

MIDDLE GEORGIA CHRISTIAN HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

Revised July 23, 2008 - Approved September 19, 2008

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1 Name

The name of this Association shall be Middle Georgia Christian Home School Association (MGCHSA).

2 Logo

The organization shall have a logo, which shall be in the following form:

MGCHSA
MIDDLE GEORGIA CHRISTIAN HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

3 Purpose Statement

The purpose of MGCHSA is to provide support to its members in their home schooling efforts in the following ways:

1. Providing encouragement to Christian home schooling families in the Middle Georgia area;
2. Organizing field trips, social activities, educational events, parent support meetings, and similar activities for participation by family members;
3. Publishing a monthly newsletter;
4. Disseminating legislative and other information affecting the rights of parents to educate their children at home; and
5. Implementing whatever other programs or services are deemed necessary by the membership of this organization.

4 Statement of Faith, Family and Education

4.1 Faith

We believe the Holy Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes the complete and final revelation. Nothing is to be added to it, and it is the only

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source of divine truth. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole and in part. (2 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 22:18-19)

We believe the one and only God is one in essence and eternally existent in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

We believe all men fall short of God's righteous requirements and His holy character, both by nature and act; and are therefore under His wrath and just condemnation. (Romans 3:23)

We believe that the following are absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man: regeneration by the Holy Spirit; faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, His works and atoning blood; and repentance of sins on the basis of grace alone instead of man's works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (Romans 6:23)

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4.2 Family

We believe that the family is the basic governmental, social, and spiritual unit created by God. We understand "family" to mean male and female parents, legally married, with or without children; however, we recognize the exceptions of single parents, adopted children, foster children, and stepchildren. In light of Hebrews 13:4, no homosexual or co-habiting partners are eligible for membership in the Association.

4.3 Education

We believe that the ultimate responsibility for the education of children belongs to the parents. Home schooling provides a good means to accomplish this. We support

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the right of parents to provide for the education of their children through home, private, Christian, and/or public schools.

5 Board of Directors

5.1 Governing Authority

The governing body of the Association shall be known as its Board of Directors, and it shall have plenary powers to do all things necessary and proper to operate and manage the Association. The MGCHSA Board of Directors shall maintain a Board of Directors' Policy Book that can be modified at any time by a simple majority vote of the Board members present as long as the policy is in accordance with the MGCHSA Bylaws. All official MGCHSA policy not part of the Bylaws shall be included in the Policy Book.

5.2 Delegation of Authority

The Board of Directors may delegate to one or more of its members or to any of its officers, committees or Association members such powers and duties as it may deem appropriate and proper. In the absence of such delegation, either generally or specifically, no member of the Board of Directors shall have any authority to act for the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have status co-equal with that of each other member, and each member shall have the right to vote on any and all questions coming before the Board of Directors.

5.3 Composition and Qualifications

The Board of Directors shall be composed of five to seven non-paid members. No member family may have more than one family member on the Board. Board members must meet the following requirements:

1. Be current members of MGCHSA;
2. Be able to affirm the MGCHSA statement of faith, family and education;
3. Be in at least their third consecutive year of membership at the time of the election;
4. Be active and in good standing in a local church body;
5. Have conduct becoming a member of the body of Christ.

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5.4 Election and Term of Service

The term of service for Board members shall normally be three years running from July 1 through June 30. Prior Board members may be reelected for additional three-year terms. An Association-wide request for nominations shall be made in January each year. Elections of one third of the Board shall take place annually in April and take effect on July 1. Each member family may cast one vote for each position to be elected (typically three). The three top vote recipients shall be elected. In the case of a tie, a runoff between the tied nominees shall be conducted.

5.5 Removal

Board members may resign at any time by notifying the Board of their desire to do so. Board members can be removed from the Board if they no longer meet the requirements to be a Board member by the following methods:

1. A two-thirds vote of the remaining Board members not under consideration for removal. Prior to the vote, the subject member shall be afforded the opportunity to hear the reasons for the vote and to respond. Upon removal, the removed member may appeal within one week through the Board to the Association at large. In this case an Association meeting will be held for both the Board and the removed member to present their cases. A vote shall be taken immediately following the presentation with a simple majority of those present required to uphold the Board decision. (No absentee votes shall be allowed.)
2. A petition signed by one quarter of the Association member families shall be sufficient to initiate a recall vote. In this case an Association meeting will be held for both parties to present their cases. A vote shall be taken immediately following the presentation with a two-thirds majority of those present required to remove the Board member. (No absentee votes shall be allowed.)

5.6 Vacancies

Board member vacancies may be filled at any time deemed necessary by the Board through a special election. However, it is expected that vacant, unexpired terms of 3 Board members shall normally be filled during the normal Board member elections in April.

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5.7 Meetings and Decisions

Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place set by the Board.

Special meetings shall be called by the Board Chairman or at the request of two members. Three days notice of special meetings must be given unless all Board members can attend or are aware of the agenda and consent to the meeting being held in their absence.

Regular and special meetings may be conducted using phone conferencing.

A two-thirds majority of Board members participating in a meeting is required for all Board decisions made in a meeting, unless stated otherwise in these Bylaws.

Decisions can also be made using email messages sent to the Secretary. A two-thirds majority of all Board members is needed when using email.

5.8 Officers

5.8.1 Designation

The officers of the MGCHSA Board of Directors shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice, Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

5.8.2 Election and Term of Service

Officers shall be Board members and be elected by the Board membership at the July meeting of each year. The outgoing Chairman shall preside over the meeting until the new Chairman is elected.

5.8.3 Removal

Any Officer may be removed from office (but not the Board) by two-thirds majority vote of the full current membership of the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Association will be served thereby.

5.8.4 Vacancies

The Board of Directors shall fill any vacancy in any office, however occurring, by the election of an officer for the unexpired term of the office.

5.8.5 Chairman

The Chairman shall:

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1. Conduct all Association-wide and Board of Directors meetings;
2. Sign as the representative of the Association as authorized by the Board of Directors; and
3. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

5.8.6 Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall:

1. In the absence of the Chairman or in event of his death, inability or refusal to act, perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chairman, and 2. Perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Chairman or by the Board of Directors.

5.8.7 Secretary

The Secretary shall:

1. Keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors;
2. Be the custodian of the Association records; and
3. In general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Chairman or the Board of Directors.

5.8.8 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds of the Association;
2. Receive money payable to the Association and deposit it in the name of the Association as directed by the Board of Directors;
3. Pay any money owed by the Association on presentation of proper documentation; and

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4. In general perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Chairman or the Board of Directors.

6 Association Business Meetings

6.1 Purpose

Five pieces of Association business require Association-wide meetings. These are Board of Director elections, removal of Board members, appeals of removal from membership, adoption or amendment of Association bylaws, and dissolution of the Association.

6.2 Quorum

A quorum shall be the members present at a duly called Association business meeting. Meetings are duly called when they have been announced to the entire Association at least two weeks in advance. Each member family shall have one vote in any Association-wide votes. It shall be up to the Board of Directors to decide whether or not to allow and to govern absentee voting in each case. If allowed the notification that absentee balloting is an option and the method to be used must be included in the meeting notice.

7 Committees

The Board of Directors shall create committees as deemed necessary and delegate any required authority to the committees.

8 Sponsored Clubs and Events

The Board of Directors shall approve all MGCHSA Clubs and Association-wide events. Leaders of these clubs and events must be members of the Association in good standing in their second or later year of membership and be able to affirm the MGCHSA statement of faith, family and education. The Board shall approve all of these leaders. Lists of these clubs, leaders, and events shall be maintained in the Policy Book.

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9 Association Member Families

9.1 Membership Qualifications

Membership applies to families as defined in paragraph 4.2.

At least one parent or guardian of each student must sign the *Statement of Agreement and Waiver of Liability*.

9.2 Right and Privileges

Members of the Association shall enjoy all of the rights and privileges of membership in the Association as established by these bylaws, the Board of Directors' Policy Book and eligibility requirements for specific events and clubs. However, members that cannot affirm the MGCHSA statement of faith, family and education are not eligible for any leadership role in the Association.

9.3 Duties and Responsibilities

By signing the *Statement of Agreement and Waiver of Liability*, members and applicants agree to abide by the Bylaws and all standards and policies of the Association as established by the Board of Directors. Existing members are required to notify the Association's Membership Coordinator or a member of the Board of Directors should they no longer agree to the terms of the *Statement of Agreement and Waiver of Liability*.

Membership must be renewed annually by paying the then-current membership fee.

Members are to pattern their lifestyle in a manner that will not bring reproach to the Association.

We are admonished in Scripture, both by example and by command, to obey the laws of our country, as long as they do not conflict with scriptural commands (Romans 13). Therefore, members shall comply with the current Georgia law governing home schooling. However, this requirement is based on the law at the time of adoption of the bylaws and may require immediate revision if the law changes.

9.4 Termination of Membership

Members may terminate membership in the Association at any time by providing notice to a member of the Board of Directors or Membership Coordinator.

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Membership of any member family may be terminated by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors whenever it believes the family is no longer eligible or is not complying with its duties and responsibilities as defined in paragraph 9.3. Prior to the vote, the subject member family shall be afforded the opportunity to hear the reasons for the vote and to respond. Upon removal, the removed member may appeal within one week through the Board to the Association at-large. In this case, an Association meeting will be held for both the Board and the removed member family to present their cases. A vote shall be taken immediately following the presentation with a simple majority of those present required to uphold the Board decision. (No absentee votes shall be allowed.)

A petition signed by one quarter of the Association member families shall be sufficient to initiate a removal vote. In this case, an Association meeting will be held for both the parties to present their cases. A vote shall be taken immediately following the presentation with a two-thirds majority of those present required to remove the member family. (No absentee votes shall be allowed.)

10 Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws shall be adopted and thereafter amended by a two-thirds majority of those votes cast as established in the paragraph concerning Association meetings.

11 Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of those votes cast as established in the paragraph concerning Association meetings. In the event that the Association should be dissolved, the Association assets shall be transferred to another home school group as determined by the Board.

Revision History:

1. These bylaws, dated 7/1/05, were approved by Association vote on 4/28/05.
2. These bylaws, dated 7/23/2008, were approved by Association vote on 9/19/2008.
3. These bylaws, dated 11/1/2008, have not been approved yet.

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Statement of Agreement & Waiver of Liability

**PRINT, SIGN, AND MAIL *THIS PAGE ONLY* - ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK FOR
MEMBERSHIP FEES - TO THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

By signing below, the undersigned adult(s) and their family members, shall:

1. Abide by the most current Bylaws and Policies of the Association.
2. Hold harmless all parties connected with the operation of the Middle Georgia Christian Home School Association from any claim of or for injury or loss that might result from participation, by any or all of the members and in any of the meetings, activities, or events. "All parties" includes all persons serving in group leadership, persons leading field trips or other activities, as well as the facilities used for meetings or activities, and all members of the Association, Board of Directors, and persons coordinating or otherwise leading activities related to the Association.
3. Support the Association's membership, leadership, activities, and events through active participation.

This Statement of Agreement and Waiver of Liability is signed in full faith, with proper presence of mind, to attest to my/our knowledge that participation in any Association activity or event is completely voluntary and, as volunteer participants, accept full responsibility for our actions.

_____ Signature	_____ Signature
_____ Print Name	_____ Print Name
_____ Date	_____ Date

Office Use Only		
Date Received	Date Filed	Membership ID