

Constitution of Maynooth University Christian Union

Article I. Name and Aims of the Christian Union

- 1.1 Article 1: The name of the society shall be the *National University of Ireland, Maynooth Christian Union*, also commonly known as *Maynooth University Christian Union*, hereafter 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 as follows:
 - 1.3.1 To bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in the University.
 - 1.3.2 To unite all Christians and, through prayer and Bible study, to deepen their spiritual lives.
 - 1.3.3 To stimulate an active interest in evangelistic and other missionary work at home and abroad.
 - 1.3.4 To uphold the truth of Christianity as set out in the doctrinal basis of the CU.
- 1.4 The doctrinal basis of the CU shall be
 - 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.

(This doctrinal basis is the same as that of IFES Ireland.)

Article II. Membership of the C.U.

- 2.1 Ordinary membership of the CU shall be open to all registered students of Maynooth University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM); the Pontifical University and National Seminary of Ireland upon payment of a subscription fee as set by the Governing Executive Committee of the CU and in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Capitation Committee.
- 2.2 The membership fee shall be in compliance with the conditions set down by the Capitation Committee
- 2.3 Ordinary members of the CU shall be entitled to attend and speak at all general meetings of the CU.
- 2.4 The CU recognises the importance that staff and graduates of Maynooth University and SPCM can play in the development and long term success of a society. It shall therefore endeavour to maintain contact with such former members as wish to retain their connection with the society. To this end, the Governing Executive Committee of the CU shall be empowered to create a class of "Associate Member" of the CU.
- 2.5 Associate Membership shall be open to all staff and alumni of Maynooth University and SPCM upon payment of a subscription fee as set by the Governing Executive Committee of the CU and in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Capitation Committee. The associate membership fee shall not be less than the ordinary membership fee and no more than 10 times the ordinary membership fee.
- 2.6 Associate Members shall be entitled to attend all general meetings of the society. Voting rights of associate members at general meetings shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee and may be altered by a majority vote at a general meeting of the society.

- 2.7 Associate Members shall be ineligible for election to the CU's Governing Executive Committee.
- 2.8 Other rights of Associate Members shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee, but shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the CU.
- 2.9 In joining the CU, members agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the CU as laid down in this constitution and by the Governing Executive Committee. Members violating these rules and regulations shall be answerable to the committee and may have their membership revoked and no monies refunded, for persistent breaches or extremely serious breaches, as deemed by a majority of the committee. In the event that the committee cannot resolve a dispute with a member, the Capitation Committee shall rule on the matter and its decision shall be final.

Article III. Governing Executive Committee

- 3.1 The CU shall have Governing Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as the "the committee") which shall be elected annually by the membership.
- 3.2 The committee shall run and direct the ongoing activities of the CU on behalf of its members and in accordance with the aims and objectives.
- 3.2 The Senior Officers of the committee shall consist of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 3.3 Junior Officers of the committee shall consist of any additional committee members necessary to further the aims of the CU. Additional committee positions may include Public Relations Officer, Prayer Secretary, Evangelism Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Bible Study Coordinator, Year Reps., Social Justice Secretary, etc.
- 3.3 Assistant positions shall be filled by co-option by the committee as the need arises.
- 3.4 Sub-committees may be co-opted where the need arises and at the discretion of the committee.
- 3.5 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one year running from 1st July until the 30th June of the following year.
- 3.6 Senior officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer) may not hold more than one role on the committee concurrently.
- 3.7 There shall be an Honorary President of the CU who shall be a staff member in compliance with the regulations set down by the Capitation Committee.

Article IV. Election of the Governing Executive Committee

- 4.1 Ordinary members of the CU shall be eligible for election to the committee, provided they wholeheartedly agree with and have signed the doctrinal basis of the CU.
- 4.2 Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the CU.

- 4.3 At least four weeks prior to the AGM, the President shall invite ordinary members to prayerfully consider forwarding nominations.
- 4.4 All nominations must be signed by the proposer and the nominee
- 4.5 Nominations for candidates must be received by the Secretary two weeks before the AGM.
- 4.6 If no nomination has been received for any committee positions, the committee has the power to make additional nominations.
- 4.7 After the close of nominations, the committee shall prayerfully consider the nominees and select a suitable candidate to stand for each position.
- 4.8 At the AGM, each committee position shall be voted upon separately in secret ballot. Postal votes handed to the President shall be allowed. If any candidate receives more than 50% of valid votes cast, that person is deemed elected.

Article V. Duties of the Governing Executive Committee

- 5.1 The President shall oversee the general running of the CU, shall chair all meetings of the committee and may officiate at meetings of the CU. The President shall have an ordinary vote at committee meetings and meetings of the CU. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.
- 5.2 The committee may elect a member of the committee as Vice-President to assist the President and chair meetings of the committee in the President's absence.
- 5.3 The Secretary shall deal with all correspondence and records of the CU.
 - 5.3.1 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all committee meetings, of all general meetings, of the AGM and any other meetings relating to the business of the CU when requested by the committee.
 - 5.3.2 The Secretary may keep a record of authorisation of expenditure.
 - 5.3.3 The Secretary shall give all members notice in advance of the CU's meetings, events and functions.
- 5.4 The Treasurer shall administer the funds of the CU and maintain accounts and budgets.
 - 5.4.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of accounts subject to the decisions of the committee in compliance with the regulations set down by the Capitation Committee.
 - 5.4.2 The Treasurer shall keep full records of income and expenditure of the CU. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of who authorised various expenditures and shall issue receipts.
 - 5.4.3 The Treasurer and another Senior Officer shall sign all cheques and withdrawals forms from the Society's bank account.
 - 5.4.4 Where the Treasurer is decreed as unavailable, the President and the Secretary may sign cheques and withdrawal forms for the society on consultation with the Capitation Committee.

Article VI. Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members

- 6.1 No member of the committee may be dismissed from office unless:
 - 6.1.1 Written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal, signed by 10% of the members of the society is received 4 working days prior to a general meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated.
 - 6.1.2 Two thirds of the Governing Executive Committee may also call a meeting to debate the dismissal of another committee member.
- 6.2 A resolution to dismiss a committee member may be passed by a simple majority voting at the relevant and quorate meeting.
- 6.3 A committee member wishing to resign must declare this intention in writing to the Secretary or another Senior Officer, who shall immediately inform the rest of the committee.
- 6.4 Upon dismissal, resignation, incapacitation or death of a committee member, the responsibilities of the role vacated shall be delegated to other committee members until the next general meeting which should take place as soon as possible.

Article VII. Meetings of the CU

- 7.1 The CU shall host a public meeting where practical once a week during term.
- 7.2 The CU shall also, where practical, aim to hold separate weekly prayer meetings, Bible study meetings and any other such meetings necessary to further the aims of the CU.
- 7.3 There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in the second term no later than the final month of the Academic Year.
- 7.4 The quorum of a general meeting shall be three Governing Executive Committee members and 10% of the ordinary membership.
- 7.5 Elections for the Governing Executive Committee shall take place at the AGM, as outlined in Article IV.
- 7.6 The outgoing Governing Executive Committee shall give annual reports on the activities of the CU at the AGM, including a Treasurer's Report on the finances of the CU.
- 7.7 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened if:
 - 7.7.1 10% of the ordinary membership of the CU requests such a meeting in writing.
 - 7.7.2 A quorum of the Governing Executive Committee requests such a meeting in writing.
 - 7.7.3 A vacancy on the current committee occurs and there is a need to elect a replacement.
- 7.8 Notice of all general meetings shall be given to the membership at least five working days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 7.9 Ordinary members shall be entitled to vote at general meetings provided they agree with and have signed the doctrinal basis of the CU.

Article VIII. Affiliation

- 8.1 The CU is affiliated to the Christian Unions Ireland, hereafter known as “CUI” formerly “IFES”.
- 8.2 The CU recognises the privileges and responsibilities inherent in affiliation to CUI and seeks to support and uphold the aims of the fellowship and the other CU’s which constitute it.

Article IX. Amendments to this Constitution

- 9.1 Notice of a proposal to seek an amendment to this constitution shall be given to the members at least five working days prior to the general meeting at which such a proposal shall be considered.
- 9.2 A proposal to amend this constitution must receive the approval of 75% of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant general meeting.
- 9.3 Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed by the committee after consultation with CUI as to the affects any such proposal would have on the CU’s affiliation to the fellowship.