

H.O.P.E. Committee Bi-Laws

Harmony, Organization, Prayer, Encouragement
Advisory Board for Tri-City Home Educators
Adopted in 2009

Member Make-up

The HOPE Committee is comprised of at least 5, but preferably 7 couples. (An odd number is suggested to avoid tied votes.) Husbands and wives share one vote. Husbands attending meetings are greatly encouraged, but not required.

The HOPE Members should be comprised of varied levels of homeschool experience, age/grades of children, and length of membership in TCHE. This allows for a balance of opinions on topics pertaining to the families of the whole group.

If the group continues to grow to near one hundred families, it is suggested that the committee grow to nine couples/members. Likewise, if the group continues to grow beyond that and does not make a geographical division, it is suggested that this committee continue to gradually grow in order to better represent the group. (One couple for approximately every ten to twelve families represented.) All HOPE Members have a term limit of 3 years.

These positions are automatic members of the HOPE Committee:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer (limit of 3 years on Committee regardless of term length as Treasurer)

Any Former President/Leader or Co-Leader (only one per year is required)

Positions 5- 7 (or more) are open for appointment

Duties and Responsibilities

The HOPE Committee is responsible for all guidelines, policies, and major decisions for our group. Although it is the President(s) that makes the day-to-day decisions, even those actions are subject to the approval and reversal of this committee. This committee should meet at least twice a year to review established policies and evaluate the need for others. Special meetings may be called occasionally should the need arise. Groups, clubs, and events should also be assessed at least once a year to be sure that they are in keeping with group guidelines. This committee is also responsible for reviewing and inspecting the budget of the group each year. Whereas, the Treasurer reports directly to the Presidents for day-to-day expenses, the Treasurer is ultimately accountable to the HOPE Committee for all financial transactions. It is desired that HOPE members be active in attending various events within the group so as to be aware of its happenings. This also allows them to meet and be an encouragement to members who may be struggling for whatever reason. All HOPE members are to be praying for our group and its members on a regular basis.

Appointment of Members

Volunteers for all positions are encouraged. When open positions still exist on the HOPE Committee, appointments will be made. HOPE members are responsible for nominating all positions or presenting a list of volunteers. The committee members will then approve or disapprove those nominations and any volunteers by a unanimous vote. The positions of President and Vice-President will be made by the current committee members. This vote should be a unanimous decision. If a unanimous vote cannot be attained after 3 votes, that nominee is removed from consideration for position. All positions should be voted on only after time of prayer.

Removal of Presidents or Treasurers

Disciplinary action will be taken with a President or Treasurer when she/he begins to act in violation of our group guidelines or fails to properly perform functions required by that position. The first step will be disciplinary action based on Matthew 18:15-17. The severity of the mistake or behavior will determine the

number of opportunities given for repentance and correction; but three is the maximum. A President or Treasurer must be removed by a unanimous vote.

Removal of HOPE Members

When a member of the HOPE Committee begins to act in violation of our group guidelines, the first step will be disciplinary action based on Matthew 18:15-17. If the member does not repent and correct stated actions, the other members will vote on his/her status. The outcome will be based on a majority vote, with the Vice-President (Treasurer if the VP is in the one in question) holding the last vote only in the case of a tie. That member will then be replaced by appointment as listed above.

Replacement of Entire HOPE Committee*

The HOPE Committee is given great authority over the future of our group. With great authority comes the possibility for great corruption. It is imperative that no future committee be allowed to remove or alter our Christian foundation. It is also not desired that this committee become a “body of buddies” making decisions for themselves and not considering the needs of the other member families. Therefore, the need exists to determine protocol for the replacement of an entire HOPE Committee. May the Lord watch over us and may it never be needed!

Based on Matthew 18:15-17, if any member(s) of our group ever has issues or concerns about any HOPE member, they should first approach that individual. If the issue remains unresolved, they should ask another HOPE member to make arrangements to attend and speak at a HOPE meeting. (A special meeting can be called for this if one is not already planned.)

Although gossip is never encouraged; poor leaders have a way of laying the groundwork for it. If it seems that at least half the group is concerned about the conduct of the HOPE Committee, then those within that group should contact OCHEC for further advice. We are an OCHEC affiliated group and they will step in to help mediate any major disputes.

A special group-wide meeting should be set and advertised in the newsletter allowing all members the chance to attend and vote on the issue(s) at hand. At least one OCHEC Trustee should attend and mediate/lead this meeting. This meeting will allow the objecting half of the group to state their concern(s), as well as, the HOPE members a chance to defend their position(s). It is preferred that all issues will be understood and corrected at this meeting. A follow-up meeting may be necessary at the discretion of OCHEC or the objecting group.

If the HOPE Committee and the objecting group cannot come to an agreement, and if the OCHEC Trustee(s) agree that the HOPE Committee is acting against our group’s established guidelines or altering our Christian foundation, a removal vote will be called. At this meeting, it will be decided if only certain HOPE members are to be voted on or the entire committee. A member or a committee can be voted out by a three-fourths vote of the attending group members. Husbands and wives share one vote. (HOPE members do NOT get a vote.)

In order to not leave the group without leadership, new members should be voted in at that same meeting.

We cannot foresee the future and pray that this protocol is never needed. However, should the need arise to contact OCHEC for mediation, please defer to their wisdom and allow them to alter this based on the needs of the group at the time.

* Note: This means a major upheaval and strain to the group as a whole and should be considered only as a last means of correcting corruption or repeated ill decision-making. This should be implemented only after a great time of prayer and seeking OCHEC trustees for wisdom first. Even if a replacement vote does not pass, the tension will remain in the group and may still lead to a group split. Proceed with prayer and caution!