

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN TEACHING HOMES ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTER

I. Preamble

Whereas we believe that the whole of life must be brought under the authority of the Word of God; that the Lord Jesus Christ is King of the home as well as of the individual life;

that the primary responsibility for education rests upon parents to whom children are entrusted by God, and that Christian parents should accept this obligation in view of the covenantal relationship which God established with believers and their children;

that the purpose of the Christian homeschool is to educate children for a life of obedience to their calling in this world as image bearers of God, that this calling is to know God's Word and His creation, to consecrate the whole of human life to God, to love their fellow man, and to be stewards in their God-given task;

Therefore, we who are dedicated to these principles have organized this association to support and assist parents in their God-appointed responsibility of training (which includes educating) their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. It is our express desire and intent that as a result of our efforts, the Lord Jesus Christ is honored and exalted in our families, homeschools, and community.

II. Organizational Objectives

- A. Assist parents (who are or will be homeschooling) in their God-mandated role of training (which includes educating) their children to be wise and thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- B. Provide resource materials with information on curriculum and teaching aids.
- C. Direct families to resources to obtain information on our present legal rights, responsibilities, and any relevant new legislation.
- D. Provide enriching educational activities for our children which will allow them to interact with others who are being taught at home.
- E. Provide a Christian representation of homeschooling to the community.

III. By-Laws

A. Membership

- 1. Definition of eligibility.
 - a. Membership is confined to those in agreement with the tenets set forth in the Organizational Charter.
 - b. Such agreement is indicated by payment of dues and signing the Statement of Christian Faith.
 - c. Because FCTH is not funded publicly and for the safety and protection of its membership, FCTH reserves the right to deny or revoke membership to any applicant for any reasons undisclosed to the applicant. Upon the decision by the FCTH Board, the Leader and or Secretary will send a letter of denial, which may or may not list the reason(s) as to denial or revoking of membership and registration fee will be refunded or not accepted at all.
- 2. Dues.

- a. Requirements for membership are yearly dues in the amount specified by the Leadership Board, a portion of which may be designated to support home education lobbying efforts.
 - b. This will be due by July 31st of each school year and covers the period July through June of the following year.
 - c. Those who join FCTH as new members in February or after will pay ½ the membership fee for the year.
 - d. Although we do not intend to be a profit making ministry, we do not have legal non-profit status.
3. Responsibilities of membership.
 - a. Each family is encouraged to sign up and perform at least one task per semester (in an area of their own preference), e.g. bring refreshments to a special activity, plan enrichment activities, open your home for a parent function, etc.
 - b. Parents will keep the FCTH membership directory for their own personal use and will not copy or distribute it to any non-members.
 4. Privileges of membership.
 - a. Membership privileges include access to any FCTH member-initiated activity or information resources.
 - b. Prospective members and visitors will be welcomed to participate in designated FCTH activities as invited guests of current members. Designation will be made by the Board and event coordinator.

B. Organizational Structure

1. The Leadership Board will consist of 5-10 people, which may include married couples of whom both will agree with the tenets of FCTH (with a minimum of 2 married couples).
 - a. All will be selected by and from the membership after submitting orally or in writing their personal testimony of coming to Christ to the current Leadership Board.
 - b. If a couple is serving on the Leadership Board, the couple shall have only one vote.
 - c. They must be a member in good standing for at least six months prior to serving in this capacity.
2. All board members will be elected to serve two-year terms in order that half its members will have at least one year of service. A couple/person may serve two consecutive terms maximum. After serving two consecutive terms, the same person may be elected again after not serving for a year.
3. A vacancy may be filled by election by the membership only for the remaining term of the couple/person vacating.
4. Each year the Leadership Board will determine the required positions which need to be filled by other members.
5. Each year job descriptions will be revised by the Leadership Board, if necessary.

C. Key Roles of the Leadership Board

1. Provide spiritual direction and organizational oversight.
2. Manage the organization's finances.
3. Support and encourage new homeschooling families.

4. Communicate key information to members.
5. Represent the organization to the community (spokesperson, interviews, etc.).
6. Maintain a membership list.
7. At least three positions (Leader, Treasurer & Recording Secretary) will be filled by members of the Leadership Board.
 - a. The Treasurer will report a quarterly account balance for the organization.
 - b. All entries into all meeting minutes of the board and the organization shall become a permanent, unchanged record kept by the recording secretary and available for reading and copying at any reasonable time by any member. Meeting minutes shall not be copied for or shared with non-FCTH members without the approval of the Leadership Board. All meeting minutes will be sent via email to all members to allow opportunity for corrections.

D. Voting Procedures

1. All elected positions include the Leadership Board.
2. All elected positions will be held only by members.
3. All elected positions will be filled via simple majority vote of the membership present.
4. Applications and/or nominations for all elected positions may be submitted by any member to the current Leadership Board by the end of May.
5. All elected positions will be decided by the end of June, allowing transition time. They will start their term of office immediately. Term of office will be July 1 – June 30.
6. All votes will be via secret ballot.
7. No absentee ballots will be accepted.
8. In the event that only one candidate for a given elected position is presented, a majority vote of the membership present will be required.
9. If less than five people are elected via majority vote, the Leadership Board will determine the steps necessary to address this concern.

E. Amendment of FCTH Organizational Charter

1. Proposed amendments will be submitted in writing to the Leadership Board for approval.
2. If approved, the Leadership Board will present it at the next scheduled FCTH meeting for discussion.
3. If proposed amendment is revised, the Leadership Board will need to approve once again.
4. When the Leadership Board approves amendment with or without revision, including other changes deemed necessary, the revision will be sent to members via email.
5. Final proposed amendment will be voted on after notification of the upcoming vote has been posted on the current FCTH main e-loop in three separate email postings over a 60 day period.
6. The proposed amendment will be voted on at the next scheduled FCTH business meeting, but no later than 90 days (secret ballot/no absentee ballots accepted).
7. Ratification of the amendment will occur with the vote 50% plus one vote of the membership present. A new charter will be sent via email to all members once changes are made.
8. The Preamble and Statement of Christian Faith are not subject to amendment.

F. Resolving Conflict at FCTH Activities

1. At group activities led by a FCTH member, if children are disrespectful, uncooperative or unruly, the leader has the authority to implement the following discipline at his/her discretion:

- a. The parent will be called to speak with the child.
- b. If the parent is not available, the child will be placed in "time out" or removed from the activity.
- c. The child and family will be asked to leave the activity of the day.

G. Code of Conduct

- 1. During field trips/outings/meetings/etc., modest dress is requested. Please exercise good judgment.
- 2. Use Matthew 18:15-17 as a guide for approaching each other with sin-related issues. Mistakes will occur, but how they are dealt with is critical.
- 3. Punctuality is appreciated.
- 4. Business displays at organizational functions will be allowed with prior approval from the Leadership Board.
- 5. Events sponsored by FCTH will require the leadership of a minimum of two unrelated adult members in attendance.