

Jacob's Porch

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Lutheran Campus Ministry at OSU (LCM-OSU), also known as Jacob's Porch

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

Lutheran Campus Ministry at OSU, also known as Jacob's Porch, LCM OSU ("Jacob's Porch" or "the Corporation") is formed for the purposes of maintaining, developing, and promoting the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America among students, faculty, and staff in institutions of higher learning in Columbus, Ohio.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

Jacob's Porch agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

Jacob's Porch agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

Section C. Bylaws

Jacob's Porch retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Membership is voluntary and free. There are no requirements to be a member. No member or potential member shall be discriminated by any means, including but not limited to race, sex, belief, sexuality, etc., following Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Section B. Member Selection

To become a member, the potential member must reach out to a member of staff or student leadership and specify an email for contact and roster monitoring purposes. For example, a potential member could contact the President, wherein the potential member must include (1) their name and (2) their email. If the potential member emails any individual in leadership or on staff, the above criteria are automatically fulfilled. An individual who attends events at Jacob's Porch is not automatically a member; the individual must proceed through the steps previously outlined and is voluntary. A member may leave the organization at any time, explicitly (to leadership or staff) or implicitly (prolonged absence, e.g., more than one year without attendance).

Section C. Membership Timeline

Within ten (10) business days, the potential member will receive a notification that their membership application has been approved or declined. Their information will be added to the roster of the organization by the end of this period.

Section D. Member Removal

Any officer or member may be removed at any time, either for or without cause, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization's 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 officers in consultation with the organization's advisor and pastoral staff. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor and pastoral staff. In the event that the reason for member 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 board, in consultation with the organization's advisor and pastoral staff, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The advisors must complete any and all obligations issued by the University, including but not limited to:

- a.) Biannual trainings,
- b.) approving organizational goals, registration, and other submittables,
- c.) submit approval of any Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Operating or Programming funds requests initiated by the organization's treasurer,
- d.) follow applicable stipulations, laws, regulations, university rules, policies, and guidelines,
- e.) and fulfill relevant reporting obligations.

Additional duties include attending Board Meetings, providing guidance on university-organization harmony, and mediating inter-personal conflict.

Section B. Advisor Term

The term of the advisor is a minimum one-year length with the opportunity to be reappointed.

Section C. Advisor Selection

The advisor is selected through formal connections or direct university appointment. Final selection is determined through the Board of Trustees and staff.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

The advisor may be replaced through a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

Primary Leader - President

Secondary Leader - Vice President

Treasurer

Section B. Officer Eligibility

All officers must maintain membership status within the organization, maintain regular attendance to meetings and events, should participate in Board Meetings, and where applicable, maintain good standing with the University.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

Leaders are selected by a majority vote of members in annual elections occurring in the Spring semester. Leaders may be appointed by staff as a contingency.

Section D. Officer Removal

Officers may be removed from leadership positions by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Trustees or through termination by staff.

Officers may be removed from the organization only through a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

The requirements for dissolution are fulfilled if a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the Board of Trustees agree to dissolve Jacob's Porch.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

Should Jacob's Porch cease to act and is to be dissolved, all of its property and assets remaining after the payment of its liabilities shall, after consultation with the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA, be paid or distributed by the Trustees prior to dissolution to one or more organizations providing Lutheran Campus Ministry which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable or religious purposes and which shall then be exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, as organizations described in Section 501 (c) (3) thereof (references to include corresponding provisions of any future revenue law) on the basis of a vote of the majority of the Trustee Board.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

This document may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Trustees at any annual or special meeting of Jacob's Porch, provided written notice, embodying such proposed amendment, has been given in the notice of the meeting at which such proposed amendment is to be acted upon, or by a unanimous vote of the elected student officers per idem ac antea.