

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Cornerstone Cooperative, a not-for-profit ministry founded by families located in East Tennessee.

ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT

Cornerstone Cooperative exists to promote a God-centered fellowship of homeschooling families in which the parents cooperate to promote the growth of their children in the areas of character development, service to others, academics, and peer interaction.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is our purpose first as believers and followers of Jesus Christ and second as parents, to raise and educate our children with the following goals in mind. We intend to:

Educate our children from a Biblical worldview. We want them to recognize the supremacy of God in all things, whether through the teaching of classes or through teaching them Christ-like characteristics, attitudes, and responses to the world around them.

Instill in our children a love for our Heavenly Father and His ways and love of others. We want to call out of our children deeper levels of commitment, discernment, and personal obedience to Christ, as well as compassion and grace for others.

Provide a morally, emotionally, and physically safe environment in which our children can learn and grow. This includes respecting God's creation, respecting the authority of their teachers, respecting others, and respecting another's property.

Give our children the opportunity to learn to the highest academic level of their ability.

It is our purpose to provide our homeschooled children an opportunity to:

Be in an environment where the children can interact with and hear the reasoning of others; where they can dialogue in a peer-to-peer/peer-to-teacher setting other than that at home.

Learn a unified subject matter that is required and yet not as easy to accomplish in a home setting.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF CONDUCT

In obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, parents are to train their children in proper behavior towards adults and other children. Parents are to review these rules with their children so they will be aware of what is expected of them during our Co-op and related social events. If a parent is unable to be at a co-op or other event, the responsibility of the child must be delegated to another adult and the child made aware of their authority. Children are expected to:

- Obey our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Scripture.
- Consider each other's interests ahead of their own.
- Speak with adults and one another in a respectful manner.
- Wait to speak with anyone engaged in a conversation with another person.
- Take good care of the facilities that the church has allowed us to use.

Children will not be permitted to:

- Disrupt learning time with inappropriate comments, questions, gestures, or whispering
- Use unkind words or actions toward another individual
- Show disrespect or disregard to adults
- Abuse, deface or destroy property belonging to someone else or to the church
- Run or roughhouse inside the buildings
- Use electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, mp3 players, bluetooth earphones, etc.) during class time, except where required or necessary

We should remember Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18:15-16 when dealing with the discipline of a child. Teachers are to address the student first with love. If the problem persists, the teacher will address the student and his or her parents. If further action is needed, the co-op leadership will address the issue with all parties. We will refrain from complaining or gossiping with others not involved in the situation. In harmony with Scriptures, any corrective discipline will be handled in love with concern for the student's welfare as a child of God. If needed, all parties will agree to mediation as the Board deems necessary.

ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Governing Authority

The affairs of Cornerstone Cooperative shall be directed by the Advisory Board consisting of at least three (3) and not more than (7) active members of Cornerstone Cooperative.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

Section 2: Composition

The Advisory Board will consist of various members including Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications, plus between (2) and (4) managing members (number to be determined by need). There shall be an uneven number on this board in order to facilitate a necessary majority vote. The Board shall be comprised of at least one (1) Board Member from each co-op class location.

Section 3: Qualifications

All Board members shall:

3.1) sign the Statement of Faith.

3.2) sign a statement that they agree with and will abide by the By-laws of this co-op and the Policies and Procedures as set forth in the Parent/Teacher Handbook.

3.3) be a current, active, full member of Cornerstone Cooperative for at least (1) year (i.e. they currently have a participating child in co-op classes).

3.4) strive to maintain quality of leadership, the unity and vision of the group, and harmony amongst the leadership.

3.5) serve the Membership by maintaining the By-laws and by encouraging input from members including accepting members' questions, suggestions, observations, constructive criticism, and advice on any co-op matter.

Section 4: Duties

The Secretary (Focus on Organization)

The Secretary:

- will keep the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Advisory Board.
- Will lead the proceedings of the Board meetings according to the agenda.
- will be custodian of the organization records and pass them to the next elected Secretary.
- will notify Board members of upcoming meetings.

The Treasurer (Focus on Finances)

The Treasurer:

- will have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds for the Organization.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

- will receive all fees and other income, give and receive receipts for these monies and keep an accounting of such. These monies shall be deposited into an account in the name of the Organization in such banks as shall be selected by the Advisory Board.
- will pay all bills of the Cornerstone Cooperative.
- will make financial reports at meetings (as determined by the Advisory Board).
- will prepare other required financial reports as needed.
- will submit annual Co-op financial statements.
- will work with the Finance Committee and the Advisory Board to propose operating budgets.

Communications (Focus on People)

The Communications Person will:

- Work with a committee to organize social activities.
- Attend as many social activities as possible to help organize the activities and social gatherings. (In the event that the Communications person is unable to attend, another Board member will be designated to attend.)
- Reach out to new members to get to know them and encourage them in their participation.
- Communicate to members and help organize all special meetings requiring co-op members to be in attendance.
- Manage the Cornerstone Cooperative Facebook page.

Other Managing Members:

The Purpose of the Additional Members:

- will be to keep balance amongst the Advisory Board.
- is to create a 5th or 7th necessary member on the Board in order to facilitate a majority vote on Co-op business.
- will be to perform the duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the consensus of the Advisory Board. These could include, but are not limited to, missions, ministry, website management, tech support, new member liaison, social gatherings, class schedules, and applications.
- The Additional Board members may be nominated by any member of Cornerstone Cooperative and elected by the majority of co-op members.

Section 5: Appointments

5.1) Cornerstone Cooperative is owned and operated by its members. Therefore, members of the Advisory Board will be appointed through a majority vote by all current full co-op members who have been full members for a minimum of one full semester.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

5.2) Each attending adult member will count as one single vote. One family may have up to two votes if both adults in the household attend and participate in the co-op on a weekly basis.

5.3) Near the end of each spring semester, by March 1st, all Advisory Board Members shall notify the Board of their intent to continue as part of the Board for the following year.

5.4) For any Board member who wishes to continue serving on the Board the following school year, all co-op members will vote to determine whether or not current Board members will remain or be replaced for the following school year. This meeting shall take place during the first regular co-op meeting in April. The exact day shall be determined annually by the Board.

5.5) Should the majority of co-op members vote out any Advisory Board member or should any Board member wish to step down, an additional meeting shall be held in May, on the last day of co-op, to elect someone to fill the position/s.

5.6) Anyone who wishes can nominate another person to fill an empty Board Member position. Members can nominate themselves. Nominations must be submitted no later than five (5) days before the last day of co-op, when members will vote. After nomination, a vetting process will commence in order to allow the nominated person on the ballot.

5.7) A candidate may run for only one (1) position per election. At the May meeting prior to the vote, candidates will share their reasons for desiring to be considered for an Advisory Board position. Elections will be conducted by secret ballot and counted by Board members not subject to reelection. In the event all Board positions are subject to election, three (3) current members will be appointed to count ballots. The newly elected Board members shall take office thirty (30) days after election. If there are no candidates for a position, nominations will be taken at the first co-op meeting of the fall semester.

5.8) The term of each Board Member shall be one year but can continue indefinitely, for as long as they receive the majority vote by the members of the co-op.

Section 6: Powers

The Advisory Board will have the power to:

6.1) make decisions regarding the necessary and proper operation of Cornerstone Cooperative. These decisions will be determined by simple majority vote of the Advisory Board.

6.2) formulate, amend, and delete the day-to-day Policies and Procedures of the co-op and shall inform the members.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

6.3) expel or suspend members.

6.4) collect fees from members in order to sustain said membership in Cornerstone Cooperative.

Section 7: Delegation of Authority

8.1) The Advisory Board may delegate to one or more of its members, to any of its agents, or to any of its committees such powers and duties as it may deem appropriate and proper.

8.2) The Board may appoint committees composed of Board members and other Cornerstone members to address particular issues such as fundraising, membership, and program committees. Such committees shall be limited to investigating and evaluating issues assigned and making a report to the Board with recommendations concerning possible actions or inactions.

8.3) No committee shall have any power to: fill vacancies on the Board, adopt, amend, or repeal the by-laws, amend or repeal any resolution of the Board, or act on matters committed by the bylaws or the resolution of the Board to another committee of the Board.

8.3) Each member of the Advisory Board 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 Advisory Board.

8.4) Mid-year vacancies on the Board shall be filled by recommendation of the Board and approval by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, that appointed person shall remain on the Board only until the end of the school year, when a new Board member will be voted in by the majority of full co-op members.

Section 8: Removal

9.1) Any Board member may be removed from his position on the Board for cause by unanimous consent of the other Board members.

9.2) Any Board member may be removed from his position on the Board by a majority of full co-op members.

9.2) Any committee member may be removed from his position for cause by majority consent of the Board.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held at times and places established by the Board and shall be held at least quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October, at such time and place as the Board shall direct, or at the call of any two (2) other members of the board at the place, date, and time specified. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Board from meeting more frequently than quarterly. In the event of a conflict of the majority of the Board members, the board may move the regular meeting back or forward no more than one (1) week on any day of the week available to the majority of the Board.

Section 2: Quorum

2.1) Sixty percent (60%) of the duly elected Advisory Board shall constitute a quorum and a simple majority of the Board members in attendance in all meetings shall in the presence of a quorum decide its action.

2.2) The Board, in absence of a quorum, may choose to meet or adjourn until a later date. However, without a quorum, no vote may be taken.

2.3) Any issues arising outside of board meetings may be discussed and voted on via electronic means. (i.e. Facebook group, text messaging, e-mail).

Section 3: Special Meetings

Special meetings can be held at the discretion of the Board or when called for by a majority of the Board. A Notice of Special Meeting shall be communicated by practical means prior to the meeting date and shall include the topics to be considered. These topics shall be the main focus in the Special Meeting.

ARTICLE VI - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

- These By-Laws and Statement of Faith shall be adopted and thereafter amended only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority affirmative vote of the voting membership.
- The Board shall consider any amendment proposed by any member. Any amendment recommended as having due merit by two-thirds majority of the Board shall be presented to the general membership for vote. Proposed amendments shall be conveyed to the members in writing with a ballot.

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

ARTICLE VII - DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of Cornerstone Cooperative, the Board shall, after making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the co-op, dispose of all the assets in such a manner as to benefit a missions organization or similar non-profit organization, to that of Cornerstone Cooperative, of which shall be agreed upon by a 2/3 vote of the Advisory Board. This provision of the By-Laws is irrevocable and is not subject to amendment except necessary to designate the name of any transferee qualifying.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ADDENDUM

1. We believe the Bible alone to be the only divinely inspired and eternal Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. (Psalm 119:89, 152, Isaiah 40:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21)
2. We believe the Bible consisting of both the Old and New Testament is the only inspired, infallible authority, the Word of God, our only rule of faith and practice. We believe God spoke, using the words of men, to convey divine truth. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21).
3. We believe that there is but one God only, eternally co-existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are themselves co-eternal and co-equal. (Isaiah 44:6, Colossians 1:16-19)
4. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in the sufficiency of 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 affirm that all the fullness of God was revealed in Christ in bodily form. (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:35, Hebrews 1:3, 4:15, 1 Peter 2:24, Acts 1:9, Colossians 1:16-19, Revelation 19:11, 16)
5. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict and regenerate mankind, and to indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service. (John 16:7-14, Titus 3:5, I Corinthians 6:19, 12:13, Romans 8:14, Ephesians 5:18)
6. We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell, and that all those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord. Those who reject Jesus' free gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from the Lord. (Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:3, 5:22, 18:9, 25:31-34; Mark 9:42-49; Luke 12:5; John 3:18; Hebrews 12:23; I Peter 1:4; Revelation 14:10-11, 20:11-15)

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

7. We believe that all fell into sin through the disobedience of Adam, violating God's righteous requirements and His holy character both by nature and act. All are therefore lost, unable to justify ourselves before God. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:16-17, 3:6; Romans 3:10, 23, 5:12, 18)
8. We believe that salvation is the free gift of God given to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in Jesus Christ alone, as Savior and Lord, whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin. This free gift of salvation is not received by any personal works whatsoever. (Ephesians 2:8,9, Titus 3:5, John 1:12, 5:24, Romans 5:15, 6:23, 10:9-13, Acts 16:31)
9. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who repent, confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ and being born again by the Spirit. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 8:1:1; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)
10. We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which is His personal, visible return to Earth, in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless separation of the wicked (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:11-15).
11. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that all disciples are called to attend, worship and serve Him in a local congregation or fellowship that is part of His Body, the Church. (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Galatians 3:26, 28)
12. We believe that life begins at conception and all life is sacred. From the moment of conception, each bears His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception, through natural death. We therefore defend, protect and value all human life. (Genesis 1:26, 28; 5:1, 2, Psalms 139:13-14)
13. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person being contrary to God's revealed will and good design for His creation. Attempts to physically alter or disagree with one's predetermined biological sex, including but not limited to: elective sex reassignment, transvestite, transgender, or non-binary "gender-queer" acts or conduct is prohibited and sinful. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
14. We believe that God created two genders: male and female. We believe and trust in God's design over our gender at birth. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 5:2, Matthew 19:4-5)
15. We believe that marriage, by divine design from the beginning of creation, is only between one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

Bible. It is intended to be an enduring covenantal relationship which reflects Christ's own unconditional commitment to the Church, and is intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, we affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from all same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered. We believe that all other types of unions and sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, prostitution, and use of pornography, polygamy, polyamory, etc.) is sinful and offensive to God, and goes against God's good design and purposes for His creation. (Genesis 1:27, 2:24, Exodus 20:14, Matthew 19:4-8, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Corinthians 7:10-14, Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 Timothy 1:8-11, Hebrews 13:4, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)

16. We hold as belief and conviction that children are given by God as a stewardship to the parent and not the state, and that parents have the wherewithal and authority to teach and educate their own children. (Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Ephesians 6:4, Psalms 127:3-5)

17. We do not believe in extra biblical texts as holding any authority as the inspired Word of God outside the 66 canonized books in the Old and New Testaments. (2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 30:5-6)

18. We do not believe in praying to the saints or any other person than to God the Father through Jesus Christ His only Son. (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, Matthew 6:9)

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

Signed and adopted by Advisory Board Members on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022

Statement of Faith revised on January 22nd, 2023 to add #14, #17 and #18

CORNERSTONE COOPERATIVE
ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

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