

# Constitution of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia

## PREAMBLE

We, the members of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia, to fully realize our purpose, do hereby adopt and establish this constitution as the guiding instrument of our organization.

## ARTICLE I

### Name and Purpose

The name of the organization will be InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia.

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

The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia is to establish and advance 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 II

### 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 III

### Membership

Section 1. Membership in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC shall be limited to persons officially connected with the University of South Carolina - Columbia as faculty, staff, or students. Students enrolled in the spring semester under the above conditions who have pre-registered for the fall semester, as well as students enrolled in summer classes, are eligible for summer membership.

Section 2. The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Section 3. An Active Member is a currently enrolled student at USC Columbia 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.

Section 4. 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 Organization

Section 1. The officers of the organization shall be chosen from the active members. Any student seeking to hold or holding office must maintain the cumulative GPR requirement for graduation and remain in good standing in their respective college.

Section 2. 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.

Section 3. Elections:

- A. The standing Leadership Team, which includes InterVarsity Staff, will determine positions each year. The Leadership Team may select secondary leaders to serve the Chapter each year as needed.
- B. Only Active Members will be eligible to be nominated for leadership positions. An Active Member can receive a leadership application (c.f. Article IX) 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 I and II of this Constitution. Applications must be signed to be considered.
- C. 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.
- D. Leaders-elect assume their positions as leaders at the end of USC Columbia's semester following their election.

Section 4. Officer's Duties:

- A. 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
- B. Leadership of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia 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).
- C. Active Members of the Chapter who wish to be leaders must sign the Statement of Agreement (Purpose Statement (c.f. Article I) and Doctrinal Basis (c.f. Article II)), 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 IX).

Section 5. The Faculty/Staff Advisor to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia shall be nominated by chosen by the Leadership Team and the IVCF staff member. The Faculty/ Staff Advisor must be selected from full-time faculty or administrative staff members at the University. The Advisor shall serve as a liaison with the University, and help in the transition period between officers. The Advisor will be invited to and notified of all InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia's meetings and activities.

## ARTICLE V Dues and Finance

Section 1. The Chapter will obtain funding through private donations, fund-raising activities and through funding from student fees.

Section 2. A member of the Leadership Team will be responsible for the Chapter's finances and for administering any segregated fee grants.

## ARTICLE VI Meetings

Section 1. The first meeting of the fall semester shall be held within two weeks after classes start.

Section 2. Regular meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year at time set by the organization.

Section 3. The meetings shall be conducted by the Leadership Team and the IVCF Staff-worker.

Section 4. Content, order and length of meetings will vary depending on the needs of the Chapter.

Section 5. Action on any business, old or new, requires a quorum of one-half of the active membership of the organization.

## ARTICLE VII Removal from Office

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 IX) shall be grounds for the immediate removal of the leader by the Leadership Team.

## ARTICLE VIII Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution is binding to all members of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia but is not binding unto itself.

Section 2. Amendments can be proposed verbally at a Leadership Team meeting or may be submitted in writing to any Leadership Team member. 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 3/4ths 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 Leadership Application

**InterVarsity Christian Fellowship  
Chapter Leadership Application**

## USC Columbia

As a prospective leader of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USC Columbia you are preparing for serious spiritual responsibilities. You will be 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). This application is designed to help you understand these expectations more clearly. It will also assist the Leadership Team in getting to know you as they seek to pass on the leadership of this Chapter to faithful persons.

### I. Personal Information

1. Please describe briefly your relationship with Jesus Christ and how you have come to faith in him.
2. What strengths, gifts, talents, or skills do you believe God has given you for service?
3. Briefly describe the pattern of your personal devotional life.
4. Are you involved in a local church? Which one? How would you describe your involvement there?
5. What training have you received (through IVCF or elsewhere) to develop your Christian life and leadership? What training do you intend to pursue in the future?
6. Are there any significant time commitments that you have for the next year (e.g. academics, job, athletics, clubs, musical groups, etc.) that would potentially conflict with your responsibilities as a leader of the Chapter? Are you able and willing to devote about 10 hours per week to your responsibilities as a leader? Are you able to make a year-long commitment?
7. Briefly, how would you evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Chapter?
8. How do you see yourself helping to advance the purpose and mission of the Chapter next year?

### II. Leadership Commitments

1. Scripture sets high standards for Christian leaders. Read and study the following passages: 1 Peter 5:1-7; Galatians 5:19-26; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; and 1 Corinthians 6: 7-11. Bearing in mind these qualifications (and the fact that all believers are in the process of becoming more Christ-like and have not yet reached perfection), can you in good conscience make yourself available for a leadership position?
2. Read Articles II and III carefully and then answer the following questions.
  - a. Do you agree with the Chapter's Purpose?
  - b. Do you affirm the IVCF Doctrinal Basis?
  - c. Do you agree to conduct yourself publicly and privately as a person who agrees with each element of the Doctrinal Basis and the standards for Christian Leaders?
  - d. In the event that you have a disagreement with the other leaders over the practical meaning and application of the Purpose and Doctrinal Basis to your life, do you agree to submit that disagreement promptly to the Leadership Team and abide by any decision made by at least a simple majority of the Leadership Team (c.f. Article VII)?

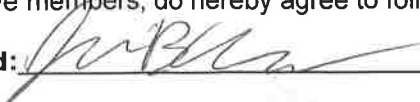
I affirm my personal commitment to these beliefs, purposes and conduct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

4/17/12  
(Date)

## ARTICLE X Ratification

The undersigned student(s) of the University of South Carolina, after a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of active members, do hereby agree to follow the guidelines of this Constitution.

Signed:   
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Date: 4/17/12