Westfield State University Christian Fellowship

Constitution

Article I:  *Organizational Name*

The name of this organization is “Westfield State University Christian Fellowship.”

Article II:  *Purpose*

Section 1 – The primary purposes of this organization are:

A. To witness as to the Lord Jesus Christ as God Incarnate, and to seek to lead others to personal faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

B. To help Christians grow towards maturity as Disciples of Christ by study of the Bible and by Christian fellowship.

C. To present the call of God to the world mission of the Church and to help students and faculty discover God’s roles for them.

Section 2 – The secondary purpose of this organization is to contribute to the educational, cultural, and social climate of Westfield State University (WSU) by:

A. Developing and modeling healthy human relationships.

B. Pursing opportunities for programming, speakers, and acts of service which bring glory to God.

C. Encouraging development of students spiritually, including their ability to defend their faith through Scripture, history, and science.

Article III:  *Basis of Faith*

Section 1 – The basis of faith of this organization is as follows:

A. The unique, divine inspiration, entire trustworthiness, and authority of the Bible from the very first verse;

B. The deity of our Lord Jesus Christ;

C. The necessity and efficacy of the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for the redemption of the world, and the historic fact of His bodily resurrection;

D. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration; and

E. The expectation of the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2 – All voting members and officers of this organization, leaders of Bible
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study groups, and speakers must subscribe without reservation to the above basis of faith.

**Article IV: Membership and Participation**

Section 1 – Membership and participation in this organization is open to all WSU students who have paid their current student activities fee for the semester.

Section 2 – Voting membership is open to all members of this organization who subscribe to the basis of faith in Article III, Section 1.

**Article V: Officers**

Section 1 – There will be three (3) officers: president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. These officers will constitute the Executive Committee. Those selected are expected to be mature, responsible, and committed to the overall success of the group.

Section 2 – The responsibilities of the president include the following:

1. Arranging all phases of the organization’s meetings;
2. Overseeing the club’s participation in the Student Government Association’s (SGA) Club Fair (planning of all marketing materials, etc.);
3. Acting as a liaison with SGA;
4. Making sure the objectives of the group are being met;
5. Planning all phases of events efficiently and responsibly;
6. Planning all phases of fundraising, including completing all forms for permission and following guidelines to handle funds as prescribed by SGA;
7. Delegating, following-through, and overseeing these tasks as needed;
8. Remaining gracious and welcoming to all members; and
9. Consulting with the organization’s advisor(s).

Section 3 – The responsibilities of the vice president include assisting the president in his/her responsibilities and acting as president in the event the president is not able to fulfill his/her duties. This person should be able to attend most if not all meetings and possess many of the capabilities stated in Article V, Section 2.

Section 4 – The responsibilities of the secretary/treasurer include recording minutes of Executive Committee meetings as considered important by the organization’s members; managing the funds of the organization, securing funding through available WSU sources, apprising the President and group
regularly of these funding efforts, and working with the President and Vice President on opportunities for fundraising and other club events as needed.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1 – There will be regularly scheduled meetings for the transaction of business called by the officers.

Section 2 – Meetings for Bible study and prayer will be held at least once per week.

Section 3 – Other meetings for the discussion and presentation of matters pertaining to the purposes stated herein shall be called by the President as occasion warrants.

Article VII: Nominations and Election of Officers

Section 1 – To be eligible for nomination as an officer, a prospective candidate must:

A. Be nominated by a voting member of the organization;
B. Have been a voting member of WSU Christian Fellowship for at least one (1) year;
C. Not be a new convert, especially the President (1 Timothy 3:6);
D. Abide by and subscribe to the basis of faith set forth in Article III, Section 1; and
E. Have proven himself to be responsible and committed to the group;

Section 2 – To be eligible for nomination as the President of Christian Fellowship, a prospective candidate must:

A. Meet the qualifications listed in Article VII, Section 1;
B. Be dedicated to following Jesus Christ,
C. Remain faithful in daily prayer and daily Bible reading
D. Demonstrate he (or she) is serious about being a growing, faithful follower of Jesus Christ and His Word.
E. Exemplify the importance of living the Christian life and of sacrificial service;
F. Be dedicated to upholding the unity of the group.
G. Exhibit hospitality and friendliness.

These criteria should be applied and interpreted in accordance with 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1).

Section 3 – Election of officers will occur at a scheduled meeting during the
school year, as described in Article VI, Sections 1 and 3.

Section 4 – The term in office is for one (1) year, while enrolled as a student at WSU. Elections will be held at the end of each spring semester, and current officers can run for re-election, provided they are returning to WSU as students for the upcoming year. Any officer’s position can be terminated by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of organization’s voting members during a scheduled meeting.

Section 5 – In the event of an open office, the voting members of the organization will vote, during a scheduled meeting, to fill the office, provided the candidate meets the criteria set forth in Article VII, Section 1.

Article VIII: *Constitution and Amendments*

Section 1 – This Constitution shall be adopted upon receiving a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership, during a scheduled meeting.

Section 2 – This Constitution may be amended by a nine-tenths (9/10) vote of the voting membership provided the amendment is approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee, and providing that all changes made to the constitution—especially changes pertaining to Article II (Purpose), Article III (Basis of Faith), or Article VII (Eligibility of Officers)—be made in accordance to Biblical principles.

Section 3 – Amendments to this Constitution will not become valid until a copy of the voted upon amendment has been placed in the office of SGA and it has been approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Section 4 – Any article or section, excepting Article II, Article III, Article V Section 2, Article V Section 3, and Article VII, can be suspended any time the Executive Committee deems necessary by a majority vote of the organization’s voting membership during a regularly scheduled meeting; however, the voted upon suspension must be first approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee prior to the suspension taking affect.