

**BYLAWS  
RIGHT TO LIFE OF EAST TEXAS, INCORPORATED**

**PREAMBLE**

Human life is the sacred gift of our Creator. Its giving and taking lie with Him alone. Our corporate purpose shall be the furtherance and implementation of this Biblical view of human life.

The members, directors and officers of this Corporation join together in the defense of innocent human life. We seek due process in law and equal protection of the law for all human beings, based on the above principles, from the moment they are conceived in the womb until they die a natural death and without regard to their age or physical and mental competence.

The corporation shall be non-profit.

**I - CORPORATE PURPOSES**

The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are: in order to guarantee the right to life of all people of the United States of America, to engage in educational, charitable and apolitical activities, projects or undertakings, including but not limited to the following, as approved by the Board of Directors:

- A. To promote respect for the worth and dignity of all human life, including the life of the unborn child from the moment of conception.
- B. To promote, encourage and sponsor statutory measures which will provide protection for human life before and after birth, particularly for the defenseless, the incompetent, the impaired and the incapacitated.
- C. To engage in such activities enumerated here below, and which will assist in accomplishing the above purposes, as follows:
  - 1. To combat and eliminate abortion, euthanasia, cloning, destruction of embryos for experimentation with fetal stem cells, withholding fluids and/or nutrition, and any other medical procedure that supports the taking of human life, or experiments upon human beings, without their informed, prior, free consent based on proper legal standing. We declare these procedures to

be medical inhumanities.

2. To sponsor, organize and work in full cooperation with other local, state and national like-minded organizations having purposes substantially similar to those of this Corporation.
3. To organize and conduct educational and public relations programs directed at advising the public of the true violence of these aforementioned medical inhumanities, in that they profanely attack the image of our Creator in every person, our social foundations, and that they cruelly visit inhumanities upon the victims of such practices; that they are crimes against humanity and God's laws of nature.
4. To contribute to and sponsor efforts opposing the aforementioned abhorrent inhumanities by persuading to our view elected and appointed officials, the press, business, the public and churches.
5. To offer referral services and comfort to pregnant women in distress, elderly persons and other potential victims of perverted medical science so as to end the aforementioned inhumanities.
6. To solicit, collect and otherwise raise money and to expend, disburse and dispose of the same all for the purpose of accomplishing these activities.

## **II - OFFICES**

The principal office of Right to Life of East Texas, Inc. shall be in the City of Longview, Texas in the County of Gregg. The Corporation may have such other offices within or without the City of Longview as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

The Corporation may authorize Chapters as supplementary operations for the purposes described herein, to be more effectively implemented in cities and regions outside of Longview, Texas. Representatives of said cities or regions shall sign an application approved by the Directors. The application shall be executed by a minimum of three members planning to serve as directors of each Chapter seeking said authorization. Each Chapter shall meet to elect officers, plan activities, raise funds, authorize expenditures and any other

business allowed under these bylaws and approved by the Corporation Directors. A Chapter may establish a bank account; each Chapter shall submit an annual financial report to the Corporate treasurer prior to the Annual General Meeting. All operations of each Chapter shall be subject to the authorization and oversight of the Corporation Directors.

Inactive or errant Chapters may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Corporate Board of Directors. All monies held in reserve by that Chapter must be forwarded within thirty days to the Board of Directors of Right to Life of East Texas.

### **III - MEMBERSHIP**

The class of membership, if any such class is so designated, and the price per membership shall be determined by a simple majority of the Board of Directors present at any regularly called meeting of the Corporation.

The membership dues of the Corporation shall be payable on a calendar year basis; and any member will be considered in good standing and eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting if their dues are paid at any time during the previous twelve months, and annually thereafter, of the last day of the month in which application for membership is approved by the Board of Directors.

Membership shall be approved or disapproved by the Board of Directors after formal application has been made.

Membership rights and certificates shall not be transferable by assignment or sale, or by inheritance, or by testament upon the death of the owner, and no rights of membership belonging to the former owner shall inure to the assignee, the vendee, the heir or the legatee.

### **IV - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

An Annual General Meeting of the members shall be held during the month of January for the purposes of electing Directors, amending these bylaws (if desired) and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the Corporation. Fifteen days notice shall be given to all members as to the time and place by the President or Secretary of the Corporation.

Special meetings of the members may be held at such times and at such places as the Board of Directors shall determine or by written request of ten percent of

the membership. A majority of members present, including the Board of Directors, at any meeting is required to carry a motion.

## **V - DIRECTORS**

There shall be a minimum of four Directors and no more than nine who shall be elected by the general membership and who shall serve for three years, following an initial one-time implementation process in January 2025, whereby three sets of Directors shall serve 1, 2, or 3 years as first terms. All Directors must sign a statement of beliefs and agreement with Corporate policies (bylaws).

Members of the Corporation wishing to nominate someone for the Board shall submit the name to the President and Secretary, at least three days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Directors must avoid using their position and voting rights with the Corporation for personal advantage or gain. Any potential conflict of interest must be noted by the Board of Directors, after which the President may ask the Interested party to absent themselves from the meeting while discussion takes place in closed Executive Session, whose minutes may be made public only by approval of the Board of Directors. The Board will then determine whether the conduct in question conforms to the Corporation's purposes and whether it is prudent and reasonable.

Immediately following the Annual General Meeting, the Directors shall meet and elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All Directors shall serve without remuneration, except for Board approved expenses incurred on behalf of the Corporation.

The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors, which shall meet as the need arises as determined by the President in consultation with one or more of the Directors. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the Directors present at a meeting of the Board, to serve the remainder of the vacant term. All business, likewise, requires a majority vote of Directors present at a meeting of the Board.

The Board of Directors can remove a Director by 2/3 vote of the Directors, for actions and statements in conflict with the purposes and moral standings of the Corporation, for conflict of interest activities, for non-participation which causes the Corporation to become less effective, and for any other conduct

deemed inappropriate by the Board. The vote on the proposal to remove a Director shall not take place less than 60 days nor more than 120 days following the formal proposed and seconded removal motion, but the Board may issue an immediate injunction if the misconduct is ongoing. Any Director who is removed from the Board in this manner will be ineligible for future Board membership.

No action may be taken by the Board of Directors which violates the Charter agreement or the tax-exempt status of the Corporation or whatever the IRS code under which the Corporation operates.

## **VI - AMENDMENTS**

Amendments or changes in these bylaws may only be made at the Annual General Meeting.

## **VII - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31, beginning in 2008. The fiscal year that began April 1, 2007 was ended December 31, 2007.

Original bylaws were adopted in March 1976, previously amended in 1978, 1990, 1991, 2006, and 2008. The bylaws as stated herein were further amended and approved at the Annual General Meeting in January 2025.

Certified by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Wells  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Smith  
Secretary

## **SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO BYLAWS JANUARY 2025**

### Section V

Paragraph 1: increase length of Director terms to three years

Paragraph 2: Clarification of Board member nomination process

Paragraph 3: process to deal with Conflict of Interest

Paragraph 6: Procedure to remove Board Member

## **HISTORY OF BYLAWS**

Original is undated, believed to be 1976

March 30, 1978 amendment to change classes of membership, state directors must comply with charter and IRS code, set the fiscal year as April 1 to March 31

March 26, 1990 amendment to change various membership rules, define the annual meeting and clarify election and duties of the directors

March 12, 1991 amendment to allow dues to be valid for one year and to be renewed during any month

March 28, 2006 amendment to combine all previous changes and as defined above

April 22, 2008 amendment to change fiscal year to calendar year basis and change annual meeting from April to January.

January 2025 amendments to Section V to increase length of Director terms to three years, clarification of Board Member nomination process, process to deal with Conflict of Interest, and procedure to remove Board Member.