

Constitution of IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship (Multiethnic Chapter) at The University of Texas at Austin

PURPOSE

IntersVarsity Christian Fellowship (Multiethnic Chapter) is intended to: In response to God's love, grace and truth: The Purpose of the Chapter is to establish and advance, at the University of Texas, 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.

VISION STATEMENT

"We are a Multi-Ethnic community seeking God and responding to Him by inviting every corner of the campus to experience His love."

DOCTRINAL BASIS

We believe in:

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

ARTICLE I – UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

This organization is a recognized student organization at The University of Texas at Austin and shall comply with all campus policies as set forth in the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities.

ARTICLE II – PROHIBITION OF HAZING

State law and Sec. 14-103(3) of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities* define hazing as any intentional, knowing or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership Restriction: In accordance with Sec. 6-202(a)(2) and Sec. 6-302 of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities*, this organization restricts membership to students, faculty members, and staff members of the University,
- b. Eligibility of Membership:
 - i. In accordance with Sec. 6-202(a)(3) of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities*, this organization may not deny membership on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, except that a registered student organization created primarily for religious purposes may restrict the right to vote or hold office to persons who subscribe to the registered student organization's statement of faith; and a registered student organization may restrict membership based on the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
 - ii. Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone officially connected to the University of Texas as faculty, staff, or registered student. An Active Member is a currently enrolled student at the [school name] who has attended meetings of the Chapter for at least two (2) months. Employees (Staff) of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF)/USA assigned by IVCF to the Chapter may partner with the Chapter.

Procedure for Member Removal: Members of the Chapter may be removed by a majority of the 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 Chapter meetings or other activities.

Article IV – OFFICERS

Section 1.

A Leadership Team of members will guide the Chapter each year. The number of leaders, including the Leadership Team, and other positions will vary each year depending on current membership and the needs of the fellowship. InterVarsity Staff are full members of the chapter Leadership Team. The standing Leadership Team with the assistance of InterVarsity Staff will determine positions each year. The Leadership Team may select secondary leaders to serve the Chapter each year as needed.

Section 2.

The Leadership Team will be responsible for organizing all meetings, activities and events of the Chapter in order to fulfill the purpose of the chapter.

Section 3.

Leadership of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at [school name] involves significant spiritual commitment. Chapter leaders are expected to indicate their agreement with InterVarsity's Doctrine and Purpose Statements and 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).

Section 4.

Leaders may be removed from their position by a simple majority 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. Following the complaint, 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. They will also meet with both the complaining individual and the accused leader. 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 by at least a simple majority agreement of the remaining members of the Leadership Team. Misrepresentation on the leadership application (c.f. Article XI) shall be grounds for the immediate removal of the leader by the Leadership Team.

Article V – MEETINGS

Meetings will be held weekly at 6:30PM on Tuesdays in student building and allocated room number, excluding university wide breaks. Attendance is not required at these meetings but strongly required for members thinking about a leadership position.

ARTICLE VI - UNIVERSITY ADVISOR

University Advisor: In accordance with Sec. 6-101 (14) and Sec. 6-101(15) of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities*, this organization may have a University Advisor who is at least twenty-one years of age, is not enrolled as a student at the University, and serves as either:

- a. a part-time or full-time employee of the University.
- b. a representative of a national organization that is associated with the registered student organization.
- c. serves as either.
 - i. a part-time or full-time employee of the University.
 - ii. a representative of a national organization that is associated with the registered student organization (registered student organizations only).

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship does not have a university advisor.

ARTICLE VII – FINANCES

The Chapter will obtain funding in the following ways:

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

A member of the Leadership Team will be responsible for the Chapter's finances and for administering any segregated fee grants.

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS

Section 1. 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. Applications must be signed to be considered.

Section 2. After review of the applications and interviews with the candidates, the Leadership Team (or a selection committee assigned by the Leadership Team with the advice of the IVCF Staff), shall nominate at least one finalist to serve in each Leadership Team position and will submit those individuals to a vote by the Active Members. Those finalists who receive a majority affirmation by the Active Members shall be named as leaders-elect and will serve a term of one (1) year.

Section 3. Elections are held in the last weeks of the semester. Leaders-elect assume their positions as leaders at the end of the University of Texas semester following their election.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Constitution Updates: All amendments or changes to this constitution must be reflected in an updated constitution that must be submitted to Student Activities in the Office of the Dean of Students at 2609 University Ave., Suite 2.112 within 14 days of its approval.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments can be proposed verbally at a Leadership Team meeting or may be submitted in writing to any Leadership Team member.

Section 2. Any Active Member of the Chapter may submit an amendment.

Section 3. Amendments will be considered by Leadership Team members and must pass by a 3/4th vote of the Leadership Team.

Section 4. The Chapter may not amend Article II or Article III of this Constitution without the express, written permission of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.

ARTICLE IX. CHAPTER 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 (c.f. Article XI).