

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE  
INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO  
(Revised: February 3, 2003)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this association shall be: Interfaith Association of Central Ohio.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio shall be:

- 1) To create an interreligious community based on understanding, friendship and trust;
- 2) To educate adherents and the public about customs and practices of faith traditions;
- 3) To provide interfaith public worship and ceremonies expressing local and global concerns; and
- 4) To promote social justice, peace and human dignity.

ARTICLE III. THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL

*Section 1.* The governing authority of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio shall be the Interfaith Council. The Interfaith Council in consultation with each faith tradition shall designate the electing authority of that faith tradition. The Interfaith Council shall be composed of no more than three representatives of each faith tradition. The faith traditions and the electing authorities at this time are:

Baha'i	The Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Columbus
Buddhist	Buddhist Council of Ohio
Christian	Metropolitan Area Church Council
Hindu	Spiritual Sadhna Society, Inc.
Islamic	Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio
Jain	Jain Center of Central Ohio
Jewish	Columbus Jewish Federation
Sikh	Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation

The electing authorities for each faith tradition may enlist the support of other organizations and groups within their respective faiths to ensure the fulfillment of the purposes of the Association. The electing authority shall be requested to name a contact person for the purpose of communication with the Interfaith Council. If and when an electing authority for any faith changes the contact person, the previous contact person or the electing authority for that faith shall notify the President of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio of such change.

Other faith traditions may be seated on the Interfaith Council upon application from a designated

electing authority and unanimous approval of the faith traditions seated on the Interfaith Council, or by invitation by a unanimous vote of the Interfaith Council.

*Section 2.* Representatives of faith traditions shall be divided into two equal classes, one class of whom shall be seated each year at the date established by the Interfaith Council for a two-year term. One representative from each faith tradition shall be in one class and two shall be in the other. No representative shall serve on the Council for continuous terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years; but shall be ineligible to be seated to a new term until one year shall have elapsed.

*Section 3.* Each member of the Interfaith Council shall have one vote except when a unanimous vote of the faith traditions is required. A unanimous vote on any decision is required when any member of the Interfaith Council calls for it, and on any of the following decisions:

- 1) whether to seat another faith tradition;
- 2) whether to remove a faith tradition from the Interfaith Council, provided requirements for amending the Bylaws have been met;
- 3) whether to remove a member from the rolls of the Interfaith Association, provided requirements for amending the Bylaws have been met;
- 4) the designation of an electing authority of a faith tradition;
- 5) when to call an assembly of the members of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio.

A unanimous vote allocates only one vote to the delegation of representatives from each faith tradition, and each delegation is free to determine how it shall cast its one vote.

*Section 4.* One-third of the representatives on the Interfaith Council shall constitute a quorum of the corporation except when a unanimous vote is required. On those decisions requiring a unanimous vote of the faith traditions present and voting, a quorum is considered one less than the number of faith traditions present and voting.

*Section 5.* The Interfaith Council, sitting in corporate session, shall constitute the Board of Trustees as that term is used in the State of Ohio. It shall conduct all business that demands such legal requirements. It shall conduct ordinary business of the corporation, hear committee reports, dispense money and establish the policies of the corporation. It shall have final authority in all matters of policy implementation, program, paid personnel, and personnel practices; shall create committees it deems necessary; and take any and all action it considers essential to the work and progress of the corporation.

#### ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

*Section 1.* Membership shall be open to any individual who accepts the purposes of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio and pays dues as established by the interfaith council.

*Section 2.* All members shall have one vote on any matter which the Interfaith Council brings to the membership for a vote.

*Section 3.* Membership in the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio can be revoked for any reason by a unanimous vote of the Interfaith Council.

*Section 4.* Any representative of a faith tradition seated on the Interfaith Council is ex-officio a member of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, and only the electing official of the respective faith tradition can remove a representative from the Interfaith Council and simultaneously from the membership in the Association.

#### ARTICLE V. THE ASSEMBLY

*Section 1.* There shall be an Assembly composed of all members of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio.

*Section 2.* The Assembly shall meet at least once a year and at such other times as shall be determined by the Interfaith Council, or by petition of a majority of the representatives on the Interfaith Council or one-third of the membership of the Association.

*Section 3.* Any fifteen members, representative of at least four faith traditions, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Assembly.

*Section 4.* The agenda of the Assembly shall be established by the Interfaith Council, but any member may make suggestions at any time.

*Section 5.* A simple majority of the members, present and voting at any meeting of the Assembly, can place an item on the agenda of the Interfaith Council, and the Council, by that action, is obligated to act on it at its next meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

*Section 1.* The officers of this Association are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

*Section 2.* Officers, who must be members of the Interfaith Council, are elected by the Interfaith Council for a two year term. Not to exceed four years.

*Section 3.* Any officer may be removed from office by unilateral decision of the electing authority of the faith tradition of that officer or by a vote of one less than the number of faith traditions present and voting, provided written notice of such proposed removal is given to each representative at least 30 days prior to such meeting. Removal from office does not remove the individual from membership in the Association or as a representative in the Interfaith Council.

#### ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

*Section 1.* The Interfaith Council establishes all standing committees and elects their

moderators and members.

*Section 2.* Each standing committee will include at least three members, representing at least two faith traditions, divided into two classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a two year term. No member of a standing committee shall serve on the same standing committee for continuous terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than four years; but shall be ineligible to be elected to a new term on that committee until one year shall have elapsed.

*Section 3.* Standing committees may appoint subcommittees or task forces, provided they fit into their scope of activity. These subcommittees or task forces do not need to maintain a minimum of three members or representation from two faith traditions, unless their task requires such.

## ARTICLE VIII. CHARITABLE NATURE AND DISSOLUTION

*Section 1.* No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in ARTICLE II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

*Section 2.* Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the trustees, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, shall dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), as the trustees shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes, or to such organization or organizations, as such Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## ARTICLE IX. ADOPTION AND REVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

*Section 1.* This Constitution shall be adopted by a unanimous vote of the Interfaith Council.

*Section 2.* Revisions of this Constitution require a majority vote of the Interfaith Council and approval of at least four of the electing authorities of faith traditions seated on the Interfaith Council at the time of the vote to amend.

Approved June 7, 1986, pending review by an attorney.

Approved July 16, 1986, as amended, after review by Attorney Richard B. Igo.

Revised: November 2, 1998

Revised: February 3, 2003