

**BSHDFC**  
**Bylaws & Operations**  
**2009-2010**



*"I am not ashamed of the Gospel,  
because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..."*

# 2009-2010 Bylaws & Operations

BLACK SHEEP: Harley-Davidsons for Christ M/M



Celebrating Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1999-2009

**Mission Statement** “To introduce the world of motorcycle riders to Jesus Christ, for the purpose of making more and better disciples through the ministry of the local church.

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

## Statement of Faith

A. We believe the Bible is the authoritative Word of God.

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (II Tim. 3:16-17)*

B. We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...” (I Timothy 2:5)*

*“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)*

C. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in all of His miracles, in His substitutionary and atoning death through His blood which was shed on the cross, in His bodily resurrection to the right hand of the father and in His personal return in victory and power. JESUS IS LORD!

*“Therefore God exalted him [Jesus] to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)*

D. We believe that all persons are sinful and lost and in need of salvation and that that salvation comes only through the name of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24)*

E. We believe in the present ministry of God the Holy Spirit; in His convicting, cleansing and empowering work.

*“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:13-15)*

F. We believe in the resurrection of all persons; that they are resurrected to either eternal life and glory or to eternal damnation.

*“...Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)*

*“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in **hell**.” (Matthew 10:28)*

G. We believe in the spiritual unity of all Christians. We are the church, united as the bride of Christ.

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26)*

### **Core Values**

- A. We value first and foremost our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. We value our lives and our families, so we ride soberly and safely.
- C. We value the Bible (the Word of God) as our authority for ministry and living.
- D. We value the relationships we have with our brothers and sisters in the church.
- E. We also value relationships with those in the motorcycle community, Christian or not.
- F. We deeply value any who have not yet received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- G. We value being in the world but not of the world.
- H. We value the law and so we respect law enforcement and obey all traffic laws.

### **The Black Sheep Pledge**

“I am compelled by the Spirit of God to unite with  
Black Sheep; Harley-Davidsons for Christ.  
I understand this is a MISSION and that I am now a MISSIONARY.  
I understand that H.O.G. is our primary mission field,  
but that we will share the love of Christ with any who will listen.  
I understand this is a ministry in which I serve and not a club to which I merely belong.  
I commit, therefore, to be involved and active in my local chapter to the best of my ability.  
I commit to grow daily in my walk with Christ and His Word.  
I commit to support and attend my local church regularly.  
I will submit to my Black Sheep leaders and pray for them often.  
I will submit to the spirit of our Statement of Faith and Bylaws.  
I commit to speak the truth in love, forgive when wronged and  
never participate in gossip or divisive behavior, for we are the body of Christ.  
I commit to serve, sacrifice, give, listen, love and ride in the name of Christ, so help me God!  
I am a Black Sheep; different and set apart for Christ and His Kingdom.  
May God give us favor in our mission and keep us safe as we ride.  
To Him be all of the glory, amen.”

## Rules of Membership

### A. Membership is open to anyone...

1. Who is a practicing Christian who embraces our statement of faith and regularly attends his or her local church.
2. Who owns and operates an American V-twin motorcycle or is the spouse of said person. (Membership will not be granted to boyfriends, girlfriends or fiancées.) .
3. Who maintains a current motorcycle license and insurance.
4. Who is 18 years of age or older.
5. Who completes the application and renders all necessary fees.
6. Potential members will not be designated as “prospects” but will be required to participate with a local chapter for a period of no less than 90 days prior to being accepted into membership. The purpose of this time is to allow for all parties to get to know one another and determine if this ministry is a right fit. (A spouse who joins later will not need to wait 90 days but will need to submit an application.)
7. The final acceptance of a new member will be determined by the local president. That president would be wise, however, to consult with other members of the chapter for wisdom and insight. In the case where there is no chapter, a prospective member may be granted membership through a regional director or the national office.
8. A member may receive a “retired status” when they are no longer able to ride due to health reasons. As retired members they may keep their patches, attend any functions, but will not be eligible for office. Retired members will not pay annual dues.
9. The widow or widower of a deceased member may remain a member (even if they do not own or operate a motorcycle) as long as they maintain all others rules of membership. They will no longer be assessed annual dues.

### B. Black Sheep members may belong to other motorcycle organizations with the following understanding:

1. The Black Sheep patch is the primary patch worn to all BSHDFC official events.
2. The other organization(s) is not in conflict with Black Sheep’s faith, values, bylaws or mission.
3. The other organization(s) is not another Christian motorcycle organization of similar purpose. (As of 2009, Black Sheep no longer allows for dual memberships or patches, but does make the exception for those already in other Christian motorcycle organizations to maintain dual memberships.)
4. Members may wear a small support patch of another Christian motorcycle organization.
5. Members may join other auxiliary motorcycle organizations such as HOG, LOH, AMA, ABATE, Patriot Guard, etc.
6. Since Harley Owners Group is our primary focus and mission, the HOG and LOH patch may be worn on the front of the Black Sheep vest and these are to be worn on the right side.
7. Though it is not required, we strongly encourage every Black Sheep member to be a national and local member of Harley-Owners Group.

- C. Alcoholic beverages will never be consumed on any Black Sheep function or ride.
- D. Public drunkenness of a member (in or out of colors) will not be tolerated.
- E. Black Sheep members do not use illegal drugs or abuse prescription drugs. Members shall not use any kind of drug, legal or otherwise, that may compromise their ability to operate a motorcycle.
- F. Violence, vulgarity, off-color humor and promiscuous behavior will not be tolerated.
- G. Members will not wear or display anything that is dishonoring to Christ. (T-shirts, pins, etc.)
- H. Homosexuality and promiscuous heterosexual behavior will not be tolerated within our membership. Our members will either be single and celibate or legally married to one of the opposite sex. (BSHDFC recognizes marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman.)

*“But among you there must not be even a **hint** of sexual **immorality**, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.” (Ephesians 5:3)*

*“Live **such good lives** among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your **good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.” (1Peter 2:12)*

*“I urge you to **live a life** worthy of the calling you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1)*

- I. Members who are consistently absent from participation in chapter rides and meetings will be contacted by the local president to determine whether or not they should remain a part of this ministry.
- J. Members selling their American v-twin (with no intention of replacing it in the near future) or choosing a non-American v-twin for their primary ride will no longer be eligible for membership. If a member has several motorcycles, one or more being metric, the Black Sheep member will ride their American v-twin to all official Black Sheep gatherings. (Such a restriction will not be imposed upon a patched spouse who may ride something other than an American v-twin.)

#### K. Chapter Discipline

1. When a member has broken the spirit of our Statement of Faith, values or general rules, the following degrees of discipline are the responsibility of (first) the local president, then the regional director and then the national office.
2. In all cases, confession and repentance followed by forgiveness and restoration is the goal.

*“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17)*

3. A president may suspend a patch for a short period of time (30-60 days) whereby a member hangs up their colors and does not wear them for that duration.
4. A president may call for the returning of a patch to the national office and the member then leaves the ministry. Any future return to this ministry would require a one year of separation followed by a new application, new patches and fees.
5. All patches to be returned will be collected and sent to the national office.

The intent of these rules is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to clarify what some Christians may consider to be “gray areas.” It is not the intent of this ministry to become sectarian or legalistic regarding Christian behavior. We simply insist on our members representing Christ well in an otherwise ungodly world. Christ is our example – holiness is our goal.

### **Colors (The Patch)**

- A. Colors are a combination of browns, golds and black; similar to that of Harley Owners Group.
- B. Anything with the colors displayed will be sold to and worn only by members. (Exceptions may include ride pins, coffee mugs, etc.)
- C. Colors always remain the property of the national organization and will be returned when leaving this ministry for any reason.
- D. Colors are to be worn to all official rides and functions. (We encourage you to wear your colors whenever you ride.)
- E. Colors will never be defended with violence. (If you are requested by an M/C to remove your patch, you will do so without further discussion or attitude. This is for your safety and the safety of our members around the world.)
- F. Colors should not be worn while driving or riding in a vehicle. They may, however, be transported and worn later at their destination.
- G. Colors are to be treated with respect: never to be left on a bike or on the back of a chair, tossed on the floor or otherwise mistreated.
- H. Black Sheep makes no distinction between men and women in terms of membership, holding office or the wearing of colors.

### **Patch Etiquette**

#### **A. Responsible Witness and Attitude**

1. Hundreds of members are now wearing a beautiful brown, black and gold patch. Wear it knowing that when you do, you represent Jesus Christ and hundreds of other Black Sheep around the world. Let these patches remind you of your Christian witness and attitude on the road.
2. Be careful to obey all traffic laws. Remain respectful to law enforcement at all times. Be courteous and helpful to all others on the road.
3. While we recognize the freedom that we all have in Christ, in this ministry we will never drink alcohol while wearing this patch. (This includes taking off the patch and leaving it in a saddlebag for a brief visit into a restaurant or bar.)
4. Many motorcycle events take place in towns where gambling is legal. We recognize that some of our members may choose to gamble. Since Christians disagree about gambling, we insist that our members (out of love and respect for others) remove their patches should they participate in this activity.

#### **B. Placement of the Patches**

1. The large patch will be central on the back of your vest high enough to be seen by the traffic behind you, while the small patch will be worn on the front left shoulder (over the heart). Other

patches may be worn as previously described, but the Black Sheep patches must be prominent and in the proper place.

2. Pins and patches which do not represent the spirit of Christ, (i.e. of a vulgar, offensive or sensual in nature) will not be worn on a member's vest.

3. Pins and patches which pledge support for outlaw motorcycle clubs will not be worn on a member's vest.

4. Vests may be black, brown or denim (dark blue or black). There will be no brightly colored vests such as white, blue, pink, green, etc.

5. While patches must be worn to all official BSHDFC functions and on all official BSHDFC rides, we encourage you to wear your patches whenever you ride as a witness for Christ and this ministry. They are highly visible and effective witnessing tools!

6. The large matching "Jesus Is Lord" patch or "Jesus Is Lord" rocker are not a part of our colors, but are available for an additional fee. It should be worn across the shoulders, above the large back patch. If you choose to purchase one of the curved JESUS IS LORD rockers, they must be attached to your vest directly above your primary patch. There must be no space between the primary patch and this curved rocker which may suggest a two or three piece patch.

**7. IMPORTANT: The primary front and rear patches remain the property of Black Sheep: Harley-Davidsons for Christ indefinitely.** Additional patches may be purchased – but remain the property of BSHDFC as well

#### **Applications, Fees and Dues**

A. The application fee for new members will be \$108 for a single and \$98 for a spouse/passenger. If the spouse operates their own motorcycle the application fee will be \$108. **These fees will include:** one year of membership, patches, taxes and shipping.

B. Annual renewal dues are \$59 for each motorcycle operator and \$49 for a spouse/passenger.

#### **Job Descriptions and Objectives**

A. A person shall not hold any elected office until they have been a member for at least one year.

B. A retired member shall not hold office.

C. Regional and national officers shall remain a member of a local chapter and have all local privileges.

#### **D. The Role of the National President.**

1. To serve as CEO of the 501c3 corporation.
2. To hire staff and appoint regional and national officers.
3. To cast vision and maintain the focus and course of the mission statement.
4. To represent the ministry on national and international levels.
5. To care for and resource leadership at the local level.
6. To train and deploy new leadership.
7. To promote and develop the ministry of Black Sheep HDFC.

#### **E. Objectives of the National Ministry.**

1. To develop and promote new leaders and chapters.

2. To keep all chapters focused on the mission.
3. To resource regions and local chapters with ideas, literature and promotion.
4. To cast vision and unify local chapters through a monthly newsletter and a national website.
5. To host an annual National Leadership Summit for the purpose of encouragement and training.

**F. The Role of the National Board.**

1. To serve as officers of the 501c3 corporation
2. To assist in the raising of funds for the national ministry.
3. To insure this ministry is faithful to its mission statement, Statement of Faith and core values.
4. To hold the national President accountable for leadership, character and action.

**G. The Role of other National Officers**

1. **National vice-presidents** serve under the national president for specifically assigned tasks.
  - a. i.e. National VP of Ministry Development
  - b. i.e. National VP of Area Representatives
2. **National Chaplain**
  - a. Give guidance and training to our chapter chaplains at NLS and throughout the year.
  - b. Mobilize the wealth of education, training and experience that we have in members who are or have been pastors and licensed professionals.
  - c. Maintain prayer network of Chaplains via email and/or phone; help to field, sort and prioritize the hundreds of prayer requests that come to this ministry each month.
  - d. Come alongside the National President, National Board and Regional Directors to provide encouragement and guidance where needed.
  - e. To attend local, regional and national motorcycle events, representing the ministry of Black Sheep HDFC with integrity and honor.

**H. The Role of the Regional Director**

1. A regional director may be appointed by the national office.
2. A region may be identified by a cluster of chapters or by geographic location.
3. The role of the Regional Director will include:
  - a. To cast vision and maintain the focus and course of the mission for the region.
  - b. To act as a liaison with the National office.
  - c. To care for and resource chapter presidents.
  - d. To train and deploy new leadership in cooperation with National.
  - e. To promote and develop the ministry of Black Sheep within their region.

**I. The Role of the Local President and Vice President.**

1. Provide primary leadership and direction for fulfilling the ministry's mission at the local level.
2. Thoroughly screen all incoming applications; calling references and getting to know applicants.
3. Insure that ministry happens at any nearby HD dealerships and/or HOG chapters.
4. Serve as the liaison to the National Office.
5. Administer awards and discipline to chapter members.
6. The president will insure that a minimum of one representative from their chapter will attend the annual National Leadership Summit. It is preferable that the president or vice president attend the Summit.
7. Administer chapter discipline with the help of the officers.
8. The Vice President is to assist the President in all of the above duties and be available to the chapter when a President becomes unable to complete his duties.

J. The Role of the **Local Secretary**.

1. To keep official minutes of the chapter meetings and events.
2. To send monthly minutes to the national office when they contain financial information.
3. To communicate vital information to chapter members through mail, email or the maintenance of a local website (unless a local webmaster has been appointed)

K. The Role of the **Local Treasurer**.

1. To secure and maintain a bank account for the chapter and report assets to the local President.
2. To send monthly financial reports to the national office.
3. To disperse funds as available to the local chapter as directed by the President.
4. To work with the local chapter in fundraising.

L. **Optional Appointed Roles of Service** in the Local Chapter.

A chapter president may appoint members to any number of positions including:

1. **Safety Director:** Oversees all aspects of safety for the local chapter.
  - a. Must secure an accredited training course certification or have a minimum 10 years of riding experience.
  - b. Is encouraged to have training in basic first aid.
  - c. Oversees all road safety practices and policies.
  - d. Provides Road Captains and Safety Officers with necessary tools and guidelines to ensure safe group rides.
  - e. Organize or coordinate member safety events.
2. **Safety Officers:** Assists the Safety Director in general aspects of chapter safety.
3. **Road Captain:** Oversees safety on rides.
  - a. **Should** have at least 5 years of riding experience and is encouraged to take an accredited training course for safety and first aid.
  - b. Holds pre-ride meetings (5-10 minutes) for all chapter rides.
  - c. Lead organized rides.
4. **Chaplain:**
  - a. Gives prayer its proper place in chapter activities.
  - b. Oversees spiritual care and instruction for the local chapter.
  - c. Calls, emails or visits the sick and the wounded.
  - d. Utilizes the spiritual gifts and talents of others.
  - e. Maintains contact with the national chaplain.
5. **Photographer:** Records events through photographs and videos.
6. **Historian:** Records names of leadership and members and events of the local chapter.
7. **H.O.G Liaison:** Serves as a communication agent between the local chapter and other clubs. (H.O.G., Indian, Victory, etc.).
8. **Other:** Any other service role may be designated by the local chapter as long as it serves the local chapter and the mission statement.

## Appointment & Election of Officers

- A. When a chapter is first organized, a president will be appointed by the national office.
- B. The appointed president shall appoint a vice president, secretary, treasurer and chaplain.
- C. Appointed officers will remain in office for one year but may be re-appointed.
- D. After a chapter has existed for one year, an election should be held once the regional director or national office deems the local chapter stable. Stability is determined by:
  - 1. A year of healthy organization and ministry.
  - 2. A demonstration of healthy group dynamics and maturity.
- E. The Local Election
  - 1. A person running for any office must be a member in good standing and patched for no less than one year.
  - 2. **October/November:** The current president shall secure nominations for the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.
    - a. Nominations may be received written or orally.
    - b. Absentee nominations may be mailed in to the president.
  - 3. There should be at least two weeks between nominations and elections. In the case of larger chapters, nominees should print out a brief testimony and current ideas for the chapter.
  - 4. **November/December:** The election process will be written with a ballot, either by computer or pen and ink.
  - 5. A member may vote as an absentee with a written vote sent to the chapter president on or before the election day.
  - 6. **January:** The newly elected officers will take office on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 7. In extreme circumstances the national office may intervene and call for early elections.

## How To Start A Chapter

- A. New chapters may be formed when
  - 1. There are four or more members representing no fewer than three family units.
  - 2. There is a visionary leader with the necessary time and commitment.
  - 3. Said chapter has been approved and released by the national office.
    - a. We are looking for mature Christian leaders committed to their local church.
    - b. We are looking for three or more families to be represented.
    - c. We are looking for a commitment to the local HOG chapter if one exists.
- B. Chapters may be developed by one or more of the following methods
  - 1. An existing chapter has grown and is currently challenged by the geographic diversity of its members and therefore a second chapter is started. This action must be approved by the regional director or national office.

2. A pioneer chapter may be started when there are enough new members meeting the necessary requirements in a new area. This action must be approved by the regional director or national office.

### **Limited Use of the Name and Logos of BSHDFC**

A. The use of the name and logo of BSHDFC is limited for its members.

B. The primary purposes for limiting the use of our name and logo are to help maintain the quality of Black Sheep products and resources and to insure a working financial base for the National Ministry.

C. The Name and Logo may be reproduced with approval from the national office on

1. Letterhead, envelopes and business cards.
2. Banners and fixed signs.

D. The Logo (Patch) may never be reproduced on...

1. Articles of clothing .
2. Stickers, patches, pins, cups, etc.
3. Anything for resale.

E. Chapter are encouraged to design and sell chapter tee-shirt and other products, using the ministry's name (but not the patch/logo) with their own design.

### **Suggested Safety and Riding Guidelines**

1. Each chapter is encouraged to have a "Safety Director."
2. Additional "Safety Officers" and "Road Captains" may be added to assist the "Safety Director."
3. **Basic Ride Guidelines for BSHDFC**

A. Riders should arrive no later than 15 minutes before scheduled departure times; "bladders empty and tanks full." (Allows time for prayer and pre-ride meeting.)

B. Never ride beyond your skill and abilities.

- Inform the Road Captain if you are a new rider.
- Inform the Road Captain of any limitations you may have.
- Do not allow the fear of intimidation cause you to do something you do not want to do.
- If you are not comfortable in a given riding situation, pull over and inform the R.C.

C. Hand Signals:

- All hand signals are passed from the front of the pack to the back.
- Left and right hand maneuvers are given with a closed fist.
- Road hazards are pointed out with either the foot or a finger.
- To signify a single file formation, the index finger points straight up.
- To signify a staggered formation, the index finger and little finger point straight up.
- To signify slowing or stopping or caution, a flat hand pushes down or back.
- To wave at oncoming bikes, use an open hand, hip high.
- If you need fuel or a bathroom break, point to your gas tank.

D. Riding Formation:

- Lead and rear Road Captains ride in the center of the road.
- The last rider before the rear Road Captain may serve as a “whip” to communicate with the front Road Captain should an emergency develop to the rear. The rear Road Captain stays with the emergency.
- Packs ride staggered, beginning on the right of the lead Road Captain.
- Ride at a wide enough stance for front and rear captains to see each other.
- Ride 2-3 seconds apart from the bike to your left and right.

E. Lane Changes:

- Road Captain will choose the lane to ride in.
- We change lanes from front to rear.
- Do not change lanes until the person in front of you does and it is safe to do so.

