



## Orthodox Christian School Ministries

### Constitution

#### PREAMBLE

We, the Orthodox students of \_\_\_\_\_, in order to provide effective Christian fellowship and community cohesion within the Orthodox Faith, do hereby adopt this Constitution as the guide to our organization; to experience the Orthodox Faith through prayer, service, and study of Orthodox history and literature; to evangelize the unique message of the Orthodox Faith and provide our peers of \_\_\_\_\_ an opportunity to learn about an integral historical component of the modern churches; and to deepen the involvement of high schoolers into the Orthodox community through personal and professional development.

#### **Article I - Organization Name:**

**SECTION I:** The name of this organization shall be Orthodox Christian School Ministries (“OCSM”).

#### **Article II - Aim and Objectives:**

**SECTION I:** OCSM is concerned with the Oriental Orthodox Churches. Oriental Orthodoxy is a communion of six autocephalous (self-governing) Churches: the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Syriac Orthodox Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church, and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.

**SECTION II:** Recognizing the need for a spiritual support system for young Orthodox Christians during their crucial high school years, OCSM will provide fellowship for high schoolers to begin the work of uniting youth under one banner where they can come together to meet, pray, learn from one another, and to enjoy Christian fellowship.

#### **Article III - Membership Qualification:**

**SECTION I:** Membership in this organization shall be open to all students currently enrolled in \_\_\_\_\_ in good standing.

**SECTION II:** Members must be students of

**SECTION III:** Membership shall be retained until the student severs relations with  
whether by graduation or otherwise. Membership will be retained during the vacation and recesses of the school.

**Article IV - Governance:**

**SECTION I:** The Officers of this group shall include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Events Coordinator, and Social Media Specialist.

**SECTION II:** In the event that there are not enough members to fill all Officer positions, the required Officers will be President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

**SECTION III:** All Officers shall be Active Members of OCSM.

**Article V - Elections:**

**SECTION I:** Officers shall be elected annually by the members of the group. Elections shall be held during the month of March.

**SECTION II:** The term of office shall start on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

**SECTION III:** In the event the organization was inactive or nonexistent during the previous year, elections shall be held at the first general meeting of the organization.

**SECTION IV:** Prior to the elections, the organization will be open to Officer nominations from the general membership. Candidacy for a member to a position will begin upon the acceptance of that nomination by the nominee. Members may not self-nominate.

**SECTION V:** The elections will be held by the process of a secret ballot open to all Active Members of the organization.

**SECTION VI:** Active Members are defined as Members who are in good standing with the organization and have a 50% or higher percentage of attendance of general meetings occurring

during the election year. Elections proceeding under Article(V), Section (III) will consider all Members as Active Members.

**SECTION VII:** In order to run for the office of President, a Member must be in good standing with the organization and have a 70% or higher percentage of attendance of general meetings for the year directly preceding their intended year of service.

**Article VI – Officer Meetings:**

**SECTION I:** Meetings of the Officers shall be held on a regular basis for the purpose of determining policy, activities, programs, and other business. Special meetings of the group may be called by the President, or any three Officers.

**SECTION II:** A simple majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum.

**SECTION III:** The President shall chair all meetings. In the President's absence, the Vice President shall chair.

**SECTION IV:** Notice of regular and special meetings shall be communicated to all Officers by the Secretary.

**SECTION V:** All Officers shall have one vote with respect to any resolutions put forward during a meeting.

**Article VII - Constitutional Amendments:**

**SECTION I:** This Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members. Any three members of the group may propose an amendment. Proposals shall be filed in writing with the Secretary prior to the meeting so that the group may debate the proposal. All amendments that pass the assembly must be submitted to the Bishop or his Designee for approval pursuant to the procedure outlined in the OCSM Guidebook.

**Article VIII – Metropolitan of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate-Diocese of the Southern United States:**

**SECTION I:** All articles, rules, and regulations of OCSM are subject to the Metropolitan of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate-Diocese of the Southern United States and may be modified by the Metropolitan at any time.