

**BYLAWS**  
of  
**HOMES OFFERING PURPOSEFUL EDUCATION, INC. (H.O.P.E.)**

**Preamble:**

Home education is a growing movement in Davidson and surrounding counties. The major reasons are the desire of parents to provide the best educational opportunities for their children and to preserve and strengthen the traditional family structure, which is deteriorating nationwide. Home education is not new but as old as history. Many of our nation's greatest leaders were home educated. Prior to the government making education available to all children through a public system funded by tax dollars, the only schools were private and home based. National studies continue to show excellence in performance by home educated children in academic and social skills. Deuteronomy 6:5-9 makes it clear that parents are responsible for the education of their children.

Homes Offering Purposeful Education, Inc. (H.O.P.E.) is a non-profit corporation incorporated in 2004 to strengthen and encourage families in Davidson and surrounding counties who choose to home educate their children. These Bylaws are adopted to clarify the purpose and structure of the organization. The ideals promoted by the Bylaws are: educational excellence, parental responsibility for educational choices, diligence in moral and ethical instruction, edification of the membership, submission to proper authority, plurality of leadership, and organizational stability.

**Article I - Name**

The name of the organization shall be Homes Offering Purposeful Education, Inc. (H.O.P.E.) hereinafter referred to as H.O.P.E..

**Article II - Purpose**

- A. H.O.P.E. is an organization of families who are committed to building strong families and helping each member achieve their goal of successfully teaching their children at home. Membership will involve, in addition to participation in programs offered, participation in the planning and implementing of group activities, sharing helpful information, counseling less experienced parents, bearing a proportionate share of the financial burden of the organization, and providing suggestions and comments about activities that would benefit the individual members of the organization.
- B. The organization shall during the school year arrange for: meetings with content designed to achieve the organization's stated purposes, periodic field trips, monthly newsletters, a handbook, and other programs as determined by the Board of Directors.
- C. H.O.P.E. will not allow its meetings or directory to be used for commercial purposes without the prior consent of the Board of Directors.

### **Article III - Membership**

- A. Membership in the corporation shall be available on an annual basis to families desiring to participate in the programs offered.
- B. Prospective members shall indicate their desire to join by submitting a completed application on a designated form for such.
- C. Annual dues and dates of membership year shall be established by the Board of Directors. Dues shall be used to fund the operations of the corporation and do not involve an ownership interest in the corporation.
- D. Members who operate a home school in North Carolina shall be required to comply with the current home school law Article 39, Chapter 115C of North Carolina General Statutes.
- E. Members must agree to uphold the purposes and ideals of H.O.P.E. and abide by these BYLAWS.
- F. Members shall join and maintain membership in NCHE, the state service organization.
- G. Members shall endeavor to edify fellow members and refrain from engaging in activities that may bring a reproach on the corporation or home education.
- H. Members shall be entitled to participate in all programs offered by the corporation, except individuals may for a designated period be excluded from participation in a particular activity for inappropriate conduct as determined by the Board of Directors.
- I. Memberships shall be subject to approval as established by the Board of Directors.
- J. Memberships shall be subject to revocation by the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the corporation will be served thereby.
- K. Members shall direct any and all grievances concerning the operation of the corporation, any of its programs, or the actions of any of its members in connection with H.O.P.E. activities to the Board of Directors. The Board shall fully investigate the facts concerning the grievance and take appropriate action. The action of the Board in relation to the grievance shall be final.

### **Article IV - Board of Directors**

- A. In order to be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors, an individual must be and have been a member of a member family in good standing for a minimum of two years and must have been a home educator for a minimum of three years. (During the initial two years of existence of the corporation, this provision must be satisfied by having been a member of a member family of the preceding unincorporated association Homes Offering Purposeful Education.)
- B. All at-large Board members shall be appointed by the President for a one year term beginning on or after June 16 and ending June 15 the following year. The at-large members shall be appointed by the President for the coming year by August 15. After August 15, at-large members may be added only by election by the Board up to the maximum number permitted.

- C. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and three to nine at-large members. The Board may elect to separate the Secretary and Treasurer responsibilities into two positions at its discretion.
- D. The Board of Directors shall have final authority over membership requirements, program content, services offered, adoption of Operating Rules,  
all administrative issues, auditing financial records, appointment of program coordinators, and interpretation of these BYLAWS .
- E. The Board shall meet as needed. Meetings may be called at any time by the President, or upon request by a majority of the Board members.
- F. The Board may not hold an official meeting or make decisions unless a quorum exists. A quorum shall consist of a majority of current Board members.
- G. Any board member may be removed by two-thirds agreement of all current Board members.
- H. Members of the Board of Directors that miss a majority of the called meetings during the year without an acceptable excuse shall be subject to removal. Called meetings shall have a minimum notice of two weeks unless waived by unanimous consent of all Board members or an emergency is declared by the President. If one or more Board members are unable to be reached after all reasonable attempts have been made to do so, their consent to waive the two week notice will not be required.
- I. No decision may be enacted without approval by two-thirds of Board members present at the meeting.

#### **Article V - Officers**

- A. The officers of the corporation shall be the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer (or Secretary and Treasurer if so decided by the Board).
- B. The initial officers shall be appointed by the incorporators and thereafter the officers for the following year shall be elected by the outgoing Board of Directors. New officers must have previously been members of the Board of Directors. If the Board fails to elect any new officer for the coming year, the current officer for which a successor was not elected shall continue to serve.
- C. The President shall appoint the at-large Board members, call Board meetings, designate a chair for Board meetings, designate a moderator for general meetings, and direct program coordinators.
- D. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President when the President is unable to perform those functions. The Vice President shall fill the President position in the event it becomes vacant.
- E. The Secretary takes minutes of Board meetings, and the Treasurer administers the financial resources of the organization in accordance with Board directives.

- F. Vacancies in any officer position shall be filled from within the Board.
- G. When necessary due to urgency, the officers by unanimous consent may act for the full board.

#### **Article VI- Disbursements**

Disbursements from H.O.P.E. funds in excess of an amount designated by the Board must be pre-approved by the Board of Directors. Disbursements less the amount designated by the Board must be pre-approved by the Treasurer.

#### **Article VII – Amendments**

- A. Amendments may be proposed from time to time by any member in good standing.
- B. Amendments to these BYLAWS must be approved by the Board of Directors in order to be adopted.

#### **Article VIII – Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes as shall qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed by the District Court of Davidson County exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations as said court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.