

Bylaws of the Louisville Chapter of the Religion Communicators Council



Article 1 Organization

- Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Louisville Chapter of the Religion Communicators Council.
- Section 2. The organization shall have a seal, which shall be kept by the national office.
- Section 3. The organization may, at its pleasure by a vote of the membership body, change its name.
- The By-Laws of the National Office are binding on all Chapter By-Laws, and Chapter By-Laws shall not conflict with national organization By-Laws

Article 2 Purpose

- The purposes of the Louisville Chapter of the Religion Communicators Council are:
 - a. To provide an environment for the exchange of ideas and the discussion of mutual concerns among professional religion communicators.
 - b. To encourage excellence and accountability among professional religion communicators.
 - c. To provide continuing education opportunities and support for religion communicators.
 - d. To recognize achievements of Religion Communicators Council members and the secular media.
 - e. To encourage individuals to become professional religion communicators.
 - f. To build among Religion Communicators Council members an understanding and appreciation of diverse faith groups.
 - g. To support understanding and acceptance of religious faith and faith communities.

Article 3 Membership

- Section 1. All membership applications will be processed by the national office. Membership questions will be resolved by the Board of Governors.
- Section 2. Membership shall be in one of the following categories:
 - a. **Professional.** Any person who devotes a major portion of his/her service in professional public relations or communications activities to any religious communion, organization or related agency duly accredited by the Board of Governors, is eligible for Professional Membership.

b. **Associate.** Any person demonstrating interest in the Council and its activities who spends half working time or less, or is a volunteer, in religion related public relations or communications, is eligible for Associate Membership.

c. **Honorary.** Any person may be selected to Honorary Membership by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Governors in recognition of distinguished achievement or contribution in the field of religion communication.

c. **Life.** A Professional Member, after reaching retirement age, having been a member for ten years and having made significant contributions, upon nomination by a local chapter, may be selected to Life Membership by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Governors. Members-at-Large may be nominated by the Board of Governors. All rights and privileges of Professional Membership are continued for Life Members.

e. **Fellows.** The officially designated representatives of the organization winning awards were bestowed the title of Fellow of the Religious Public Relations Council prior to 1985.

f. **Students.** Any student who is interested in the Council and its purposes is eligible for Student Membership. This category of membership carries no voting privilege.

g. **Retired.** Professional members in good standing who, at the time of their retirement, wish to continue their membership in the Council. All rights and privileges of Professional membership are continued in this category.

h. **Sustaining.** Any Professional member in good standing becomes a lifetime member with a \$1,500 contribution to RCC.

- Section 3. The Chapter may maintain a list of prospects or friends to be invited to meetings.

Article 4 Chapter Meetings

- Section 1. Chapter meetings shall be held monthly or on another regular schedule as determined by the Chapter officers.
- Section 2. Other regular meetings may be provided and special meetings may be called as indicated in Section 5 of this article.
- Section 3. The President, with the advice and consent of the officers, shall appoint a Nominating Committee not less than 28 days before the annual meeting to present nominations at this meeting.
- Section 4. Not less than twenty-five percent of those qualified to vote shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary for the purposes of electing officers or changing the By-Laws of the Chapter.
- Section 5. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President or at the request of five (5) members of the Chapter, or at least one-third the membership of the Chapter. Notice of such meetings shall be mailed to all members at their addresses as they appear on the membership roll, at least 10 days, before the scheduled date set for such special meeting. Such notice shall state the reasons that such meeting has been called, the business to be transacted at such meeting and by whom called. No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at such special meeting without the unanimous consent of all present at such meeting.
- Section 6. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of meetings in all matters not covered by the Charter and Bylaws.

Article 5 Voting

- Section 1. Only current dues-paying members have the privilege of voting.
- Section 2. At all meetings, votes may be by voice or written ballot. Written ballots may be called for by two-thirds of those voting on any particular issue.
- Section 3. At any regular or special meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted upon as in Section 2.
- Section 4. At all votes by ballot the chairperson of such meeting shall, immediately prior to the commencement of balloting, appoint a committee of three which shall act as "Inspectors of Election" and which shall, at the conclusion of such balloting, certify in writing to the chairperson the results, and a certified copy shall be physically affixed to the minutes of the meeting.
No inspector of election shall be a candidate for office or have a personal interest in the question voted upon.

Article 6 Order of Business

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting.
- 3. Reports of the officers
- 4. Old and unfinished business
- 5. Reports of committees
- 6. New business
- 7. Adjournment

Article 7 Officers

- Section 1. The business of this Chapter shall be managed by Officers that may include president, vice president for membership, vice president for programming, vice president for publicity, and treasurer.
- Section 2. The Officers shall be elected to a two-year term of office at an annual meeting. They shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. The out-going president shall serve one additional year with the newly elected executive officers.
- Section 3. A Nominating Committee shall bring a slate of Officers to the annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor by any qualified voting member of the Council.
- Section 4. Should a vacancy occur in any office, the Officers are empowered to appoint a successor. Officers changing their professional classifications during their term of office may complete their term of service.
- Section 5. The duties of the officers shall be as stated in Robert's Rules of Order and as designated by the Officers.
- Section 6. President. The President shall preside at all meetings.
- Section 7. Vice President. A Vice President shall in the absence or inability of the President to exercise his/her office, become acting president of the organization, with all the rights, privileges and powers of this office.
- Section 8. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have oversight of all monies belonging to the Chapter and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the organization. The Treasurer may be one of the officers who shall sign checks or drafts of the organization. The Treasurer shall render at stated periods, as the Officers shall determine, a written account of the finances of the organization and such report shall be physically affixed to the minutes of each meeting. The Treasurer shall exercise all duties

incident to the office of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall submit information for the annual report requested by the National Office.

- Section 9. Other Duties. The Chapter may choose to elect Chairpersons for any other Chapter duties the Officers determine.

Article 8 Committees

- Section 1. All committees of this Chapter shall be appointed by the President
- Section 2. Special committees may be established to accomplish specific tasks within a specific time period.

Article 9 Dues and Fiscal Policies

- Section 1. The Chapter is authorized to set annual Chapter dues to be collected upon renewal of national membership.
- Section 2. The fiscal year of the Council shall be from January 1 through December 31.
- Section 3. Annual dues of the Council shall be paid by Professional, Associate, Student and Retired members. There shall be no national dues for Honorary, Life or Fellow members. The Chapter may charge dues to any member if it so pleases.
- Section 4. Dues shall be payable in advance upon admission to membership. Members in arrears in dues more than a year shall be dropped. Members in arrears in dues at the time of the national or chapter business meetings shall not be given voting privileges and will be charged guest registration fees established by the Chapter bylaws unless dues are paid at the time of registration.
- Section 5. The Officers shall vote on the annual budget for the coming fiscal year no later than two months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The Officers may also amend the budget from time to time by a two-thirds vote.

Article 10 Publications

- Section 1. The official publication of the Chapter shall be _____.
- Section 2. The _____ normally shall be published at least monthly/quarterly and delivered by mail or e-mail.
- Section 3. All members who have paid dues are automatically subscribers, said dues being taken to include a subscription to the _____.
- Section 4. A Chapter Membership Directory shall be issued periodically as authorized by the Officers.

Article 11 Amendments

- These Bylaws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative two-thirds majority vote of the qualified voting members present at any business session; or by a two-thirds majority vote cast by mail within 30 days after the mailing of the ballots on a matter authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of the Officers, unless otherwise indicated in these Bylaws. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to all members in the call to meeting, which is not less than 10 days prior to the meeting.