

Constitution of “Graduate Christian Fellowship” of the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is "Graduate Christian Fellowship." We are affiliated with Christian Reformed Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto, which is a ministry that is supported by the Christian Reformed Church in North America.
- 1.2. The official acronym of the group is GCF.
- 1.3. The mandate of the organization is as follows:
 - 1.3.1. To challenge, mentor, and enable students to think, work, and live as Christian disciples in the academy and in their professions.
 - 1.3.2. Rooted in the confession that all truth is in Christ, we seek a radical Christian discipleship in all of life.
 - 1.3.3. To be a welcoming and supporting space for graduate and professional students, through providing opportunities to study the Bible, connect with others, ask questions, and talk through topics related to faith, academics, and life.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

- 2.1. The group shall maintain a list of group members. At least five of the group members need to be current students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.2. GCF welcomes as members any person interested in joining in the GCF community and/or investigating the Bible and the Christian faith. This means that membership is not limited based on one’s current religious or spiritual identity. People of any ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, class, or age are welcome to be a part of the community.
- 2.3. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.4. Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.5. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, chaplains, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
- 2.6. People are considered members if they have attended at least 5 events hosted by GCF.
- 2.7. There is no membership fee.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

- 3.1. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
- 3.2. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
- 3.3. All voting members have a right to stand for election, as long as they are in agreement with helping to fulfill the mandate of the organization.
- 3.4. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
- 3.5. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
- 3.6. The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Two.
- 3.7. All members may apply for a full refund of their membership fee within one (1)

month of becoming a member.

4. Article Four – Executive Committee

- 4.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from June 1 to May 30
- 4.2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of at least three but not more than five members.
- 4.3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 4.4. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
- 4.5. The maximum number of non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be one (1) position or ten per cent (10%) of the positions on the Executive Committee, whichever is greatest.
- 4.6. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
- 4.7. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.
- 4.8. No person receiving a salary or stipend from the organization may be a member of the executive.

5. Article Five – Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. The President shall:

- 5.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee
- 5.1.2. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
- 5.1.3. Serve as spokesperson for the group,
- 5.1.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with one of the at-large members (see 5:3),
- 5.1.5. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
- 5.1.6. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

5.2. The Vice-President shall:

- 5.2.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.2.2. Assume duties of the President in their absence,
- 5.2.3. Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,
- 5.2.4. Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts.

5.3. Members three to five shall:

- 5.3.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.3.2. Maintain a list of group members,
- 5.3.3. Record notes and motions for meetings,
- 5.3.4. Notify all members of general meetings,
- 5.3.5. One of these members shall hold signing and financial authority along with the President and keep track of budget (expenditure, funds) related to events occurring throughout the year.
- 5.3.6. Advise members on pertinent financial matters of the group, as needed.
- 5.3.7. Assist the other members in their duties, as needed.

6. Article Six – Elections

- 6.1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
- 6.2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 6.3. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
- 6.4. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
- 6.5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 6.6. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.
- 6.7. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.

7. Article Seven – Finances

- 7.1. There is no membership fee.
- 7.2. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 7.3. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
- 7.4. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.
- 7.5. The group will not pay salaries or stipends to any of its officers.
- 7.6. GCF is supported by the Christian Reformed Church (as part of Christian Reformed Campus Ministry). This means that GCF is under the financial support of Christian Reformed Campus Ministry. Christian Reformed Campus Ministry, as a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church, has complete control over how those finances are managed. It also means that:
 - 7.6.1. Christian Reformed Campus Ministry, as a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church, is financially responsible in reporting our revenues and expenditures to the Christian Reformed Church (Classis Toronto),
 - 7.6.2. Donations to be receipted must be sent Christian Reformed Campus Ministry (Christian Reformed Church / Classis Toronto)
 - 7.6.3. Christian Reformed Campus Ministry employs university chaplain(s) who provide spiritual care to members, act as advisors to the executive members, and who are available to assist the university on matters around faith.

8. Article Eight – Meetings

- 8.1. The Executive Committee shall meet three times a semester and once over the summer months. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
- 8.2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.

8.3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

9. Article Nine – Termination of Membership

9.1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest.

9.2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

9.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.

9.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.

9.5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.

9.6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

9.7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

10. Article Ten – Amendments

10.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.

10.2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.

10.3. The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.

10.4. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.