**Intervarsity Park University**

**Inclusive                    Growth                        Community                                         Fun**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

In response to God's love, grace and truth:

The Purpose of the Chapter is to establish and advance at Park University witnessing to communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's Word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture and God's purposes in the world.

**OFFICERS & ROLES**

Roles necessary for the smooth running of club activities are, President, Vice-president, Marketing officer, Secretary and Treasurer

* **President:** Oversees club activities and reminds club members of meeting. Perform all other duties that the office may require.
* **Vice President:** Assist in running presidential activities and assumes the role of president in the absence of the president.
* **Secretary:** Keep records of club business, takes minutes at meetings. Take attendance at meetings.
* **Marketing Officer:** creates and spreads club awareness- specifically on social media as well as around campus. Promotes events and creates forms for sign up when necessary.  The marketing officer also is responsible for club photography and videography.
* **Treasurer:** Uses funds for club activities as directed by the president and as approved by the officers.

**STANDARDS FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

**| A Call To Leadership |**

Everyone who is willing and ready to go under training is qualified for the position.

*“Leadership is an interpersonal matter. People do not follow programs, but leaders who inspire them. They act when vision stirs in them a reckless hope of something greater than themselves, hope of fulfillment they never before dared to aspire to. And hope is passed from person to person. God given visions of hope are shared, shared by leaders who see the vision with people who don’t. But sharing is more than talking. Hope bursts into flame when leaders begin to act. As they follow their vision, clearly and openly, facing the difficulties, God mobilizes the many by the challenging actions of the few.”*

                -John White  
                Excellence in Leadership

**| Covenant Purpose |**

This covenant is meant to serve as a guideline for chapter leaders’ behavior and activities, not as a hard and fast law in which no exceptions will be permitted and no grace can be given.  In general, we are more concerned with keeping the “spirit of the law” than with keeping every “letter of the law.” If you have concerns about any particular item, please speak with a current leader, or with a staff-worker.  Do not sign it until you can agree to every item or have discussed your misgivings with a leader and have come to a mutual agreement.

**| Church Commitment |**

IVCF does not seek to take the place of a local church or supersede a responsibility to a local church, nor do we claim to be a church.  IVCF works closely with manylocal churches and we hope to be an extension of their ministry on campus. As leaders, we will encourage each of our members to be involved in local churches and not to rely on IVCF as their "church."

For this reason, we ask that each IVCF leader commit to the following:

* I am committed to regularly attend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.   
                                                                      (insert your church name here)

**| Chapter Commitments |**

As a leader, we ask you to dedicate yourself to the vision and purpose of IVCF for the year of 2022-2023.

The estimated time commitment for an IVCF student leader is **15 hours per week for a leadership team member/team leader** or **8 hours a week** for an individual team member. Please consider whether or not you can honestly commit to the following (check each item you are willing and can commit to):

* Regular communion with God (quiet times, prayer, spiritual disciplines) to grow and flourish
* Regular participation in a weekly InterVarsity small group.
* Regular attendance of weekly leadership team meetings.
* Commitment to weekly preparation for your particular leadership responsibilities.
* Regular prayer with other members of the chapter for our chapter.
* Attend Fall Conference and actively recruit other students to attend as well.
* Regularly attend and actively recruit for InterVarsity training events throughout the year.
* Regularly participate in outreach activities such as New Student Outreach (the first three weeks of school in the fall), evangelism events, and social events, January New Student Outreach (first two weeks of spring semester).

**| How do we live? |**

Even more important than our time commitment to the chapter is our commitment to pursue Biblical definitions of Christ-likeness while serving on the leadership team.  The items below are meant to serve as practical guidelines for chapter leaders’ behavior and activities. Agreeing to each one indicates not that you are promising to be perfect in each of these areas (no one is perfect), but it does indicate that you intend to pursue these guidelines whole-heartedly, and are willing to allow other chapter leaders and the IVCF staff-person to keep you accountable and help you to live them out.

**1. Personal relationship with God** *(2 Timothy 3:16, Phil.1:6, Col. 3:1-14)*

a. Loving God and growing in your relationship with him is the main job description of the leader. First, this means spending time with him. Remember the job description of an apostle is to “be with Jesus.” Take responsibility for your own growth.

b. *Be “Good Soil.”* You spend time regularly (daily?) in God’s Word and seek to obey it and bear fruit. It means that you are “pressing in” in all life’s circumstances and offering the “mustard seeds” of faith to Christ.

c. “Leaving the nets” of your identity *(Mark 1)* and “following” Jesus. You have the opportunity to be open with God and deepen your intimacy with him.

d. *Stretch your wineskins.* Practice spiritual disciplines not because you have to, but because you get to and it’s good for you.

**2. Relationships with Others***(Hebrews 3:12-13, Matthew 18:15-17)*

a. *Partnership.* Jesus sends people in pairs and teams. Your team is given to you to support you and for you to lean on them. Take your relationship with your teammates seriously and invest in them and build a relationship with them. It means openness with your team about big decisions you make.   
b. *Conflict Resolution*. This means you don’t hold grudges or hide things from people when you are hurt. It means that you take the initiative to resolve conflict with your team member or person in the chapter. You need to forgive and offer forgiveness. You need to own your anger and not gossip as a way to release your frustrations with your team member. God wants to bless you with authentic, honest relationships.

c. *Friendships.* Deep friendships of the same sex are key to your formation as a Christ-follower. Find several people that you enjoy spending time with and cultivate deep relationships with them. This may mean quality time spent, praying together, enjoying one another’s company and confessing sins to one another.

d. *Sexuality (I Corinthians 6:9-20, Ephesians 5:3, I Thess. 4:3-4)*

I. Seeking godly counsel and wisdom when choosing to date.

II. As a leader you need to commit to abstain from sex. God is calling you to a healthy expression of sexuality within the covenant of marriage.

III. Boundaries in dating: Keep in mind what constitutes healthy sexuality. Be wary of forms of demonstrating intimacy that constitutes foreplay.

IV. Openness and ownership to the boundaries and corrections set by the community.

V. We ask that leaders pursue dating relationships only with growing followers of Christ.

VI. Openness to receiving prayer and help for besetting areas of personal sexual temptation

VII.  Work to pursue sexual purity (for example, fleeing from pornography and homosexual activity)

**3. Relationship with Self** *(Ephesians 5:15-18, Phil. 2:3-11)*

a. *Humility and Learning Posture.* God desires us to experience grace. Do you see yourself as a learner? Will you take risks with people? Leaders need to be open to receiving criticism and learning from their mistakes.

b. *Self Control*.  God wants us to have freedom rather than being in bondage. Leaders need to seek help for areas they lack self control in. In particular is the area of substance usage, specifically drinking. Leaders need to maintain self control and drink with caution. We also ask that underage leaders abstain from drinking and above-age leaders chose love above personal rights.

**4. Ministry Posture**

a. *Views of Commitments*. Viewing your commitments as a “basketful from Jesus” is important. For example, “Is this another meeting?” vs. “What might God want to do in us as we gather together?”

b. *Ownership*. This is your ministry. You may complain, but complain like you are in the game and not on the sidelines. Be an active, compassionate change agent, rather than a passive blame-shifter.

c. *Meetings.* Attend leader’s meetings. Attend weekly meetings and small groups weekly. Attend retreats and other events as planned.

d. *Outreach and Evangelism.* Participate in outreach events to first years (especially new student outreach) and any evangelism activities. Mobilize your spheres of influence to join in.

e. *Conferences*. Attend Fall and Winter conferences with the chapter, by recruiting students and for chapter vision and renewal. Participate in the Back to School Retreat in August. Participate in Chapter FOCUS Week.

**| Inappropriate Conduct |**

1. Abuse of Others: We are called to love others as Jesus loves us. Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, mental or spiritual abuse is prohibited.
2. Criminal Conduct: We abide by laws and do not engage in criminal conduct. Non-violent civil disobedience will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
3. Discrimination: We seek an environment that treats every person with dignity. Discriminatory conduct that denigrates or shows hostility/aversion toward a person – due to his/her race/color, pregnancy, national origin, gender or sexual orientation, genetic information, age or disability - is not allowed.
4. Disruptive and Destructive Behavior: We create and sustain positive community. We abstain from behaviors such as abusive communications, bullying, gossiping, vandalism, cheating, fighting, threatening violence, and intimidating behavior. Such behaviors extend far beyond healthy disagreements and differing opinions.
5. Financial and Data Misconduct: We manage InterVarsity-related finances and data with utmost integrity. Misconduct includes intentional mismanagement of donations and ministry funds, embezzlement, theft, misuse of InterVarsity property or assets, identity theft, misuse of financial and personal data, fraud, bribery, misappropriation of funds or resources, and practices that are intentionally illegal, unethical, or dishonest.
6. Harassment: Forms of disrespect that are intended to demean, demoralize, ridicule, disgrace, or humiliate another person are unacceptable.
7. Insubordination:  We honor our leaders and supervisors. We remain teachable. Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to: intentional and/or continuous patterns of disrespect, insubordination, and aggressive behavior towards leaders and supervisors.
8. Sexual Immorality: We are thankful for God’s gift of sex within the context of a monogamous, one woman/one man marriage covenant. Scripture teaches that all other sexual activities are outside His will, including: adultery, pre-marital sex. In addition, deriving sexual gratification from pornography, videos, reading materials, indecent exposure, or engaging in unholy communications is inappropriate.
9. Substance Abuse and Use: Scripture teaches that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Excessive or illegal use of alcohol, misuse of prescription drugs, use of illegal drugs and recreational marijuana are prohibited.   Alcohol is prohibited on InterVarsity premises and at official InterVarsity events.

**LEADERS**

**Section 1.**

A Leadership Team of members will guide the chapter each year.  The number of leaders, including the Leadership Team, and other positions will vary each year depending on current membership and the needs of the fellowship. InterVarsity Staff are full members of the chapter Leadership Team. The standing Leadership Team, which includes InterVarsity Staff, will determine positions each year. The Leadership Team may select secondary leaders to serve the Chapter each year as needed.

**Section 2.**

The Leadership Team will be responsible for organizing all meetings, activities and events of the Chapter in order to fulfill the Purpose of the Chapter.

**Section 3**.

Leadership of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Park University involves significant spiritual commitment.  Chapter leaders are expected to indicate their agreement with InterVarsity’s Doctrine and Purpose Statements and exemplify Christ-like character, conduct and leadership.

**Section 4.**

Leaders may be removed from their position by a simple majority of the Leadership Team.  Any member of the chapter may make a complaint against any leader in the chapter including a member of the Leadership Team.  Following the complaint, the Leadership Team (or a member(s) of the Leadership Team) shall meet to confer with the chapter’s IVCF Staff for advice and counsel.  They will also meet with both the complaining individual and the accused leader.  No leader may be removed without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Leadership Team.  A leader complained against may only be removed by at least a simple majority agreement of the remaining members of the Leadership Team. Misrepresentation on the leadership application shall be grounds for the immediate removal of the leader by the Leadership Team.

**OPERATIONS**

**Section 1.**

Only Active Members will be eligible to be nominated for leadership positions.  An Active Member can receive a leadership application upon nominating her/himself or upon nomination by any other Active Member.  Each application will ask potential leaders to express their views on matters that are necessary for advancing the purpose and core beliefs of the Chapter stated in Articles II and III of this Constitution.  Applications must be signed to be considered.

**Section 2.**

After review of the applications and interviews with the candidates, the Leadership Team (or a selection committee assigned by the Leadership Team with the advice of the IVCF Staff), shall nominate at least one finalist to serve in each Leadership Team position and will submit those individuals to a vote by the Active Members.  Those finalists who receive a majority affirmation by the Active Members shall be named as leaders-elect and must serve a term of at least one semester.

**Section 3.**

Leaders-elect assume their positions as leaders at the end of the Park University semester following their election.

**CHAPTER COVENANT**

Active Members of the chapter who wish to be leaders must sign the Statement of Agreement (Purpose Statement) and Doctrinal Basis, commit to abide by the Statement of Agreement in their conduct, and agree to devote sufficient time to the Chapter, as indicated by completing and signing the leadership covenant.

**Leadership Commitments**

1. Scripture sets high standards for Christian leaders.  Read and study the following passages: 1 Peter 5:1-7; Galatians 5:19-26; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; and 1 Corinthians 6: 7-11.  Bearing in mind these qualifications (and the fact that all believers are in the process of becoming more Christ-like and have not yet reached perfection), can you in good conscience make yourself available for a leadership position?

1. Read the Chapter’s Purpose and the Doctrinal Basis carefully and then answer the following questions.

1. Do you agree with the Chapter’s Purpose?
2. Do you affirm the IVCF Doctrinal Basis?
3. Do you agree to conduct yourself publicly and privately as a person who agrees with each element of the Doctrinal Basis and the standards for Christian Leaders?
4. In the event that you have a disagreement with the other leaders over the practical meaning and application of the Purpose and Doctrinal Basis to your life, do you agree to submit that disagreement promptly to the Leadership Team and abide by any decision made by at least a simple majority of the Leadership Team?

I affirm my personal commitment to these beliefs, purposes and conduct.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to all. Anyone who is curious and wanting to learn about Jesus is welcome. Members should be present at meetings on the day decided and participate in meeting activities which includes Bible study, prayers, worship and fun activities as we decide them.

**FINANCES**

Dues are not required to be a member or participate in club activities. Events that involve payment to cater to the needs of every individual person, such as retreats or camps will be communicated as it goes on. The treasurer is responsible for keeping track of funds available and spending decisions are done by all members of the office and authorized by the advisor.

**MEETINGS**

The club utilizes Instagram (Intervarsityparku) and other forms of media to communicate club meetings and other events. Communication about events is also done in person during meetings.

**AFFILIATIONS**  
This club is affiliated with Intervarsity, a country-wide campus fellowship “InterVarsity is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty.”

**AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

An amendment to the Constitution must be passed by a consensus vote of the Executive Board after being reviewed by the President.