



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Greater New Orleans Christian Academy, hereafter referred to as GNOCA.

ARTICLE II – Objectives

The objective of GNOCA shall be to maintain and operate a Christian school in harmony with the standards and principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in keeping with Biblical Christian beliefs established in 1895.

The school seeks to develop the whole person—mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually—by maintaining a curriculum that complies with the requirements of both the State of Louisiana and the Seventh-day Adventist Department of Education.

GNOCA does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, race, or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE III – Definition of Terms

- **Constituency:** The body of Seventh-day Adventist churches which operate GNOCA. Legal title to its assets is held in trust by the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists.
- **School Board:** The governing body of GNOCA.
- **Participating Church:** A Seventh-day Adventist church/group/company accepted by the Constituency which contributes a minimum of \$2,000 per year to the operating budget for the current school year.
- **Constituent Church:** A Seventh-day Adventist church/group/company whose financial participation is determined by Article IX.
- **Partner Church:** A Constituent and/or Participating Church.
- **Principal:** The Principal of GNOCA.
- **ARKLA:** The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- **ARKLA Superintendent of Schools:** The Superintendent of Schools of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.
- **Southwest Union:** The Southwest Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- **Fiscal Year:** The fiscal year of GNOCA shall run from July 1 to June 30.

ARTICLE IV – Constituency

1. Section 1: GNOCA was founded by the New Orleans First SDA Church (NOFSDA)
2. Section 2: Any duly organized SDA Church in the Greater New Orleans area may become a Partner Church by agreeing to comply with the Constitution. Requests require 2/3 School Board approval.
3. Section 3: Duties of Partner Churches include electing School Board members, assuming financial responsibility, and supporting the Home and School Association.
4. Section 4: Failure to meet obligations after three months results in loss of partnership and forfeiture of investment.

ARTICLE V – School Board Members

5. Section 1: The governing body shall be known as the School Board of GNOCA.
6. Section 2: Regular Members – Constituent Churches: up to 3; Participating Churches: 1. Ex-Officio Members include pastors, Principal, Treasurer, Home & School leaders, ARKLA superintendent, Union rep, and ARKLA officers.
7. Section 3: Elected members must be SDA in good standing, uphold ethics, not be employees or spouses of employees, and enroll their eligible children at GNOCA (unless exceptions approved).
8. Section 4: Vacancies due to resignation, transfer, etc. must be filled by the Partner Church.
9. Section 5: Absence without notice for 3 consecutive meetings constitutes vacancy.

ARTICLE VI – Meetings and Quorum

10. Section 1: At least 5 regular meetings annually. Dates set at first fiscal meeting. Notice 14 days for regular, 2 days for special meetings.
11. Section 2: Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Lead Home & School Leader, Treasurer) elected at first meeting.
12. Section 3: Constituents serve 3 years (staggered), Participating 1 year. Terms July 1–June 30.
13. Section 4: March meeting is annual Constituency Meeting with full school/financial reports.
14. Section 5–7: Quorum rules: 5 for regular, majority for special; remote attendance counts as present.

ARTICLE VII – Duties of Officers

15. Chairperson: Presides, represents, rotates between churches, 1-year term.
16. Vice-Chairperson: Assists, rotates, 1-year term.
17. Executive Secretary: Handles correspondence.
18. Treasurer: Manages funds, reports, 1-year term.
19. Principal: Executive Secretary, fulfills duties per Union Manual.
20. Home & School Leaders: Lead activities, fundraising, parent engagement.

ARTICLE VIII – Duties of the School Board

21. Organize at start of fiscal year, hold meetings, recommend faculty, foster Home & School, follow Union Manual.
22. May appoint committees accountable to the School Board.

ARTICLE IX – Financial Policy

- 23. Operating expenses from tuition and church contributions.
- 24. Preliminary budget due May 15 to churches.
- 25. Church contributions calculated by tithe and membership formula.
- 26. Capital improvements require NOFSDA vote.
- 27. Maintenance: NOFSDA responsible for major repairs, GNOCA for misuse. Insurance by GNOCA; flood insurance may be waived by NOFSDA.

ARTICLE X – Amendments

- 28. Amendments must be recommended by the School Board and approved by NOFSDA.

ARTICLE XI – Ratification

- 29. Ratified by NOFSDA at duly called business meetings.

ARTICLE XII – Dissolution

- 30. Assets/liabilities apportioned by subsidy formula.
- 31. Property belongs to NOFSDA. Dissolution by 2/3 vote. Sale proceeds held in trust for up to 5 years for future school, then revert to NOFSDA.

ARTICLE XIII – Parliamentary Procedure

- 32. Robert's Rules of Order governs, unless in conflict with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV – Indemnification

- 33. School indemnifies Board members/administrators for expenses, except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- 34. Right of indemnification is not exclusive of other rights.