

**Stephen Hopkins Colony  
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida  
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this Colony shall be the Stephen Hopkins Colony of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants.

**ARTICLE II. OBJECTS**

**Section 1:** To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers; to maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, "For the Glorie of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and the honor of our countrie."

**Section 2:** To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.

**Section 3:** To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose, and steadfastness, of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after them, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

**Section 4:** To promote the interests that are common to all the State Societies of Mayflower Descendants which can best be served by a federal body, and to secure united efforts to discover and publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, together with existing data known only to antiquarians, and to authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots made memorable by Pilgrim association.

**Section 5:** The Colony shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any current United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any current United States Internal Revenue Law).

**Section 6:** The fiscal year of the Colony shall be January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** Active Member: Any person over the age of eighteen years who is a current member in good standing of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants (FSMD) or, as a dual member, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and another state or provincial Mayflower Society chartered by GSMD, may join the Colony as a member.

**Section 2:** Active Memberships shall include Life Memberships as specified in the By-Laws of the (FSMD). Any member of the Society, except a junior Member, who has been a Florida member in good standing for five years and is at least 50 years old, is eligible to become a Life Member of the (FSMD). The Life Membership fee shall be determined by the members age at the time of application and the scale established and published by the (FSMD).

The member will thereafter be exempt from payment of annual dues as of the year following the year of enrollment for Life Membership. All Life Membership fees shall be maintained by the State Treasurer in a Life Membership Reserve Fund (LMRF). From said fund, the Treasurer will pay all annual colony, state society and general Society dues on behalf of each Life Member who has been reported by the Colony as a member as of 31 December of the year reported.

**Section 3:** Transfers & Reinstatements: Transfers in or out of the Colony, for members in good standing, as well as any reinstatement of membership in the Colony, and any fees for these actions, will be accomplished and charged in accordance with the policies and procedures of the (FSMD) consistent with the most current amendments in force.

**Section 4:** All resignations shall be presented to the Colony Secretary in writing and referred to the Board of Assistants for action. No resignation shall be accepted until all dues are paid in full to the date of resignation.

**Section 5:** Prospective Members: Prospective members shall follow the application procedure as established and published by the Florida State Historian that shall also be consistent with guidelines published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and the (FSMD). All persons over eighteen years of age who are descended from a passenger on the Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620, shall be eligible for membership consideration. No person shall be eligible for the (FSMD) or Stephen Hopkins Colony membership who is pledged to or advocates the overthrow, by force or violence, of the Constitution of the United States, or that of any State or Territory; or who has been found guilty of any treasonable practice, or who is not of good moral character. As noted in Section 1, Colony Membership is contingent on membership in good standing in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Florida.

**Section 6:** Any member of the Colony, for cause or conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Colony, may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Board of Assistants, but no member shall be suspended or expelled unless written charges against such member shall have been presented to the Board of Assistants which shall give such member a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to refute such charges.

**Section 7:** Spouses or partners of members, prospective members and guests are welcome to attend meetings of the Colony, as are members of other Mayflower societies or colonies. All are guests and are not entitled to vote or hold office.

**Section 8:** Junior memberships may be established in the Colony according to applicable and current procedures of the Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Florida. The Colony Junior Membership Chair shall keep a record of all Colony Junior Members, distribute application forms, and submit the completed forms to the State Junior Chair.

#### **ARTICLE IV: DUES & FEES**

**Section 1:** Annual dues for each member, except Life Members, shall be as set forth in the Standing Rules of the (FSMD), and are payable to the Colony Treasurer by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues are considered delinquent after December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. A new member shall pay the colony dues for the current year when their application for membership is submitted by the State Historian.

Members who are still in arrears by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year may be dropped from the Colony rolls by a majority vote of the Colony Board of Assistants unless the Colony Board of Assistants, by a majority vote, chooses to extend the time for payment of delinquent dues. The list of members who have been recommended to be dropped from the Colony rolls will be presented to the Board of Assistants of the (FSMD) at their November meeting for ratification and dropping from the Society of Mayflower Descendants of the State of Florida (FSMD) rolls.

**Section 2:** A member dropped for the non-payment of dues may be reinstated upon the payment of the arrears for the year in which he or she ceased to be a member and the dues for the year(s) of reinstatement. If the member does not wish to be reinstated, he or she shall pay the arrears for the year in which he or she ceased to be a member and it shall be recorded that the member resigned in that year in good standing.

**Section 3:** Fees for original applications, for supplemental applications, copies of lineage papers, transfers, and/or reinstatement will be charged by the Colony to applicants at the rate currently set by the (FSMD).

## **ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** The officers of this Colony shall be Governor, Vice-Governor, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Archivist, Elder, Captain (Color Guard), and three (3) Directors, one of whom shall be the immediate Past Colony Governor. If the immediate Past Colony Governor is not available or declines to serve, another Colony Member may be elected or nominated as Director by the Colony Governor with concurrence of the Officers. The Colony Governor is a member of the Board of Assistants of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants.

**Section 2:** The Governor of the Florida State Society is an Honorary Member of the Board of Assistants of the Stephen Hopkins Colony.

**Section 3:** The foregoing officers shall constitute the Board of Assistants of the Stephen Hopkins Colony.

## **ARTICLE VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** Elections in the Stephen Hopkins Colony shall take place in the same year as Florida State Society elections at the November meeting.

**Section 2:** The Board of Assistants shall, at the first Board meeting of the year in which the Election of Officers occurs, appoint a three-person Nominating Committee of two members of the Colony, and the Colony Governor. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Directors and Officers to the Board of Assistants at their first fall meeting for approval. The final list shall be presented to the members at the first fall General Membership Meeting, with the election to take place at the November General Membership Meeting. At the November General Membership Meeting, nominations may also be accepted from the floor. These are to be followed by the election by a majority vote of the members present, provided a quorum is met. Installation of Officers and Directors shall take place at the close of the November meeting after the election has taken place.

**Section 3:** All officers shall be elected for a term of three years. No officer who has been elected and has served a full term shall be eligible for re-election for more than one additional term for the same office, with the exception of Archivist, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Recording Secretary who shall be eligible, at their request and subject to concurrence of the Board of Assistants, to succeed himself/herself for additional terms without limitation.

## **ARTICLE VII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** The Colony Governor shall preside at all meetings of the Colony and the Board of Assistants appoint all committees except the Program Committee and perform such duties as pertain to the chief executive officer of any organization.

**Section 2:** The Colony Vice Governor shall perform all of the duties of the office of Colony Governor during the absence or disability of the Colony Governor. The Colony Vice-Governor shall appoint members of the Program Committee.

**Section 3:** The Membership Secretary shall conduct the roll call of ancestors at the general meeting of the colony. The Membership Secretary shall report all membership changes to (FSMD), as required. In addition, the Membership Secretary shall maintain and provide a membership roster to members as needed, and notify the General Membership of meetings, information and newsletters.

**Section 4:** The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the Colony and shall deposit them in such bank(s) as designated by the Colony Board of Assistants. This officer shall make a report on the condition of the treasury at every regular meeting. The Treasurer's books shall be audited yearly, and always at the change of a Treasurer by an Audit Committee appointed by the Colony Governor. The Treasurer shall report and remit dues to the (FSMD) in accordance with the schedule determined by the FSMD.

**Section 5:** The Archivist shall make a detailed report on all celebrations of the Colony, file all documents, papers and speeches, and perform any other duties assigned by the Board of Assistants.

**Section 6:** The Elder shall serve as chaplain. This officer shall give the invocation, meal blessing and benediction at the general meeting and the invocation, and benediction at the board meeting as well as keep a record of the deaths of members and forward this information to the State Elder and the State Membership Secretary giving the date of expiration and the name and address of next of kin. He or she shall send a message of condolence to the family upon the death of a Colony member.

**Section 7:** The Captain shall have charge of the flags of the Colony and shall lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pilgrim Pledge at the general meeting, as well as carry out all the orders of the Colony Governor and the Board of Assistants.

**Section 8:** The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the meetings of the Board of Assistants and General Membership Meetings of the Colony. This officer shall also perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of Recording Secretary.

## **ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES**

**Section 1:** The Colony Governor shall appoint the members and the Chair of the Junior Membership Committee. The Junior Membership Chair shall be responsible for enrollment of junior members, providing forms, certificates, maintenance of a roll of current junior members, etc., and provide a report on number of junior members periodically to the Board of Assistants and General Membership meetings. Upon the approval of each junior application, the Junior Chair shall provide the name of the applicant; the sponsor and birth date of the applicant to the Colony Secretary so that the Colony Secretary can record the information on the colony roster.

**Section 2:** The Colony Governor shall appoint members and the Chair of the Education Committee. The Education Chair shall be responsible for planning educational programs and activities in nearby communities, and order any educational materials and supplies for community schools and teachers as deemed appropriate. A report will be submitted periodically to the Board of Assistants and the General Membership Meetings. Expenses must have prior approval of the Board of Assistants.

**Section 3:** The Vice-Governor shall appoint members of the Program Committee and shall serve as Chair. The Program Chair shall be responsible for developing and arranging speakers and programs for the General Membership Meetings that are consistent with the direction of the Board of Assistants.

**Section 4:** Two Colony members in good standing shall be appointed annually by the Governor to be the annual Audit Committee, which will review the financial records of the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer's records shall be made available to the Committee by 15 January. The audited report shall be presented to the Board of Governors as soon as practicable but no later than the second Board of Governors meeting of the calendar year. At the General Membership Meeting following presentation of the audit review report to the Board of Assistants, the results will be reported to the membership.

## **ARTICLE IX. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF ASSISTANTS**

**Section 1:** The Board of Assistants, composed of the officers of the Colony, shall conduct the business of the Colony as necessary and shall fill such vacancies on the Board as may occur in the list of officers. The Colony Governor may request telephonic or electronic discussion and vote on matters between board meetings if deemed necessary.

**Section 2:** The Board of Assistants shall annually review and update the fee schedule for membership, initial application fees, supplemental applications and junior memberships. A schedule of these fees shall be periodically be published and made available to Colony Members and prospective members. The fee schedule shall be

consistent with and may not exceed the fees established by Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD). The Board of Assistants may approve a special assessment for pressing needs.

**Section 3:** The Board of Assistants shall prepare and approve a description of the duties and responsibilities of all officers and committee chairs. These descriptions shall be periodically reviewed and updated by the Board of Assistants, at least every three years.

## **ARTICLE X: MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** The Board of Assistants shall adopt a General Membership Meeting schedule for each calendar year. The Board of Assistants will also establish the schedule of meetings of the Board of Assistants. The schedule for both General Membership Meetings and Board of Assistants Meetings will be provided to members at the beginning of calendar year.

**Section 2:** The Board of Assistants may change a meeting date of a General Membership Meeting or Board of Assistants Meeting when granted by a majority vote of the Board at a Board of Assistants meeting, electronically or telephonically during interim periods.

**Section 3:** A quorum of a Board of Assistants Meeting shall consist of one more than 50% of the voting positions on the Board of Assistants. The quorum may be determined by in-person, telephonic or electronic participation. The quorum at a General Membership Meeting shall be 15 members. There may not be telephonic or electronic voting participation at General Membership Meetings.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

**Section 1:** These By-laws may be amended or repealed at any meeting of the general membership of the Colony by a two-thirds vote of the members present; provided that such amendment or repeal has been proposed at a previous General Membership Meeting of the Colony or published in writing or electronically to the membership in advance of a scheduled meeting and meets the quorum requirements. The State Governor must approve all changes.

**Section 2:** These By-laws and any Colony Special Rules are to be consistent with those of the (FSMD) and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD).

## **ARTICLE XII. RULES OF ORDER**

**Section 1:** Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the meetings of this Colony in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or special rules of this Colony or those of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida (FSMD).

## ARTICLE XIII DISSOLUTION

**Section 1:** Upon the dissolution of this Colony, all of its assets remaining after payment of all costs and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to organizations which have qualified for the exemption under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the Federal Government, or to a State or Local Government, for a public purpose and none of the assets will be distributed to any member, officer or trustee of this Society.

Approved as to form by the Governor (FSMD) Brian McWaters, February 28, 2024.

Approved by Stephen Hopkins Colony Membership on April 1, 2024.

### History of By-Laws:

Original Bylaws, Stephen Hopkins Colony were dated 2001

Reviewed and Approved by Governor, FSMD, July 2001

2017 Revisions Approved by Stephen Hopkins Board of Assistants, February 2, 2017

Approved by Stephen Hopkins Colony Membership, April 13, 2017

2022 Revisions Approved by Stephen Hopkins Board of Assistants, February 6, 2023

2022 Revisions Approved by Stephen Hopkins Membership, April 10, 2023

2022 Revisions Reviewed & Approved by Suzanne Adams, FSMD Governor, Aug 28, 2023

2024 Revisions Reviewed and Approved by Stephen Hopkins Colony Board, February 28, 2024

2024 Revisions Reviewed and Approved by Brian McWaters, FSMD Governor, February 28, 2024

2024 Revisions Approved by Stephen Hopkins Membership, April 1, 2024

KB: 4/2/24, 4/30/24