

VINEYARD COLUMBUS INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the organization will be the Vineyard Columbus InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Ohio State University.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

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

The Purpose of the Chapter is to establish and advance at Ohio State University 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

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 IV. MEMBERSHIP AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Section 1.

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone officially connected to the Ohio State University as faculty, staff, or registered student. An Active Member is a currently enrolled student at the Ohio State University 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 2.

This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

However, nothing in the prior sentence shall prevent the organization (and its members) from exercising its rights under Ohio State Law 3345.023, which explicitly permits the organization to require its leaders (and members) to adhere to our Doctrinal Basis and our religiously-based standards of conduct as described in this Constitution.

ARTICLE V. LEADERS

Section 1.

A Leadership Team¹ 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, which includes 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 (c.f. Article II).

Section 3.

Leadership of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Ohio State University 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; I Timothy 3:1-13; Galatians 5:19-26; and 1 Corinthians 6: 7-11).

Section 4.

¹

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 VI. OPERATIONS

Section 1.

Only Active Members will be eligible to be nominated for leadership positions. An Active Member can receive a leadership application (c.f. Article XI) 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.

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 select leaders for the next year.

Section 3.

Leaders-elect assume their positions as leaders at the end of the Ohio State University semester following their election.

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. REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

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 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).