



THE JAMES MADISON ACADEMY

For Educational Freedom

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Core Values - "Scientia Virtus et Libertas"

Knowledge: We believe that the pursuit of knowledge is never-ending and we set the foundation for students to be lifelong learners.

Virtue: We believe knowledge alone does not make a good citizen. The shaping of a student's heart is more important than the shaping of their mind.

Liberty: We believe that liberty is necessary for citizens to live and participate in a free and just republic.

1. PURPOSE

The James Madison Academy for Educational Freedom is a parent lead, faith based, home schooling support group which offers a wide variety of classes through a "hybrid" drop off co-op program, family oriented field trips and events, home schooling support meetings, and fellowship with likeminded believers in Christ. The Academy was originated by local parents whom were determined to find an alternative educational choice for their children that would provide a classical American educational experience with a Christian foundation. Students are free to interact, socialize and play in a safe, supportive environment so they can reach their fullest potential. The Academy was founded on a core conservative philosophy with a fundamental belief in freedom, as guaranteed by the US Constitution, guided by traditional Christian teachings and values. Our ultimate goal is to assist and support our member families in their pursuits towards home schooling excellence. We believe every family has the legal and constitutional right to home educate in NYS.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership is open to all families homeschooling or considering homeschooling. Members should understand the Christian, constitutional orientation of the Academy.
- b. Applications for family membership must be approved by the Academy Leadership.
- c. All new members are required to read the NYS LEAH Statement of Faith (as adopted 6/2019), Organizational Bylaws and Core Values. By signing the Academy membership form, all members agree to respect, affirm, honor and comply to all tenants of the above referenced documents.
- d. The Academy leadership reserves the right to dismiss any member whom The Board of Directors determines has not honored the NYS LEAH Statement of Faith (as adopted 6/2019), Organizational Bylaws and/or Core Values or has harmed the testimony of the Lord

Jesus Christ, home education, the Bible as the word of God and/or the founding documents of the United States and/or The Academy.

- e. Families considering membership and visitors are welcome to visit any or all of the monthly meetings and may attend social events as a guest of an Academy member. Only Academy members can participate in organized Academy events that require insurance, such as structure educational programs, field trips, etc.

3. MEMBERSHIP DUES & BUDGET

A. Membership dues/program fees entitle homeschooling families to membership in both the Academy and NYS LEAH. These dues cover various expenses associated with the Academy. Should a family already be a member of NYS LEAH through membership in another LEAH chapter, the Academy portion of the membership dues must still be paid to participate in Academy activities. Please refer to the current "MEMBERSHIP DUES/PROGRAM FEES" information sheet for the exact amount owed, due dates and other program information. Academy leadership will create a yearly budget and spending plan, available for review by Academy membership at anytime.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Academy will be under the direction and guidance of the Board of Directors. Leadership will consist of Chapter Leader, Vice President(s), Field Trip/Events Coordinator, Treasurer, Secretary and Advisor. Offices may be filled by individuals or couples. Two or more individuals from different families may split the duties of an office.

- a. Chapter Leader(s) - Acts as liaison between the Academy (Chapter) and NYS LEAH by maintaining contact with Regional Representatives of NYS LEAH. Represents the Academy (Chapter) at all NYS LEAH functions. Responsible for the overall functioning of the Academy (Chapter). Prepares for and leads all Board Meetings and the Annual Meeting. Represents the Academy (Chapter) with other local LEAH chapters in coordinating common programs. Approval of the Chapter Leader subject to the NYS LEAH Board approval per NYS LEAH Bylaws.
- b. Vice President For Operations - Prepares for and leads monthly membership meetings, responsible for membership records/database, updates membership lists via website, administers website information/press information/public information, provides oversight to operational budget, coordinates supply/equipment purchases, acts as liaison with host church.
- c. Vice President for Educational Programming- Responsible for educational programs for the organization to include program development, class/course selection, teacher recruitment/scheduling, class flow/arrangement, facility coordination and curriculum development.
- d. Field Trip/Events Coordinator-plans special events and field trips, develops budgets, acquires necessary supplies and coordinates logistics.
- e. Treasurer - Collects dues/program fees from each member family, keeps records of expired memberships, sends dues to Regional Representatives, updates memberships on NYS LEAH member website, keeps financial records, and provides quarterly financial reports at monthly meetings or upon request of Chapter Leadership. The Treasurer has authority to spend chapter funds upon decision of the Chapter Leadership. Will provide an annual financial report for fiscal year July 1- June 30 listing income, expenses, and cash balance on hand to the NYS Regional Representative for this Chapter.
- f. Secretary/Fundraiser Coordinator - Takes notes at monthly meetings and leadership meetings, writes and distributes monthly newsletter via website, e-mail and/or regular mail, purchases stamps, paper, etc. as needed for publishing.

- g. Advisor (ex officio, non-voting board member) - A seasoned homeschool parent who will attend monthly meetings, and act as an advisor to the leadership team and LEAH group on matters that affect our local LEAH Chapter.
- h. At Large Board Members - At the discretion of the Board.

5. ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- a. Elections shall be by a majority (greater than 50%) vote of members (every adult of member families) present at the Annual Meeting. Elections shall be by secret ballot unless there are no contested nominations.
- b. The term of office shall be from July 1st to June 30th.
- c. There is no maximum number of terms an officer shall be permitted to serve.
- d. In the event that an officer resigns during his/her term, the Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint an interim officer to fill the vacant position.

Section 2: Qualifications All prospective members of the JMA Board must:

- JMA Chapter Leader must be approved by Loving Education at Home, Inc and agree to Loving Education at Home, Inc's Bylaws.
- All Board members and prospective Board members shall agree to read, understand, and agree to the Loving Education at Home, Inc's Statement of Faith.
- Board members are allowed to have dual roles.
- All Board members and prospective Board members must be presently homeschooling.
- All Board members and prospective Board members must agree to JMAs By-laws.
- All Board members and prospective Board members must be members of JMA.
- All Board members and prospective Board members shall be supportive of JMAs christian and constitutional foundation and shall support JMAs purpose.
- All Board members are accountable to the members of the JMA .
- All Board members shall be residents of New York.

Section 3: Removal of a Board Member

If an issue arises with a board member, a grievance will be submitted to the full JMA board. The board is required to discuss the grievance in a timely manner and will present a resolution to be voted upon. A removal of board member must be 2/3rd vote of the present board members.

6. DISSOLUTION

Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors a petition to dissolve shall be submitted to the NYS LEAH Regional Representative. Upon approval of NYS LEAH, this chapter may be dissolved and its activities closed. After payment of all bills and proper claims, remaining assets shall be disposed of in cash or in kind by transfer to a similar home education organization, the home church, or a religious organization approved by NYS LEAH, or by transfer to NYS LEAH.

7. MEETINGS

- a. The Annual Meeting of Academy shall be in May. The business of the Annual Meeting shall be the election of the officers, adoption of the amendments to the bylaws, determination of membership dues, budget review and other business.

b. Special Meetings may be called by the Academy Leadership ; or if 10 members petition Leadership with a proposed agenda, Leadership shall call a Special Meeting within 30 days. A Notice of Special Meeting shall be mailed or emailed to all members at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date and shall include the topics to be considered. Only these topics shall be dealt with in the Special Meeting.

8. AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

- a. Amendments may be proposed by any member at a regular meeting.
- b. Proposed amendments shall be distributed to the membership at least 2 weeks prior to an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for the purpose.
- c. Amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting. Changes are subject to the approval of NYS LEAH.

9. PROVISIONS FOR THE IRS 501 (c) (3) CLASSIFICATION UNDER THE NYS LEAH UMBRELLA

- a. The James Madison Academy for Educational Freedom is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and / or scientific purposes under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code.
- b. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on of propaganda, or participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.
- c. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to state or local government, for a public purpose.
- d. The James Madison Academy for Educational Freedom fiscal year will operate on the same fiscal year as NYS LEAH, which is July 1st to June 30th. An annual financial report listing income, expenses, and cash balance on hand shall be provided to the NYS Regional Representative for this Chapter.

Adopted/Amended July 7, 2022

Appendix One: NYS LEAH STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our Statement of Faith includes only those truths upon which all true Christians agree. It concerns the Authority of Scripture, Deity of Christ, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) as revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 2, Ephesians 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a

statement of all that is important to believe, but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity.
(Romans 15:1-7).

We affirm the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal or practical differences which may exist, outside of the following, should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

Section 2. We believe:

1. The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
4. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
5. That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
6. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
7. (a) That God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, members must affirm their (and all others) biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
8. (a) That God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal "one flesh" union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, members must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2)
9. (a) That the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated by Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25) God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
10. (a) That any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to: adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.)
11. That the term "family" means either a married couple as defined above who are usually blessed with one or more biological and/or adopted children or grandchildren; or a single adult with one or more biological and/or adopted children or grandchildren.