

# **Constitution- Earthkeepers Eastern Mennonite University**

## **Article I: Purpose**

A. Earthkeepers was founded by business students as a group introducing recycling to the EMU community, and eventually to the City of Harrisonburg. Since then, the organization has expanded to explore the ideas of a sustainable lifestyle.

B. "In the context of the broader EMU community, Earthkeepers attempts to follow Christ's example of holistic redemption by pursuing sustainable attitudes and practices."

- Earthkeepers mission statement, adopted August 2006

C. To realize its mission, Earthkeepers works to create a space where creative dialogue can grow into awareness and then into practice. We work to inform and educate the community on issues of food, waste, energy, creation redemption, and stewardship theology, and to empower the community with resources and practices.

## **Article II: Membership**

A. Earthkeepers welcomes any EMU student, faculty member, or staff member into membership in affirmation of EMU's non-discrimination policy: "EMU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or any legally protected status in any of its school administered programs."

B. Members are expected to attend meetings when possible, and in turn will be included in the decision making processes. For the benefit of attending and absent members, minutes from each meeting will be emailed to everyone on the email list compiled at the beginning of the semester. Persons may add or remove themselves from the email list at any time by notifying the Secretary.

## **Article III: Officers and Elections**

Offices in Earthkeepers include Moderators, Secretary, Treasurer, and temporary or permanent project/committee heads.

- A. The Moderator(s) will prepare and direct the agenda items of the meeting. The role of Moderator may be fulfilled by one or a number of rotating persons, but structure should be established early by each year's group.
- B. The Secretary will record the discussion and decisions of the meeting and will forward the minutes to those persons on the email list.
- C. The Treasurer will make and/or record the purchases and sales of the group, keep a budget with the business office, prepare annual budget requests, and serve as a liaison between Earthkeepers, its advisors, and the Business Office on financial matters.
- D. All formal officers should be elected from and by all interested members at the beginning of each year/semester, with consideration given the preceding year/semester in order to allow communication through summer and winter breaks.
- E. Committee/project heads may be elected in order to coordinate activities, i.e. recycling initiatives, Food and Farming Week, raising pigs, Blacks Run, composting, education and awareness, or other decisions of the group.

#### **Article IV: Meetings**

Meeting regularity, location and time will be decided by each semester's group, and reminders along with a condensed meeting agenda will be emailed by the Secretary before each meeting. A majority of members present at a meeting will represent a quorum, but members of the email list should be notified of major decisions and given the opportunity to vote.

#### **Article V: Advisor**

The advisor(s) for Earthkeepers will not be expected to attend meetings, but always welcome. If no advisor is returning from the previous year, an advisor will be nominated and invited by the group. This advisor will hold the power and privilege of signing off on Earthkeepers purchases, and serving as a mentor to the group by providing some continuity and connection to outside resources.

#### **Article VI: Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution may be presented by any member but must be approved by 2/3 of the group submitting votes, including the email list.

#### **Article VII: Ratification**

The final draft of this constitution will be ratified by  $\frac{3}{4}$  affirmation by the members submitting votes.