

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CHAPTER CONSTITUTION
May 15, 2014

PREAMBLE

We, the students at the University of Delaware, form a local chapter affiliated with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization is InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Undergraduate Chapter—(1).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

In response to God's love, grace and truth:

The purpose of the chapter is to establish and advance at the University of Delaware witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture, and God's purposes in the world.

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL BASIS

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA-2000-- <i>We believe in:</i>
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International Fellowship of Evangelical Students IFES-1947*: <i>We believe in the fundamental truths of Christianity including:</i>

1. The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things, existing eternally in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--full of love and glory.

2. The unique divine inspiration, entire trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.

3. The value and dignity of all people: created in God's image to live in love and holiness but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt, and justly subject to God's wrath.

4. Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, who lived as a perfect example, who assumed the judgment due sinners by dying in our place, and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and Lord.

1. The unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Godhead. The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment.

2. The divine inspiration and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

3. The universal sinfulness and guilt of all men since the fall, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

4. Redemption from the guilt, penalty, dominion and pollution of sin, solely through the sacrificial death (as our Representative and Substitute) of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. The death and His ascension to the right hand of God the Father.

5. Justification by God's grace to all who repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

6. The indwelling presence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit, who gives to all believers a new life and a new calling to obedient service.

7. The unity of all believers in Jesus Christ, manifest in worshipping and witnessing churches making disciples throughout the world.

8. The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life. To God be glory forever.

*A PRIMARY statement signed by student leaders and speakers

5. The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith alone.

6. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.

7. The one Holy Universal Church which is the Body of Christ and to which all true believers belong

8. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*A SUPPLEMENTAL statement student leaders agree to use for interpreting/clarifying IVCF/USA Statement. Some contents of statement rearranged for comparison with IVCF/USA Statement.

ARTICLE IV. MISSION STATEMENT

We are a body of students being transformed by Jesus, renewing the campus community, and developing world changers. Some ways these things are accomplished are by our offering numerous events to serve the students on campus, while we also develop leadership skills and character within our members. We provide weekly speakers, Bible studies and discussions that are open to the community, in order to explore a personal relationship with Christ and promote spiritual growth.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Our organization agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University and all local, state, and federal laws. Members will become acquainted with policies and procedures in the official student handbook and other policies and procedures provided by the University. This organization is a viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six fulltime undergraduate students, and we do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, veteran, handicap status, or sexual orientation –(2).

Section 2

Any fulltime matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware who agree with the purpose and object of this group may be participants –(3). An Active Member has attended at least six meetings of the Chapter for at least three months and acknowledges Jesus Christ as

Savior and Lord –(4). Nonvoting members (part-time or graduate students, alumni, community, honorary members) cannot hold office and do not count towards the group’s membership nor should unduly influence decision making of the organization –(5). Employees (Staff) of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)/USA assigned by IVCF to the Chapter may partner with the Chapter. If an unfortunate situation occurs, removal of person’s membership may be by a majority of the chapter Leadership Team (after consultation with the IVCF Staff) if they pose any form of a threat-- physical, spiritual, or psychological-- to any member of the organization, or if they disrupt any chapter meetings or other activities –(6). Guidelines for procedure should follow the general outline described in Article VI, Section 3 for leaders, second through fifth sentences.

ARTICLE VI. LEADERS

Section 1.

Leaders Covenant. Active Members of the Chapter who wish to be leaders must sign the Statement of Agreement (Purpose Statement (c.f. Article II) and Doctrinal Basis (c.f. Article III)), commit to abide by the Statement of Agreement in their conduct, and agree to devote sufficient time to the Chapter, as indicated by completing and signing the Leadership Application. Anyone with a leadership position in the chapter is expected to exemplify Christ-like character, conduct, and leadership (c.f. the following relevant passages: 1 Peter 5:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Galatians 5:19-26; and 1 Corinthians 6:7-11) –(7).

Section 2.

A Chapter Leadership Team (officers) –(8) of Active Members will guide the Chapter each year and will be responsible for organizing all meetings, activities and events of the Chapter in order to fulfill the Purpose of the Chapter. Our four foundation stones provide the primary means by which our purpose will be carried out –(9). A) By personal and group testimony directing students to a saving faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. B) Encouraging the spiritual growth of Christian students by prayer, Bible study, and Christian fellowship. C) Presenting the call to Christian service, both at home and abroad, encouraging students to begin involvement now. D) Helping the Christian student integrate their faith with the academic environment, forming a God-centered worldview and Christian lifestyle. The number of additional leaders and other chapter positions will vary each year depending on current membership, number of programs, and the needs of the fellowship. InterVarsity Staff will partner by participating with the team (but not voting) in planning, teaching, and advising. The Leadership Team may select additional leaders to serve the Chapter each year as needed –(10).

Section 3.

Conflict Resolution and Discipline of Student Leaders –(11). All student leaders (including those without a title listed in the Constitution, yet have chapter responsibilities) may be removed or suspended if issue is unresolved. The first step is for the individuals involved to go directly and privately to discuss the situation and either ask for or give forgiveness (depending on the circumstance) according to Matthew 18:15-17a. If this does not bring resolution/reconciliation then both the complaining individual and the accused leader will meet with the IVCF staff for help in resolving the issue. In the event that the issue is not resolved, the Leadership Team (or a member(s) of the Leadership Team) shall meet to confer with the Chapter’s IVCF Staff for advice and counsel. No leader may be removed without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Leadership Team. A leader complained against may only be removed from their

position by at least a simple majority agreement of the members of the Leadership Team. Any member of the Chapter may make a complaint against any leader in the Chapter including a member of the Leadership Team. Depending on the situation and the needs of the accused leader or the accusing member, the said leader may step down from responsibilities temporarily during resolution. Misrepresentation on a leadership application shall be grounds for the immediate removal of the leader by the Leadership Team.

Section 4.

Only Active Members will be eligible to be nominated for leadership positions. An Active Member can receive a Leadership Application upon nominating her/himself or upon nomination by any other Active Member. Each application will ask potential leaders to express their views on matters that are necessary for advancing the purpose and core beliefs of the Chapter stated in Articles II and III of this Constitution. Applications must be signed to be considered. After review of the applications (and interviews with the candidates if needed), a selection committee assigned by the Leadership Team with the advice of the IVCF Staff, shall select at least one finalist to serve in each Chapter Leadership Team position and will submit the slate to the Active Members for vote on the slate as a whole. A simple majority affirmation by those Active Members present for voting results in all the selectees being named as leaders-elect and will serve a term of one year and assume their positions as leaders at the end of the University of Delaware semester following their election. -(12).

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

The Chapter may obtain funding in the following ways:

1. Through private donations and other fund-raising activities
2. Through funding from student fees -(13)

A treasurer shall be appointed by the Leadership Team and be responsible for the group's university checking account, having all checks signed by the activities and program staff for the purpose of the organization (if needed). The treasurer is also responsible for requesting funds from the university's allocation board and administering any segregated fee grants.

The University of Delaware shall inherit the assets of any Registered Student Organization should the group become defunct -(14).

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Ratifying an initial constitution can be done by a simple majority vote of the student leaders founding the group -(15).

Amendments proposed may be submitted in writing to any Chapter Leadership Team member. Any Active Member of the Chapter may submit an amendment. Amendments will be considered by Leadership Team members and must pass by a 3/4 vote of the Leadership Team. The Chapter may not amend Article II or Article III of this Constitution without the express, written permission of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA -(16).

ARTICLE IX. IVCF CHAPTERS ALLIANCE (ICA)

When multiple IVCF chapters exist on a single campus, the groups will seek ways to demonstrate unity as they are connected with the same Lord Jesus Christ and the same national (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA) and international (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students [IFES].) Therefore, appointed leaders and IV staff of each IVCF chapter at the University of Delaware commit to: 1) pray for each other, 2) meet once or twice a semester to plan for occasional joint activities during that semester, 3) make use of the same IVCF Constitution, and similar Bylaws.

First chapter at UD to affiliate with IVCF in 1945. Constitution revisions: November 1983, December 2003, November 2007. Date of adoption of 2014 revision by leaders of the Undergraduate Chapter--May 2014.

NOTES

- (1) Individual Chapters will select their own name. For the purposes of unity and to clarify our affiliation with InterVarsity the name should include at least the IVCF initials or InterVarsity. Printed materials could include the phrase “A ministry of IVCF/USA”.
- (2) Nondiscrimination clause is required by the UD
- (3) Wording required by UD
- (4) Wording from Local Chapter Constitution and UD chapter RUF-I Constitution (Article IX) UD approved as RSO 4/16/12.
- (5) Wording from UD
- (6) Wording required by National IVCF
- (7) Wording required by National IVCF
- (8) Wording from UD (The students who form the main leaders of the chapter can choose their own designation for this group which has ultimate responsibility for the chapter. The University considers them the “officers” of the chapter and they register the group as an RSO each year and are fulltime undergrad students.)
- (9) These statements are from our current chapter constitution since 1945. As such they reflect an important part of our heritage and the alumni and church expectations of us.
- (10) Our chapter statement. Much of the content explaining governing and structure of the chapter can be put in bylaws, which give flexibility for changing conditions
- (11) A section dealing with this topic is required by both UD and IVCF. Wording is from our chapter constitution and National IVCF. The final authority is the chapter leadership team for our group.
- (12) Wording primarily from National IVCF
- (13) Wording is from UD (It is hoped students will not depend on free funds from the university, but will be taught the discipleship of giving to the chapter)
- (14) Wording required by UD
- (15) Added in case new chapters form
- (16) Wording from our current constitution