

Middlebury InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Constitution

Article I. Name:

Section 1.01. The name of this organization shall be the Middlebury InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (MIVCF).

Article II. Purpose:

Section 2.01. By God's grace, Middlebury InterVarsity Christian Fellowship shall:

- a. "... Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)
- b. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19a, 20a)
- c. "...Prepare God's People for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13)

Section 2.02. In accordance with these passages, and in response to God's love, grace, and truth, the purpose of the Middlebury InterVarsity Christian Fellowship shall be to establish and advance a community of students dedicated to both the practice of Christianity in their own lives and in the life of the community, and to reach out to the Middlebury College community to share these beliefs and teachings. The goal of the MIVCF community shall be to follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in all that we do and grow in love for God, God's Word, God's purposes in the world, and people of every ethnicity and culture.

Section 2.03. The doctrinal basis of MIVCF shall be the basic Biblical truths of Christianity. The Fellowship shall affirm and hold the beliefs as stated in InterVarsity's Statement of Theological Foundations, included with this Constitution as Appendix A.

Article III. Membership:

Section 3.01. Membership shall be open to all Middlebury College students.

Section 3.02. MIVCF shall not discriminate in its membership or activities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, place of birth, Vietnam veteran, status, or against individuals with disability on the basis of disability.

Section 3.03. Voting members shall be limited to those persons who have attended 50% or more of the large group meetings of the last full semester they were on campus (Spring and Fall semesters only, excluding J-Term).

Section 3.04. Status as a general member who can nominate candidates but cannot vote in elections shall extend to any persons that identify themselves as members.

Section 3.05. Leadership shall be vested with the responsibility of keeping attendance at large group meetings and keeping a list of current voting members.

Section 3.06. A quorum of voting members required for general elections shall consist of 50% of the current voting membership. A quorum of voting members required for recall/disaffiliation, impeachment, ratification, or amendments shall be 60% of the voting membership.

Article IV. Offices:

Section 4.01. Leadership in MIVCF shall be composed of a Service Board and all Team Leaders.

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- Section 4.02.** Leadership in MIVCF shall be open to any current voting member. Members of MIVCF who are currently abroad but who were voting members during their most recent semester on campus shall also be eligible for Leadership.
- Section 4.03.** Though students on Leadership may hold differing titles, all students on Leadership shall hold equal status as Leaders of the fellowship.
- Section 4.04.** There shall be no set number of Team Leaders, but there shall be three (3) members of the Service Board.
- Section 4.05.** A term of Leadership in MIVCF shall be one academic year. If an election occurs in the Spring, the term of Leadership for Leaders elected shall begin the following Fall. If an election occurs in the Fall, the term of Leadership for Leaders elected shall begin immediately after the election and end at the conclusion of the academic year.
- Section 4.06.** Students who are elected to Leadership, as well as those who aspire to be elected to Leadership in the future, should consider whether they possess the following Leadership qualifications and characteristics enumerated in the Holy Bible. Students should also consider these biblically enumerated characteristics when making the decision to nominate or elect a member to Leadership:
- a. "having a good reputation with those outside the church" (1 Timothy 3:7).
 - b. "unrebukable" [also translated blameless, above reproach, and unrepachable] (I Timothy 3:2).
 - c. "able to teach" (1 Timothy 3:2).
 - d. "holding firmly to the trustworthy message" (Titus 1:9).
 - e. "not being a recent convert" (I Timothy 3:6).
 - f. "temperate" (I Timothy 3:2).
 - g. "self-controlled" (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).
 - h. "respectable" (I Timothy 3:2).
 - i. "not given to much wine" (I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
 - j. "not violent but gentle" (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1: 7).
 - k. "not pursuing dishonest gain" (I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1: 7).
 - L "not quarrelsome" (1 Timothy 3:3)
 - m. "not a lover of money" (1 Timothy 3:3).
 - n. "not overbearing" (Titus 1: 7).
 - o. "does what is right in regard to God and men [and women]" (Titus 1:8).
 - p. "is holy"(Titus:8).
 - q. "is hospitable" (Titus 1: 8).
- Section 4.07.** Students who are elected to Leadership, as well as those who aspire to be elected to Leadership in the future, should consider whether or not they would support the following ideas from the Holy Bible concerning a Leader's duties and responsibilities. Students nominating and electing the Leadership should consider these characteristics as well in their decisions:
- a. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me [Paul] his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with

- faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us" (2 Timothy 1: 7-9a, 11-14).
- b. "Warn the people before Go4 against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." (2 Timothy 2:14b16, 20-26)
 - c. "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. " (2 Timothy 4:2-5)
 - d. "In everything, set the people an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." (Titus 2:7-8)

Section 4.08. The Service Board shall have authority to make decisions affecting the whole of the Fellowship in consultation with Team Leaders, IVCF Staff Workers, and the Faculty Advisor.

- a. There shall be three other offices held by members of the Service Board.
 - i.* The Treasurer shall act as a liaison between MIVCF and the Finance Committee.
 - ii.* The Campus Contact person shall serve as a liaison between Campus Activities and the Chaplain's Office.
 - iii.* The Abroad Contact person communicates with IVCF members studying abroad.
 - iv.* Once designated, the Treasurer and Contact Person are to identify themselves to Campus Activities/CCAL, Finance Committee, the Chaplain's Office, and the Provost for Institutional Diversity. In the case of spring election, these designations are to occur before the summer.
- b. The duties of the Service Board shall be to:
 - i.* Identify and select Teams (as referenced in Article V, Section 4)
 - ii.* Appoint Team Leaders (as referenced in Article V, Section 4)
 - iii.* Meet with Team Leaders no less than twice a month for the purposes of prayer and consultation.
 - iv.* Facilitate communication and support between Team Leaders, IVCF Staff Workers, and college administrators.

v. Appoint individuals to serve in any capacity outside the scope of existing Teams.

Section 4.09. The remainder of Leadership shall be composed of Team Leaders.

- a. There shall be no more than two (2) Team Leaders per Team.
- b. Members of the Service Board shall not be Team Leaders.
- c. Teams shall be composed of their Team Leaders and such members of the Fellowship as have gifts and call for each Team's particular mission.
- d. Teams shall be created based on the needs of the Fellowship, and shall serve the Fellowship in particular aspects of Christian community, i.e. prayer, evangelism, hospitality, worship, etc.
- e. Teams shall meet at the discretion of their Team Leaders, with advice from the Service Board.

Article V. Elections:

Section 5.01. The first part of the election shall be a period for nominations.

- a. Leadership shall request nominations for the Service Board from the general membership body through e-mail, telephone, or written requests.
- b. The nomination period shall extend for 10 days.
- c. Any person can nominate but only voting members can be nominated and run for office.
- d. A candidate must obtain three (3) nominations from members of the general body. Self-nominations are permitted.

Section 5.02. Following the nomination period Leadership shall recommend candidates for Leadership.

- a. After the ten-day nomination period Leadership shall assemble a list of candidates eligible for office based upon the nomination criteria above.
- b. Once notified, persons receiving the required number of nominations shall have one week to accept or reject the opportunity to run for office.
- c. The Recommendation Meeting shall take place during the next large group meeting once Leadership has received all acceptances and rejections from all candidates.
- d. Prior to the Recommendation Meeting, Leadership is obligated to inform each candidate whether Leadership is going to recommend for or against the candidate and the reason Leadership has made that decision. Leadership should draw upon the MIVCF Leadership qualifications and MIVCF purpose statement enumerated here as well as other qualifications appertaining to Leadership.
- e. Leadership must report their decision including the numbers of Leadership members recommending and not recommending the candidate and the reasons for their choices.
- f. Matthew 18:15-17 shall be the process by which concerns about candidates shall be addressed if a member or Leader so chooses. The passage is as follows: *"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "*
 - i. Based upon this passage, if any person wishes to address a concern about a nominated candidate, they shall address the nominated candidate in person and express the issue to them.
 - ii. If the issue is not resolved through this interaction, the person shall readdress the nominated candidate with one or two additional members.

will be held at the next Large Group meeting. This final and decisive vote on the issue will require a 50% + 1 majority vote of the voting membership.

Section 5.05. If a member of MIVCF has concerns about or problems with a member of the Leadership during the Leader's term of office, they shall follow the process described in Matthew 18:15-17 and Article V, Section 4, Sub-Section d, Paragraphs i-iii.

- a. If the conflict remains unresolved, the member may request an impeachment proceeding when they present their concerns during an MIVCF large group meeting.
- b. Except in the case of Article V, Section 4, Sub-Section d, Paragraph iii, a member of Leadership shall be impeached by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members.

Section 5.06. Members abroad during the semester in which elections take place may be involved in the election process by nominating and being a nominee.

- a. Nominations from members abroad shall be submitted via e-mail to the CF e-mail account, cf@middlebury.edu.
- b. If a member is nominated and is abroad during the elections, correspondence shall occur via e-mail - notification of nomination, acceptance of nomination, recommendation notification from Leadership, and nominee's statement for recommendation meeting.
- c. If problems arise that can not be handled through e-mail (e.g. concerns requiring Matthew 18 or Leadership choosing not to recommend the candidate), the election of that candidate shall be postponed until the beginning of the next semester they are on campus. The Fellowship and Leadership shall follow the procedures above to address their concerns and hold elections for this individual.

Section 5.07. Elections must be completed by March 15.

Article VI. Meetings:

Section 6.01. Large group meetings shall be scheduled at least once weekly.

Section 6.02. Small groups, prayer groups, and Bible studies shall be scheduled at the discretion of the bible study's Leaders and members.

Section 6.03. Leadership shall meet no less than twice a month for prayer and consultation.

Article VII. Faculty Advisor:

Section 7.01. The voting-membership may recommend a member of the faculty/staff to advise the organization. This advisor will serve as a spiritual teacher and mentor as well as an administrative advisor. He or she shall uphold the characteristics of a Leader enumerated above and shall be required to sign the Leadership agreement. The advisor has no voting role in Leadership or the Fellowship.

Article VIII. Affiliations:

Section 8.01. MIVCF is a chapter of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, a national evangelical Christian organization that has Christian Fellowship groups at colleges and universities across the United States.

- a. The By-laws of IVCF shall be included with this Constitution as Appendix C.
- b. IVCF will typically provide one or more Staff Workers to work with MIVCF and will invite MIVCF to participate in regional and national conferences.
- c. The role of the IVCF Staff Worker is to counsel and mentor MIVCF members and to serve the Leadership Committee by providing training, resources, and insight. The IVCF Staff Worker has no voting role in the Leadership or the Fellowship.

d. If MIVCF's beliefs and/or actions differ from the beliefs of IVCF, either group may decide to disaffiliate. MIVCF will choose to disaffiliate by a two-thirds majority of the voting membership, except in cases involving impeachment or recall, in which case the process described in Article 5, Section 4, Sub-Section d, Paragraph iii shall be followed.

Article IX. Ratification:

Section 9.01. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership.

Section 9.02. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Association Constitution Committee.

Article X. Amendment:

Section 10.01. This constitution must be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting membership.

Section 10.02. Any amendment to this constitution must be approved by the Student Government Association Constitution Committee.

Approved as edited: May 18, 2006

Amended: April 10, 2006

Amended and Passed by the MIVCF membership April 13, 2001

Amended: December 10, 1993

Approved as to Form: November 5, 1980

Appendix A: Statement of Theological Foundations:

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.