

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO OCF REGULAR (VOTING) MEMBERS VOTE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OCF CONSTITUTION

When you have completed your review of proposed changes below, go to the voting link at www.createsurvey.com/s/GsUGPI/ to cast your vote.

The December 2012 issue of COMMAND contained the following advance notice:

"The Council has been working on two proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. Members will be asked to vote in early 2013 to ensure:

- *Full compatibility between the Constitution and Bylaws - that wherever a governing function is discussed, in the language is consistent and not conflicting in both documents.*
- *The Constitution contains only governing principles, core values and ministry distinctives that are unlikely to change over time.*

These "largely housekeeping" changes require an affirmative vote of the full membership. More details will follow as voting draws near."

The cumulative results of this review of key documents are now finished. The amendments recommended for the Constitution require a two-thirds vote by the membership. These are the benefits that will accrue to approval of the proposed amendments:

- Retention of the key, foundational processes, purposes and organizational standards within the OCF Constitution. These are the durable, God-given essentials of OCF which establish who we are and why we exist. It was and still is proper to require a two-thirds membership vote to modify our Constitution.
- The Bylaws will be a collection of all other essential processes and procedures that do not meet the test of foundationality and durability required for inclusion in the Constitution. The Bylaws can be changed by the OCF Council without a member vote.
- Elimination of redundancies between the two documents.
- Rewording of potentially confusing legal terms.
- Correction of minor errors and typos.

Below is a copy of the revised OCF Constitution which incorporates all of the proposed changes. Changed areas are highlighted in yellow. They start at Article V -- Membership.

If you scroll down past the Constitution, you will find more details on each of the proposed changes including the rationale. If there are differences between proposed revised Constitution (immediately below) and the "Details of Changes" (bottom section of this message), the revised Constitution will be considered as official for voting purposes. Minor changes such as renumbered paragraphs and spelling corrections are not addressed but are included as appropriate in the proposed new version.

The OCF Council hereby puts forth this package of amendments to the OCF Constitution for your vote. This is a vote for the entire package, not individual changes.

When you have completed your review of proposed changes below, go to the voting link at www.createsurvey.com/s/GsUGPI/ to cast your vote.

If you have questions you'd like to discuss before you cast your vote, please contact one of these Council members.

- Col Kim Hawthorne (Council VP) (719 659 3275, kim@churchstuff.net)
- CAPT Jamie Vandiver (Governance Committee) (850 463 4975, boomercow@gmail.com)

Constitution (with changes proposed by the OCF Council in October 2012)

Officers' Christian Fellowship of the United States of America

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be "Officers' Christian Fellowship of the United States of America," further referred to herein as "OCF" or the "Fellowship."

Article II

Purpose

OCF's purpose is to glorify God by uniting Christian officers for biblical fellowship and outreach, equipping and encouraging them to minister effectively in the military society.

Article III

Statement of Doctrine

The following is the Doctrinal Statement of OCF. All Council Members, Field Staff, and Support Staff who are designated by the Executive Director, must subscribe to this statement without reservations:

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that the Old and New Testaments as originally written are the verbally inspired Word of God, and accept them as the supreme and all-sufficient authority in faith and life.
3. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is eternal separation from God; and that each human being is born with a sinful nature and cannot by his own efforts please God.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as our vicarious sacrifice in accordance with the Scripture, and that all who believe in Him are cleansed of their sins by His shed blood and are justified before God.
6. We believe that all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and so become the children of God, to live with Him through all eternity.
7. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there as our High Priest and Advocate.

8. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust; the eternal blessedness of the saved; and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the lost.

9. We believe in the personal, visible and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth.

Article IV

Spiritual Pillars

The pillars of OCF, as well as its purpose and vision, rest upon the foundation Jesus Christ has laid and upon His person, leadership and Lordship.

1. **Lay-Led.** We are a lay-led movement of Christian officers within the U.S. Armed Forces.

2. **Centering on Scripture.** We believe the Bible is God's Word written and stress the importance of studying and applying its teachings both individually and corporately.

3. **Engaging in Prayer.** We recognize our dependence on the Holy Spirit and are committed to pray.

4. **Uniting for Fellowship.** We consider authentic biblical fellowship essential for individual growth and the advancement of God's Kingdom within the military.

5. **Equipping to Serve.** We are committed to the spiritual development of each person in our movement by helping him or her in ways that find expression in godly service and outreach to the military.

6. **Integrating Faith and Profession.** We call Christian officers to integrate biblical standards of excellence into their professional responsibilities.

7. **Nurturing the Family.** We are committed to encouraging, supporting, and assisting military families as they implement the biblical principles of marriage and parenthood.

8. **Supporting the Chaplaincy.** We seek to support and encourage chaplains.

Article V

Membership

1. Membership in OCF shall be of three classes: Regular, Associate and Honorary.

2. All applicants for Regular and Associate Membership shall subscribe to the following statements of faith and participation without reservation.

Statement of Faith

Inasmuch as I am a sinner and deserve the wrath of God, and since Jesus Christ died for my sins, was buried and has been bodily resurrected, according to the Scriptures, I have accepted Him as my own personal Lord and Savior and am saved by His grace alone.

Statement of Participation

I am committed to the purpose of OCF: To glorify God by uniting Christian officers for biblical fellowship and outreach, equipping and encouraging them to minister effectively in the military society.

As an expression of my commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to His work in the military society, I will, by God's grace, participate actively and prayerfully in the ministry of OCF with my time, talents, spiritual gifts, and financial resources. I further commit, by God's grace, to live my life as an example consistent with Biblical guidelines.

3. The Regular Membership of OCF shall consist of present and former officers or warrant officers of the Armed Forces of the United States, and anyone training for such commissions, who subscribe to the Statements of Faith and Participation in paragraph 2 of this Article.

4. The Associate Membership shall include those not eligible for Regular Membership, but interested in **who have committed to** the purposes of OCF and ~~who have similarly~~ subscribed to the statement of faith and participation in paragraph 2 of this article.

5. The Honorary Membership shall consist of those persons whose faith and belief are known to be in accord with the Statement of Doctrine in Article III, and who have been elected to such membership by the Council.

6. Associate and Honorary members are non-voting members of OCF.

7. Regular, Associate, and Honorary Membership in **OCF the Fellowship** shall continue unless terminated by the following provisions.

a. Written resignation by the member.

b. Action by the majority vote of the Council.

c. Failure of the member to confirm interest in continuing membership status when officially requested in writing to do so within ninety days **after the last of three attempts to deliver written communication.**

d. ~~If after three attempts to deliver mail and no contact is established with the member, the staff has the authority to remove the member from the OCF database.~~

Article VI

Council

1. Composition and Term of Office

a. OCF shall be governed by a Council consisting of not less than six and not more than twenty-two Regular Members of OCF, including the Executive Director. No other staff member is eligible to serve on the Council.

b. The term of Council Members shall be three years. A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms, except for one Council Member who may serve additional terms at the discretion of the Council when it is determined to be in the best interest of OCF.

c. It shall be arranged that the terms of an equal number of Council Members shall expire each year. Newly elected Council Members shall be announced at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year.

2. Council Responsibilities

a. The corporate role of the Council is to:

(1) Determine the OCF's mission, purposes, and strategic direction.

(2) Provide policy and ministry guidance.

(3) Select the Executive Director (ED), establish the ED's salary and benefits, support the ED, and evaluate the ED's performance annually.

~~(4) Establish the Field Staff's salaries after considering the Executive Director's recommendations.~~

(5 ~~4~~) Ensure financial integrity.

(6 ~~5~~) Oversee the selection process of the Field Staff.

(7 ~~6~~) Monitor the effectiveness of OCF's programs, products, and services.

(8 ~~7~~) Enhance OCF's image inside and outside the military.

(9 ~~8~~) Serve as a court of appeals for the Field Staff and the Membership.

(10 ~~9~~) Assess its own performance.

b. The Council is authorized to make such Bylaws as are necessary for the orderly conduct of the Council and the affairs of the Fellowship.

~~c. The council may remove, by majority vote, a Council Member if no communication is received from the individual by members of the Council or staff for a period of one year.~~

3. Election Process.

a. The Regular Membership will annually elect no more than five of the seven **allowable possible** positions. To be eligible for election, each nominee must be a Regular member and must receive **recommendations from** a minimum of three **other** Regular members **recommendations**. If the Membership has failed to nominate more than five persons, those nominated shall be considered elected without formal ballot, subject to Council approval. In addition to those elected, the Council each year may **select** additional **Council** members up to

the seven allowable positions with the purpose of encouraging Membership representation of service, rank, and gender. **The Council may also elect Council members to serve the remainder of the term of a Council member who resigns or is removed.**

b. Resignation. Any OCF Council member may resign by submitting to the President or Secretary a written resignation, which shall become effective upon its acceptance by such officer or at any later time specified therein.

c. The council may remove, by majority vote, a Council Member if no communication is received from the individual by members of the Council or staff for a period of one year.

Removal . A Council member may be removed from the Council if he or she fails to respond within six months to communication from his or her committee chair or a member of the Executive Committee, or who does not participate in assigned Council committee work and attend at least one Council meeting per year. This latter attendance requirement does not apply to Council members who are deployed or prevented from attending at least one Council meeting per year by operational requirements. Removal shall be by majority vote of the Council members present at a regular Council meeting.

4. Meetings and Business

a. The Council shall meet semi-annually in scheduled meetings to review, approve and direct as necessary the business of OCF.

b. One-third of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

c. The President, or in his absence the next available Council officer ~~of OCF~~ present, shall preside as Chairman of all meetings. If no elected Council officer is present, the Council ~~Member~~ member senior in military rank shall preside.

d. Special meetings to conduct urgent, essential, interim business may be called by the President, or in his absence, by another elected officer of OCF. Five Council Members shall constitute a quorum at these meetings and complete minutes indicating Council Members present and business conducted will be sent to all Council Members within twenty days after the conclusion of the special meeting.

e. In all cases not specified otherwise, questions before the Council shall be determined by majority vote. Each Member of the Council shall have one vote.

Article VII

Council Officers

1. The OCF Council officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

2. The officers of the corporation shall consist of the Executive Director, Director of Finance and the four OCF Council officers.

3. Officers of OCF shall be elected by the Council for a one-year term.

4. Officers of OCF shall be elected at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year. Installation of the new Council Members and Officers shall become effective on the first day of the following January or as directed by the Council.

5. The title of President Emeritus shall be conferred upon those whose distinguished past service as President of OCF entitles them to honorary status. This title shall be conferred by a two-thirds vote of the Council on those former presidents nominated by members of the Council or by the Executive Director, and may be retracted by the same procedure. President Emeritus status confers the right to attend Council meetings as an official part in the Council discussions. It does not include the right to make or second motions or to vote on questions before the Council.

Article VIII

Executive Director

1. The Executive Director is charged with the management of OCF under the authority and guidance of the Council. He shall make such written and oral reports to the Council and Membership as the Council may require.

2. The Executive Director shall be appointed to a term of unspecified length upon affirmative vote by two-thirds of the Membership of the Council. Termination of the appointment by the Council also requires the vote of two-thirds of the Membership of the Council. The vote in each instance shall be by written ballot.

3. The Executive Director shall be assisted by a Support Staff and Field Staff.

4. The Executive Director shall select and appoint the Support Staff without Council approval. With the consultation and advice of the Council, the Executive Director shall select and appoint the Field Staff to positions authorized and funded by approval of the Council.

5. All salaries shall be established by the Executive Director, except for that of the Executive Director, which shall be established by the Council..

Article IX

Ratification

1. This Constitution shall be declared ratified upon approval by two-thirds of those voting in a ballot conducted as directed by the Council among the Regular Membership of OCF.

Article X

Amendments

1. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Council or ten Regular members.
2. Amendments will be adopted when approved by two-thirds of the voting in a ballot conducted as directed by the Council among the Regular Membership of OCF.
3. Any typographical errors that do not affect the intent, specified requirements, authority, or application of the Constitution may be corrected by a majority vote of the Council.

DETAILS of **CHANGES** Deleted words. Added words. Rationale

Article V—Membership

4. The Associate Membership shall include those not eligible for Regular Membership, but **interested in who have committed to** the purposes of OCF and ~~who have similarly~~ subscribed to the statement of faith and participation in paragraph 2 of this article.

Being “interested in” OCF’s purposes isn’t sufficient; this should be expressed as “committed to” or the like. .

ADD Para **6. Associate and Honorary members are non-voting members of OCF.**

Clarifies that Regular members are the only members who may vote in elections or matters involving the Constitution.

- ¶ 7. Regular, Associate, and Honorary Membership in **OCF the Fellowship** shall continue unless terminated by the following provisions.

- a. Written resignation by the member.
- b. Action by the majority vote of the Council.
- c. Failure of the member to confirm interest in continuing membership **status when officially requested in writing to do so** within ninety days **after the last of three attempts to deliver written communication.**
- d. ~~—— If after three attempts to deliver mail written communication and no contact is established with the member, the staff has the authority to remove the member from the OCF database.~~

a. “Written resignation” must be understood as “hard copy” or “digital.”

d. Adjustments for the digital age. Mail can imply hard copy delivery. Words change to allow for hard copy and digital.

Article VI – Council

~~2. a. 4.. Establish the Field Staff's salaries after considering the Executive Director's recommendations.~~

Article VIII, 5, to read: "All salaries shall be established by the Executive Director, except for his/her own, which is established by the Council." Gives ED full authority for his/her staff.

~~2. c. The council may remove, by majority vote, a Council Member if no communication is received from the individual by members of the Council or staff for a period of one year.~~

This was a standalone paragraph, but is now included in 3. c. of this article (see below).

3. **a.** The Regular Membership will annually elect no more than five of the seven **allowable possible** positions. To be eligible for election, each nominee must be a Regular member and must receive **recommendations from** a minimum of three **other** Regular members ~~recommendations~~. If the Membership has failed to nominate more than five persons, those nominated shall be considered elected without formal ballot, subject to Council approval. In addition to those elected, the Council each year may elect additional **Council** members up to the seven allowable positions with the purpose of encouraging Membership representation of service, rank, and gender. **The Council may also elect Council members to serve the remainder of the term of a Council member who resigns or is removed.**

This was a standalone paragraph, but is now subpara a with the addition of subpara b and c.

New language added to cover resignation or removal. Note that this says "may" which leaves it up to the Council.

This is not a change of purpose, just clean up.

ADD b. Resignation. Any OCF Council member may resign by submitting to the President or Secretary a written resignation, which shall become effective upon its acceptance by such officer or at any later time specified therein.

Addresses resignation of a member of the Council, not a regular member.

3. c. Removal . A Council member may be removed from the Council if he or she fails to respond within six months to communication from his or her committee chair or a member of the Executive Committee, or who does not participate in assigned Council committee work and attend at least one Council meeting per year. This latter attendance requirement does not apply to Council members who are deployed or prevented from attending at least one Council meeting per year by operational requirements. Removal shall be by majority vote of the Council members present at a regular Council meeting.

This subpar was moved from 2. c. of this article (see above) . It clarifies removal criteria, with the exception for those who are deployed.

4. c. The President, or in his absence the next available **Council** officer **of OCF** present, shall preside as Chairman of all meetings. If no **elected Council** officer is present, the Council member senior in military rank shall preside.

Modification clarifies next officer in the line of authority.

Article VII –Officers

1. The **OCF Council** officers **of OCF** shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. **The last two named officers may be combined in one individual if deemed appropriate by the Council.**

2. The officers of the corporation shall consist of the Executive Director, Director of Finance and the four OCF Council officers.

This article was modified to distinguish between OCF Council officers and officers of the corporation. The duties of the Treasurer are too large to dump on the Secretary, who also has an intermittently significant workload.

Article VIII – Executive Director

5. All salaries, **other than the Field Staff**, shall be established by the Executive Director, **except for that of the Executive Director, which shall be established by the Council.**

This makes the Constitution reflect actual practice and gives proper salary authority to the Exec Dir for his own staff.

Article X – Amendments

3. Any typographical errors that do not affect the intent, specified requirements, authority, or application of the Constitution may be corrected by a majority vote of the Council.

This provision would enable us to fix simple errors that appear from time to time.