

CONSTITUTION OF REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP (RUF)

Revised Spring 2023

PREAMBLE

In order to better regulate the affairs of the student organization and to render the most efficient service on the campus of Christopher Newport University, hereafter referred to as CNU, the following Constitution has been established.

ARTICLE I: NAME

- Paragraph 1 The name of the organization shall be: REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP, hereafter referred to as RUF.
- Paragraph 2 The organization is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America.
- Paragraph 3 The organization is affiliated with Reformed University Ministries, the campus ministry program of the Presbyterian Church in America.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

- Paragraph 1 RUF is a Christian fellowship comprised of CNU students who endeavor to thoughtfully and respectfully demonstrate the love and truth of Jesus Christ through fellowship, prayer, worship, and teaching in order to develop each student in his or her understanding of the Christian faith as expressed in the Reformed theological tradition.
- Paragraph 2 We believe that the Word of God, which is written in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired by God and that it is, therefore, our only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- Paragraph 3 The primary and ultimate goal of this organization is the glorification of God in all pursuits and endeavors of life and the enjoyment of him forever.
- Paragraph 4 The primary and ultimate goal of this organization is carried out by reaching students for Christ and equipping them to serve God as they serve others. As a part of the Presbyterian Church in America, the group will encourage CNU students to be involved in the local church and in outreach to both the CNU community and the Tidewater area.

ARTICLE III: DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP (NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE)

- Paragraph 1 The organization shall be a fellowship of students. Full membership in the organization shall include all CNU students interested in the goals and objectives of the organization. Adjunct membership in the organization will be granted to other members of the University community (faculty, staff, spouses) who are interested in the goals and objectives of the organization.
- Paragraph 2 Any student regularly enrolled in CNU may become a member of RUF with voting and office holding privileges. The organization will have an open membership/participation policy that welcomes all CNU students. Members will have the freedom to participate at any time.
- Paragraph 3 The advisor shall be a non-student member of RUF, with all rights and privileges therein, except for the right to vote or hold office.
- Paragraph 4 Membership and participation are free from discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran.
- Paragraph 5 RUF shall not haze any prospective or current member for the purpose of admission into or affiliation with the organization. Members of RUF are free to leave or dissociate without fear of retribution or harassment. RUF shall not discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

- Paragraph 1 RUF receives oversight from its campus minister (who is also an adjunct member/advisor through the aforementioned membership policy), who works together with the students of a Student Ministry Team.
- Paragraph 2 The Student Ministry Team shall be composed of CNU students in good standing, academically and behaviorally. Therefore, if a student ceases to be a CNU student, he or she can no longer serve on the Student Ministry Team or as an officer.
- Paragraph 3 On the Student Ministry Team will be a president and treasurer.
- Paragraph 4 Each term will be one year.
- Paragraph 5 The Student Ministry Team, in consultation with a CNU faculty/staff advisor and a campus staff person from Reformed University Ministries, shall make all policy decisions for this student organization and have general oversight over all activities and events.
- Paragraph 6 The Student Ministry Team shall organize itself as it determined to be in the best interest of the group at that particular time, i.e., committees, officers, responsibilities, etc.
- Paragraph 7 Each fall semester, announcements will be made on how to join the Student Ministry Team. The Student Ministry Team is open to any student who is willing to come to the meetings and learn more about and promote RUF and its activities. The group can fluctuate in membership from semester to semester. If one of the officers ceases to serve in the core group, a replacement will be elected.
- Paragraph 8 The Student Ministry Team of the previous academic year shall select the officers for the forthcoming academic year, including President, by a majority vote of the Student Ministry Team in the spring before the beginning of the subsequent academic year.
- Paragraph 9 The removal of a student from their role as an officer requires a majority vote by the Student Ministry Team. If the person who is being removed desires, he or she may call a special meeting of the Student Ministry Team to discuss the issues pertaining to the removal prior to any vote.
- Paragraph 10 The organization shall operate under the guidance of the James River Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- Paragraph 1 The president shall represent and promote the goals and purposes of the student organization in an official capacity. He or she will be in charge of regular communication (emails, events, etc.) between the university and the organization, and will often notify the campus minister of needed actions.
- Paragraph 2 The treasurer shall keep accounts, deposit the organization's funds, and make expenditures in a manner approved by the Office of Student Activities.
- Paragraph 3 The other members of the Student Ministry Team will assist, advise and help in any way to the above tasks, as well as provide general oversight and leadership to the organization at large.
- Paragraph 4 Only full-time students (12 semester hours) may serve as officers and on Student Ministry Team

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

- Paragraph 1 The regular meetings of RUF shall be determined at the regularly scheduled ministry team meetings by the president in conjunction with the Student Ministry Team. Special meetings may be called by a majority vote of the Student Ministry Team at their discretion.

Paragraph 2 51 percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum and Roberts Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary procedure utilized.

ARTICLE VII: ROLE OF THE ADVISOR

Paragraph 1 A CNU faculty of staff member shall serve as advisor to RUF. The advisor of the organization shall provide support and guidance and he/she shall work with the organization, when called upon, to coordinate events to ensure that they are conducted in compliance with CNU's policies and federal, state, and local laws.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Paragraph 1 Proposed amendments to this constitution should be submitted to the Student Ministry Team in writing. They will be distributed, read, and discussed at the next stated meeting of said team. There will be a subsequent vote to determine if any action should be taken.

Paragraph 2 All amendments to the constitution and bylaws are subject to the approval of the Office of Student Activities. The amendments may not take effect until they have been approved.

ARTICLE IX: BYLAWS

Paragraph 1 Proposed amendments to the bylaws should be submitted to the Student Ministry Team in writing. They will be distributed, read, and discussed at the next stated meeting of said team. There will be a subsequent vote to determine if any action should be taken.

ARTICLE X: RATIFICATION

Paragraph 1 This constitution shall become effective upon ratification by the organization and the Office of Student Activities.

Date of Adoption

President's signature

CNU Faculty/Staff Advisor's signature

RUF Campus Minister's signature