

GALA Affiliate Guidelines

Section 1: Definition

An Affiliate shall be defined as a local group of members of the national organization. Affiliates shall be governed under the national Bylaws. All details connected with the formation and operation of the Affiliates shall be subject to the national board.

Section 2: Membership

Affiliates may be formed when there are a minimum of five (5) prospective members.

A minimum of five (5) members, including the Affiliate President, must also be members of the national organization.

Each active member has the right to one vote in the local Affiliate, but only those who are members of the national organization have the right to one vote on national matters and also the right to hold office in both the local and the national organization.

Section 3: Dues

Local dues are set by the local Affiliate and are due during the month of January for the current calendar year.

National dues are set by the Board of Directors. Those members of the local Affiliate who are national members must pay their national dues during the month of January for the current calendar year.

Section 4: Governance

Each Affiliate may establish its own operating procedures, provided that such procedures do not conflict with the Bylaws of the national organization. The operating procedures must be approved by the Affiliate and the national Board of Directors.

Section 5: Officers

Each Affiliate shall have a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer and as many other officers as may be determined to be advisable. Affiliate officers shall be elected annually or biennially, as each chapter shall determine, by ballot among the members of the Affiliate. Proposed slates of nominees should be representative of persons of all sexual orientations, differing abilities, racial/ethnic backgrounds, gender identification, and ages as far as possible.

The **President** is the chief executive officer of the Affiliate. They are responsible for representing GALA before the public and the Community of Christ faith community.

The **Secretary** shall keep accurate minutes of local board meetings, maintain the Affiliate's official membership roll, oversee correspondence, and provide any required information (including Affiliate membership) to the national board.

The **Treasurer** shall receive, hold, and disburse the funds of the Affiliate. They are responsible for drafting the Affiliate's annual budget and accounting for expenditures to the Affiliate members. They are also responsible for ensuring that annual reports are sent to the national Board of Directors in a timely manner following the closure of the fiscal year.

Section 6: Acceptable activities

Local Affiliates may engage in any activities that are consistent with the Community of Christ faith community and with the stated purpose of the national organization:

The purpose of GALA is to affirm the dignity and worth of all persons without regard to gender, race, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation. We support and encourage self-actualization in an atmosphere of love, understanding, and confidentiality. We are dedicated to the celebration of diversity. We are committed to exploring the issues of spirituality and justice through dialogue, education, and action.

If there is any question as to whether an activity might be consistent with this purpose, it is the responsibility of the Affiliate President to contact the national President for approval.

Section 7: Dissolution of an affiliate

Affiliates may be dissolved by decision of the local group or at the discretion of the national Board of Directors. Causes for dissolution may include (but are not limited to):

1. Decrease in membership
2. Sexual harassment
3. Breach of confidentiality
4. Improper or inappropriate activities of the Affiliate as a representative of the national organization
5. Non-payment of national dues

Once the relationship of an Affiliate to the national organization has been dissolved, the use of any GALA signage, logo, or other material that would suggest approval of the national organization is no longer permissible. Continued use of such material may result in legal challenges.