

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the undersigned Orthodox Christians and other persons interested in Orthodox Christianity of The Ohio State University community, wishing to establish a profound and lasting fellowship among ourselves and others who share these interests, and seeking ways to dedicate ourselves and each other and our whole life to Christ our God, establish this Orthodox Christian Fellowship for the community of The Ohio State University.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be "The Orthodox Christian Fellowship of The Ohio State University."

ARTICLE II -- AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 To support fellowship on campus, to experience and witness the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer, service to others and study of the Faith (Acts 2:42). Furthermore, OCF will work to nurture and strengthen love for Jesus Christ and His Church in its fullness at this most critical juncture of human life through and offer an opportunity for Orthodox Christian students and those interested in the Orthodox Christian Church to become more fully acquainted with and informed about Orthodox Christianity.

Section 2. To deepen the spiritual and devotional life of university and college students and to promote earnest study of Orthodox Christian doctrine, practice and living.

Section 3. To strengthen ties between students of the Orthodox Christian Faith, to develop a more fruitful fellowship among them, and to further cooperation with other Christian organizations with similar aims.

Section 4. To bear witness on campus to the unique message of the Orthodox Church by affirming its continuity in the course of history from the Apostolic beginnings.

Section 5. To further either directly or indirectly, the welfare of students in body, mind and spirit, all in harmony with the Christian purpose.

Section 6. To unite Orthodox students in Orthodox worship.

Section 7. To sponsor activities such as study groups, Christian service, and lectures by specialists on topics of interest to the group.

Section 8. To promote and participate in national programs offered by Orthodox Christian Fellowship, a religious corporation, which is a national organization authorized by and affiliated with the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas.

ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Orthodox Christian Fellowship of The Ohio State University shall be open to all university students. Membership shall not be denied on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Section 2. Membership of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship shall be broken down into active and associate membership. Active membership shall be composed of all registered students, faculty, and staff with a concern for furthering the purpose of this group.

Section 3. Associate membership shall be composed of all others interested in furthering the purpose of the organization. Associate members may not hold office, vote, preside, officiate or solicit funds on behalf of the organization.

Section 4. OCF reserves the right to expel a member who is not following the policies of the organization with a super majority vote of attending members – quorum is 75% of active members.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNANCE

Section 1. The Fellowship shall be governed and managed by Officers and an Executive Committee as provided for in the Bylaws.

Section 2. The Fellowship shall have at least one religious advisor approved by the national Orthodox Christian Fellowship. The religious advisor(s) to Orthodox Christian students shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee and of all other committees of the Fellowship. Prior to seeking approval from the national Orthodox Christian Fellowship organization, each religious advisor must have obtained the blessing and endorsement from the Bishop of the Archdiocese with whom he or she is affiliated as to his or her service as a religious advisor to the Fellowship.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. The Orthodox Christian Fellowship shall meet at least once a month during the regular academic year.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee at such times as may be thought advisable, or upon written request of one-third of the membership.

ARTICLE VI – LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution, this Fellowship shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under IRC Section 501 (c) (3), or contributions to which are deductible under IRC Section 170 (c) (2). All references herein to “IRC” shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 2. This Fellowship is organized and is to be operated exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of IRC Section 501 (c) (3). This Fellowship is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for any pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to the members thereof (if any) or to any private individual or private shareholder, as the latter is defined for purposes of IRC Section 501 (c) (3).

No substantial part of the activities of this Fellowship shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as provided in IRC Section 501 (h), nor shall this Fellowship participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publication or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office except as provided in IRC Section 501 (h).

The money and property of this corporation are irrevocably and exclusively dedicated to charitable, religious, and educational purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, trustee, officer, shareholder, or member (if any) hereof, or to the benefit of any private individual.

Upon dissolution or winding up of this Fellowship, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, trust, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious, or educational purposes which has established its tax exempt status under IRC Section 501 (c) (3).

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be elected for a one-year term from a slate compiled and presented by the Nominations Committee to the members two weeks before the election meeting in April or May and from nominations accepted from the floor. Election is to be held by secret ballot. The Executive Committee shall assume its responsibilities upon the commencement of the following regular academic year.

Section 2. All members of the Executive Committee shall be Orthodox Christian members in good standing in this organization, and students in good standing at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Section 3. Whenever a vacancy shall occur, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy by appointment. The person thus appointed shall serve until the vacancy is filled by an election arranged by the Executive Committee at the earliest possible date.

Section 4. Quorum holding elections shall consist of a majority of the active membership present unless otherwise stipulated in this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII – IMPEACHMENT

Section 1. An Executive Committee member may be removed from his/her position by a three- fourths vote of the members present at a meeting provided this number comprises at least half of the total membership. Recall proceedings may be initiated by a written petition, signed by at least seven active members, stating the reasons why such recall is desirable.

Section 2. A written copy of the charges shall be handed to the person in question at least one week previous to the meeting in which the vote of impeachment is to be taken. The person may defend him/herself before the Executive Committee and/or the membership at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any proposed amendments of the constitution shall be submitted in writing to the President at a regular meeting of the organization. A proposed amendment must be signed by at least five members of the organization. The proposed amendment shall be read under the heading of new business. After such notice, the proposed amendment shall become part of the constitution, if, at the next regular meeting during which the proposed amendment shall be again read, it is approved by a three-fourths majority of the quorum.

ARTICLE X – BY-LAWS

Section 1. The By-Laws of this organization shall become effective upon ratification by two-thirds of the membership present at the meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2. Amendment of these By-Laws will be similar to procedures laid down in Article IX, except that it need be approved only by a two-thirds majority of the quorum.

ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION

Section 1. The Constitution shall be adopted by three-fourths of the membership present at the meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2. The existing Constitution may be updated periodically to keep in conformity with the standards set by the National Orthodox Christian Fellowship Office. The updated portions of the Constitution shall be read to the membership and adopted by a three-fourths vote of the membership present at the meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION

In the event of waning interest and lack of membership necessitating the dissolution of the Fellowship, all debts must be reconciled, and all assets shall be donated to the Ohio Union.

ARTICLE IX – CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall be made available to any member upon request.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship shall be those regularly matriculated students who accept the purpose of the organization as stated in Article II of the Constitution. Membership shall not be denied on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

ARTICLE II – GENERAL MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meeting time and place will be determined by the Executive Committee with due consideration to the convenience of the membership.

Section 2. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent of the active membership and at least one- week's notice shall have been given to all members, as well as three members of the Executive Committee. All matters shall be approved by a vote of fifty percent plus one of the quorum unless otherwise stipulated in the constitution.

Section 3. The President shall have the power to call the attendant membership at a meeting a quorum, regardless of the number, if he/she thinks the business at hand to be of sufficient importance, and if the meeting has been duly posted according to the requirements in the Constitution.

Section 4. All members shall observe an opening and closing period of prayer to be led by a member of the clergy present, the President, or an appointee.

ARTICLE III – DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The President of the Executive Committee shall preside at all meetings and he/she shall appoint all committee chairpersons. The President shall represent the organization at all official functions and shall be ex officio member of all committees except Nominations Committee, where he/she shall be neither an ex officio nor a regular member.

Section 3. The Vice President shall assist the President, Secretary, and Treasurer with any needed duties and shall fill in for the President in case he cannot be present.

Section 4. The Secretary shall conduct appropriate correspondence and keep minutes of business transacted at meetings.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect all money due the organization and keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements and adhere to all rules and regulations of The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, concerning finances.

ARTICLE IV – FACULTY ADVISOR

The Faculty Advisor shall be a member of the Executive Committee. He/She should be an Orthodox Christian member of the faculty or administrative and professional staff, but if such does not exist or is not willing to serve,

another individual shall be requested to serve as faculty advisor. The Faculty Advisor shall have an active voice but no vote.

ARTICLE V – PRIEST

At least one member of the Orthodox clergy from a nearby parish shall be requested to serve as spiritual advisor(s), and shall be approved by the National Orthodox Christian Fellowship, as stated in ARTICLE IV, Section 2 of the Constitution. The Priest(s) (Chaplain[s]) shall have an active voice and may vote on all matters pertaining to the spiritual and academic welfare of the Fellowship and its members.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint ad hoc committees to aid the Executive Committee in the administration and execution of activities necessary and desirable to the furtherance of the purposes of the organization.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

The Executive Committee shall determine the date within the months of April or May on which the elections shall be held. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee shall preside at the meeting during the elections.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT

Amendment of these by-laws shall be subject to the terms specified in Article X of the Constitution.

ARTICLE X – NOTIFICATION

Reasonable effort to notify all members at least six days before any meeting to change the Constitution or by-laws shall be given.

ARTICLE X – AFFILIATIONS

Section 1. The Fellowship shall not affiliate with any outside organization whose aim is not in accord with the stated aim of the Fellowship.

Section 2. Any affiliation with an outside organization shall be authorized by a three-fourths vote of the active members present at a meeting, and so long as notice of the vote on the proposed affiliation has been posted at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Any affiliation with an outside organization shall be subject to the limitations and restrictions applicable to tax-exempt organizations organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as provided in the Constitution.

ARTICLE XI – INCLUSION

Non-Discrimination Statement. The Orthodox Christian Fellowship of The Ohio State University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment. Membership and participation in all activities shall not be restricted or influenced by race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or university policies. All

individuals who support the purpose of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship and adhere to the organization's values are welcome to join and participate in our community.