



REVISED  
DEC. 6, 2002

### Constitution of the University of Delaware Chapter of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

- I. Name: The name of this organization shall be, The University of Delaware Chapter of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.
- II. Purposes: The purposes of this Fellowship shall be:
- A. To seek by personal and group testimony to lead students to a saving faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior;
  - B. To encourage spiritual growth of Christian students by prayer, Bible study, and Christian fellowship;
  - C. To present the call to Christian service, both at home and abroad, encouraging students to begin involvement now;
  - D. To help the Christian student integrate his faith with his academic environment, beginning to form a God-centered world view and Christian lifestyle.

The purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities 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.

- III. Membership: Participation in this Fellowship shall be open (no discrimination of any kind—see U of D anti-discrimination policy) to all students, faculty, and staff who are interested in its purpose and desire to take part in its program. For purposes of nominating or voting an IVCF member is any <sup>full-time</sup> student of the University who was present in at least eight meetings during the previous three months and who acknowledges Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- IV. Officers: There will be one Fellowship with at least two branches. Branch/Area may select their own Leadership Team consisting of a maximum of six officers.
- A. Officers and their general duties are as follows:
- 1. President, who shall see that the purposes of the Fellowship (Article II) are carried out; preside over meetings of their Branch/Area Leadership Team and minister to them personally.
  - 2. Vice-President, who shall assist the President and assume the duties of the President in case of absence; accept special tasks such as coordination of Gatherings or other events or projects; function as a Ministry Leader.
  - 3. Ministry Leaders (two, three, or four in number), who will encourage, disciple, and evaluate Small Group Leaders in their personal lives and in fulfilling the purposes of this Fellowship through their Small Groups; assist in various Area and All-Campus functions.
- B. One Secretary-Treasurer (for the entire Fellowship), who will record all business; take care of correspondence; instruct in giving; keep the books and disperse payments; carry out the financial policy (Article VIII).

- C. Additional officers and replacements may be appointed if necessary by the Leadership Teams.
- D. Officers shall serve for terms of one year (June through May) if possible and may be re-elected.
- E. Officers shall be required to give written approval of the Doctrinal Statements and Purposes of this Fellowship, and be in general agreement with the rest of the Constitution and Leadership Team Job Description.
- F. Officers shall appoint Small Group Leaders and others to responsibilities and approve speakers for various events. These all must agree with the Chapter and National doctrinal statements, except in cases of speaker debate where an alternate viewpoint is presented. They must adhere to biblical standards in all areas of their lives (See VI C).
- G. Affiliation with IVCF, USA shall be renewed yearly unless good cause can be shown.

V. Government:

- A. The All-Campus Leadership Team shall consist of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Branch/Area Leadership Teams, and will meet only as needed. IVCF staff will be used for planning, advice, teaching, and training.
- B. The All-Campus Leadership Team shall have final authority in and responsibility for this Fellowship, coordinating all campus plans and programs.
- C. Branch/Area Leadership Teams shall be responsible for their geographic area of campus, or assigned groups of people (ex. Graduates, I-students, Greeks, Athletes, etc.) The regular undergraduate chapters may combine for meetings of their Presidents and Vice Presidents since they must work jointly to coordinate Campus-wide programming.

VI. Officer Selection:

- A. Selection committees, consisting of ~~Christians~~ of proven character and involvement in the Fellowship, shall be appointed by each current Branch/Area Leadership Team. They shall number no less than three and no more than nine (the larger branch/area should have seven to nine), including a minimum of two current Leadership Team officers. This committee will be chaired by someone from the current Leadership Team and appointed by that team. They shall meet to select candidates and prior to finalizing selections, the IVCF staff will be consulted for their insights and comments. Since the committee's job is to prayerfully evaluate and then select only qualified people, they will decide to select the number needed. Any member may submit nominations in writing, as well as those on the Selection Committee. These nominations must be given to them by the day of the first committee meeting. One Selection Committee can function for the regular undergraduate chapters.
- B. Each person selected shall receive a copy of the Constitution and a Leadership Team job description from a committee member when informed of their selection. They will be encouraged to pray and seek counsel from one or two friends, current Leadership Team officers, and IVCF staff. They will be given a date by

which to respond in writing as follows: "Sensing the call of God and desiring to serve my fellow students, I accept the selection for the Leadership Team of IVCF and agree, without reservation, to the Purposes and Doctrinal Statement, and Constitution of this Fellowship and of National IVCF and Leadership Team Job Description."

- C. Leadership Team selection shall be finalized at the latest and results announced by the end of the first full week in March. Selection of student leaders (including Bible Study leaders and speakers) is also limited to those who by God's grace adhere to Biblical standards in all areas of their lives. They should display the kind of godly living described in the church leadership qualification lists in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. True Christians will exhibit a changed lifestyle by the power of the Holy Spirit, showing the fruit of the Spirit and refraining from the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5: 19-26). Some of the specific behaviors which are especially condemned are elaborated on in a separate document, "Job Description-Leadership Team."
- D. Discipline of student leaders. Student leaders (including Bible Study Leaders and others with Chapter responsibilities) may be removed or suspended upon at least two-thirds agreement of their Leadership Team. No leader may be removed or suspended without first receiving a full and fair hearing from their Leadership Team. In the event that a complaint is made against a Leadership Team member, then that leader may only be removed or suspended by at least two-thirds agreement of the remaining Leadership Team members of that team. Advice of the IV staff shall be sought.

VII. Chapter Doctrinal Statement: (IVCF National Staff Statement – 1960, BTR-Adopted 1983)

- A. We receive the Bible in its entirety, and the Bible alone, as the Word of God written, infallible, inspired of God, and therefore the inerrant rule of faith and practice.
- B. The one true God, existing eternally in unity and in the tri-personality of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C. The unique nature of man as a moral and rational being created in the image of God, and the historic fall of man into sin, bringing all men under divine condemnation.
- D. The full deity and true humanity of Jesus Christ, His personal pre-existence, virgin birth and sinlessness.
- E. The historic death of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins, a voluntary, substitutionary sacrifice, and His bodily resurrection.
- F. The justification of sinners by the Lord Jesus Christ through faith alone.
- G. The deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, the effective agent both in regeneration (granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ), and in that holy living which is the necessary evidence of true faith.
- H. The fellowship of Christians in the church, which embraces Biblical doctrine, worships the true God, obeys the Lord's command to baptize and to remember

Him at the table, exercises discipline, adorns its profession by holiness and love of fellow believers, and proclaims the Christian gospel to the world.

- I. The visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory.
- J. The resurrection of the redeemed to enjoyment of God forever in His presence, and the resurrection of the unredeemed to judgment and everlasting punishment.
- K. The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

#### IVCF/USA National Doctrinal Statement (2001)

- 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.

#### VIII. Finances:

- A. Financial policy shall be determined by each Leadership Team;
- B. The Secretary-Treasurer shall present a budget for the following semester to the Leadership Team two months before that semester, if needed;
- C. The Secretary-Treasurer shall present a complete financial report for each semester at the last Leadership Team meeting of the semester, if needed.

#### IX. Amendments:

- A. The Constitution may be amended by:
  - 1. Unanimous approval of the All Campus Leadership Team, plus:
  - 2. Approval by three fourths of those members voting.
- B. The one week voting period shall be announced one week in advance.

IVCF at UD Founded in 1945  
Revised, November 1983  
2<sup>nd</sup> Revision, Dec. 2002