

Constitution
June 1, 2002

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is "Princeton University InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship," the Princeton University Chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA®.

Article II. Doctrinal Basis

Section 1.

The Basis of Faith of this organization will be the basic Biblical truths of Christianity:

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.

Section 2.

All officers and leaders of this organization must be committed to a fellowship in accordance with the above Basis of Faith.

Article III. Purpose Statement

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

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.

Article IV. Membership and Participation

Membership and participation in this organization is open to all students, faculty members, staff, and their guests.

Article V. Leadership

Section 1.

The leadership of this organization will consist of a Leadership Team selected as described in Article VII and other leaders as necessary.

Section 2.

Only those persons committed to a fellowship in accordance with the Basis of Faith and the Purpose of this organization are eligible for leadership positions.

Section 3.

The responsibilities of the Leadership Team of this chapter are:

1. To carry out the purpose, general policies, and program of this organization.
2. To be responsible for the selection of new leadership.
3. To evaluate the various activities of the fellowship throughout the year.
4. To be responsible for the continuance of this organization from year to year.
5. To exercise pastoral discernment in caring for the fellowship and its members.

Section 4.

In addition to the responsibilities listed in Section 3, members of the Leadership Team are expected to participate fully in the life of the fellowship, both scheduled meetings and personal interactions.

Section 5.

The campus staff member provided by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will be an acting member of the Leadership Team.

Section 6.

The Leadership Team will be responsible for approving small group and other leaders and making sure they are in agreement with the Basis of Faith

Section 7.

The Leadership Team will be responsible for approving small group topics and making sure they are consistent with the Basis of Faith.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1.

Meetings for Bible study and prayer will be held at times decided by the members. Bible study meetings will usually be held weekly.

Section 2.

Other meetings will be held as occasion warrants.

Article VII. Selection of Leadership

Section 1.

In April, the current leadership will announce to the fellowship that new members of the Leadership Team are being sought.

Section 2.

Present Leadership Team members will approach potential leaders to discuss the possibility of their serving. If the potential leader is interested, and the current Leadership Team agrees, a present Leadership Team member will approach the potential leader with the InterVarsity Basis of Faith and Statement of Purpose and Section V of this Constitution. The present Leadership Team member will help the potential leader understand that he or she is being asked to commit to serve for a term of one year, attend regular leadership meetings, sign the InterVarsity Chapter Affiliation Form, and participate in leadership retreats.

Section 3.

Once the potential leader or leaders have agreed to the requirements in the previous section, they will be invited to participate in the leadership retreat and then to join the Leadership Team.

Section 4.

The leadership selection process normally concludes with a leadership retreat during which the Leadership Team will review the previous year, plan for the coming year, and commit to each other and the fellowship. This should happen in June and should include, if possible, all outgoing and incoming members of the Leadership Team.

Section 5.

After the leadership retreat, the new Leadership Team will be presented to the fellowship.

Section 6.

If the Leadership Team in June includes fewer than four enrolled graduate students, or if any leader should step down, the same process can be implemented at other times of the year as need arises.

Article VIII. Constitution and Amendments

Section 1.

This Constitution will be adopted with unanimous approval of the Leadership Team or a two-thirds vote of the committed membership, if the Leadership Team does not agree within 6 months.

Section 2.

This Constitution may be amended by a unanimous consensus of the Leadership Team (or a two-thirds vote of the committed membership), providing that no change is made in the Basis of Faith and the Purpose Statement.

Section 3.

An amendment to this Constitution will not become valid until a copy of said amendment has been placed in the office of the Dean of the Graduate School of Princeton University and with the campus staff member assigned by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.