

***The Islamic
Foundation of Peoria***

**The
Constitution**

VERSION 6: December 2014

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ISLAMIC FOUNDATION OF PEORIA

Bismillah ir Rahman ir Rahim

“In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful”

“And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited; and remember the favor of Allah on you when you were enemies, then He united your hearts so by His favor you became brothers.”
Quran III: 103

Article I: Name

The Organization shall be called The Islamic Foundation of Peoria, hereafter referred to as the “Foundation” or “IFP.” It shall be a non-profit, Islamic, religious organization. Its Constitution and By-Laws shall strictly conform to the laws and principles of Islam according to the Qur’an and Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Article II: Mission Statement and Objectives

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Islamic Foundation of Peoria is to help the Muslim community of Peoria fulfil its religious, social and educational needs and duties related to Islam. This mission will be pursued through the completion of the objectives enumerated below.

1. Make known the religion of Islam, its teachings and philosophy.
2. Provide needed general guidance and/or assistance to Muslims in the community.
3. Invite Muslims into active participation in activities of the Foundation.
4. Implement Islamic education for children and adults.
5. Promote tolerance within the membership.
6. Organize social events to strengthen community relations.
7. Encourage cultural diversity with social unity among Muslims.
8. Make available Islamic services regarding major life events for Muslims (such as births, marriages, death, illness, etc.)
9. Work towards the establishment of a Mosque in Peoria.
10. Promote friendly relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the community.

Article III: Membership

All individuals over the age of eighteen (18) years, regardless of gender, are eligible to be members of the Foundation.

Membership in the Foundation shall be subject to the definitions and conditions set forth in the By-Laws.

Article IV: Organization

The IFP shall have a General Assembly and a Shura Council, hereinafter also called the “Shura.”

A. General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall consist of all Members in good standing as defined in the By-Laws.
2. The rights and duties of the General Assembly are outlined in the By-Laws.

B. Shura Council

1. The Shura Council shall be composed of seven (7) members elected from the General Assembly Membership.
2. The elected President of the Shura shall always be a male.
3. A husband and wife may not hold simultaneous seats on the Shura.
4. Three (3) of the initial Shura members will be elected to four (4) year terms. Two (2) of the initial Shura Members will be elected to three (3) year terms and two (2) will be elected to two (2) year terms. The term thereafter shall be fixed at three (3) years. The initial Shura election will be open to all founding members.
 - i. Founding Member is here defined as the individuals and their immediate families responsible for organizing, establishing, and ratifying this Constitution and By-Laws of the IFP.

5. After the first Shura is seated, to qualify for being elected as a Member of any future Shura Council an individual must fulfill the following criteria:
 - i. Be a Member in good standing of the Islamic Foundation of Peoria as defined in the By-Laws.
 - ii. Have lived in the vicinity of Peoria for at least one (1) continuous year.
 - iii. Be at least 21 years old as of the date of his or her nomination.
6. The Shura will meet at least once a month.
7. The Shura will elect a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer from among themselves within one (1) month of elections to serve for that calendar year.
8. The President will act as spokesman for the IFP or will appoint appropriate individuals to speak at his behest. Other duties of the President are outlined in the By-Laws.
9. The duties of the Secretary and the Treasurer are outlined in the By-Laws.
10. The remaining members of the Shura will act as advisors to the President, Secretary and Treasurer and may be called upon to serve on various committees. The duties of these Members are outlined in the By-Laws.
11. The authority to form any committee is reserved for the President with the exception of the situation of a successful Proposal for Action resolution as outlined later in the Constitution and in the By-Laws. At least one Member of the Shura must be on any committee created.
12. Any vacancy in the Shura shall be filled temporarily by the Shura in a manner it sees fit to fill the remaining term of the vacated seat.

Article V: Meetings

A. *General Business Meetings*

These will be held at least twice a year at the headquarters of the IFP or at any place that the Shura should deem appropriate. These meetings are open to Members and Non-members alike.

1. An agenda for the General Business Meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary of the Shura and posted in the IFP headquarters at least two (2) weeks before the meeting.
2. Fifty (50) percent of the Members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of the General Business Meeting. If a quorum is not attained those Members present in the next General Business Meeting shall constitute a quorum.
3. The General Business Meeting shall have the power to outline policies of the Foundation by establishing and amending the Constitution and the By-Laws according to the method outlined in the Constitution. It shall vote on issues presented to it by the Shura at the Shura's discretion. It shall also serve as a forum by which the Shura may communicate to the Members the activities and needs of the Foundation. It shall also serve as a forum by which the Members may communicate to the Shura their concerns and needs.
4. The right to vote at a General Business Meeting is reserved to Members in good standing as defined in the By-Laws. Non-members may witness the discussions and voting but may not vote. Voting is to be carried out by the methods outlined in the By-Laws.

B. *General Election Meeting*

These meetings will be held in December of each year with the purpose of electing new members to the Shura Council. These meetings are open to Members and Non-members alike, however, voting is strictly reserved to Members as defined in the By-Laws. The meeting and voting is to be conducted by the methods outlined in the By-Laws.

Article VI: Finances

- A. The finances of the Foundation shall be budgeted and approved by the Shura for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January every year and ending on the 31st day of December of the same year.
- B. The Shura may accept contributions and donations from sources consistent with the purposes of the Foundation.
- C. The Shura shall handle the investments of the Foundation.
- D. IFP will NOT accept donations from foreign sources unless authorized by the General Body to do so at the time of a General Business Meeting. Foreign source is defined as monies originating from outside the United States of America or from foreign government organizations.”

Article VII: IFP Sunday School Board

- A. The Islamic Foundation of Peoria Sunday School (henceforth referred to as IFP Sunday School) will form a School Board to oversee the affairs and running of the school, while ensuring the mission, policies and procedures of the IFP Sunday School are maintained and followed. The School Board will also play a vital role in curriculum development. The School Board will consist of five members as described below:
 - 1. Position A to be held by an IFP Shura member appointed by the President of the Shura. This person will serve as the chair of School Board. The term of this position will be the same as their position on the Shura.
 - 2. Position B to be held by the Principal. This position will always be occupied by the current Principal of IFP Sunday School.
 - 3. Position C to be held by a person who has served, or currently serves, on the IFP Sunday School Administration. This position will have a 3-year term. This person is eligible for one re-election.
 - 4. Positions D and E to be held by parents and/or teachers who have been actively affiliated with the Sunday School. The first person to fill position D will have a term of 2 years. The first person to fill position E will have a term of 1 year. Both positions will have subsequent 3-year terms and are eligible for one re-election.
- B. The School Board’s primary role and function will be defined and limited to the following responsibilities:
 - 1. To ensure the mission of the IFP Sunday School is being adhered to
 - 2. To ensure the Staff Policies and Procedures of the IFP Sunday School are being adhered to
 - 3. To ensure the Parent/Student Handbook of the IFP Sunday School is being adhered to

4. To work with the IFP Sunday School Administration regarding curriculum development
5. To actively participate, recruit and assist the President of the IFP Shura in the selection of the Principal-Elect or Principal position based on the IFP Sunday School Administrative Structure's Succession Plan. The School Board will provide the President with a final selection of names from which he will choose to fill the Principal-Elect or Principal position.
6. Dispute resolution for any IFP Sunday School issues that cannot be resolved by the IFP Sunday School Administration will be deferred to the School Board. Parents have the right to address the School Board if any issues cannot be resolved by the IFP Sunday School Administration.

C. Establishing the Initial IFP Sunday School Board: For the first year of the IFP Sunday School Board, the members of the School Board will be appointed and approved jointly by the IFP Shura President, Shura Sunday School Committee, and the Sunday School Administration. The election procedure for positions C, D, and E (as referenced in Article VII(A) above) will be determined by the School Board during their 1st year of operation.

(This article was enacted per the procedures outline in Article VIII on December 13, 2014)

Article VIII: General Assembly Proposals and Amendments

A. *Proposals for Action*

1. Proposals for Action must be presented in writing to the President of the Shura and signed as a petition by at least one third (1/3rd) of the current Members in good standing one month prior to any General Business Meeting.
2. The President is then obligated to discuss the Proposal for Action at the first General Business Meeting that occurs following receipt of this petition.
3. A vote on the Proposal for Action will be taken at that time and the results of the vote become binding upon the Shura if the Proposal passes by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Members present if a quorum exists. If a quorum does not exist then the issue will be presented at the next General Business Meeting and so on until a quorum is achieved. Voting will be conducted in the manner outlined in the By-Laws.
4. Any successful Proposal for Action vote will require the President of the Shura to immediately appoint a committee to carry out the Proposal for Action in the method outlined in the By-Laws.

B. *Constitution or By-Laws Amendments*

1. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws must be presented in writing to the President of the Shura Council and signed as a petition by at least one third (1/3) of the membership at least one (1) month prior to a General Business Meeting. Alternatively, the Shura may recommend changes to the members during a General Business Meeting. In this case, the Shura must have unanimously decided on such a recommendation. Unanimous will be defined as all seven (7) Shura members.
2. The President shall mail the proposed amendment(s) to all Members by any means of communication at least two weeks before the next General Business Meeting.
3. The President shall call for a General Business Meeting for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Amendment(s).
4. Amendments will be considered passed, binding, and immediately effective, unless otherwise specified, if passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a quorum of members as defined in the By-Laws. Voting is to be conducted in the method outlined in the By-Laws.

Article IX: Miscellaneous

A. Inurement of Income

No part of the net earnings of the Foundation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its Members, the Shura Council members, or other private persons except that the Shura Council shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

B. Legislative or Political Activities

No substantial part of the activities of the Foundation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Foundation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

C. Operational Limitations

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious and scientific purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

D. Dissolution

If one-half (1/2) of the Membership petitions for dissolution of the IFP, then an emergency meeting of the General Assembly shall be called to discuss the issue. One-half the membership is required for a quorum and two-thirds (2/3) of Members present is required for all decision. If this number cannot be convened, then a second meeting, regardless of how many Members are present, can make its decision by a two-third (2/3) vote. In the event it is decided to dissolve the organization, the same Assembly shall choose a group of three (3) persons to liquidate the transactions of the organization. If, after all the debts of the organization are paid and if any assets remain, the General Assembly may either freeze the assets for use by a Peoria organization with similar objectives or distribute the assets among the Islamic Society of North America and/or The Muslim Students Association of the United States, both of which are non-profit, tax exempt organizations with similar objectives as the IFP. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.