedence over other stated interests.
- K. RULES OF ORDER may be amended at any regular meeting by majority votes taken in previous meeting.

APPENDIX A

Profession of Faith

I believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the Word of God and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation. I confess that because of my sinfulness, I am totally unfit and unable to come before God on my own, and that I trust for salvation not in myself but in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. I acknowledge Jesus Christ as my sovereign Lord; and I promise, in reliance on the grace of God, to serve Him with all that is in me, to oppose all sin -- both that which remains within me and that in the world around me -- and to lead a godly life. I promise to support Homesteaders with my prayers, talents, and attendance; to seek its peace, purity, and growth; and in my relations with others to endeavor to model Christ's self-sacrificing love. Furthermore, I promise to respect the core beliefs of the Governing Board as listed in the Statement of Faith (Appendix E).

Member Signature

Date

APPENDIX B

Signature of Intent

I, _____, a member in good standing of
(Print Name)

_____, concur with and
(Church)

agree to abide by the Homesteaders’ Bylaws in their entirety – Articles I-X, Profession of Faith (Appendix A), Homesteaders’ Statement of Faith (Appendix E), and Biblical Definitions (Appendix F). I intend, by God's grace, to fulfill my membership duties involving committee participation and regular attendance at all meetings. Further, I can affirm that I am educating my children in accordance with Maryland state home school laws. I also agree to pay annual dues in effect at the time of my registration. If at any time my involvement with Homesteaders reflects a level of participation that is less than I have agreed upon, I will contact a Homesteaders officer to withdraw my membership for the remainder of the academic year.

As a Homesteaders member in good standing, I intend to adhere to the concept that Homesteaders is an organization where my Christian faith must and shall be shared. I recognize and affirm that denominational distinctives with regard to Christian doctrine can be potentially divisive, whereas, adherence to foundational truths of Christianity, as expressed in the Homesteaders Profession of Faith, Homesteaders’ Statement of Faith, and Biblical Definitions, allow believers to live, work, and serve in an atmosphere of Christian love and mutual respect. I further understand that the peace and purity of the organization must and shall be safeguarded.

I understand that the members of the Homesteaders Governing Board adhere to the Statement of Faith as articulated in Appendix E, and that the Board has a responsibility to ensure that Homesteaders shall not promote or introduce denominational distinctives that are contrary to the foundational truths of Christianity as expressed in Homesteaders’ Profession of Faith, Homesteaders’ Statement of Faith, and Biblical Definitions.

Member Signature

Date

Date _____

Paid _____

Committee _____

APPENDIX C

Homesteaders Registration Form

Name		Date	
Husband		Address	
Phone			
Cell Phone (optional)		E-Mail	

List all children in family:

(Please use the back of this page if you need more room to list your children.)

Name	Male or Female	Date of Birth	Age (As of Sep. 1)	Grade (As of Sep. 1)	Homeschooled (Yes/No)

Current member of HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Assoc.) through Homesteaders: Yes ____ No ____

List the name of the church of which you are a member: _____

Committee Involvement Preference (Choose and rank TWO)

* If you do not rank two preferences, we will assume your second choice is "Where Needed Most".

* Even though we try our best to honor your requests, final committee placement is at the discretion of the Executive Committee in order to distribute all of our talents among these committees.

	Communications		Radius (MS/HS)		Special Events
	Field Trips		Radius (MS/HS) Planning		Visitor Support (must have 2 years of membership in Homesteaders)
	Homeschool Resources		Radius Events		Fundraising
	Moms' Support Night (must be able to get to the church early and/or stay late)		Service Project/Mission		Where Needed Most
	New Member Support (must have +2 years of membership in Homesteaders)		S.P.O.K.E.S. (must be able to attend at least 2 hrs on SPOKES days)		

List any special talents or skills that you have or your spouse has which may benefit Homesteaders:

Please return this form (with registration fee payable to "Homesteaders") to the Membership Secretary.

APPENDIX D

Liability Release Form

In consideration for participating in functions and activities sponsored by Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers (including, but not limited to, participation in field trips or special events and teaching or attending classes), I/we being 21 years of age or older, do for myself/ourselves and for and on behalf of our child-participant if said child (children) is not 21 years of age or older do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers, and its officers, directors, members, agents, heirs, assigns, and any and all persons acting on their behalf from any and all liability, claims, or demands for personal injury, sickness, or death, as well as property damage and expenses, of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by the undersigned and/or the child-participant(s) that occur while said participant(s) is participating in functions and activities sponsored by Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers.

Furthermore, we for ourselves and on behalf of our child-participant(s) if under the age of 21 years hereby assume all risk of personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expense as a result of participation of Homesteader activities.

The undersigned further hereby agree to hold harmless and indemnify Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers and its Governing Board, its officers, directors, members, agents, heirs, assigns, and any and all persons acting on their behalf for any liability sustained by Homesteaders as the result of the negligent, willful, or intentional acts of said participant(s), including expenses incurred attendant thereto.

(If the participant(s) has not attained the age of 21 years):
We are the parents or legal guardians of this participant(s), and hereby grant our permission for him (her) to participate fully in functions and activities sponsored by Homesteaders, and hereby give our permission to take said participant(s) to a doctor or hospital and hereby authorize medical treatment, including, but not in limitation to emergency surgery or medical treatment, and assume the responsibility of all medical bills, if any.

Participant, if age 21 or older Date

Only the participant need sign if 21 years of age or older. If under 21, both parents or legal guardians must sign.

Father Date

Mother Date

APPENDIX E**Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith of Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers, reaffirmed annually by its Governing Board, provides a summary of biblical doctrine that is consonant with evangelical Christianity. The statement accordingly reaffirms features of the historic Christian creeds (Apostles' and Nicene), thereby identifying the group not only with the Scriptures but also with the Protestant Reformation and the contemporary evangelical movement. The Statement also reflects the biblical perspective which supports Covenant parenting in the light of the choice to homeschool Covenant children for the glory of God, the Father.

Core Beliefs**The Bible**

The Bible, in its entirety, is the infallible, inerrant, and inspired Word of God; it is divine revelation that carries the full weight of God's authority and to which we are obliged to submit.

The Trinity

Within the Godhead, there is a unity of three distinct yet fully divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

God

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. God is fully omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, having two natures inseparably united in one divine person without confusion, mixture, separation, or division. Each nature retains its own attributes. In the incarnation, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a perfect life among us, was crucified, died, and buried, rose on the third day, ascended to heaven, and will come again in glory and judgment. He is the only Mediator between God and man.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is of one substance with the Father and the Son. He eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son, and He dwells in the hearts of believers and acts alone to effect their regeneration, but acts synergistically to effect the believer's sanctification.

Creation

God, by the word of His power, created from nothing the heavens and the earth and all that is in them. He further preserves and governs all His creatures and all their actions according to His most holy, wise, and powerful providence.

Man

After God made the other creatures, He created man, both male and female, in His own image, but because Adam sinned and woefully fell in his responsibility, he and his posterity entered into a state of moral corruption and moral inability and became estranged from their Creator, thus deserving death as the punishment for sin.

Atonement

Because all have sinned, atonement must be made in order for man to be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ made a complete atonement for His people through His substitutionary atoning death on the cross. He imputes His righteousness to all believers securing full redemption for all who repent of their sin and trust in Him alone for salvation.

Future State and Last Things

We believe Scripture is explicit concerning the eternal state of man and the bodily resurrection of both the wicked and the righteous. The unsaved will experience conscious eternal punishment for their sins in hell, forever separated from the grace of God. In contrast, the regenerate will enjoy eternal life in God's presence, a joyful existence in heaven with Christ.

The Law

The moral law perfectly reflects the unchangeable character of God and forever binds all people, believers as well as unbelievers.

Christianity and Culture

The Governing Board of Homesteaders Christian Homeschoolers confesses the final authority of Scripture and lordship of Jesus Christ and is committed to the implementation of the social and cultural implications of God's commandments for the well-being of man and his environment. In a contemporary culture that so often rejects the foundational Christian tenets, this Board further upholds Biblical definitions of gender, sexuality and marriage, and affirms the sanctity of life.

This Statement of Faith has been liberally adapted from that of Ligonier Ministries.

APPENDIX F**Biblical Definitions**

Preamble: Homesteaders believes that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of the Holy Bible which is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Since the Holy Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters.

Based on the Holy Bible, Homesteaders believes in the following definitions of marriage, gender and sexual identity, sexuality, and sanctity of life:

Marriage

Homesteaders believes that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one genetic male (man) and one genetic female (woman) in a single, comprehensive, exclusive, monogamous, and conjugal “one flesh” union, as delineated in the Holy Bible. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. Anything outside this union is addressed in the section herein labeled Sexuality. (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-9; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; Heb. 13:4, Ephesians 5:31-33)

Gender & Sexual Identity

Homesteaders believes that God wonderfully and immutably created mankind in His image, genetically male (man) and genetically female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Homesteaders believes and upholds the biblical truth that gender and sexual identity are not on a spectrum. These are two fixed, distinct, and complementary genders which reflect the image and nature of God. Sexual identity is irrevocably established by biological sex, which is based on genetic DNA at conception and not based on self-perception or feelings. Homesteaders believes attempts to medically alter or surgically change or otherwise redefine biological/genetic sexual identity are contrary to God’s established plan for humankind.

(Genesis 1:26-28, I Corinthians 6:9-13, Romans 1:26-32, Matthew 19:4, Mark 10:6)

Sexuality

Homesteaders believes that sexuality is a glorious gift from God when expressed within Biblical marriage. Homesteaders believes that sexual acts are not permitted by God outside of an exclusive, monogamous marriage between one genetic male (man) and one genetic female (woman), as defined by the Holy Bible and within this Appendix F. Homesteaders believes that other sexual acts and expressions- including but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, zoophilia, pornography, prostitution, masturbation, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, sodomy, polygamy, polyamory, sologamy, same-sex sexual acts, transgenderism, and transvestism are sinful and prohibited by God.

(Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 22:5, Matthew 5:27-28, Matthew 15:19, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Acts 15:28-29, Romans 1:26-27, I Corinthians 6:9-20, I Corinthians 7:2-5, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians

4:17-19, Ephesians 5:25-27, Colossians 3:5, I Thessalonians 4:3,7, Hebrews 13:4, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

Sanctity of Life

Homesteaders believes that from the moment of fertilization until natural death every human life is sacred as all human life has been created by God in His image and likeness. Thus, from fertilization to natural death, every human life must be recognized, respected, and protected. The right to life is not determined by society, but instead is inherent to all human life by virtue of being created in the image of God. Because human life begins at the moment of fertilization and ends at natural death, it is against our religious and moral conviction to formally or materially cooperate in the termination of human life such as through abortion or euthanasia.

(Genesis 1:26-27, Exodus 20:13, Exodus 23:7, Psalm 22:9-10, Psalm 139:13-16, Isaiah 44:1-2, Isaiah 49:5, Job 10:8-12, Jeremiah 1:5, Matthew 5:21, Luke 1:39-45)

These definitions have been liberally adapted from both Worldview Academy and Liberty Institute.

All verses have been taken from the NKJV(New King James Version) Holy Bible 2021.