

# ST. CHARLES FRIENDS OF BIRTHRIGHT BYLAWS

Founded 1987

## Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be "St. Charles Friends of Birthright". We believe that life from the moment of conception is sacred and deserving of protection.

## Article II - Mission

### Section 1

St. Charles Friends of Birthright shall be an organization dedicated to raising funds for the benefit of Birthright of St. Charles, Inc.

### Section 2

- a. We shall follow the precepts of Birthright International, Inc. and shall be an inter-denominational, pro-life organization. According to the Birthright Charter Document, Article III, Item 3: St. Charles Friends of Birthright are not to get involved in the abortion controversy. We do not demonstrate, carry placards, or go on any anti-abortion marches or "sit-ins". Any public display will do harm to our image and abortion-minded women might not then come to Birthright. We have had very good media support because as an organization, we avoid public controversy.
- b. It is important that we have a good working relationship with other pro-life groups but we must be separate in that we are not to speak on the same subject platform or share booths at trade shows.

### Section 3

St. Charles Friends of Birthright shall have at least three fundraisers per year. Proceeds as deemed appropriate from said fundraisers, less expenses, shall be donated to Birthright of St. Charles, Inc. All contracts executed by Friends of Birthright shall first be reviewed and approved by Birthright's legal counsel.

## Article III - Officers, Executive Board and Executive Committee

### Section 1

The St. Charles Friends of Birthright Executive Board ("Executive Board") shall consist of a President or Co-Presidents, Vice-President or Co-Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers shall comprise the Executive Board and shall be elected and serve for a term as listed below in Section 3.

### Section 2

St. Charles Friends of Birthright shall have an Executive Committee ("Executive Committee") consisting of the active past St. Charles Friends of Birthright Presidents, and who will have voting privileges.

### Section 3

- a. The President or Co-Presidents and Vice President or Co-Vice Presidents shall serve for a one-year term. The Vice President(s) shall succeed to the Presidency.
- b. The Secretary shall serve for a one-year term and may succeed him/herself for an additional one-year term. The Treasurer shall serve for a two-year term and may succeed him/herself for a maximum of 3 terms.
- c. All officers are to be ratified by a simple majority vote of the membership of St. Charles Friends of Birthright.

### Section 4

The President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three active St. Charles Friends of Birthright members. The slate of candidates for these offices, recommended by the nominating committee, shall be presented to the membership. (See, Article IV, Section 4 for meeting requirements)

## Section 5

- a. The St. Charles Friends of Birthright Executive Board and the St. Charles Friends of Birthright Executive Committee shall meet no later than January at a time set by the President. The calendar and plans for the year shall be discussed, voted upon, and determined at this meeting. (Dates for major fundraisers may need to be set prior to this meeting).
- b. The Birthright St. Charles, Inc. Director is invited to attend this meeting, but attendance is not required.

## Section 6

The Executive Board and Executive Committee shall meet to fill any vacated office should a need arise.

If a member is found in violation of the mission of Birthright of St. Charles, then the Executive Board by majority vote can remove the member from an office, committee or membership of Friends of Birthright,

## Section 7

The President shall be an ex-officio member (by virtue of office) of all committees except the nominating committee.

## Article IV - Membership

### Section 1

The St. Charles Friends of Birthright membership shall consist of persons who are interested in working for the purpose of this Organization.

### Section 2

All members may be asked to pay membership dues at the beginning of the year for the basic overhead expenses of this organization.

### Section 3

A quorum of 1/6 of the membership and at least one officer is necessary to conduct business. The quorum requirement can be met whether the meeting is held in-person or electronically as long as 1/6 of the Friends' members and one officer participate. If a vote is needed and conducted by mail, the quorum requirement is met if enough votes are returned to satisfy 1/6 of the current Friends' membership including at least one officer.

### Section 4

St. Charles Friends of Birthright membership meetings shall be held at a time and place selected by the President.

- a. A membership meeting shall be held in the Fall, at which time the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees for office, and at which officers for the following year will be elected.
- b. A membership meeting shall be held in November at which the newly appointed officers shall be installed. If no membership meeting is held in November, the officers shall be installed at the first meeting after the officers are appointed and ratified by the membership.

## Article V - Procedures

### Section 1

- a. The Executive Director of Birthright of St. Charles, Inc. shall approve all final communications and publications shared with Friends' members or released publicly, either in-person, electronically or by mail.
- b. The Birthright Executive Director shall be invited to all Executive Committee, Fundraising, and membership meetings. Attendance is a courtesy and not required.

### Section 2

Minutes of all meetings shall be read at the regular meeting unless a motion is made and approved to dispense with the reading of minutes. If reading is dispensed with, the President shall ask the members present if there are any additions or corrections to the minutes received by mail or e-mail.

### Section 3

The Treasurer's report shall be audited annually by the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Birthright of St. Charles, Inc.

### Section 4

Bylaws and Policies shall be reviewed annually by a committee appointed by the President in time to be included with a Friends newsletter. Any changes shall be presented to the Membership for approval and signed by the President.

Bylaws Committee: Joyce Cain, Molly Reilly, Marty Dyer.

These Bylaws were adopted by vote of the membership on the 30th day of April, 2022.

| Blanche Wessler, Cecelia Shirley  
Co-Presidents

Attest Deborah Olson  
Secretary