

The Constitution

Clause One: The Society

- a) The Society shall be called “The Durham Inter-Collegiate Christian Union” (hereafter referred to as ‘The Union’) and shall be formed from students of colleges and societies in the University of Durham.
- b) The Union shall be affiliated to The Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship and shall send two officers from the Union as delegates to the General Committee Meetings of that Fellowship.

Clause Two: Aims

The aim of the Union shall be to glorify God:

- a) By witnessing to the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and God, and by leading fellow students to a personal faith in Him.
- b) By deepening the spiritual life of its members through prayer, study of the Bible and the teaching of the doctrinal and practical aspects of the Christian faith.
- c) By stimulating prayer for, and participation in other spheres of Christian witness in this country and throughout the world.

Clause Three: Doctrinal Basis

- a) The doctrinal basis of the Union shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in Holy Scripture, including:
 1. The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
 2. The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
 3. The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
 4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man subject to God’s wrath and condemnation.
 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.
 6. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once for all time of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and man.
 7. Justification as God’s act of undeserved mercy, in which the sinner is pardoned all his sins, and accepted as righteous in God’s sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to him, this justification being received by faith alone.
 8. The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
 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.
 10. The one holy universal Church, which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong.
 11. The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge all men, executing God’s just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.

- b) This is the basis of the Union, and the lines which the Union follows shall be determined by this basis. The general programme of the Union shall be in accordance with it, and for this reason those on the Executive Committee and College Representatives are asked to sign a declaration of their agreement with it.

Clause Four: Membership

- a) Any student referred to in Clause One a) may become a member of the Union upon signing a declaration as follows:
“I desire in joining this Union to declare:
1. My faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord, and my God, whose atoning sacrifice is the only ground of my salvation.
 2. My belief in the supreme authority of Holy Scripture in all matters of faith and conduct.
 3. My intention to support God’s work in the Union as expressed in the Aims by prayer, giving, and active participation in its witness.”
- b) This declaration shall be countersigned by either the Secretary or the President of the Union, and membership shall be due for renewal at the end of each year, for the duration of the student’s course, unless it is terminated by notifying the Secretary, or College Representative.

Clause Five: Committees And Officers

- a) There shall be an Executive Committee and Standing Sub-Committees as and when required whose members shall be chosen annually.
- b) Officers not on committees shall also be chosen.
- c) Members of all committees, College Representatives, Officers and Evangelistic Study Group Leaders shall be members of the Union with the exception of Christian Union Guest Representative for the year 2001-2002 who shall be ratified by the Union and shall record his or her agreement with the Doctrinal Basis of the Union as set out in Clause 3.

Clause Six: Executive Committee

- a) The function of the Executive Committee shall be the spiritual oversight of the Union and the furthering of its aims (as set out in Clause Two), administration, government of policy, appointment of ‘ad-hoc’ sub-committees and proposal of further officers.
- b) The Executive Committee shall have authority to decide on all matters concerning the day to day running of the Union. In doing so they shall attach due weight to the recommendations of the sub-committees, College Representatives and other officers.
- c) Members of the Executive Committee shall, immediately upon ratification by the Union, record their agreement with the doctrinal basis of the Union, and shall hold office only as long as they are in such agreement.
- d) The Executive Committee of the Union shall consist of eight, nine or ten members of the Union who shall hold the following offices: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Bible Study Co-ordinator, Prayer Secretary, International Secretary, 1 or 2 Evangelism Secretaries at the discretion of the Executive Committee with advice from the Advisory Committee and a Mission Chair, who may be chosen two years in advance of the triennial mission, and may sit on the Executive Committee during the first year of office, if so desired, and shall sit on the Executive Committee during the second year of office.
- e) The President, or in the President’s absence the President’s deputy who shall be elected by the remainder of the Executive Committee from among their number, shall be empowered to invite any member of the Union to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee when the advice of the member is required for the business of the Union.

- f) The President-elect and the Vice-President-elect may sit on the Executive Committee from the date of their ratification by the Union.
- g) In the event of an officer resigning the Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt a member of the Union to carry out responsibilities of the post until such time as it can be filled.

Clause Seven: Standing Sub-Committees

- a) The function of the Standing Sub-Committees shall be to assist the Executive Committee in the administration of the Union and in the furthering of its aims.
- b) Each Standing Sub-Committee shall have its existence ratified annually and shall include at least one member of the Executive Committee.
- c) Each Standing Sub-Committee shall receive a copy of its terms of reference from the Executive Committee and shall keep proper records of its proceedings.
- d) Each Standing Sub-Committee shall be free to make and carry out decisions within its own sphere of reference, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
- e) The organisation of the Union may include provision for such spheres of activity as: Mission in the UK and Abroad, Christian Action, Livers Out, Overseas Students, R.T.S.F., publicity, houseparties, conferences, contact with past members and Christian Literature, and whatever other activities are appropriate at any given time to further the Aims of the Union.
- f) The chair of each Standing Sub-Committee shall be empowered to invite any member of the Union to attend a meeting of that committee when the advice of the member is required for the business of the Union.

Clause Eight: 'Ad-Hoc' Sub-Committees

- a) On any matter arising that demands special attention an 'ad-hoc' sub-committee may be formed from three or more members of the Union appointed by the Executive Committee to deal with the matter in question, and the Union shall be informed of the appointment.
- b) Such an 'ad-hoc' sub-committee shall receive a copy of its terms of reference from the Executive Committee, shall keep proper records of its proceedings and shall submit a written report to the Executive Committee upon the completion of its work.

Clause Nine: Meetings

The Executive Committee, or any other member of the Union at the Executive Committee's invitation or with its permission, may arrange other meetings at any time to further the aims of the Union.

Clause Ten: College Representatives

- a) There shall be at least one, or preferably two College Representatives from each College or Society.
- b) College Representatives shall, immediately upon ratification by the Union, record their agreement with the doctrinal basis of the Union, and shall hold office only as long as they are in such agreement.
- c) College Representatives shall be encouraged to arrange Bible study groups, prayer meetings, evangelism and any other activities they think necessary to further the aims of the Union in their Colleges.

Clause Eleven: Finance

The financial needs of the Union shall be met by voluntary giving. These needs shall be made known to the members in statements given by the Treasurer each term or more often if necessary.

Clause Twelve: Equipment

All equipment owned by the Union shall be properly accommodated and insured, and shall be for the sole use of the Executive Committee or its delegated Officers purely for the business of the Union.

Clause Thirteen: Advisory Committee

There shall be an Advisory Committee consisting of four or more senior friends of the Union who are in agreement with the doctrinal basis of the Union. Their chief function shall be to give personal advice to all members of the Union, especially those who hold a position of responsibility; to advise the Executive Committee; and to give their advice to the Union whenever there is to be a change in the Constitution. The Executive Committee shall have the power, subject to the approval of a General Meeting of the Union, to fill any vacancy that might occur in the Advisory Committee. Members shall hold office for as long as they are willing to do so and for as long as they are in complete agreement with the doctrinal basis of the Union, being subject to re-appointment every five years.

Clause Fourteen: Amendments To The Constitution

No alteration shall be made to this Constitution except by agreement of two-thirds of those present at a General Meeting of the Union, provided that the number in agreement exceeds half the membership of the Union, and with the written advice of the Advisory Committee.

Clause Fifteen: Interpretation Of Clauses

The President, or in the President's absence the President's deputy, who shall be elected by the remainder of the Executive Committee from among their number, shall decide all questions which may arise as to the interpretation of clauses.

Approved & adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Union held on 10th May 2003

*Joanna Clarkson
(DICCUCU Secretary and Chairman of EGM 2003)*