

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW  
OF THE  
SOCIETY OF ORTHODOX YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
MIDWEST REGION TEEN SOYO

AS ADOPTED AND AMENDED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
JUNE, 1992

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
SOCIETY OF ORTHODOX YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS'  
MIDWEST REGION TEEN SOYO

ARTICLE I

Section 1 -- THE NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Teen SOYO of Midwest Region and hereinafter referred to as the Teen SOYO.

Section 2 -- AUTHORITY

This organization derives its authority to function by virtue of the consent and blessings of his Eminence, the Most Reverend Metropolitan of the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese of North America, and under the guidance and supervision of the North American Council of Teen SOYO.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

Section 1

To promote among the young people of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, a complete devotion to the Holy Orthodox Church, its faith, canons and worship.

## Section 2

To encourage the young people of said Archdiocese to actively participate in the many functions and programs of said Archdiocese and to promote a deeper understanding of the Holy Orthodox Church.

## Section 3

To coordinate the religious and charitable works of the Teen SOYO , and activities thereof, of North American Council of Teen SOYO.

## ARTICLE III

### JURISDICTION

#### Section 1

The regional subdivision of the Teen SOYO shall be comprised of duly chartered chapters of the member churches of the Archdiocese, and they shall correspond geographically to the regional subdivisions of the North American Council of Teen SOYO, the sponsoring organization.

#### Section 2

The chartering of individual chapters of Teen SOYO shall be the prerogative of the regional subdivision.. Chapters being chartered, however, must conform to the provisions set forth in Article I and II of the By-Laws of Teen SOYO.

#### Section 3

In fulfilling the purposes set forth in Article II of this Constitution, the Midwest Region of Teen SOYO shall exercise governing and advisory authority over the Teen SOYO chapters comprising the Region. All regional chapters must accept and abide by the Provisions of its Constitution and By-Laws as adopted and accepted.

## ARTICLE IV

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1

Membership in the Midwest Region of Teen SOYO shall consist of all the local chapters as described in Article III, Section 1.

#### Section 2

Each local chapter shall be entitled to two (2) delegates to the Midwest SOYO Parish Life Conference, one of whom should be the chapter President.

#### Section 3

Any chapter which fails to conform to the Provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws as adopted and amended, or is involved in a serious breach of discipline which retards the progress of this organization and the fulfillment of its purposes as set forth in Article II, shall have its membership suspended in the manner prescribed by Article IV of the By-Laws.

## ARTICLE V

### OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

#### Section 1

The officers of Midwest Region of Teen SOYO shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. The authority and duty of each shall be as such as defined in the Constitution and By-Laws.

#### Section 2

Each officer shall be an active member in good standing of a chartered chapter of Teen SOYO of Midwest Region.

#### Section 3

All officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of Delegates in the manner prescribed by Article VIII of the By-Laws, after which they shall take office and serve for a period of one year, or until a successor is elected or installed.

#### Section 4

The Midwest Region of Teen SOYO, Spiritual Advisor, shall appoint, with the blessing of the Metropolitan, one adult Lay Advisor to the Midwest Region of Teen SOYO.

#### Section 5

The Metropolitan shall appoint a member of the clergy to serve as Spiritual Advisor to the Midwest Region of Teen SOYO.

## ARTICLE VI

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Section 1

There shall be an executive board composed of the officers as set out in Article V, Section 1 of this Constitution.

#### Section 2

The Executive Board with the advice of the Advisors as provided for in Article V, Sections 4 & 5, shall define the policies and shall have full administrative authority on all matters involving Teen SOYO. The Midwest Region of Teen SOYO, however, may amend or rescind any action of the Executive Board at its regular meetings or any special meeting called for the purpose of review of any of its actions.

#### Section 3

The interpretation of this Constitution and By-Laws by the executive Board shall be final and binding unless such interpretation be amended or rescinded at a subsequent meeting of the Midwest Region of Teen SOYO.

## ARTICLE VII

### FINANCE

#### Section 1

Each active chapter shall pay to this organization on or before June of each year, a fixed sum per active chapter which is chartered in its region. The amount to be paid per chapter shall be fixed at the meeting of this organization at which this Constitution is adopted and may subsequently be increased or decreased by a majority vote at any regular annual meeting at which a quorum is present.

#### Section 2

The contributions of the Local chapter as outlined in Section 1 of this Article, together with any other general contributions shall be deposited in the name of this organization and shall constitute its general fund.

## ARTICLE VIII

### MEETINGS

#### Section 1

The General Assembly of this organization shall be held once each calendar year at a time and a place coinciding with the Midwest Regional Parish Life Conference of SOYO.

#### Section 2

- A. Special meetings of this organization shall be called by the President upon request of two-thirds of the local chapters or the unanimous request of the Executive Board, but in all events with the advice of the Spiritual and Lay Advisors.
- B. The President, when calling a special meeting, under the provisions of paragraph A of this Section, shall set the time and place for such special meeting and shall notify all local chapters through their respective Presidents by certified mail no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for such a meeting.
- C. Spring and Fall Executive meetings shall be directed by the President to correspond to Spring and Fall meetings of Senior SOYO.

#### Section 3

The Executive Board shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the President, with the advice of the Spiritual and Lay Advisors. The President shall set the time and place for such meetings and notify all members of the Executive Board by certified mail no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of such a meeting.

## ARTICLE IX

### COMMITTEES

#### PERMANENT COMMITTEES

##### Section 1

Permanent committees shall be appointed by the President and shall perform such duties as specified in Article X of the By-Laws.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE

##### Section 2

On the advice of the Executive Board and the Spiritual and lay Advisors, the President may create and appoint such special committees as it is deemed necessary for any special purpose.

## ARTICLE X

##### Section 1

Ratification of this Constitution may be had by two-thirds majority of the local chapters present at the Regional Parish Life Conference.

## ARTICLE XI

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

##### Section 1

Any local chapter or any member of the Executive Board of Midwest Region may submit a proposed amendment to this constitution as adopted and amended, in a manner prescribed in the following sections of this article

##### Section 2

Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Recording Secretary of Midwest Region no less than sixty (60) days prior to the regular annual meeting of this organization.

##### Section 3

The Recording Secretary of Midwest SOYO shall send a copy of all proposed amendments to the Constitution conforming with the requirements as set forth in Section 1 & 2 of this Article, to the Spiritual and Lay Advisors, all members of the Executive Board of Midwest Region and all Presidents of the local chapters no later than thirty (30) days prior to the regular annual meeting of this organization.

##### Section 4

The President, on receipt of a proposed amendment to this Constitution, as adopted and amended, shall set the matter on the agenda of the next annual meeting.

## Section 5

At the next regular annual meeting of this organization, following the submission of a proposed amendment to this Constitution, and adopted and amended, where a quorum of the voting members is present, the proposed amendment may be adopted by two-thirds vote of the local chapters present and with the approval of the Spiritual and Lay Advisors.

BY-LAWS OF THE  
SOCIETY OF ORTHODOX YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS  
MIDWEST REGION TEEN SOYO

ARTICLE I  
REGIONAL SUBDIVISION

Section 1

The name of this organization shall be Midwest Region Teen SOYO of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Section 2

The officers of the Regional subdivisions shall be these designated by the Regional Constitution.

Section 3

Each regional subdivision shall hold one regular annual Parish Life Conference coinciding with the SOYO Regional Parish Life Conference.

Section 4

Regional subdivisions shall hold an election of officers once a year at their regular annual Parish Life Conference. These officers shall serve one year or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Section 5

The Secretary of each local chapter shall, within thirty (30) days, certify to the Secretary of the Midwest Teen SOYO the names and addresses of the officers elected to serve for the following year, together with the names and addresses of the local Lay and Spiritual Advisors.

Section 6

Each local President shall submit an annual written progress report of the local chapter to the Midwest Region of Teen SOYO.

ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

The membership of this organization shall consist of chapters whose members must be between the ages of 13 to 18, with a maximum limit of 19 years of age, who shall promise to abide by the Constitution of this organization and all the teachings of the Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church. Teenagers between the ages of 18 and 19 may be a member of Teen SOYO OR Senior SOYO, but under NO circumstances belong to both.

ARTICLE III

## ELECTIVE OFFICES AND DUTIES

### Section 1

The elected officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

### Section 2

The term of office shall be for a period of one year.

### Section 3

Elections shall be held at the annual Regional Parish Life Conference of Midwest Region.

### Section 4

A. Duties of the President shall be to preside at all the meetings of this organization and of its Executive Committee. He/She shall be responsible for the appointment of the various standing and special committees and shall require their reports in accordance with the agenda of the meeting. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian and Sergeant of Arms.

B. Duties of the Vice President shall be to preside in the absence of the President. He/She shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and confer either personally or by mail with the chairman thereof prior to regularly scheduled meetings of this organization.

C. The Recording Secretary shall keep all minutes of the business and executive committee meetings, a roll of the membership, and shall keep the official copy of the Constitution and the By-Laws.

D. The Treasurer shall collect all dues. He/She shall make disbursements with the approval of the Executive Committee. He/She shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions and furnish reports of the organization's financial status in accordance with the agenda of the meeting.

## ARTICLE IV

### EXECUTIVE BOARD - (MIDWEST REGION)

#### Section 1

The Midwest Region Executive Board shall meet with the Executive Board of Senior SOYO at such times and places as may be determined by call of the President, or by written request of a majority of the members. A written notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be mailed to each member by the Recording Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to it.

#### Section 2

The Midwest Region Executive Board may, without meeting together, transact business by any form of communication directed to them by the President or the Recording Secretary with the approval of the President. When such transactions involve monies, the sum shall not exceed \$50.00 without the written approval of the Spiritual and Lay Advisors. When meeting, two-thirds of the Midwest SOYO Executive Board must be present or consulted before dealing with official business.

## ARTICLE V

### POWERS OF THE MIDWEST SOYO EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### Section 1

The Midwest Region Executive Board may expend such funds as are necessary for stationary, stamps, and office supplies to conduct business of this organization..

- A. The expenses of the President shall be paid as follows:
  - 1. Fall and Spring Executive Meeting -- lodging or transportation (excluding meals)
  - 2. Regional Parish Life Conference -- Transportation
  - 3. NAC Summer Meetings -- Transportation and Lodging
- B. The expenses for other officers shall be paid as follows:
  - 1. Fall and Spring Executive Meeting -- one (1) nigh lodging
  - 2. Conferences -- one (1) night lodging

#### Section 2

To initiate motion and resolutions.

#### Section 3

To authorize the expenditure of monies, in a sum not to exceed \$50.00.

#### Section 4

To conduct research and investigations either as a committee of the whole or by special committee responsible to the Board.

#### Section 5

To consider reports by officers and all permanent and special committees.

## ARTICLE VI

### ADVISORS

#### Section 1

The Spiritual Advisor of this organization shall be appointed by the Metropolitan.

- A. The expenses of transportation, lodging and meals outside of the Regional Parish Life Conference (Fall, Spring and NAC Meetings) shall be paid for by Midwest Teen SOYO.

#### Section 2

The Spiritual Advisor shall appoint Lay Advisors for Teen SOYO, with the blessing of the Metropolitan.

### Section 3

The Lay Advisors shall be a member in good standing in His or Her local SOYO chapter and parish.

A. The expense of lodging or transportation shall be paid for the Lay Advisor at the Spring and Fall Meeting.

## ARTICLE VII

### DISSOLUTION

If for any reason the Midwest Region Teen SOYO dissolves, all assets, financial and otherwise, shall be turned over immediately to Midwest Region Senior SOYO.

## ARTICLE VIII

### AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended as follows:

A. Amendment to the By-Laws shall be only accepted at the General Assembly by two-thirds vote of the accredited delegates present and voting.

B. Proposed amendments shall be in writing and presented to the Recording Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the next General Assembly.

C. Copies of all proposed amendments must be issued through the Regional President to each Chapter at least thirty (30) days before the next General Assembly.

## ARTICLE IX

### MEETINGS

### Section 1

Any meeting at which a majority of the Executive Board, Chapters and Delegates are present shall be a General Assembly. Notification of such meetings must be given to each chapter thirty (30) days prior to such meetings.

## Section 2

The President may call an Executive Board meeting providing at least two other officers and the majority of the Committee Chairpersons are present.

## Section 3

A special meeting may be called by the President with the permission of the President of Senior SOYO, or by any two chapters through written request to the President of the Senior and Teen President.

## Section 4

A majority of officers and delegates in good standing will constitute a quorum to commence business.

# ARTICLE X

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### Section 1 -- THE PROCESS OF ELECTION

- A. Election of officers shall be held at the annual Parish Life Conference.
- B. The retiring President shall appoint an election Chairperson and two judges to conduct the election.
- C. A plurality vote shall be necessary for an election to an office.
- D. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot unless there is only one nomination to an office. If this is the case, a motion to close the nomination or to cast an unanimous vote is in order.
- E. In the event of vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall appoint a qualified member to fill the office for the unexpired term.

### Section 2 -- ELIGIBILITY

- A. Any member in good standing with his or her local chapter is eligible for election to office and must be present during the time of the election.
- B. Each candidate must have been a member in good standing with his or her local chapter for at least one year prior to the election.

# ARTICLE XI

## COMMITTEES

### Section 1

The Executive Board shall consist of the elective and the appointed officers of the organization, its immediate past President, District Chairperson and the Spiritual and Lay Advisors. This committee shall

meet at the discretion of the President to hear reports, guide the general program and to draft plans and recommendations for submission at regular meetings for consideration of membership.

#### Section 2

There shall be a Membership Committee which shall solicit and welcome new chapters and encourage the reinstatement of inactive chapters. This Committee shall also do missionary work in unchurched areas in order to promote the principles of SOYO and the teachings of the Orthodox Church.

#### Section 3

Other committees shall be appointed by the President as the need may arise.

### ARTICLE XII

#### MEETING FORMALITIES

#### Section 1

Each member parish shall elect two delegates and two alternates, all of whom must be approved by their parish priest. Only official delegates shall be allowed to vote, make nominations or motions.

#### Section 2

The meetings of this organization shall be conducted in regular form, in accordance with a standard parliamentary manual such as "Roberts Rules of Order". The agenda shall include.

- A. Call to order
- B. Prayer
- C. Roll Call
- D. Reading of the Minutes
- E. Treasurer's Report
- F. Correspondence
- G. Reports from standing and special committees
- H. New Business
- I. Old Business
- J. Adjournment
- K. Prayer

### ARTICLE XIII

#### DUES

#### Section 1

Each chapter shall pay dues of \$150.00 per fiscal year, to Midwest Teen SOYO.

Section 2

The fiscal year shall end with the Parish Life Conference and begin immediately thereafter. Upon payment of dues, the Treasurer shall keep a standing list of all paid Chapters.

ARTICLE XIV

OBLIGATIONS

Section 1

Midwest Region Teen SOYO shall maintain itself in good standing with North American Council of Teen SOYO.

Section 2

All official SOYO correspondences or request for reports shall be promptly answered, and upon the election of new officers, the names and addresses thereof shall be forwarded to each member of the Executive Board of Senior SOYO Midwest Region.

Section 3

This organization shall cooperate and render assistance in the annual Teen SOYO Project, which all proceeds are rendered to the Teen SOYO treasurer of Midwest Region, or North American Council of Teen SOYO.

ARTICLE XV

MIDWEST REGIONAL ORATORICAL WINNER

Midwest Teen SOYO shall, in the year there is no Archdiocese Conference, pay for two weeks at the Antiochian Village or give the equivalent amount in a scholarship, to the Midwest Regional Oratorical Winner.