

# CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY CHRISTIAN UNION

Last changed at AGM of August 18, 2009.

## 1. Regulations

- (a) The name of the Union shall be “University of Canterbury Christian Union”.
- (b) The Union shall be affiliated to the University of Canterbury Students' Association and to the Tertiary Students' Christian Fellowship (NZ).

## 2. Objectives

- (a) *True Witness*: To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ on campus and lead students to personal faith in Christ.
- (b) *Undivided Life*: To promote a life of discipleship and a growing Christian maturity among students, affirming the place of bible study and prayer.
- (c) *Deep Thought*: To challenge and encourage students and graduates to follow Jesus as Lord in every area of life, including their studies, career and lifestyle, and in the issues of social justice and morality.
- (d) *Global Reach*: To promote a world Christian perspective and deeper personal commitment to mission, through prayer, practical support for missionaries and challenging students to consider their role in cross-cultural mission.
- (e) To encourage friendship and support amongst students on campus.

## 3. Doctrinal Basis

The Doctrinal Basis of the Union comprises the basic truths of the historic Christian faith, including:

- (a) There is one God, who is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is the Creator and sustainer of all things.
- (b) God in revealing Himself inspired the Holy Scriptures so that they are entirely trustworthy and have supreme authority in matters of doctrine, faith and conduct.
- (c) We all were made for fellowship with God, but disobeyed Him. So we all have become sinners, guilty in God's sight, under His wrath, and alienated from Him.
- (d) Jesus Christ, God's own Son, became truly human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
- (e) Jesus Christ took on Himself the sin of the world when he died on the Cross as our representative and substitute. God thereby showed His love for us and provided the only way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to Him.
- (f) Jesus of Nazareth was raised by God from the dead.
- (g) The Holy Spirit brings us to trust in Christ and repent of our sins, lives in us, and develops our new life in Christ in the fellowship of the Church.
- (h) Jesus Christ, the living Lord, will return in person as Judge and King.

In all activities the spokespeople representing the viewpoint of the Union shall be persons who fully uphold the Christian truths expressed in the Doctrinal Basis.

#### 4. Membership

- (a) All persons who are bona fide enrolled students of the University of Canterbury shall be eligible for Full Membership.
- (b) Any persons not fulfilling 4a shall be eligible for Associate Membership.
- (c) All members must sign their assent to the doctrinal basis of section 3 and the following declaration:  
"Desiring to become a member of the University of Canterbury Christian Union, I declare my faith in Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, my Lord, and my God".
- (d) The annual subscription, as determined from time to time by the Annual General Meeting, shall be payable upon becoming a member and at the beginning of each university year by all (Full and Associate) Members of the Union.
- (e) The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that a permanent register is kept of all (Full and Associate) Members of the Union.
- (f) A person may join or leave the Union at any time. In particular, membership shall be open immediately before the commencement of each Annual General Meeting.

#### 5. Executive Committee

- (a) There shall be an Executive Committee (hereafter known as the "Executive") of a minimum of four and a maximum of nine elected members, with power to co-opt to the Executive by up to a maximum of three additional members, such that the Executive does not exceed nine members.
- (b) The Executive shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the Union in accordance with sections two and three hereof.
- (c) The Executive must meet at least twice during each university term.
- (d) Only Full Members of the Union may be members of the Executive.
- (e) The Officers of the Executive shall be:
  - i) A President
  - ii) A Vice-President (preferably of the opposite sex to the President)
  - iii) A Secretary
  - iv) A Treasurer
- (f) No person shall hold more than one of the four offices in 5e at any one time.
- (g) A vacancy arising, and a newly established position on the Executive, may be filled, till the next Annual General Meeting of the Union, by:
  - i) co-option, if the executive is quorate, and subject to section 9 hereof, or
  - ii) election, for which nominations shall be called as for the annual elections. The election shall be held at a General Meeting of the Union.
- (h) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive shall be over half of its members, and must include at least one of either the President or Vice President.
- (i) The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that full records are kept of all decisions made by meetings of the Executive.
- (j) The Executive shall have the power to appoint sub-committees.

#### 6. Finance

- (a) No debt shall be incurred by the Union

- (b) No sum over \$500 shall be spent by the Union without the prior consent of a meeting of the Committee.
- (c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping full records of all income and expenditure. These records shall be available for inspection by any member of the Union at the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The accounts of the Union shall be audited prior to their presentation at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) The balance date for the accounts shall be 30 June each year.
- (f) Cheques should be signed by two previously designated office-holders of the Executive (recommendation: designate 3 people).
- (g) The income of the Union, however derived, shall be applied solely towards promoting its charitable purpose, in a manner consistent with its objectives of section 2.

## *7. Meetings Of The Union*

- (a) Except where it is otherwise stated, all members of the Union shall have the right to vote on any motion that is presented before a meeting.
- (b) Except where it is otherwise stated, absentee voting shall be permitted at any meeting of the Union. Such votes shall be signed by the member, and given in writing to the Chairperson of the meeting.
- (c) Annual General Meetings
  - (i) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Union shall be held at the end of the third term of the year.
  - (ii) Fourteen days notice of meeting shall be given.
  - (iii) The quorum shall be 30% of the full members of the Union. No AGM shall continue without such a quorum.
  - (iv) The AGM shall elect a new Executive.
  - (v) The AGM shall receive a report on the year's activities from the President or Vice-President of the outgoing Executive, and a financial report from the Treasurer, and other such reports as the Executive consider appropriate.
- (d) Special General Meeting
  - (i) A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Executive, or ten percent of the Full Members of the Union may direct the Executive to hold a Special General Meeting as soon as reasonably possible.
  - (ii) Seven days notice of such a meeting shall be given.
  - (iii) The quorum shall be thirty percent of the full members of the Union. No Special General Meeting shall continue without such a quorum.
- (e) The Union shall hold Ordinary Meetings on a regular basis, as the Executive shall determine, for the purpose of prayer and study of the scriptures, for the delivery of addresses and generally for the furtherance of the Objectives of the Union.
- (f) The Executive may invite such external speakers as it sees fit. External speakers who have been invited on the understanding that they will expound the common faith of the Union shall be required to signify their assent to that faith as defined in section 3.
- (g) The Union may join with other student societies to engage in common activities as the Executive see fit.

## 8. Election Of The Executive Committee

- (a) The Executive shall be elected for a period of one year, by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting of the Union, subject to clause 5g hereof.
- (b) Impartial scrutineers shall be appointed by the Annual General Meeting to conduct the elections.
- (c) All Full Members of the Union shall be eligible for nomination, including those who have previously served on the Executive.
- (d) Nominations for positions contained in 5a. and 5e. hereof shall be called for at least fourteen days before, and will close at noon on the day before the Annual General Meeting. Late nominations may be received at the discretion of the Chairperson of the meeting. Nominated candidates must declare in writing their assent to the doctrinal basis of section 3, and their willingness to serve on the Executive Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, the outgoing Executive as a whole may nominate and support candidates.
- (e) All members of the Union shall be entitled to make nominations.
- (f) The ballot papers shall be destroyed at the end of the meeting, and the actual number of votes cast in favour of each candidate shall not be divulged by the scrutineers.
- (g) All Full Members of the Union shall be entitled to vote in the election of the Executive.
- (h) Absentee voting shall be permitted, as per 7b.
- (i) The candidate who receives the largest number of votes for a position shall be elected to that position.
- (j) In the event that a position available for election is uncontested, then the candidate shall be deemed to require at least 75% votes in favour from those full members present, to be elected.
- (k) In the event that there is a tie between any of the candidates, one re-vote shall be held. If the result of the second vote is a tie, then another election shall be held for those candidates involved in the tie. A Special General Meeting shall be held within forty days for this election.
- (l) The newly elected Executive shall take office seven days from the date of the Annual General Meeting, or in the event that a Special General Meeting is required to meet the conditions of 5a, the newly elected Executive shall take office seven days from the date of that Special General Meeting.
- (m) All persons elected to the Executive shall be required to adhere to the Doctrinal Basis as contained in section 3 hereof, and shall be required to resign if at any point they can no longer agree to this Doctrinal Basis in good faith.

## 9. Co-option To The Executive Committee

- (a) A decision of the Executive recommending co-option shall require support from at least 70% of the full Executive.
- (b) In the event of a resolution recommending co-option:
  - (i) 14 days notice of the intention to co-opt must be given
  - (ii) 14 days notice inviting applicants must be given.
- (c) The successful applicant shall require support from at least 70% of the full Executive before the co-option shall take effect.
- (d) The co-opted member shall have all the rights, duties and obligations of an Executive Member.
- (e) The positions of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer shall not be filled by co-option.

## 10. Constitutional Amendments

(a) This constitution may be amended, added to, or rescinded by a resolution of the members of the Union passed at a General Meeting. The resolution shall require the support of the votes of 75% of those Full Members present in person.

(i) If the amendment alters section 2 *Objectives*, section 3 *Doctrinal Basis*, or section 10 *Constitutional Amendments*, the resolution shall not take effect unless confirmed by a like majority of those Full Members voting at a General Meeting held not less than fourteen days after the first General Meeting.

(ii) Amendments which alter sections of the constitution other than those specified in section 10(a)(i) shall not take effect until fourteen days after the General Meeting, during which time ten percent of the members of the Union may require the Executive Committee to hold a General Meeting to confirm the resolution. In the event that a second meeting is required, the amendment shall not take effect unless confirmed by 75% of those Full Members voting at that General Meeting. Such a meeting shall be held not less than twenty-one days, nor more than forty days, from the date of the first General Meeting.

(iii) This constitution shall not be amended in any manner which would enable the Union to use the funds or property held by it or on its behalf for a purpose not charitable according to the law of New Zealand.

(b) Notice of any motion that will alter the Constitution must be given in writing to the Chairperson of the General Meeting by noon three days prior to that meeting. No motion notified after this time shall be considered by the meeting.

## 11. Winding up of the Union

(a) The Union may be wound up by a motion carried by 75% of all Full Members.

(b) Such a motion to wind up the Union shall only be put to an Annual General Meeting of the Union.

(c) At least twenty-one days notice of such a motion shall be given.

(d) In the event of the Union being wound up, the surplus assets, if any, shall be paid to the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (New Zealand) Trust Board or to any charitable body, according to the law of New Zealand, determined by a majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting of the Union. No member of the Union may receive any pecuniary benefit as a result of the winding up. All minutes and historical records shall be sent to the National Director of the Tertiary Students' Christian Fellowship (New Zealand).