

BY-LAWS
of the
RESERVOIR AREA CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL EDUCATORS (ReACHE)

Adopted July 1, 2001

(And as Revised through March 30, 2023)

Mission Statement:

Reservoir Area Christian Home Educators (ReACHE) exists to glorify God by providing information, inspiration, fellowship, support and encouragement to Christian home educating families. (Deuteronomy 6:1-25, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4)

BY-LAW I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any person becoming a member of ReACHE shall agree to abide by the By-laws set forth in this document and the Statement of Faith.

Section 2: Furthermore, any family wishing to become members shall:

- a. Consent to an interview with at least two (2) members of the Board: Membership Director husband and wife, or Membership Director and another board member.
- b. Have all parents who reside in the home share their personal testimony of faith.
- c. Sign the Release of Liability Form.
- d. Sign the Behavior and Responsibility Form.
- e. Mail or email a Pastor's Recommendation Form signed by a pastor of their home church to the Membership Director by the membership deadline prior to the beginning of the school year.
- f. Mail or email a ReACHE Member's Recommendation Form signed by an existing member in good standing to the Membership Director by the membership deadline prior to the beginning of the school year.
- g. Agree to a background check.
- h. Pay annual dues, as set by the Board, by September 1 of the upcoming school year. In the event that dues pose a financial hardship on a member family, the dues for that year may be waived at the discretion of the Board.

- i. Upon completion of the above requirements, the Board will review the application for membership. Notification of the decision of the Board will be made known to the applicant by email or phone.

Section 3: Members of ReACHE shall have the following responsibilities to the organization:

- a. Demonstrate a supportive interest in ReACHE by participating in a minimum of one (1) area of service during the school year.
- b. Attend any required Membership Meetings
- c. Parents shall inform any child participating in any ReACHE activities, including but not limited to, classes, field trips, lunches, etc., of **ALL** behavior guidelines set forth in the Behavior and Responsibility Form.
- d. Comply with all State or Federal laws, including the Mississippi Compulsory Attendance Law.

Section 4: Conflict resolution among the membership shall be handled in the following order:

- a. All parties involved shall find a resolution in a manner that is in alignment with the Word of our God. (Please refer to the following verses when resolving your conflicts: Pro. 25:8-9, Phil. 2:4-5, Romans 12:10, Eph. 4:3, Prov. 20:3, and Matthew 18:15-17)
- b. In the event that a conflict cannot be resolved by the parties involved, the Board may be asked to intervene or may intervene on behalf of the organization.
- c. The Board shall hear from each party individually.
- d. After hearing all parties involved, the Board shall decide on the best possible outcome for all parties involved.
- e. The decision of the Board shall be final and not subject to alteration.

Section 5: Membership may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board for **any** of the following reasons:

- a. Violation of these By-laws, of the Child Protection Policy, or any rules or regulations set forth ReACHE Handbook,
- b. Conduct unbecoming of the values of our organization,
- c. Using the membership directory for purposes of business, sharing it with other organizations, or dispersing to individuals not in the membership,
- d. Any other cause as determined by a hearing held by the Board.
- e. Any such hearing held by the Board shall have the following
 1. Member in question will have 1 to 30 days notice prior to hearing
 2. Member will have opportunity to speak at hearing
- f. Prior to all hearings, the Board shall exhaust efforts at conciliation and compromise.

Section 6: Lapse in membership in excess of 24 months will result in the need for the application process to be completed again. The Board may deny reinstatement with a majority vote.

Section 7: Membership dues are for one (1) school year beginning on August 1 and ending on July 31, and are due at the end of May for the upcoming year.

BY-LAW II: POLICIES

Section 1: ReACHE's Statement of Faith is as follows:

We Believe:

- a. The Bible to be the divinely inspired, infallible Word of God and is the supreme standard for all faith and life.
- b. There is only one living and true God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- c. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. Man is inherently in need of salvation, having been created in the image of God but falling into sin. Christ is the eternal Son of God, born of a virgin, led a sinless life, performing both the will of God and miracles. His substitutionary death on the cross provides for the redemption of men from sin. He literally rose

from the dead with a glorified body, appeared to His disciples and was ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God. He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will personally and bodily return in power and glory.

- d. The Holy Spirit is fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures and enables man to understand the truth. He convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He calls men to the Savior and effects regeneration. He indwells, guides, instructs, and empowers the believer until the day of redemption.
- e. Salvation is a free gift of God through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and not as the result of good works. It is by grace alone through faith alone in our Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Section 2: Statement of Qualification of Information:

- a. Advice given in meetings or in publications is not, nor should be deemed as legal advice, and should not take the place of legal counsel from a qualified attorney. Nor should any advice given during meetings or gathered from publications, be deemed as guaranteed.

Section 3: Statement of Education:

- a. We believe that parents have a constitutional right and a God-ordained responsibility for the best education of their children (Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:1-25, Proverbs 2:1-8, 3:1-2, 6:20-23, Matthew 28:18-20)

Section 4: Statement on Families

- a. We believe that the family is created and ordained by God. (Genesis 1:26-28 & 31, 2:18 & 24)
- b. We are compassionate toward and welcome those families who are headed by a single parent.
- c. Children are gifts from God and parents are accountable to Him for directing the needs of their children mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially, and physically.
- d. As a Christian Home School Association, ReACHE holds to the Biblically sanctioned view of marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. We believe that God's original intent for marriage still stands today, and will, therefore, not accept applications from homosexual

persons. (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24, 19:4-9, Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:9-11)

Section 5: Members will agree to follow the Dress Code set forth in the ReACHE Handbook.

Section 6: Members will agree to follow the Illness Policy Code set forth in the ReACHE Handbook.

BY-LAW III: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ReACHE is a voluntary organization governed by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors serve in a position of responsibility, authority and service.

Section 1: Selection of Board of Directors

- a. Director positions are filled by volunteers from the membership. Nominations will be approved by the existing board and must meet the following criteria:
 1. Have homeschooled for at least two years,
 2. Signed the statement of faith,
 3. Member of ReACHE for at least one year,
 4. Member of good standing.
 5. Each Board position consists of a husband and a wife.
- b. Nominations for Board of Directors will be made during March of each year, with Board of Directors approval in April. Standing Board members will review and vote on each nomination during a regularly scheduled board meeting. The Board may consider nominations at any point during the year on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Nominees will be contacted by the Board of Directors to determine their qualifications and to ensure that they have expressed an interest in participating on the Board. Nominations for non-qualifying members will be rejected.

Section 2: Board of Directors Operations

- a. New Board of Director members will assume their duties on June 1st each year, and existing Board Members will be released of their duties at the end of August. This overlap is to assist in smooth transition of duties.
- b. Board members shall serve a term of two (2) years and up to four (4) years. Recurring terms may be served as desired. A Board member must be nominated again for recurring terms.
- c. Board of Directors will be exempt from paying membership dues for the school years they serve on the board.
- d. The ReACHE Board of Directors must approve all functions conducted under the auspices of ReACHE. Suggestions for programs or functions may be submitted to any active board member for review by the full Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- e. A majority vote by the Board of Directors is the deciding authority in all ReACHE matters.
- f. Quorum: With the exception of addition or removal of Board of Director members, a simple majority of board members shall constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business. In the event a Board member resigns, business may be conducted with a simple majority of the remaining members until such time as the vacancy is filled.
- g. Removal from the Board of Directors: Board members may submit written resignations, email is an approved form, for full board review and acceptance. In other instances, and when necessary, board member removal will take place at a board meeting. Removal may be necessary after a review of any grievance. Reason for removal may include misconduct, nonparticipation in board meetings, or other circumstances which may arise. A 2/3 majority of Board of Directors members must be present to add or remove a member from the board. A simple majority of the members present is sufficient for voting purposes.
- h. Board Directors will not be eligible to hold a Board position in the future if they fail to keep their commitment or resign from their position early (excluding extenuating family circumstances approved qualifying by majority vote by the Board of Directors)
- i. Board Directors shall be responsible for training their replacement and provide the handbook for said position.

Section 3: Meetings

- a. The Board of Directors will meet quarterly, or as needed. Agenda, minutes and any financial reports shall be provided to the Board prior to each meeting. Meeting dates will be posted on the website calendar.

- b. The Board of Directors will jointly plan and execute bi-annual meetings for the Membership.
- c. Board meetings may be attended by the Membership according to the following circumstances: Members should put questions in writing at least 24 hours prior to a board meeting at a regularly scheduled time and must notify the board at least 24 hours before attending.

Section 4: Changes to By-laws

- a. The Board of Directors may only change these By-laws with a majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- b. Once the majority vote has been achieved, the Board of Directors must present the new By-laws as voted on to the membership and ask the membership for a Vote of Affirmation of the new By-laws.
- c. After the Vote of Affirmation from the membership, the new By-laws will go into effect immediately.

BY-LAW IV: DUTIES OF DIRECTORS:

Section 1: Activities Director

- a. The Activities Director shall:
 - 1. Plan and oversee enrichment activities and educational opportunities designed to equip and support ReACHE students and their families,
 - 2. Oversee various activities for which members sign up to direct in their fulfillment of their membership requirements,
 - 3. Facilitate High School Senior Recognition, if applicable,
 - 4. Assist in management of ReACHE calendar with Communications Director,
 - 5. Communicates with parents throughout the year to remind and ensure completion of members' activities.

Section 2: Communications Director

- a. The Communications Director shall:

1. Maintain group communication through websites, email, etc.,
2. Assist Co-Op Director in overseeing registration for co-op,
3. Manage and oversee the ReACHE Facebook and Instagram,
4. Oversee and maintain the ReACHE website and the Board email accounts,
5. Take notes at all board meetings and post them to Google Drive,
6. Read By-law I; Section 3 at every membership meeting.

Section 3: Co-Op Director

a. The Co-Op Director shall:

1. Be added to the ReACHE bank account,
2. Perform bi-annual audits of ReACHE's financial state and provide the results of the audit to the Board with documentation stating when the audit was performed and by whom,
3. Plan and carry out all co-op planning meetings, sign-up opportunities, and co-op updates at member meetings,
4. Be available for questions or conflict resolution for co-op teachers, helpers, and parents when needed,
5. Oversee all schedules and policies for the co-op school term,
6. Communicate with host church staff, teachers, students, and parents on behalf of the Board concerning co-op matters.
7. Approve any non-member teacher with at least one (1) other Board Member.

Section 4: Finance Director

a. The Finance Director shall:

1. Maintain and update financial records, budget and expenditures,
2. Post necessary budget files to website,

3. Collect dues,
4. Deposit funds into ReACHE bank account,
5. Maintain ReACHE bank records up to date,
6. Hold key to and check post office box regularly,
7. Coordinate deposit of annual dues,
8. Approve disbursements of funds,
9. Distribute budgeted funds to co-op teachers,
10. Work with any fundraisers/member care that is collected,
11. Present financial records at Board meetings,
12. Present financial records membership meetings,
13. Purchases gifts for ReACHE with Board approval,
14. Collects and distributes activity funds for ReACHE AIMS team,
15. File all necessary tax documents.

Section 5: Membership Director

- a. The Membership Director shall:
 1. Receive, process, file, and store all membership application packets and records,
 2. Confirm new members,
 3. Update member directory,
 4. Interact with potential members,
 5. Hold key to and check post office box regularly,
 6. Maintain updated copy of membership guidelines,
 7. Communicate with Communications Director to inform of members who have not met responsibilities to ReACHE,

8. Communicate with county attendance officer concerning participation in the annual fall meeting.