

# Environmental Science Graduate Program Student Association Constitution

**Drafted: October 2023**  
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## **Article I – Name**

**Section 1.1** – The name of this organization is the Young Adult Ministries, hereinafter referred to as "YAMS."

## **Article 2 – Purpose Statement**

**Section 2.1** – YAMS offers our members a place to study the Bible through an Episcopal lens. While we are an Episcopal group, we invite and encourage students from all walks of faith to join us in these conversations. We welcome diverse opinions.

**Section 2.2** – We focus our attention on social justice and giving back to our community. YAMS is built on the principle that faith without deeds is dead (James 2:17). We equip our members to live out their faith and make their communities better than they found it.

**Section 2.3** – Our community is founded on a progressive reading of scripture that emphasizes building relationships. Our community will be one of respect, inclusion, and mutual support.

## **Article 3 – Membership and Eligibility**

**Section 3.1** – Members shall include undergraduate and graduate students of the Ohio State University of all faith backgrounds as well as young adults who attend St. Stephens Episcopal Church and the surrounding community. Voting privileges will be reserved to currently enrolled students at the Ohio State University in good standing with the University.

**Section 3.3** – Members may be removed from the organization for violation of the Ohio State University student code of conduct and for failing to follow the Non-Discrimination Clause set forth in Section 14.1 of this Constitution.

## **Article 4 - Executive Committee Officers**

**Section 4.1-** The Student Association shall elect annually from the YAMS student body the following Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Outreach Coordinator, and the Planning Committee (three individuals to aid in planning service opportunities, Bible Studies, and social events). These five elected officers constitute the foundation of the Executive Committee.

**Section 4.2-** Any member elected to a position shall be active in the organization (defined as attending at least 4 YAMS activities or meetings per semester, not including Summer semester, unless sufficient reason can be given for non-attendance; e.g., study abroad or illness) and in good standing with St. Stephens and the university.

### **Section 4.3- President**

4.3.A. The President presides over all meetings of the Student Association and is responsible for implementing all decisions of YAMS.

4.3.B. The President selects the time and place of all regular and special meetings of YAMS.

4.3.C. The President undergoes the required trainings in order to maintain Active student organization status, including updating and maintaining the roster.

4.3.D. The President puts forth effort to maintain and ensure the continued existence of YAMS as an Active student organization. This includes soliciting and acting on ideas for activities to be sponsored and carried out by YAMS.

4.3.E. The President shall fulfill other duties as directed by YAMS or the Executive Committee.

### **Section 4.4- Vice President**

4.4.A. In the absence of the President, or if the President is temporarily unable to fulfill his or her duties, the Vice President shall serve in the Custodian's place.

4.4.B. The Vice President is responsible for ensuring that YAMS committee and member records are properly maintained.

4.4.C. The Vice President shall serve as a liaison between YAMS and other student organizations.

4.4.D. In the absence of the President, the Vice President presides over meetings of YAMS.

4.4.E. The Vice President shall fulfill other duties as directed by YAMS or the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 4.5- Secretary**

4.5.A. The Secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes of the meetings of YAMS and its Executive Committee, for maintaining records, and for conducting correspondence.

4.5.B. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining attendance records and determining quorum (see Article 7) at YAMS events.

4.5.C. In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Secretary presides over meetings of YAMS.

4.5.D. The Secretary shall fulfill other duties as directed by YAMS and the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 4.6- Treasurer**

4.6.A. The Treasurer handles all the finances of YAMS and keeps an accurate record of its financial status at all times.

4.6.B. In the absence of the President, Vice President, and Secretary, the Treasurer presides over the meetings.

4.6.C. The Treasurer shall fulfill other duties as directed by YAMS and the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 4.7 – Outreach Coordinator**

4.7.A. The Outreach Coordinator maintains all social media presence such as Facebook/Instagram pages.

4.7.B. The Outreach Coordinator will coordinate student activities and aid in assisting the President with advertising events.

4.7.C. In the absence of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer the Social Chair presides over meetings.

4.7.D. The Social Chair shall fulfill other duties as directed by YAMS and the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 4.8- Planning Committee**

4.8.A. The three members of the Planning Committee shall each plan either the social events, coordinate monthly volunteering, or organize two monthly Bible Studies. One member will be responsible for each task each month during the Autumn and Spring semester.

#### **Section 4.9- Vacancy**

4.9.A. In the event the Presidency falls vacant, the Vice President shall have the option of becoming the President. In this instance, YAMS shall elect a new Vice President. The Vice President shall also have the option of refusing the office of the President, in which case the Vice President shall serve as President *pro tempore* until such time as YAMS is able to elect a new President. Subsequent to the election of the President, the President *pro tempore* shall reassume the office and duties of Vice President.

4.9.B. In the event of a vacancy in any other officer position, an election to complete the current term will be held no later than the second meeting of the YAMS following the occurrence of the vacancy. Election procedures will be in accordance with the current provisions of this Constitution and any Bylaws YAMS shall enact. An interim officer may be appointed by the President to hold office until such time as an election can be held.

4.9.C. In the event that a member runs unopposed for a position, YAMS will move to appoint said member for that position.

4.9.D. YAMS may vote to vacate a position on the Executive Committee due to inability to fulfill responsibilities of that position as defined by the Constitution and any By-laws enacted.

### **Article 5 – Committees**

**Section 5.1-** The Executive Committee conducts the business of YAMS between meetings and prepares the agenda for regularly scheduled meetings.

**Section 5.2-** YAMS may create standing or ad hoc committees, as it deems necessary.

## **Article 6- Meetings of the Organization**

**Section 6.1-** At least one formal membership meeting shall be held at the beginning of Autumn and Spring semester to discuss YAMS goals and progress. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once at the beginning of Autumn and Spring semesters and the end of Spring semester to discuss administrative business.

**Section 6.2-** YAMS shall strive to offer at least one of each of the following types of events per academic year: social; spiritual; and outreach.

## **Article 7- Quorum and Voting**

**Section 7.1-** At all meetings of the YAMS, fifty-percent of the membership plus one shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 7.2-** Each member shall have one vote and may vote absentee through their official Ohio State University e-mail account or through the GroupMe (so long as the form is anonymous).

## **Article 8 - Executive Committee Officer Election**

**Section 8.1-** Officers shall be elected by electronic ballot distributed to the voting membership of the YAMS. Results shall be determined by majority vote. Such elections shall be announced at least seven days in advance of ballot distribution, during which active voting members in good standing may be nominated for officer positions. Ballots shall be collected over a period of no less than seven days. Ballots will be counted by the Secretary and the count confirmed by the Advisor.

## **Article 9 – Advisory Board**

**Section 9.1-** The advisor(s) will be a member of church leadership associated with YAMS.

9.1.A. The advisor shall complete trainings as necessary to maintain Active student organization status.

9.2.B. The advisor shall attend at least (1) YAMS event per semester.

9.3.C. The advisor will remain reasonably available to approve expenditures that require the advisor's co-signature for approval.

## **Article 10- By-laws**

**Section 10.1-** YAMS may enact or amend By-laws by a simple majority vote at a regular meeting. However, any proposed amendment to the By-laws must have been presented in writing at a prior regular meeting. Such By-laws shall be appended to this Constitution and be available upon request.

## **Article 11- Standing Rules**

**Section 11.1-** YAMS may establish additional Standing Rules by a simple majority vote. Such rules shall be appended to the By-laws and be available upon request.

## **Article 12- Amendments to the Constitution**

**Section 12.1-** Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be presented in writing either with the signatures of five members or at the initiative of the Executive Committee at a regular meeting YAMS.

**Section 12.2-** A copy of the proposed amendment must be sent to all members at least one week before the regular meeting that follows the meeting at which the amendment was proposed.

**Section 12.3-** An affirmative vote of two-thirds at a regular meeting following the meeting at which the amendment was proposed will be sufficient to adopt the amendment.

## **Article 13 - Method of Dissolution of Organization**

**Section 13.1-** YAMS as a student organization shall be disbanded should the entirety of the voting membership unanimously vote for its disillusionment.

**Section 13.2-** Motion for such disillusionment shall occur at a regular meeting and be voted upon at the final meeting of Spring semester.

**Section 13.3-** Any remaining organization funds not derived from university funding shall be distributed to either an organization whose mission statement serves to further spiritual development and Christian community formation at the Ohio State University, as determined by majority vote of the membership.

## **Article 14 – Non-discrimination clause**

**Section 14.1** - This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

**Section 14.2** - Officers must be active members within this organization and must be nominated by a fellow member prior to the time of elections. If an officer is not fulfilling their responsibilities and/or is not active enough in this organization, the active membership can remove the officer from their position with a two-thirds vote. The removed officer may remain a member of this organization so long as they have not acted in conflict with this constitution. Next, a new, nominated member needs to be elected to the position. As noted in the non-discrimination policy, officers cannot be removed from their positions or membership for reasons of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with Student Organization Registration and Funding Guidelines.