

University of Newcastle Christian Union

Constitution

1) Name and Aims

A: Name

The name of the society shall be University of Newcastle Christian Union, hereafter referred to as UNCU. The society is based at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (trading as Newcastle University).

UNCU shall be affiliated to UCCF: The Christian Unions; hereafter referred to as UCCF, and shall be non-sectarian and inter-denominational.

B: Aims

UNCU exists to unite Christian students at Newcastle University in the following aims:

- To make known the good news of Jesus Christ to students in the university.
- To grow in relationship with God.

With these in mind, through the Holy Spirit, we are committed to:

- Sharing our lives together in Christ.
- Prayer.
- Exploring and asserting Biblical truth and applying it to every area of our lives.
- Promoting involvement in God's work worldwide.

2) Doctrinal Basis

UNCU has adopted the Doctrinal Basis of UCCF. These are the fundamental truths around which all Christians can unite, working together to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

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

- There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
- The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour.
- Since the fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.
- Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.
- Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy,

- received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.
- The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christlike in character and behaviour and gives them power for their witness in the world.
- The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

3) Membership

A: Members

1. Those eligible for membership of UNCU shall be:
 - Full time and part time registered students of Newcastle University;
 - Members of staff of Newcastle University;
 - Life and Associate members of the Newcastle University Union Society,

Provided that:

- They subscribe to the aims of UNCU;
 - They attest their belief in Jesus Christ
 - as their Saviour, their Lord, and their God;
 - whose sacrificial death is the only ground for their redemption;
 - in the power of whose resurrection they desire to live.
2. The status of membership shall be gained by signing a membership form in the presence of any member of the Executive Committee. This act signifies agreement with the aims of UNCU as set out in Section 1.
 3. Membership shall be renewable annually, and shall expire on the third Friday of the Autumn term of any year.
 4. Membership implies the right to:
 - Vote for such officers as are put up for election.
 - Vote on all questions of policy within UNCU.

B: Honorary Advisors

1. There shall be not more than ten honorary advisors (except by vote at an Annual General Meeting) to UNCU appointed by the Executive Committee. The advisors for the next year shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at the AGM. The advisors shall be senior friends of UNCU, not present students, and shall subscribe to the aims of UNCU and sign its Doctrinal Basis as set out in sections 1 and 2.
2. Terms of Reference
 - To give advice to UNCU on matters affecting the conduct of business in furtherance of its aims in accordance with its Doctrinal Basis;
 - To meet the Executive Committee at least once a term.

The Advisors should normally reside in the North-East of England. They may attend all meetings of UNCU, but shall not be eligible for office within UNCU or any of its committees. They shall have no voting powers on questions of policy pertaining to UNCU.

4) Officers and Committees

A: Officers

There shall be not less than four executive officers of UNCU; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

All executive officers, other officers, members of committees of UNCU, and small group leaders shall be required to read, study, and sign assent to the aims of UNCU and its Doctrinal Basis and as set out in Sections I and II respectively. In the event that an office-holder, committee member or group leader of UNCU is no longer able to assent in conscience to the aims of UNCU and its Doctrinal Basis he or she shall be required to resign that office.

B: The Executive Committee

1. Constitution.
 - Ex officio members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.
 - Appointed members; such other members being full-time or part-time registered students who are members of UNCU as shall be appointed by the total membership of UNCU from time to time.
2. Duration of Office
 - The current Executive Committee shall decide the 'hand-over date', which shall fall after the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but before the end of the Spring term. The 'hand-over date' should be decided before the end of the Autumn term.
 - The incoming president, and any one or two other members of the incoming exec (such as the current Executive Committee may decide), shall join the current Executive Committee from the Monday two weeks preceding the handover date. They shall be there for the purposes of observation, and shall not hold their particular executive offices until the 'hand-over date'.
 - The full incoming Executive Committee shall hold office from the 'hand-over date' in the year that they are appointed until the 'hand-over date' in the year following.
3. Terms of Reference.
 - To encourage members to fulfil the aims of UNCU as set out in Section I by initiating and organising meetings and other activities.
 - To initiate and organise meetings as set out in Section VII.
 - To appoint, and discharge, sub-committees and officers as necessary.
4. Notes.
 - A quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be 50% of its membership.
 - Honorary Advisers may attend meetings of the Executive Committee, but shall have no vote.

C: Appointment to UNCU Committees

Appointments to UNCU committees shall be made by and from the membership of UNCU.

1. Appointment of the Executive Committee
 - By the 7th week of the Autumn Term, the current Executive Committee shall request recommendations from the membership in writing (or E-Mail) for candidates to form a new

Executive Committee.

- Having prayerfully considered all eligible candidates and, where possible, obtained references from local churches and older Christians who are not members of UNCU, the current Executive Committee shall announce the nominations for the incoming Executive Committee at least 14 days before the AGM.
- In the case of concern with any nominations, further nominations should be put forward in writing to the President at least 7 days before the AGM. Such a nomination should have written support of at least 20% of the membership of UNCU.
- If there is more than one nomination for a post on the Executive Committee, a ballot shall be held at the AGM with the additional candidate(s) present on the ballot.
- A final list of nominations shall be published at least 48 hours before the AGM. No new nominations or concerns shall be raised at the AGM.
- The membership retains the right of veto against any nomination during the ratification procedure. A quorum is 50% of the membership, and ratification is achieved with at least two thirds (of those voting) in favour
- In the event of non-ratification or a quorum not being reached, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be convened within a month. In the event of quorum not being reached, the original nominations shall be resubmitted for ratification; in the event of non-ratification, a revised list shall be re-submitted as set out in the method above.

2. Appointment of Committees and any non-Executive Officers

- These shall be appointed by the Executive Committee
- In the event of resignation of any non-Executive Officer, or member of a Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor.
- Meetings of Committees shall be chaired by an appropriate Executive Committee Officer
- Those serving under non-Executive Officers are accountable to that officer, who is in turn accountable to the Executive Committee.

3. Appointment of Small Group Leaders

- These shall be appointed by the Executive Committee in consultation with the retiring Small Group Leaders
- In the event of resignation of any Small Group Leader, the current Executive Committee shall appoint a successor
- Meetings of Small Group Leaders shall be chaired by an appropriate Executive Committee Officer.

5) Financial Procedures

1. All expenses shall be met by contributions from members and friends of UNCU and from the Union Society grant to student societies (if forthcoming).
2. UNCU shall have a bank account at a bank approved by the Executive Committee, from which monies can be used only for the purposes outlined below, drawn only by cheques signed by two members of the Executive Committee who are authorised signatories of the account.
3. All gifts, expenses and other payments to be made shall be determined entirely at the discretion of the Executive Committee providing such expenditure is made in accordance with the aims of UNCU as set out in section 1.
4. The Treasurer shall keep accounts, which shall be examined and signed by the President or Secretary, and presented to UNCU members at the AGM.
5. Monies contributed for a specific purpose, (e.g. Freshers' Week, or missionary needs at home or overseas), shall normally only be spent for that purpose. In the event that monies remain after that

event, except with the permission of the UNCU membership at a General Meeting, the remaining amount shall be set aside and used for that purpose at the next opportunity.

6. All property already owned by UNCU shall remain the property of UNCU, and shall be under the management of the Executive Committee.
7. Property and equipment subsequently purchased using monies from the UNCU Accounts shall remain the property of UNCU, and management powers shall lie with the Executive Committee.

6) Relationships with other bodies

1. UNCU shall be an autonomous body affiliated to UCCF, but bound by no decisions but its own.
2. The rules of the Union Society of the University of Newcastle shall be binding on UNCU in so far as they do not conflict with the UNCU constitution, and do not compromise the aims of UNCU.
3. Only those speakers whose religious beliefs are known to be in accordance with the Doctrinal Basis of UNCU shall be invited to address meetings.
4. In all matters of co-operation with other societies or individuals, the aims and doctrinal basis of UNCU shall not be compromised.

7) Meetings

A: Ordinary Meetings

1. Meetings that will further the aims of UNCU shall be arranged by the Executive Committee.
2. All such meetings of UNCU shall be open to students and staff of Newcastle University, and members of the public by invitation.

B: General Meetings

1. The Executive Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of UNCU, in the Spring term of each year, when the aims and Doctrinal Basis of UNCU shall be read, the incoming Executive Committee ratified, and honorary advisors for the coming year appointed.
2. Copies of the agenda, which shall be despatched seven days before the AGM shall be sent to all members and advisers, and shall be available at the AGM.
3. Officers' reports to be presented to the AGM shall include the Treasurer's report.
4. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 50% of the total membership of UNCU. A quorum is defined as the number of eligible members present and voting, or having already voted via e-mail.
5. Only full members of UNCU may vote at a General Meeting of UNCU. A vote may be cast in person or via E-Mail in advance of the AGM to the Secretary.
6. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) can be convened by the Executive Committee or by petition of 10% of the membership.

8) Amendments to the Constitution

This constitution shall not be altered or set aside in whole or in part unless such action is approved by a General Meeting motion in which there is a quorum of 50%, and not less than two-thirds of whom vote in favour.

9) Interpretation

Any questions of interpretations of this constitution shall be decided by the President, or in his or her absence, the Vice-President.