

CONSTITUTION

OF THE MITÁKUYE OYÁS'IŊ CHAPTER A CHAPTER OF NEW HAVEN NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH *Merged governance and mission edition*

ARTICLE I — AUTHORITY, IDENTITY, AND ALIGNMENT

Section 1.01 — Governing Identity.

The Mitákuye Oyás'ŋ Chapter operates as a chapter of New Haven Native American Church and in acknowledged alignment with such parent-church authority, doctrine, declarations, and approval requirements as may lawfully apply to the chapter from time to time.

Section 1.02 — Delegated Local Authority.

The chapter is authorized to conduct local religious operations, ceremonies, education, stewardship, and community development in accordance with delegated authority recognized by the parent church to the extent applicable to this chapter.

Section 1.03 — Governing Character.

The chapter shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, applicable Missouri nonprofit law, and the chapter's religious mission. Nothing in these governing documents shall authorize unlawful private inurement, impermissible private benefit, or diversion of chapter assets from exempt purposes.

Section 1.04 — Mission Protection.

The chapter exists to uphold, practice, protect, and expand the Sacred Healing Way through ceremony, education, stewardship of land, sustainable agriculture, cultural preservation, and spiritually grounded community development. No faction, temporary majority, officeholder, or class of persons may use chapter authority to capture, redirect, or privatize the chapter contrary to its mission and integrity.

ARTICLE II — GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, GOOD STANDING, AND PARTICIPATION

Section 2.01 — General Membership.

General Membership shall be obtained through Spiritual Adoption or such other recognized process as may be accepted by the chapter in alignment with parent-church doctrine and chapter standards then in effect. A person who has undergone Spiritual Adoption and remains recognized by the chapter shall be a General Member of the chapter.

Section 2.02 — Rights of General Members.

General Members may participate in the religious and communal life of the chapter, decline participation in any sacrament, express themselves respectfully, pursue

growth and advancement, and raise grievances in good faith. General Members who have undergone Spiritual Adoption are recognized by the chapter as eligible to participate in chapter ceremonies in accordance with the chapter's religious authority, safety expectations, and applicable law.

Section 2.03 — Members in Good Standing.

A Member in good standing is a General Member whose voting rights have not been suspended or removed through the review and vote procedures established in the Bylaws for misconduct, material noncompliance, or other mission-protective reasons determined in good faith by the Board. Any non-emergency suspension or removal of voting rights shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Directors then in office, or such greater threshold as may later be lawfully adopted. Only Members in good standing may exercise those voting rights expressly reserved to the membership by these governing documents or by law.

Section 2.04 — Limits of General Membership.

General Membership alone does not confer Board status, officer status, facilitator status, or authority to act on behalf of the chapter.

ARTICLE III — FACILITATORS AND RECOGNIZED ROLE HOLDERS

Section 3.01 — Facilitators.

A member who completes the education, formation, service, conduct, and other prerequisites established by the chapter may become eligible for consideration as a Facilitator. Facilitator status is not automatic. No person may lead, hold, conduct, or formally facilitate ceremony on behalf of the chapter unless and until recognized for such authority by formal Board approval.

Section 3.02 — Recognized Role Holders.

The chapter may recognize or appoint non-board roles, including cultural, educational, advisory, stewardship, service, or ceremonial support roles, in furtherance of the chapter's mission. Such recognized roles do not by themselves confer Board status, officer status, or governance voting authority.

ARTICLE IV — BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 4.01 — Board Authority.

The Board of Directors is the chapter's governing body. Except for matters expressly reserved to the members by these governing documents or by law, all chapter powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board, and the affairs of the chapter shall be managed under the Board's direction.

Section 4.02 — Composition and Election.

The chapter shall have not fewer than three Directors. Directors shall be elected by the voting members in the manner provided in the Bylaws.

Section 4.03 — Officers.

The chapter shall maintain the officer structure required by applicable law and the Bylaws. Officers shall be elected from among the Directors unless the governing documents are lawfully amended to provide otherwise.

Section 4.04 — Distinction of Roles.

Directors govern. Officers carry designated offices and duties. Facilitators and recognized role holders serve in non-governing capacities unless separately elected to the Board.

ARTICLE V — VOTING AUTHORITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND MISSION STABILITY

Section 5.01 — Member Voting.

Members in good standing shall elect Directors and may vote on such additional matters as are expressly reserved to the membership by these governing documents or by applicable law.

Section 5.02 — Board Voting.

The Board shall vote on governance, policy, compliance, finances, appointments, removals, records, risk controls, property stewardship, and all other matters not expressly reserved to the membership.

Section 5.03 — Concerns and Grievances.

Members may raise reasonable concerns regarding leadership conduct, misuse of authority, document compliance, safety, financial integrity, land stewardship, or other serious chapter matters through the procedures set out in the Bylaws. The chapter shall maintain a good-faith process for receiving, reviewing, documenting, and responding to such concerns.

Section 5.04 — Protection Against Popularity Removal.

Members may not remove or replace Directors through a simple popularity vote, temporary dissatisfaction, or coordinated takeover effort unsupported by actual Cause. Removal of a Director shall be only for Cause and only through the procedures established in the Bylaws.

Section 5.05 — Mandatory Integrity Protection.

If the procedures established by the Bylaws produce written findings showing that a Director no longer possesses the integrity, fitness, or lawful eligibility required to hold office, the governing documents shall require removal in accordance with those procedures.

ARTICLE VI — LAND, STEWARDSHIP, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Section 6.01 — Sacred Stewardship.

The chapter recognizes stewardship of land as a sacred duty and may acquire, receive, lease, improve, steward, or use land and related property for ceremony, sustainable agriculture, education, ecological care, hospitality, and other religiously aligned purposes consistent with law and mission.

Section 6.02 — Mission-Aligned Development.

Land and property development undertaken by or for the chapter shall be pursued in a manner intended to preserve sacred purpose, lawful religious use, long-term

stewardship, and protection against diversion to impermissible private control or benefit.

Section 6.03 — Community Benefit.

The chapter may develop land, facilities, and related resources to support ceremony, education, cultural preservation, food-growing, and other community-supportive activities that remain subordinate to and consistent with the chapter's religious mission.

ARTICLE VII — RECORDS, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Section 7.01 — Records.

The chapter shall maintain accurate governance, membership, and financial records in the manner required by law and the Bylaws.

Section 7.02 — Confidentiality.

Sensitive religious, pastoral, personnel-like, safety, grievance, ceremonial, and legal matters may be protected by confidentiality rules adopted in the Bylaws or by Board policy, subject to applicable law and the chapter's duty to maintain required records.

Section 7.03 — Financial Safeguards.

The chapter shall maintain internal controls reasonably designed to protect funds, property, and records from misuse, confusion, self-dealing, and unauthorized diversion.

ARTICLE VIII — PROTECTION, COMPLIANCE, AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8.01 — Protection and Compliance.

All actions of the chapter shall remain in compliance with applicable nonprofit law, tax-exempt requirements, and the governing structure recognized by the chapter. The chapter shall not engage in activities that create impermissible private benefit or conflict with its religious purpose.

Section 8.02 — Controlled Amendment.

This Constitution may be amended only in the manner provided in the Bylaws and in compliance with applicable law, any valid parent-church approval requirement, and any heightened protections adopted to preserve mission integrity, governance stability, and lawful religious operation.

Section 8.03 — Harmonized Interpretation.

If a provision of the Bylaws is inconsistent with this Constitution, this Constitution shall control unless a lawful superior authority recognized by the chapter requires otherwise.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted by the chapter through the approval process required by the chapter's governing documents and applicable law on _____.

President or Chair

Secretary
