

# Constitution of Dublin University Christian Union

## **Section 1: Name and Aims of the CU**

- 1.1 The name of the society shall be Dublin University Christian Union, commonly referred to Trinity College Dublin Christian Union herein referred to as 'The CU'.
- 1.2 The CU is a Bible based and multi-denominational fellowship which confesses Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and being united in Christ, seeks to work towards realising the aims of the CU.
- 1.3 The aims of the CU shall be:
  - 1.3.1 To proclaim the Good News of the Gospel throughout the University.
  - 1.3.2 To promote the understanding of truth under the ultimate authority of the Bible.
  - 1.3.3 To help members understand their Christian responsibilities in the world.
  - 1.3.4 To build each other up in the Christian faith.
- 1.4 The Doctrinal basis of the CU is:
  - 1.4.1 The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
  - 1.4.2 The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
  - 1.4.3 The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
  - 1.4.4 The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering everyone subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
  - 1.4.5 The full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God; his virgin birth and his real and sinless humanity; his death on the cross, his bodily resurrection and his present reign in heaven and earth.
  - 1.4.6 Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and humanity.
  - 1.4.7 Justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which sinners are pardoned all their sins and accepted as righteous in God's sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, this justification being received by faith alone.
  - 1.4.8 The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, granting them repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
  - 1.4.9 The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all those thus regenerated, producing in them an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour, and empowering them for their witness in the world.
  - 1.4.10 The one holy universal church which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong.
  - 1.4.11 The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge everyone, executing God's just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.

(NB –*This basis is the same as that of Christian Unions Ireland [CUI]*)

## **Section 2: Membership of the CU**

- 2.1 Membership is open to all students and staff of the University.
- 2.1.1 Ordinary membership shall be granted to capitated students in return for an annual subscription as shall be decided by the Committee or Annual General Meeting within the limits set by the Central Societies Committee.
- 2.1.2 Associate membership shall be granted to the members of Dublin University Staff and to students and staff of other Universities and Colleges of Further Education, in return for annual subscription.
- 2.1.3 Honorary membership shall be granted to any person at the discretion of the committee.
- 2.1.4 Voting members shall be ordinary members of the Society. Associate and honorary members are not able to vote in any General Meetings.

## **Section 3: Administration of the CU**

- 3.1 The CU shall have a committee to direct its on-going activities. The committee is responsible for ensuring the CU remains focused on pursuing its aims and for co-ordinating both public and small group meetings throughout term time.
- 3.2 The committee shall be composed of: a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Small Group Co-Ordinator, Evangelism Co-Ordinator, International Officer, Freshers Officer, Prayer Officer, Music Co-Ordinator, Public Relations Officer, and other members necessary to further the aims of the CU.
- 3.3 The President, Secretary or Treasurer, (senior officers) may not hold another role on committee concurrently. Other committee positions may be combined (e.g. Evangelism and International Officer, Freshers and Prayer Officer). It is recommended that the committee is made of eight members.
- 3.4 Here under are listed the responsibilities of each specific role of officer on committee:
  - 3.4.1 **President** – the President shall oversee the general running of the CU, shall chair meetings of the committee and be answerable to the committee.
  - 3.4.2 **Secretary** – it is the Secretary’s responsibility to keep the minutes at Committee meetings and inform the committee on all Constitutional matters. The Secretary also deals with incoming and outgoing correspondence, and shall be responsible for providing the Secretary of the CSC with a record of the CU’s activities during their term of office not later than the date set by the CSC for submission of this report; they shall also be answerable to the committee.
  - 3.4.3 **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the finances of the CU, for the collection of subscriptions, and the maintenance of accounts and shall have the duty of conducting routine communications with the CSC on financial matters including the preparation of the grant application for submission to the CSC promptly every year. The specifics concerning best financial practice are contained in Section 4.
  - 3.4.4 **Small Group Co-Ordinator** – The Small Group Co-ordinator is responsible for establishing small groups within the CU. This includes the overseeing of the

training of the small group leaders and suggestion of a programme to follow during the year.

**3.4.5 Evangelism Co-Ordinator** – the Evangelism Co-Ordinator is responsible for helping the CU to fulfil its evangelistic aims (1.3.1 and 1.3.2) and for ensuring a programme of outreach is organised on campus.

**3.4.6 International Officer** – The International Officer is responsible for suitably welcoming international students and also for organising events specifically for international students throughout the year.

**3.4.7 Freshers Officer** – This Officer is responsible for ensuring that freshers are suitably welcomed and for organising events specifically for freshers throughout the year

**3.4.8 Prayer Officer** – the Prayer Officer is responsible for promoting prayer support and co-ordinating events which further the aims of the CU with regards prayer.

**3.4.9 Music Co-ordinator** – The music coordinator is responsible for coordinating Christian music at all CU meetings at which music is deemed necessary.

**3.4.10 Public Relations Officer (P.R.O)** – This officer shall be responsible for publicising the CU both in print and in online forms.

3.5 An existing member of the committee will be elected Vice-President by the outgoing members of the committee. This person is chosen irrespective of the position they hold on the committee.

3.6 It is recommended that the committee meet at least once in each week of term.

3.7 The committee shall meet under the chairmanship of the President or, in their absence, the Vice-President.

3.8 A quorum of the committee shall consist of five members.

3.9 Decisions reached by the committee must be reached by a majority vote. Where votes are tied the President has the casting vote.

3.10 The committee shall alone hold the right to invite speakers to meetings of the CU.

3.11 The committee must be assured that any speaker acting in a teaching capacity is in agreement with the aims and doctrinal basis of the CU.

3.12 The CU shall co-operate with other groups or individuals at the discretion of the committee who, remembering the aims and doctrinal basis of the CU, must prayerfully take the matter into consideration weighing any possible benefit to the CU against the necessity of maintaining the integrity of its witness.

3.13 Small groups shall play an extremely crucial role and are central to the life and health of the Christian Union. Small groups are key to achieving the CU's twin aims of mission and maturity. They shall predominantly consist of small groups of Christians; however membership is open to all students and staff in College, regardless of whether the individual is a member of the CU. They shall seek to build each other up in the Christian faith while maintaining a specific evangelistic focus. They shall play a crucial role in taking the gospel to students on campus. Prayer shall be a fundamental part of small groups. The small groups leaders shall be trained and envisioned by the Small Group Co-ordinator. The small group shall also provide an important context for Christians to grow and enjoy friendship. There shall be space for honest questions, working out how to apply the Bible to life and mutual accountability.

3.14 A small group leader is responsible for the running of their small group. A small group leader must be a voting member of the society. A small group leader shall

make every effort to be present at a weekly training meeting and shall complete any other necessary training as directed by the small group co-ordinator.

#### **Section 4: The financial best practice of CU**

- 4.1 The President or the Treasurer or any member of the Society may be requested to appear before the CSC, or an officer or sub-committee of the CSC to provide information concerning the finances of the Society. If a prima facie case exists that Society funds have been misused or misappropriated, the CSC may ask the Senior Dean to declare the person(s) responsible indebted to the College, in which case they may not be permitted to register for the following academic year or to have their degree conferred.
- 4.2 The Treasurer shall close their accounts in accordance with CSC guidelines and as soon as may be possible thereafter shall arrange for the accounts to be audited as provided by the CSC. In due course these accounts shall be presented to the Committee of the Society and the CSC for approval.
- 4.3 All cheques and withdrawal forms from the Society's bank account shall be signed by two of the designated officers, namely the President, Treasurer and Secretary.

#### **Section 5: The Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings**

- 5.1 In Hilary term the President shall invite ordinary members to prayerfully consider forwarding nominations for the new committee.
- 5.2 All nominations must be signed by the proposer and the nominee.
- 5.3 The committee has the power to make additional nominations subject to Para. 5.4, and in the event of nominations not being received for any particular committee or small group positions, they may make nominations to such positions.
- 5.4 Only those who are ordinary members and, and are willing to uphold the CU Constitution, are eligible for election to committee.
- 5.5 After all the nominations have been received the committee shall prayerfully consider the nominees and endeavour to ensure that a suitable candidate stands for each position.
- 5.6 At the Annual General Meeting each committee position shall be voted upon separately by the members of the CU in secret ballot. Postal votes handed to the President or the Vice-President shall be allowed. If any candidate receives more than 50% of all votes cast that person is deemed elected.
- 5.7 Any member of the committee may step down at any point during the year by formally offering their resignation in writing to the senior officers who shall accept it and replace the committee the member as laid out in section 5.8.
- 5.8 Upon resignation or death of a committee member, the committee shall convene and shall co-opt to fill the role vacated on a temporary basis until the next available general meeting which should take place as soon as possible.
- 5.9 An Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of week ten of Hilary term with the purposes of reviewing the previous year's activities and electing a new committee.

- 5.10 General Meetings shall be convened by the Committee after giving notice to CU members, publicising the time and venue of the meeting, not less than seven days beforehand.
- 5.11 At the AGM there shall be a Treasurer's report and a President's report.
- 5.12 Extraordinary General Meetings are convened to allow the members vote on particular matters of importance concerning the CU. All proposed amendments to the constitution will be presented and voted on an EGM.
- 5.13 No-one shall be admitted to membership less than 24 hours before a General Meeting.
- 5.14 The Committee is responsible for ensuring that only ordinary members vote. For this purpose the Committee shall maintain a list of the voting membership of the CU.
- 5.15 The Committee shall provide voting slips for each voting member.
- 5.16 Only members of the Committee may perform the mechanics of the voting procedures.
- 5.17 The quorum for a general meeting shall be 20 people, or one tenth of the membership of the society, whichever is larger.
- 5.18 Small group leaders shall be chosen by the committee, upon recommendation by the small-group co-ordinator.

## **Section 6: Affiliation**

- 6.1 The CU is affiliated to the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students in Ireland, herein known as Christian Unions Ireland, CUI.
- 6.2 The CU recognises the privileges and responsibilities inherent in affiliation to CUI and will seek to support and uphold its aims as well as the other CU's which constitute it.

## **Section 7: Amendments to this Constitution**

- 7.1 It is recommended that a review group be set up every five years by the committee to examine the constitution in the light of current CU practice.
- 7.2 Any proposed amendments to the constitution should be brought before an Extraordinary General Meeting, members having been given at least two weeks notice.
- 7.3 Amendments to the constitution will be carried by a 75% majority of those voting members present. (See Section 2)
- 7.4 Voting powers on matters of constitutional change shall reside only in ordinary members.

This constitution is binding as and from the date of being approved by both the CU and the CSC.

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