

# Thrive Constitution

## PREAMBLE

For the purposes deemed wise and good, hereinafter set forth, this organization is hereby established submitting itself to be by, and dedicating itself to uphold the following constitution.

## ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 – The name of this organization shall be Thrive

## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1 – The purpose of Thrive is to provide students with a small group setting that is a safe place to discuss relevant topics from the Bible in an informal setting for people of all kinds of backgrounds whether Christian or not.

Section 2 – Our mission is to show and encourage students that the Bible can be applied to everyday life issues that college students are challenged with through informal discussion.

Section 3 – The Statement of Faith of the Thrive organization will be:

There is one true God who reveals himself to the world as The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus, the Son of God, is our one and only Lord and Savior, crucified for our sins and physically resurrected from the dead on the third day. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15)

The Bible is the only written message of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

A person is saved by the grace of God and the blood of Jesus Christ. A person must, through faith and obedience, reach out to receive this free gift of salvation. (Ephesians 1:1-10; James 2:14-26)

As with the first Christians, when a person repents and is baptized their sins are forgiven and the Holy Spirit begins to work in their life. (Acts 2:36-41; Romans 8:5-11)

When a person responds by faith, they are added to Christ's Church. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

After baptism every new Christian needs to be taught or "discipled" by another Christian to obey all of Jesus' teachings (Matthew 28:20)

Every Christian must be committed to the vision of making disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20)

### ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1 – As a Registered Student Organization at the University of Houston we adhere to the University of Houston’s Non-Discrimination Policy. The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. The university provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status except where such distinction is required by law. Additionally, the System prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.**

Section 2 – Regular membership shall consist of those students of the University of Houston and well as members of the community, and alumni who have agreed to uphold this Constitution and to participate fully in the activities of this organization.

A. Regular members shall have the right to vote.\

Section 3 – Special membership shall consist of those persons who have not fulfilled the requirements of Article III, Section 1 or 2. (Note: Special members might consist of alumni or members of the community).

- A. Special members shall not have the right to vote unless approved by the Leadership of the organization (President, Vice-President, and Officers).

#### Section 4 – **Thrive Philosophy Regarding Hazing**

- Thrive believes that true human development can best occur in an atmosphere of social and ethical responsibility.
- Thrive views responsible pre-initiation activity as a positive educational approach to preparation for student organization membership.
- Thrive views hazing activities as not contributing to the positive development or welfare of the individual.
- Therefore, Thrive recognizes acts of hazing as irresponsible, intolerable and inconsistent with the principles of higher education and basic human development and may be illegal.

**This organization will not initiate, participate in, or be witness to any act that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s).**

#### ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 – The officers of this organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and shall collectively be referred to as the Executive Board.

Section 2 – The responsibilities of the President shall be as follows:

- A. To preside at meetings of this organization
- B. To serve as the representative of this organization to University Administration, the Student Government Association, and other organizations
- C. To execute the orders of this organization, subject to the approval of the membership
- D. To appoint chairpersons and members of all committees, subject to the approval of the membership

- E. To delegate Presidential responsibilities when deemed appropriate, subject to the approval of the membership
- F. To have signature authority on all checks issued by this organization
- G. To inform succeeding officers of their responsibilities to this organization, University Administration, the Student Government Association, and other organizations
- H. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify
- I. To uphold the Statement of Faith and Purpose

Section 3 – The responsibilities of the Vice-President shall be as follows:

- A. To assist the President in his/her duties
- B. To preside at meetings of this organization in the absence of the President
- C. To establish, administer, and enforce an attendance policy, subject to the approval of the membership
- D. To assume the office of President in his/her absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal
- E. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify
- F. To uphold the Statement of Faith and Purpose

Section 4 – The responsibilities of the Secretary shall be as follows:

- A. To prepare agendas and to record minutes of meetings of this organization
- B. To handle all correspondence of this organization not under the preview of the President
- C. To pick up all mail received at the Center for Student Involvement at least once a week, in addition to any other location at which mail for this organization may be delivered
- D. To maintain an accurate list of the membership of this organization
- E. To update and maintain all files of this organization
- F. To assume the office of Vice-President in his/her absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal

- G. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify
- H. To uphold the Statement of Faith and Purpose

Section 5 – The responsibilities of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

- A. To keep accurate records of the financial status and transactions of this organization
- B. To receive and disburse all monies of this organization
- C. To have signature authority on all checks issued by this organization
- D. To hold personal responsibility for all organization funds in his/her possession
- E. To represent this organization when requesting funds from the Activities Funding Board
- F. To assume the office of Secretary in his/her absence, vacancy, resignation, or dismissal
- G. To perform other such duties as the membership or Constitution may specify
- H. To uphold the Statement of Faith and Purpose

## ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Candidates for any office of this organization must be Regular Members (or Regular Voting Members), thus being students of the University of Houston.

Section 2 - The Election Group will consist of at least two members of the Leadership Group and at least two other leaders who the Leadership Group chooses. There may be a Thrive advisor who can be a non-voting member of the Election Group.

Section 3 - The Election Group will receive recommendations for new leaders from members of the organization.

Section 4 - The Election Group will be responsible to see that all potential leaders support the promotion of the organization's Statement of Faith and Purpose Statement.

Section 5 - The Election Group will present the organization with the names of the new leaders a week before the monthly meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI – REMOVAL

Section 1 – Any officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership or if the president and officers have come to a common and unanimous decision.

Section 2 – In case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 3 – A vacancy of any office shall be filled by Presidential appointment, subject to the approval of the membership.

#### ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Meetings of the Fall and Spring semester for Bible study group and prayer will be held at times decided by the members. Small group bible discussion will be held weekly.

Section 2 – Special meetings shall be called at the discretion of the President upon the request of any five voting members of this organization.

Section 3 – The President shall have the authority to modify the meeting calendar as benefits majority of the schedules of voting members of this organization.

Section 4 – Other meetings for the discussion and presentation of matters pertaining to the life and purposes of the organization will be held as time warrants.

## ARTICLE VIII – RULES OF PROCEDURE

Section 1 – This organization shall use Robert’s Rules of Order, current edition, as its authority on parliamentary procedure.

### Section 2 – Quorum

- A. One more than half the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
- B. No business shall be conducted without the presence of a quorum.

Section 3 – Business shall be decided by majority vote.

Section 4 – All references to voting or approval of the membership of this organization refers to voting membership except where specified.

## ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – One or more voting members of this organization may author an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 2 - This constitution will be adopted with a general consensus of the leadership of the organization

Section 3 - This constitution may be amended by a general consensus of the leadership, providing that no change is made in Article II Section 3.

Section 4 – The amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for review and recommendation concerning legality, punctuation, placement, and word order.

Section 5 – At the next meeting following the acceptance of an amendment, updated copies of this Constitution shall be given to each voting member.

**Anti-Hazing Clause:**

Students and Student Organizations are prohibited from initiating, participating in, or being witness to hazing activity. Hazing is antithetical to the University’s commitment to a positive educational environment. Participation in hazing activities is against the law. Violation of the University’s hazing policy, whether on or off-campus, may subject participants, including students and organizations, to arrest, prosecution and/or disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion of students and the revocation of an organization’s registration and/or recognition at the University. Consent to or acquiescence in hazing activity is not a defense. The University strictly prohibits participation in hazing activities by any party, regardless of the existence of consent. Hazing activities do not contribute to the positive development or welfare of students. The University of Houston recognizes the act of hazing as illegal, irresponsible, intolerable and inconsistent with the principles of higher education and basic human development. For more information on the University’s Hazing Policy please visit the Student Life Policies section of the University of Houston Student Handbook.

**Non-Discrimination Clause:**

The University of Houston provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, sex (including gender and pregnancy), genetic information, religion, age (over 40), national origin, ethnicity, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity or status, gender expression, or any other legally protected status except where such distinction is required by law. This statement reflects compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and all other federal and state regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/2022 (month/year)