**CONSTITUTION**

**of**

**Imam Mahdi Organization**

**Iowa City, IOWA**

**February 10, 2015**

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**THE CONSTITUTION OF IMAM MAHDI ORGANIZATION**

**University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.**

**BISMILLAH-IR-RAHMAN-IR-RAHIM**

**IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL**

**ARTICLE 1. NAME**

1.1 The name of the organization is the "Imam Mahdi organization ", hereinafter known as "the organization".

**ARTICLE 2. NATURE**

2.1 In no aspect of its programs shall there be any difference in the treatment of persons on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preferences, or any other classification which would deprive the person of consideration as an individual.  The organization will guarantee that equal opportunity and equal access to membership, programming, facilities, and benefits shall be open to all persons. Eighty percent (80%) of this organization’s membership must be composed of UI students.

2.2 The source of guidance for the organization is and shall remain the religion of Islam, as described in the Holy Quran and the *Sunnah*\* of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon Him and his Family), as explained by the 12 Imams of the family of the Holy Prophet (*AhlulBayt*) and as interpreted by the accepted *Maraja-e- Taqleed* of the Ja'fari Ithna'ashari school of thought, hereinafter referred to as "The Faith".

2.3 The organization is and shall remain a non-profit religious organization, in addition,

it shall not at any time, at any place, or in any manner, facilitate, provide, perform, indulge in, promote, support or encourage any activity, service or function which is in conflict or inconsistent with The Faith.

2.5 Officials of the organization shall be student Members and shall refrain from major sins

(*kaba'ir*) and endeavor to avoid minor sins (*saga'ir*).

\* All words in italics are defined in the Glossary.

2.6 This organization is an inclusive organization, and shall endeavor to invite and encourage the participation of people from different religious backgrounds who are willing to respect The Faith.

2.7 Activities of the organization shall be performed in an atmosphere of respect and tolerance towards the religious sensitivities of all participants, with special attention to those of fellow Muslims.

**ARTICLE 3. PURPOSE**

3.1 The organization shall encourage, promote and propagate The Faith and provide facilities for the Members and their families to observe the same.

3.2 The organization shall perform functions such as, but not limited to, the following:

3.2.1 Facilitate religious education.

3.2.2 Disseminate religious knowledge through various means such as: Newsletters, Quranic Studies, Seminars, Discourses and rulings by the accepted Maraja-e- Taqleed.

3.2.3 Facilitate the observation of religious activities such as: Daily Congregational (Jama'at) Prayers, Eid Prayers, Eid Reunions, Celebrations, Commemorations and Recommended Prayers.

3.3 The organization shall work to strengthen fraternal relations among Muslims, work for universal brotherhood, social justice and peace and cooperate with other organizations having similar aims and objectives.

3.4 The organization shall endeavor to perform functions such as, but not limited to, the following:

3.4.1 Perform charitable and benevolent community services.

3.4.2 Provide Islamic information to individuals, groups or other organizations.

3.4.3 Provide an appropriate venue for family activities.

**ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP**

The organization will guarantee that equal opportunity and equal access to membership, programing facilities, and benefits shall be open to all persons. Membership will be granted in one of two categories: Full Membership or General Membership.

**4.1 Qualifications**

4.1.1 For Full Membership

Any individual, aged 18 years or above, who believes in and endeavors to practice The Faith, shall qualify to become a Full Member of the organization by fulfilling the following conditions:

4.1.1.1 Be Muslim, Shiea and obtain the recommendation of two Members. The reason behind the recommendation is to be sure that the person who desires to join this organization as a full membership is Muslim, Shiea, who respects the religion rules, and willing to practice the faith.

4.1.1.2 After such a recommendation, attend no fewer than six (6) official meetings (as designated by the Executive Committee, pursuant to Section 6.1.1) over a period of no less than six (6) months.

4.1.2 For General membership

All University of Iowa students are entitled to general membership in the organization, as well as, all faculty, staff, and interested community members.

**4.2 Rights of Members**

4.2.1 Only Full memberships have the right of vote in official elections (as defined herein) to choose the organization representatives, and recommend others for Full Membership.

4.2.2 Only Full memberships have the right of making ceremonies, hold elected office, create any activity, or contacting any other organizations, university’s departments, or any other agencies by using the name of the organization.

4.2.3 All members have the right to serve on official committees and have equal access to the services, activities, and facilities of the organization.

**4.3 Duties and Responsibilities of Members**

4.3.1 Full membershipshould stay well acquainted with the organization and not work or act contrary to the tenets, or objectives of the organization, and display good moral character.

4.3.2 Full membershipshould participate in the organization activities.

4.3.3 All members should support and cooperate in efforts towards the improvement and stability of the organization.

**4.4 Membership in the organization may be revoked**. Revocation shall be based only on:

4.4.1 Any matter that constitutes a violation of the Nature (Article 2) of the organization by the Member.

4.4.2 Such other matter that constitutes a serious violation of the Purpose (Article 3) of the organization by the Member.

4.4.3 Declaration of the desire to be removed from the membership list.

4.5 The procedure to revoke a Membership must be initiated by two Full Members filing a written report to the Membership Committee. Unless the Membership Committee decides that a hearing is justified, the report and the identity of the reporter shall remain undisclosed. Should the Membership Committee vote to revoke the Member, the Member shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, by a majority vote, may vote to override the Membership Committee vote.

**ARTICLE 5. ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

**5.1 Executive Committee**

5.1.1 The Executive Committee which consist of five (5) Full Memberships of the organization elected by the Full Membership each year in September) is responsible for the administration of the organization

5.1.2 The President shall be elected directly by the Full Memberships.

5.1.3 A candidate running for the position of Executive Committee Member shall:

5.1.3.1 Be at least 21 years of age.

5.1.3.2 Be a Member of the organization for at least 1 semester, except for the first election.

5.1.3.3 Take oath of office as prescribed in Article 9.

5.1.4 Powers and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.

5.1.4.1 Appoint a Treasurer and a Secretary.

5.1.4.2 Establish and implement policies and guidelines for the efficient operation of the organization.

5.1.4.3 Develop, disseminate, coordinate and implement short-range and long-range plans.

5.1.4.4 Decide and announce timings of official meetings and General Body meetings.

5.1.4.5 Appoint the Religious Committee, Membership Committee and any other committees as needed.

5.1.5 Imam Mahdi organization is required to deposit all receipts in and make disbursements through the Student Organization Business Office, Fraternity Business Services, or Recreational Services. Upon dissolution, state money and mandatory student fees revert back to the granting organization.  Inactive organizations will be considered dissolved after five years of no account activity.  Revenue generated dollars or “00 funds” must be divided as stated in this Constitution and carried out by our leadership. Our organization’s remaining revenue generated dollars or “00 funds” will be divided or disbursed to (AhlulBayt Islamic Center which is a nonprofit organization in Iowa City, IA). If this organization has dissolved and revenue generated dollars or “00 funds” have not been divided as stated in this Constitution by five years from last account activity, funds in our “00 account” will revert to an account specified for this purpose within student government(s). These funds will then be available for distribution through student government(s) guidelines in accordance with University of Iowa policy.

**5.2 Removal or Suspension of an Executive Committee Member**

5.2.1 Any Member of the Executive Committee will be removed if:

5.2.1.1 They fail to retain Membership.

5.2.1.2 Loses a recall election called to determine their status on the

Committee. The recall election can be called by a majority vote of the

Executive Committee.

**5.3 Replacement of Executive Committee Member**

5.3.1 Vacancies in the Executive Committee can exist because of any one or more of the following:

5.3.1.1 Insufficient number of Executive Committee Members are elected in the organization’s election.

5.3.1.2 Removal of an Executive Committee Member as explained in Section

5.2 of this Article.

5.3.1.3 Loss of one or more Executive Committee Members due to death or resignation.

5.3.2 The remaining Executive Committee Members shall be empowered to select the next runner-up of the organization to fill the vacancy only for the remaining term.

5.3.3 In the event that a runner-up is not available, the vacancy will be filled by an election at a General body meeting to be held within two (2) months of the vacancy.

**5.4 President**

5.4.1 The President shall be the executive and administrative officer of the organization.

They shall be responsible for the efficient conduct of the affairs of the organization and represent the organization in matters related to its activities. Without restricting the generality of the aforesaid, the President shall specifically be responsible for:

5.4.1.1 Presiding all meetings of Members of the organization and of the Executive

 Committee when present

5.4.1.2 The general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of the organization.

**5.5 General Body**

5.5.1 The General Body shall consist of the Membership.

**ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS**

**6.1 Official Meetings**

6.1.1 An Official meeting shall be held at least once a month for the purpose of fulfilling membership requirement, but prefer each week (Saturday)

**6.2 General Body Meetings**

6.2.1 General Body meetings shall be held at least twice a year. The purpose of these meetings will be to:

6.2.1.1 Review past performances including, but not limited to, Membership records and books of accounts.

6.2.1.2 Discuss current issues and future plans.

6.2.1.3 Transact such other business as may properly be brought before the

Executive Committee

6.2.1.4 Hold elections as necessary.

6.2.2 General announcements through a newsletter, telephone recording, or bulletin board, shall be considered sufficient notice for the General Body meeting.

**6.3 Executive Committee Meetings**

6.3.1 There shall be a regular monthly Executive Committee meeting on the day designated in the Bylaws, with the agenda provided to the Members in advance. Members of the organization are welcome to attend as observers. Minutes of the meeting will be kept and made available to the Members upon request. Any change to the schedule shall be communicated sufficiently in advance to all Members.

**6.4 Special Meetings**

6.4.1 Special meetings of the Executive Committee with any other committee maybe requested by the Committee at any time.

6.4.2 Special meetings of the organization may be called by the Executive Committee or by two thirds (2/3) of the organization's Members upon at least three (3) and not more than thirty (30) days’ notice along with the stated agenda. However, a special meeting called for the purpose of elections, shall require at least two (2) weeks written notice.

6.4.3 Special Executive Committee meetings may be called at any time by any Executive Committee Member upon three (3) days’ notice by stating the purpose of the meeting to the other Members of the Executive Committee.

**6.5 Quorum**

6.5.1 At all the General Body meetings, forty percent (40%) of the Members shall form a quorum. If a quorum is not complete, the meeting shall stand adjourned and postponed to another day at which only twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members shall form a quorum. A simple majority of the Members in attendance (provided a quorum is achieved) shall rule on all matters, unless otherwise stated herein.

6.5.2 At all Executive Committee meetings, the presence of at least four (4) Committee Members shall constitute a quorum. A simple majority shall rule on all matters as described in the Bylaws, unless otherwise stated herein.

**ARTICLE 7. AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF THE CONSTITUTION**

7.1 Amendments shall be proposed, in writing to the Executive Committee by one or more Members of the organization. Approval of the amendments shall be authorized by the Executive Committee before ratification by the General Body.

7.2 A quorum of 60% of the total Membership be required for this vote. An 85% vote of the Members present shall constitute ratification to the amendments as described in the Bylaws, except for Article 2 and Article 7 which cannot be changed.

**ARTICLE 8. DISSOLUTION**

8.1 If the Executive Committee unanimously conclude that the continuation of the organization has become impossible or undesirable due to financial, political, religious or any other reason, the organization shall be dissolved in the following manner:

8.1.1 The situation shall be announced to the General Body.

8.1.2 There shall be no refunds of any contributions or donations whatsoever.

8.1.3 Thirty (30) days after the announcement, if in the opinion of the Executive Committee, there are no promising efforts by the Members of the community to save the organization from dissolution, then the Executive Committee shall start proceedings for dissolving the organization.

8.1.4 The proceedings for dissolving the organization shall consist of:

8.1.4.1 Closing all normal activities.

8.1.4.2 Fulfilling all financial obligations of the organization.

8.1.4.3 Filing all necessary papers with all concerned agencies of the university

**ARTICLE 9. DECLARATION UPON OATH (AFFIDAVIT) FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION**

9.1 I, son/daughter of,

 While accepting Membership of the Executive Committee of the organization do swear (as in Section 9.2 of this Article) in the name of Allah, that I, during my term of office,

9.1.1 Shall fulfill all my duties and responsibilities to the best of my abilities.

9.1.2 Shall consider it my duty to do the utmost to achieve the mission and successfully fulfill the activities of the organization.

9.1.3 Shall abide by the Constitution, any other Rules, Bylaws, Regulations and Policies of the organization, and shall help implement the same.

9.1.4 Shall not be absent from any of the Executive Committee meetings and the organization's programs without reasonable excuse.

9.1.5 Shall frankly present my sincere and correct opinion at the meetings relating to the organization's activities without any fear, hindrance, or prejudice (i.e. without affinity, connection, love, enmity, grudge, approach, plot, competition, rivalry, or ill-will).

9.1.6 Shall guard the organization’s rules, regulations, policies and activities; and if any error or deficiency is noted, I shall try to correct it or get it corrected.

9.1.7 Shall endeavor to lead an Islamic way of life, according to the Marja-e- Taqleed.

9.2 Oh Allah! grant me the Divine Guidance, ability and capacity in the name of Mohammed (S.A.W) and Ale- Mohammed (A.S) to faithfully satisfy this oath only to please You; and include me among those who lay their foundation on the fear of Allah and His good pleasure.

9.3 "Ouq se mu Billa-hill Adheem, Wa be Haaz-ul-Quran-el-Kareem, An Akuna Multazeemen be Qullei Ma-fi-Haaz-ul-Dustoor wa un Uma-resa-hoo be Qullei Amanah Le Khidma-til Islam wal Muslimeen, Qurbatan Illallah Ta'ala.

***Translation:***

I swear by the name of the Almighty Allah and the Holy Quran to abide by all

what is in the Constitution during my term of office and to sincerely practice them to serve Islam, only for the sake of the Almighty Allah.

9.4 Signature of the Executive Committee Member:

Full Name and Designation:

Address:

**ARTICLE 10. ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution, adopted at the Association's General Body meeting on 199\_, will be put into effect immediately and will supersede any previous Constitutions of the Association. Agreements within the limit and provisions of the previous constitution will be binding and shall be honored by the organization.

**Members of the Constitution Committee:**

First & Last Name

**GLOSSARY**

All terminology defined herein is as understood and interpreted by the Shia Ithna’shari school of thought.

**AhlulBayt:** Members of the household of the Holy Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon him and his family)”, namely the Holy Prophet, Fatima Al-Zahra, Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib, Imam Hasan ibn Ali, Imam Husein ibn Ali, Imam Ali ibn Husein, Imam Muhammad ibn Ali, Imam Jaffer ibn Muhammed, Imam Musa ibn Jaffer, Imam Ali ibn Musa, Imam Muhammad ibn Ali, Imam Ali ibn Muhammad, Imam Hasan ibn Ali, Imam Mehdi ibn Hasan.

**Furu-e-Deen:** “Branches of The Faith”, namely: Salat (Prayers), Sawm (Fasting), Hajj (Pilgrimage), Zakat (Poor rate), Khums (Tax on savings), Jihad (Holy War), Amr-bil-Maroof (Enjoining the good), Nahi-anil-munkar (Forbidding the Evil), Tawalla (Loving the Friends of the AhlulBayt), Tabarra (Hating the enemies of the AhlulBayt).

**Kaba'ir:** Major Sins

**Marja-e-Taqleed:** A Mujtahid who is A’lam (the most learned)

**Mujtahid:** A learned person who is male, Shia Ithna’ashari, adult, sane, of legitimate birth, living and just.

**Saga'ir:** Minor Sins

**Sunnah:** The actions and sayings of the AhlulBayt.

**Usul-e-Deen:** “Roots of The Faith”, namely: Tawheed (Oneness of Allah), Adl (Justice of Allah), Nubuwaat (Prophethood), Imamat (Vicegerency of the Prophet), Qiyamat (Judgment Day)

**AMENDMENTS**