

Edinburgh University Christian Union: Constitution

1. Name

The name of this society shall be the 'Edinburgh University Christian Union', hereinafter referred to as "the Union".

2. Aim

The aim of the Union shall be to worship God through:

(i) Evangelism: to proclaim Jesus Christ as God incarnate, Saviour and Lord, and to seek to lead others to a personal faith in Him. The Union has taken and will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that our meetings, events and socials are accessible to all so that every student may be given the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(ii) Spiritual Growth: to deepen and strengthen spiritual life, for example through Bible teaching, study, praise and prayer, so that the Holy Spirit may increase our likeness to Christ in character, behaviour and effective witness.

(iii) World Mission: to encourage one another to obey God's commission to go out into all the world with the gospel, sharing in this privilege by giving, praying and serving in every area of life to which He calls us.

(iv) Commitment to the Truth: to help students and others to explore and assert biblical truth, and to apply it to every issue of private and working life, and public concern.

3. Membership

3.1. Forms of Membership

- a. Full membership of the Society is open to all matriculated students of Edinburgh University.
- b. Membership shall be at least 75% matriculated students of Edinburgh University.
- c. Full membership lists should be filed with the Activities Office at least once per semester to ensure membership databases are up to date.
- d. If any dispute of membership should arise, the list registered through the Students' Association database will be used as the official list.

3.2. Breach of Member Responsibilities (and Conflict Resolution)

a) The Committee may impose sanctions for misconduct on members, based on verifiable evidence collected, taking into account the seriousness of the misconduct with reference to the membership responsibilities and standard code of conduct, any previous warnings, and any mitigating circumstances. When appropriate the following sanctions may be applied:

1. Informal Warning
2. First Written Warnings will be issued for a minor offence or complaint;
3. Final Written Warnings will be issued for: a further offence or complaint or if the conduct of the member failed to improve following a previous warning, or if the actions are serious enough to warrant a Final Written Warning.
4. Removal from membership will occur if there is a further serious event of misconduct, or if the conduct of the member failed to improve following a previous written warning, or if the member committed an act of gross misconduct.
5. Edinburgh University Students' Association ("the Students' Association") Societies department will be notified upon removal of a member and provided with a copy of the evidence pertaining to the sanctions process and removal. All persons removed from membership may appeal to the Societies' department against such removal.

4. Management

4.1. The General Committee

- a. The business of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of Office Bearers.
- b. Any full student member of the Society shall be entitled to sit on the Committee.
- c. The Office Bearers must be members of the society and a matriculated student of Edinburgh University.
- d. All Office Bearers will complete annual online training as outlined by the Activities Team.

4.2. Executive Office Bearers

- a. The Committee must consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer (the Executive Officers) as a minimum.
- b. These Office Bearers will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- c. No person may be elected to more than one of these posts simultaneously.

4.3. President

- a. The President will chair the General Committee and Emergency General Meetings.
- b. The President is responsible to the Annual General Meeting and the General Committee and is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the Society.
- c. It is the President's responsibility to ensure the Society has submitted their annual report, risk assessment and reregistration forms to the Activities Office
- d. Should the President resign a new President or Acting President will be voted in at an EGM.

4.4. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall be accountable to the committee and members for the finances of the society.
- b. The Treasurer shall keep and prepare Accounts of the Society and provide a provisional budget, as exhaustive as possible, to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- c. It is the Treasurer's responsibility to ensure the annual financial report is complete and submitted along with the society's annual report.
- d. Should the Treasurer resign, a new Treasurer or Acting Treasurer will be voted in at an EGM.

4.5. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for the administration of the society.
- b. The Secretary shall also be responsible for any correspondence within or on behalf of the Society and prepare the agendas and the minutes of every committee meeting, AGM and EGM.
- c. Should the Secretary resign, a new Secretary or Acting Secretary will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6. Non-Executive Officers

4.6.1. Vice President

- a. The Vice President shall be responsible for the administration of the society's annual weekend away.
- b. The Vice President shall also be responsible for supporting the President in leadership of the committee.
- c. Should the Vice President resign, a new Vice President or Acting Vice President will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6.2. Prayer Secretary

- a. The Prayer Secretary shall be responsible for emphasising the necessity of prayer to the society.
- b. The Prayer Secretary shall also be responsible for the administration of Prayer Breakfast.
- c. Should the Prayer Secretary resign, a new Prayer Secretary or Acting Prayer Secretary will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6.3. International Co-Ordinator

- a. The International Co-Ordinator shall be responsible for the society's outreach to international students at the university.
- b. The International Co-Ordinator shall also be responsible for the administration of International Café.
- c. Should the International Co-Ordinator resign, a new International Secretary or Acting International Secretary will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6.4. Small Groups Co-Ordinator

- a. The Small Groups Co-Ordinator shall be responsible for the administration of the society's Small Groups.
- b. Should the Small Groups Co-Ordinator resign, a new Small Groups Co-Ordinator or Acting Small Groups Co-Ordinator will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6.6. Outreach Coordinators

- a. There shall be three Outreach Co-Ordinators elected to the committee each year.
- b. The Outreach Co-Ordinators shall be responsible for the administration of the society's outreach events, including regular, one-off and follow up events.
- c. The Outreach Co-Ordinators shall also be responsible for the administration of the society's efforts in publicity for such events and for the administration of the society's website and social media accounts.
- d. Should any of the Outreach Co-Ordinators resign, a new Events Secretary or Acting Events Secretary will be voted in at an EGM.

4.6.7. Events Week Chair

- a. The Events Week Chair shall be responsible for the administration of the society's annual Events Week.
- b. The Events Week Chair shall be responsible for leading the Events Week committee.
- c. Should the Events Week Chair resign, a new Events Week Chair or Acting Events Week Chair will be voted in at an EGM.

4.7. Conduct

- a. All Office Bearers shall act in good faith towards the Society in all actions they undertake on its behalf.

4.8. Recall

- a. The members shall have the right at an Extraordinary General Meeting to seek the recall of any or all of the Office Bearers by a special resolution (i.e.: a 75% vote in favour of the resolution).
- b. For such a vote to be binding on the Society the Meeting must be quorate.
- c. The quorum shall be 30% of the membership of the Society.
- d. Grounds for recall may be founded on the failure of any office holder of the General Committee to comply with the terms of the constitution, or for any other reason deemed legitimate by the General Meeting.

4.9. Annual General Meeting

- a. All members of the Society are entitled to attend Annual General Meetings (hereinafter referred to as the AGM).
- b. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to ensure that members receive at least 14 days written/email notification of the AGM and of elections not held at the AGM.
- c. Motions to be discussed should be presented to the Secretary in advance of the AGM.
- d. Only fully-matriculated students are entitled to vote at the AGM.
- e. All Office Bearer roles shall be subject to election annually at the AGM.

- f. All members who are matriculated students of the University of Edinburgh shall be entitled to stand and to vote in elections.
- g. Motions carried by the necessary majority (i.e. a 50% vote in favour of the motion) at quorate AGMs are binding on the Society.
- h. The quorum shall be 30% of the membership of the Society.
- i. It is the responsibility of the outgoing Treasurer to present the final reports for the previous year and a complete account of the current state of finances. They must present an accurate breakdown of the definite commitment for which the Society has been engaged in the current year, henceforth to be known as the Budget. Emphasis must be placed on comparing this Budget with current income.
- j. The Secretary shall report on the administrative affairs of the society.

4.10. Emergency General Meeting

- a. The President may call an Extraordinary General Meeting for matters arising in the course of the year which require consideration by members.
- b. Following the receipt of such a request by the Secretary the General Committee shall have twenty-eight (28) days to implement the request, and must take reasonable measures to notify the members of the time and place of the Extraordinary General Meeting.
- c. The EGM shall follow the procedure of the AGM outlined in 4.9. above.
- d. All members must receive at least 14 days written/email notification of the EGM.
- e. In the event of an Executive position becoming vacant, the President will call an EGM to elect a replacement.
- f. Any newly elected Office Bearers will be communicated to the Societies Team after the election has taken place.

5. Finance

5.1. Finance Policy

- a. The Treasurer must endeavour to ensure that the ordinary expenditure of any given year is not more than the ordinary income of that year.
- b. The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March.
- c. The definition of ordinary and extraordinary expenditure is the responsibility of the General Committee.

5.2. General Finance

- a. The Society shall be non-profit making. The Office Bearers and members may only receive payment, direct or indirect, as reimbursement for legitimate expenses.
- b. Core income shall be defined as income arising from membership fees and any other source as agreed by the General Committee.
- c. Any reserves at the end of the Financial Year shall be carried over into reserves for the following Financial Year.
- d. A loss carried forward into the following financial year must be notified and explained at the Annual General Meeting.

6. Policy

6.1. Re-registration, Annual Reports and Financial Reports

- a. Re-registration of the society must be submitted in accordance with the deadlines set by the Activities Team.
- b. Annual and Financial Reports must be completed and submitted as part of the re-registration process following the AGM in the second semester.

6.2. Society Status

- a. A Society may not register to obtain any legal status, including a limited company or a charitable status.

6.3. Equal Opportunities Policy

- a. The Society shall uphold and maintain its policy on the equality of opportunity as defined in the Equal Opportunities Policy.
- b. The Society will take all necessary steps to ensure that their meetings, events and socials are accessible to all.
- c. The Society will ensure that it complies with any relevant data protection legislation.
- d. The Society believes that discrimination or harassment, direct or indirect, based on a person's gender, age (except where it relates to licensing laws), race, skin colour, nationality, religious belief, socio-economic background, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, family situation, domestic responsibilities or any other irrelevant distinction, is detrimental to the society, the university and wider society, and will not be tolerated.
- e. The Society shall abide by any applicable laws, bye-laws and guidelines of the Edinburgh University Students' Association in relation to recognised Societies.

6.4. Political Organisations

- a. The Society will be non-political in that it will not espouse the cause of any political party.

7. Dissolution

7.1. Dissolution of the Society

- a. The Society shall not be wound up except by a resolution of three-quarters of those present at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.
- b. All funds remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities following such a resolution shall be passed on to a charitable organisation having objects similar to those of the Society as the General Committee.

8. Alteration of the Constitution

8.1. Alteration

- a. Any motion to alter the Constitution will have to be supported by two-thirds of the members present at the AGM or EGM, 14 days notice of which shall be given.
- b. The Students' Association considers the ruling society constitution to be that which is displayed on the Society Profile.

9. Doctrinal Basis

The doctrinal basis of the Union shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in Holy Scripture, including:

- (a) The unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- (b) The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
- (c) The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- (d) The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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 Man.

(g) Justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which the sinner is pardoned of 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.

(h) The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ.

(i) 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 to the world.

(j) The one holy universal Church, which is the body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong.

(k) The future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge all men, executing God's just condemnation of the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.

The interpretation of the basis, wherever referred to herein, shall be given in the publication "Evangelical Belief" (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship).

10. Constituent Parts

The Executive Committee shall recognize as constituent parts of the Union such smaller groups as may be appropriate in furthering the aims of the Union within the framework of policy set down by the Executive Committee.

11. Speakers

The Union invites speakers to meetings to teach from the Bible and represent the Union at outreach events. Only such speakers who are able to sign the doctrinal basis of the Union shall be invited to speak in these capacities.

12. Co-operation

If participating in joint activities with other societies or organisations the Union shall not act to represent itself in any way that is likely to compromise the integrity of its biblical witness, as defined in the doctrinal basis.

February 2022.