

**Bridges International Student Ministry at Ohio State**  
**2024-2025 Academic Year**  
**(Revised March 15, 2024)**

**Article 1 - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.**

**Section 1 - Name:** The Bridges International Student Ministry at Ohio State.

**Section 2 – Purpose:** The Bridges International Student Ministry at Ohio State (Bridges) is a student led movement that engages with domestic and international students through providing service activities, social networking, spiritual conversations, and student leadership development. It is our purpose to develop a diverse and caring community that welcomes students from all nations and religious backgrounds. We seek to create a safe place for those who are interested in exploring life and faith, especially as they are seen through the perspective of the Christian faith and the Bible. Thus, we help members to learn about what it means to follow Jesus, how to grow in their faith, and to thoughtfully and respectfully express their faith in a manner that serves and engages the Ohio State community and the world.

**2.a. – Objectives:**

- a. Service: provide resources to help serve internationals, such as conversation English classes, friendship partners, cross-cultural awareness and “How to succeed in the U.S.” seminars, and other programs to help students integrate into the university environment, such as locating housing, setting up utilities, shopping for personal needs, etc.
- b. Social: provide social activities such as new student welcome events, recreational sports, game nights, trips, movies nights, holiday outreaches, and other events intended to help students integrate into the university environment.
- c. Spiritual: provide spiritual growth and development resources such as Bible studies, spiritual conversation groups, Bible study leader training, exploratory study groups, and outreach activities to promote student engagement.
- d. Student leadership: provide development opportunities through discipleship, coaching, mentoring, and training for members to gain leadership skills and learn how to lead organizational activities and events successfully.
- e. Wellness: provide programs and activities to promote spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health wellness, including one-on-one mentoring, small group discussions, and trips to wellness-oriented retreats and conferences.
- f. Collaboration: partner with other student groups and organizations to promote programs, events, and activities, on campus and off-campus, as needed.
- g. Cooperation: work cooperatively with the Ohio State administration in all manners related to promoting a safe, caring, and successful student life experience.

**Section 3 – Non-Discrimination Policy:** Bridges 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 4 – Sexual Misconduct Policy:** Bridges expects members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at [titleIX@osu.edu](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).

**Section 5 - Affiliation:** Bridges is a Christian student organization that exists to help the international student population in the USA and abroad and understands the unique challenges facing international students. As long as Bridges at the local level pursues the purpose set forth herein, it has the right to use the name and materials of Bridges International that are designated for the use at the local level.

**Section 6 - Statement of Belief:** *The Statement of Belief* is the doctrinal foundation of Bridges (see Appendix A).

***Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.***

**II.a.** As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of a student organization must include current Ohio State students. Membership and activities are open to all currently enrolled Ohio State students that meet university requirements. The Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board are able to make decisions regarding membership of associate (community and other non-student) members of Bridges and determine appropriate participation guidelines. Associate members may be temporarily suspended or removed with a majority affirmative vote of the Executive Committee.

**II.b.** For educational and leadership development reasons, Bridges is to be student initiated, student lead, and student run, as needed to meet the stated purpose and objectives. Active membership shall consist of those members who regularly attend one or more of the following: English conversation groups, educational trips and programs, seminars, social events and outreaches, one-on-one coaching/mentoring meetings, and Bible study groups during the current or previous semester.

**II.c.** Bridges may have associate members who are community members and non-students; for example, faculty and staff, partners and family members of students, visiting scholars, post-doctoral researchers, professionals, alumni, and Advisory Board members. Associate members shall have membership privileges except the right to vote or hold office and may serve with Bridges in a voluntary, ad hoc capacity. The Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisor and/or the Advisory Board retains the right to recruit, retain, or release associate members and determine appropriate conditions and criteria for their participation in programs, activities, and events that it hosts and/or sponsors. Any non-student may be chosen to serve, or dismissed from serving the organization at any time, to suit the best interest of Bridges.

**II.d.** Voting membership is limited to currently enrolled Ohio State undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Bridges reserves the right as a registered (Christian) religious student organization to limit voting membership to those students who agree with the Statement of Belief (see Appendix A). Additionally, voting members shall abide by the qualifications established by the organization and make a profession of faith in Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and seek to live his/her life according to the Holy Scriptures.

**II.e.** Non-voting members are identified as members of the Ohio State community, such as students, faculty, alumni, visiting scholars, post-doctoral researchers, career professionals, university staff, partners, spouses, family members, etc. and associate members who do not meet the criteria for voting membership.

***Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers***

**III.a.** If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of Bridges, violates its constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the Executive Officers in consultation with the organization's Advisor and/or the Advisory Board Chairperson.

**III.b.** Any Executive Officer may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: failure to perform officer roles and responsibilities, violation of the Bridges constitution or by-laws, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of Bridges, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Officer may be removed through a majority vote of the Executive Officers in consultation with the organization's Advisor and/or the Advisory Board Chairperson.

**III.c.** A member or Executive Officer may lose the privileges of membership, including the right to attend meetings and events sponsored by Bridges, under the following circumstances:

- i. If the individual is causing overall disruption to the group, or is engaging in disorderly conduct, or is causing an obvious negative effect on the group as a whole (as described in the Ohio Revised Code and Article III).
- ii. If the individual poses a danger to other students.
- iii. If the individual's conduct rises to the level of harassment of another member of the group.
- iv. If the individual participates in behaviors that are not condoned by the "code of student conduct".

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**III.d.** Member removal process: as described above, where a member is to be removed, two or more members of the Executive Committee in addition to the Advisor and/or the Advisory Board, will meet with the individual, share the concerns, and ask them to leave the group. The accused member may then request a hearing before the full Executive Committee and the Advisor and/or members of the Advisory Board. The President will then call a special Executive Committee meeting including the Advisor and/or the Advisory Board Chairperson; they will hear from the accused member as well as other witnesses if needed, confer, and make a final decision regarding the accused member's membership rights. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a majority affirmative vote.

**III e.** Officer removal process: as described above, officers may be removed from their positions by a majority affirmative vote of the Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisor and/or the Advisory Board Chairperson. Additionally, any two or more members of Bridges may make a complaint against any officer and present it to a member of the Executive Committee. Following receipt of the complaint, the Executive Committee (or members of the Executive Committee) shall meet to confer with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board Chairperson for advice and counsel. The challenged officer shall be informed of the request and the stated reasons, and shall be given one week to prepare a written response. The challenged officer, and the complainants, shall be given the opportunity to meet with the Executive Committee and the Advisor and/or the Advisory Board Chairperson, if desired. No leader may be removed without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Executive Committee. Should the Executive Committee find grounds for the officer's removal, they will conduct a vote. If the officer is removed, by at least a simple majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee, they may present an appeal letter to the President or presiding officer, stating additional information or grounds for review.

**III.f.** In a situation where the reason for member or Executive Officer removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the Executive Committee, in consultation with the organization's Advisor and/or Advisory Board, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

***Article IV - Organization of Executive Committee: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the officers.***

**IV.a.** President/Primary Student Leader, Vice President/Secondary Student Leader, and Treasurer, and additional leaders if needed, are appointed positions. A nomination committee of at least three persons, with representation from the Executive Committee and Advisor in consultation with the Advisory Board Chairperson will appoint the leader positions. The persons comprising the nominating committee shall be appointed by consent of the Executive Committee and Advisor in consultation with the Advisory Board Chairperson.

**IV.b.** The Executive Committee Officers and Advisor of this organization will serve as liaisons with the University. The officers of this organization shall be the following:

- i. President
- ii. Vice President
- iii. Treasurer
- iv. Faculty/Staff Advisor

**IV.c.** Roles and Responsibilities of officers:

- i. President/Primary Student Leader: Performs all duties and responsibilities as required by the university as the president of a student organization. Serves on the Executive Committee and has oversight of any/all standing committees and financial accounts as maintained by the treasurer.
- ii. Vice President/Secondary Student Leader: Assists the President/Primary Student Leader and fulfills all duties and responsibilities in his/her absence. Serves on the Executive Committee and has oversight of any/all standing committees.

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- iii. Treasurer: Be accountable for all funds provided to the organization by the university and provide financial reports for those funds as determined by university policy.
- iv. Organization Officers, as identified above, are representatives of the Executive Committee and general membership and are appointed from the ranks of the organization's voting membership by a nominating committee.

**IV.d. Officer Terms and Additional Leaders:** An officer shall serve for one school term (academic calendar year) from the start of their term of office or until his/her successor is selected. Officers may be appointed to fill vacant roles.

- i. The officers, in association with members, the advisor and/or the Advisory Board, will be responsible for organizing and providing leadership for all meetings, activities and events, including religious activities related to worship, prayer, Scripture study, evangelism, and discipleship—or any other activity intended to further the purposes and to communicate the messages of this student organization.
- ii. Additional leaders: The current officers, in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board members (Bridges staff), shall select additional leaders that are able to serve the organization as needed for a one-year term if warranted.
- iii. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and additional selected leaders that provide direction for various aspects of the organization's purpose.

**IV.e. Officer Requirements and Qualifications:** Officers serve as representatives of Bridges. They must commit to lead the organization in a way which is consistent with the purpose and faithful to the messages of the organization and affirms the Statement of Belief (Appendix A). All officers must also meet the school's eligibility requirements for leaders of registered student organizations at Ohio State. President/Primary Student Leader: Performs all duties and responsibilities as required by the university as the president of a student organization. Serves on the Executive Committee and has oversight of any/all standing committees and financial accounts as maintained by the treasurer.

The President, Vice President, and Treasurer, as the officers who will set the direction and vision for the organization, must demonstrate an understanding of the purpose, messages, and literature of the organization, and that they are qualified to serve in these roles through:

- i. Attendance Requirement: They must have been involved for at least one school term (semester), having attended 50% of weekly large group, small group, and/or one-on-one meetings, and/or related social events and activities.
- ii. Knowledge Requirement: Officers must be committed to providing spiritual guidance for the organization and knowledge of the organization's core messages.
- iii. Alignment Requirement: Officers must commit to lead the organization in a way which is consistent with the mission and faithful to the messages of the organization, and will not undermine its mission and message. They will also commit to guide the organization to serve the University community, seeking to care for those in need.
- iv. Faith Requirement: A demonstrated desire to grow in understanding the tenets of the Christian faith as described in the Statement of Belief.

- v. Commitment Requirement: A commitment to lead the organization in a way which is consistent with its purpose and to not undermine its mission and messages. They will also commit to guide the organization to serve the University community, seeking to care for those in need.

**IV.f. Officer Selection Process:**

- i. Officers will be chosen through appointment by a nomination committee; see Article VI for details. Additional leaders maybe selected from the active membership as needed and will be chosen based on their ability to meet the same qualifications as the officers, and their willingness to serve.
- ii. Members who meet the qualifications outlined above (Article II.d and Article IV.e) shall be eligible to be considered for an Executive Committee position.

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- iii. During any selection process, applicants may be asked about their faith, beliefs, and views based on the Statement of Beliefs cited in Appendix A. Qualified applicants may be asked about their willingness to model the organization's core messages through their behavior so that the messages are communicated with integrity.
- iv. The Advisory Board members serve in an advisory role in the selection process, working with the current Executive Committee and Advisor to consider and evaluate potential new leaders. The nominating committee will then select individuals, inviting them to take the new Executive Committee roles.

**IV.g. Removal of Officers:** See Article III.

***Article V - Election / Selection of Organizational Leadership (Executive Committee).***

**V.a.** Appointment of officers will occur at the end of each annual academic term-Spring Semester-to select the following academic term's officers and special appointments may be made if an office is vacated in mid-term.

**V.b.** Nomination of Candidates: When officers are to be appointed, the Executive Committee, Advisor, and/or Advisory Board may nominate a candidate for office by referring that person's name to the nominating committee. Any voting member may raise a question or concern to the Executive Committee regarding a present or proposed leader. The candidate must meet membership requirements and qualifications for office listed in Article II.d and Article IV.e, in order to be considered for office.

**V.c.** Form of Selection: Selection shall be by consent of the nominating committee composed of representatives of the Executive Committee and Advisor and/or Advisory Board Chairperson as described in Article IV.a.

***Article VI - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.***

The Executive Committee (like a board of trustees or directors) represents the general membership, conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership. The Executive Committee is composed of the organization leaders, chairpersons of any standing committees, and if warranted ex-officio associate members.

***Article VII - Standing Committees (if needed): Names, purposes, and composition.***

These committees serve the organization leadership, the Executive Committee, and general membership as needed. Standing committees are permanent and designed to carry out the basic functions of the organization. Chairpersons of these committees are appointed by the Executive Committee. No Standing Committees are designated at this time, although they may be created at the request and direction of the Executive Committee, if needed.

***Article VIII – Advisor, Co-Advisors, and Advisory Board:***

**VIII.a.** Identification of Advisor, Co-Advisors, and Advisory Board: The Advisor to Bridges will be chosen by the officers in consultation with the Advisory Board. The Advisor must be a faculty or staff member at The Ohio State University. Additionally, the organization consults with the Advisory Board to advise, consult, offer guidance, provide resources and support to attain organizational goals and implement strategic plans. The Advisory Board is considered to be members (non-voting) of the student organization and serve in partnership with The Ohio State University to attain stated objectives and support the mission of the university.

*Advisory Board Members*

1. Nick Corrova, Bridges Team Leader and Chairperson
2. Penelope Kauffman, Bridges team member and Vice-Chair

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**VIII.b.** Qualification Criteria, Responsibilities and expectations of Advisor, Co-advisors, and Advisory Board members: The Adviser/Co-advisor/Advisory Board of the Bridges International Student Ministry at Ohio State shall perform all the duties and responsibilities of the position as determined by the university and as needed in consultation with Executive Committee.

**VIII.c.** The Advisor/Co-advisor shall be limited to qualified university faculty/staff and Advisory Board members to Bridges International staff who meet criteria established by the Executive Committee as follows: a) those who affirm the Statement of Belief (see Appendix A), b) make a profession of faith in Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and seek to live their life according to the Holy Scriptures as it pertains to the teaching of Christ. Advisor(s)/Co-advisors and Advisory Board members shall support the Statement of Belief (Appendix A) which articulates the fundamental beliefs shared by fellow Christians.

***Article IX – Meetings and events of the Organization:***

**IX.a.** Types of meetings: Meetings shall be held to further the purposes of the organization. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Advisor and/or the Advisory Board, shall determine the frequency, time and place, and agenda of the various meetings.

- i. Membership Meetings: Formal meetings of the active membership to conduct a vote.
- ii. Large and Small Group Meetings: Regularly scheduled meetings for all members to attend.
- iii. Additional Meetings: Gatherings, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to all members.
- iv. Member one-on-one meetings with the Executive Committee, Advisor, and/or Advisory Board Members and other authorized meetings with members.

**IX.b.** Quorum requirement: A quorum for membership meetings: In order to conduct a vote of the active membership, at least half of the active membership must be present at the meeting.

**IX.c.** Attendance: Attendance at all or 50% of meetings and events hosted may be required for membership each academic term except for summer.

***Article X – Attendees at Events of the Organization: Required Behavior and Attendance Expectations.***

**X.a.** Bridges reserves the right to remove or address any member, visitor, or event attendee where the person's behavior is disruptive, deemed to be inappropriate, or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's constitution or university policy. Should any member, student or non-student, visitor, or event attendee behave in a way that is disruptive (i.e.,

behavior that interferes with students, faculty, or staff and their equal access to event activities or impedes upon an appropriate educational or work type environment), or does not align with the organization's constitution, the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, they may be asked to leave, or required to leave the event and barred from future events. An Executive Officer, Bridges Leadership Team member, Advisor, or Advisory Board member, along with another Bridges member, may directly discuss identified disruptive and/or inappropriate behaviors and ask the person to leave or comply with stated event or activity norms.

**XI.b.** Executive Committee and Voting Members are expected to attend 50% of the meetings offered by Bridges. Meetings are identified as the Action Group (Bridges Leadership Team), One-on-one discipleship/coaching/mentoring appointments, and the “Weekly Meeting” hosted or co-hosted by this organization. Additionally, social networking events, educational programs, community service projects, and spiritual discussion groups are meetings where voting members are present.

#### ***Article XI – Method of Amending Constitution.***

**XI.a.** Any proposed amendments should be presented to the Executive Committee in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in a general meeting, then

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read again at the next two subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Proposed amendments shall require a two-third majority of eligible voting members (a quorum being present).

**XI.b.** Amendments: The Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board Chairperson, may seek to amend this constitution by general consensus. All amendments, additions or deletions must be filed with the office of The Ohio State University within 4 weeks of adoption, and will become valid at the time of filing.

#### ***Article XII – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

Requirements and procedures for dissolution of the student organization are as follows:

**XII.a.** Dissolution of the student organization shall take place only upon the unanimous consent of all the Executive Committee members and the Advisor in consultation with the Advisory Board Chairperson.

**XII.b.** If assets and debt exist, appropriate means for disposing of these assets and debts should be specified clearly and unequivocally: Should any assets remain at the dissolution of the organization all remaining assets shall be transferred to the appropriate university office after all debts are duly paid. The organization treasurer shall provide for an accounting of all final assets and debts.

#### ***Article XIII – Student Organization Finances and University Funds***

**XIII.a.** The student organization may raise revenues through contributions, fundraising activities or by applying for school funds available to student groups according to guidelines established by Ohio State. Dues shall not be charged to members for participation. Students, however, may be charged for such services as special social gatherings, events, retreats, trips, training, travel, meals, and conferences as needed and necessary. Bridges will hold to high standards of financial integrity.

**XIII.b.** The treasurer and/or several members of the Executive Committee will be responsible to carefully administer any university funds granted to the organization in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board chairperson. The treasurer shall carefully account for and administer all funds granted to the student organization from student activity fees according to guidelines and policies established by Ohio State.

**XIII.c.** The treasurer shall also keep accounts for and manage any funds gathered for events pertaining only to Bridges. The treasurer is not responsible for managing conferences and retreats put on by national organizations.

Created: March 15, 2024

Amended [Date]:

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**By-Laws**

***Article I – Parliamentary Authority***

“The rules contained in Robert’s Rule of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of this organization.” “Though the minority shall be heard and absentees protected, the majority will decide.”

***Article II -Organizational Purpose***

The purpose of the organization as articulated in the Constitution, is to build movements of people who are transformed by Jesus Christ. This student-led movement seeks to engage in spiritual conversations, introduce domestic and international students to Jesus Christ, and for those who embrace Christianity, help them to grow in their faith, encourage them to live life passionately under the lordship of Jesus Christ, and inspire commitment to advancing the purposes of God in the world.

We accomplish this purpose through:

- a) A commitment to our mission, which flows out of the mandate given to all believers in Matthew 28:18-20. We seek to live out our mission in a manner that is both compassionate and faithful, displaying Christ-like grace and truth, motivated out of love for God and others.
- b) A commitment to our Statement of Belief
- c) A commitment to serve our campus through “felt-needs” and wellness programs

***Article III- Membership Described, Expectations, and Removal***

**III.a.** Any current Ohio State student in good standing with the university can request membership by expressing their interest in writing.



**III.b.** Amount of membership dues: none

**III.c.** Voting membership shall be limited to those who make a profession of faith in Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and seek to live his/her life according to the Holy Scriptures as it pertains to the teachings of Christ. Voting members shall affirm the Statement of Belief (Appendix A) which articulates the fundamental beliefs commonly shared by Christians of all faith traditions.

**III.d.** Associate members are identified as authorized members of the Ohio State community, such as faculty, staff, alumni, students, professional students, career professionals, visiting scholars, post-doctoral researchers, and their partners, spouses, and family members and Advisory Board members, etc. Members of the Ohio State community, as previously stated, may participate in organizational activities if their participation is approved by the Executive Committee, Advisor, and/or Advisory Board.

**III.e.** Membership Expectations: Members are those who meet the objective qualifications stated in the constitution. Bridges is a voluntary association of students. As a student-led group, each member and leader are responsible to create the culture we want for our group as described in the constitution and developed in consultation of the Advisor and/or Advisory Board. The culture we wish to create is consistent with our purpose, stated in Article I.

- i. We will seek to treat others with respect, as those made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27), and should avoid any threatening or hostile acts, behaviors or words (I Thess 5:11; Eph 4:29). This means we will seek to understand the perspectives of others, and will seek to treat others the way we want to be treated.
- ii. We wish to encourage honesty and integrity. We wish to build each other up, rejecting efforts to manipulate one another (James 5:12; Eph. 4:25-29).
- iii. We wish to walk in humility, seek wisdom, and practice conflict resolution (Eph 4:12-16; Prov 19:20-21).

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**III.f.** Member Removal and Termination: A member may lose the privileges of membership, including the right to attend meetings and events sponsored by this student organization, as described in Article III of the Constitution.

- i. Termination of membership: Any member may voluntarily request termination of membership at any time. Voting members that fail to comply with the qualifications of a voting member may be terminated by a majority (quorum) vote of the Executive Committee. Any voting member subject to termination deserves a hearing before a majority (quorum) of the Executive Committee including the Advisor and/or Advisory Board Chairperson prior to a termination vote. Such members may request transfer to a non-voting member status—with approval of a majority (quorum) vote of the Executive Committee—should they desire to work towards restoration of fellowship and membership “in good standing” in the organization.

**III.g.** Members shall agree to protect the identify of international students from other countries who attend Bible studies or evangelistic events by not wearing a body camera or otherwise recording video or still images, unless specifically authorized by Bridges.

***Article IV- Election / Appointment of Executive Committee Officers***

**IV.a.** Eligibility for office: the Executive Committee shall be limited to students who affirm the Christian Canon of Holy Scriptures (Bible) as the inspired, inerrant (in its original text), infallible Word of God and such is binding and authoritative in all manners in which it speaks. Officers shall make a profession of faith in Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and seek to live his/her life according to the Holy Scriptures as it pertains to the teaching of Christ. shall affirm and be members/attenders of a church that supports the Statement of Belief (Appendix A) which articulates the fundamental beliefs shared by evangelical Christians.

**IV.b.** Design of ballots and procedures: Since organizational leaders are appointed, ballots and balloting are not required.

**IV.c.** Appointment and ratification procedures: The President/Student Leader, Vice President/Secondary Student Leader, Treasurer, and Advisor in consultation with the Advisory Board Chairperson shall confirm new appointments and the annual slate of organization leaders in writing and produce such for the Executive Committee. Results of appointments shall be made known publicly to the general membership.

**IV.e.** Officers: organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are appointed from the ranks of the organization's voting membership.

1. The titles of organization leaders: President/Student Leader, Vice President/Assistant Student Leader, and Treasurer
2. The length of terms: Terms is for the duration of one academic year, from the time the officer assumed his/her position, depending upon his/her eligibility.
3. Any resignations or removal (impeachment) of an appointed officer shall result in the appointment of a replacement by a nominating committee of the Executive Committee and Advisor and/or the Advisory Board Chairperson.

#### ***Article V- Executive Committee Officers and Bridges Leadership Team Expectations***

**V.a.** The Executive Committee shall lead, guide, and direct the organization in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board. The Executive Committee shall review and approve all financial transactions and invoices for university provided funds. Specific expenditures of university funds may be approved in advance and authority granted to a designee of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall oversee all the business of the general meeting, officer appointments, participate in strategic planning, and develop work plans to determine the course for the organization.

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**V.b.** Officer expectations are as follows:

- i. President: The President shall ensure that Bridges retains its affiliation with the national organization of Bridges International and shall be responsible to ensure that the organization pursues its mission.
- ii. Vice President: The Vice-President shall act as President in the absence of the president.
- iii. Treasurer: The treasurer shall keep a record of key leadership decisions and shall be responsible for the management of any student organization funds.

**V.c.** Bridges Leadership Team Selection and Expectations: The Executive Committee in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board may recruit additional selected leaders from the membership that provide direction for various aspects of the organization's purpose to serve on the Bridges Leadership Team (BLT).

- i. The BLT will be responsible to provide spiritual leadership to the chapter and will assist in organizing and providing leadership for all meetings, activities and events of the organization, including religious activities related to worship, prayer, Scripture study, evangelism, and discipleship—or any other activity intended to further the purposes and to communicate the messages of the organization.
- ii. Bridges expects its leaders to teach and model the organization's core messages through their behavior so that our biblical messages are communicated with integrity. (Note: "Integrity" means that the individuals communicating the religious messages of the organization embrace and uphold those teachings and seek to live consistently with them.)

- iii. In addition, in the Spring each year, the current Executive Committee, in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board Chairperson, shall select the next year's BLT members. It is also responsible to select additional qualified leaders that are able to serve the organization in various needed roles, such as small group leaders, as needed for a school term (see Constitution Article IV for selection details).

#### ***Article VI- Standing Committees (if needed)***

None at this time.

#### ***Article VII - Adviser/Co-Adviser/Advisory Board Responsibilities***

Expectations of the Adviser/Co-advisor/Advisory Board in Bridges; they shall attend special meetings as needed, attend regularly scheduled general meetings as needed, attend executive committee meetings as needed, and attend other functions as needed. The advisor/co-advisor shall fulfill all the duties and responsibilities as assigned by the university. The Advisory Board serve as members of the student organization (non-voting) and partners with The Ohio State University to fulfill all the duties and responsibilities as assigned in consultation with the Executive Committee and Advisor to fulfill the Bridges mission, purpose, and objectives.

#### ***Article VIII – Meetings and Requirements***

**VIII.a.** A Weekly Meeting is held during the academic year (August-May) at the Ohio Union, or other available meeting space, either on or off campus.

**VIII.b.** The Executive Committee may meet as needed to address issues or conduct business. A minimum of 72 hours' notice is needed before calling a special session of the Executive Committee. A majority (a quorum being present) is required to conduct business.

**VIII.c.** For general meetings a majority (a quorum being present) is required to conduct business. **VIII.d.** For standing committee meetings, a majority (a quorum being present) is required to conduct business.

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**VIII.e.** Leadership of large and small group meetings:

- i. Bridges officers and members of the BLT shall provide guidance for the large group meetings and ensure that they are consistent with the chapter's purpose.
- ii. Small Group Meetings shall be led by those who are qualified as leaders and who are willing to teach and uphold Bridges' mission and teachings.
- iii. Membership one-on-one meetings shall be led by those who are qualified as leaders and who are willing to teach and uphold Bridges' mission and teachings.

**VIII.f.** Leadership meetings: The Executive Committee in consultations with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board and BLT shall have planning meetings in the Spring, and may have additional meetings during the year to consider, evaluate, and select the leaders for the following term/year.

#### ***Article IX - Method of Amending By-Laws***

**IX.a.** The Executive Committee may seek to amend these by-laws in consultation with the Advisor and/or Advisory Board Chairperson. Proposed amendments to the by-laws shall be in writing and shall be read in the general meeting in which they are proposed and the next general meeting. Also proposed amendments shall be read at the general meeting in which the vote will be taken. Proposed amendments shall require a two-third majority of voting members (a quorum being

present).

**IX.b.** The Executive Committee must record the meeting, date, and changes made for each amendment process in minutes for those relevant leadership meetings. They may then save the new version, adding the amendment date at the end of the document. The Executive Committee may not amend these by-laws in such a way that conflicts with the mission or purpose of the Bridges.

Created: March 15, 2024

Amended: *[date]*

**APPENDIX A—STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it was written without error (inerrant) in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

We accept those areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our movement, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.

1. There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of personality.
2. Jesus Christ is God, the living Word, who became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. Hence, He is perfect Deity and true humanity united in one person forever.
3. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone.

4. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died.
5. He ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own.
6. Man was originally created in the image of God. He sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation.
7. Man's nature is corrupted, and he is thus totally unable to please God. Every man is in need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
8. The salvation of man is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justified them in His sight.
9. It is the privilege of all who are born again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their Savior. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the testimony of God in His written word.
10. The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth and seals them until the day of redemption. His fullness, power and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith.
11. Every believer is called to live so in the power of the indwelling Spirit that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh but will bear fruit to the glory of God.
12. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body, which is composed of all men, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith.
13. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement.
14. At physical death the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing.
15. At physical death the unbeliever enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgment and condemnation.
16. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth - personally, visibly and bodily - to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
17. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to disciple men of every nation. The fulfillment of that Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us."