



The Constitution of Young Life  
At Christopher Newport University

## **Article I- Name**

Young Life is the name of this student group.

The student group is a student chapter recognized by Young Life, Texas non-profit corporation with its principal offices in Colorado Springs, CO.

The student group has been recognized by Young Life as having chartered status as a chapter of Young Life. The student group has agreed that it will carry out the mission and present the messages of Young Life, and, therefore, has the right to use the name and materials of Young Life.

## **Article II-Purpose**

The purpose of the Chapter is to participate in the Young Life mission of introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their Christian faith. This Chapter achieves this purpose by offering a fun, accepting community for college students to be a part of while exploring or deepening their own Christian faith, providing opportunities for college students to engage in Young Life ministry to local middle school and high school students, and offering activities like weekly club meetings, small group Bible studies, and community service opportunities in an effort to positively impact the campus and surrounding community.

## **Article III- Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith is the doctrinal foundation of this organization and can be found at <https://www.younglife.org/About/Pages/StatementOfFaith.aspx>.

## **Article IV-Membership**

**Membership:** Membership and activities shall be open to all duly enrolled Christopher Newport University students.

**Active Membership:** Active membership shall consist of those members who regularly attend weekly club meetings, small group Bible studies, or other Chapter activities.

**Associated Advisers:** This Chapter may have associated advisors who are non-students appointed by Young Life, such as faculty and staff, community members, and Young Life staff. These associated advisors shall have no membership privileges and shall not have the right to vote in elections as described in Article VI or hold an Officer position as described in Article V.

## **Article V-Officers and Leadership**

### **Section 1: Officers and Leaders**

**Officers:** The officers of this organization will serve as liaisons with the University. The officers shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary, and any other officer as deemed necessary.

An officer shall serve for one academic year term. The officers will be required to attend a monthly meeting of officers in order to conduct the business of the organization. The officers may also be responsible for organizing and providing leadership for meetings, activities, and events of the Chapter, including religious activities related to worship, prayer, study of the Bible, Young Life ministry, or any other activity intended to further the purposes and to communicate the messages of the Chapter.

**Leaders:** The officers, in consultation with all Associated Advisors, shall select additional leaders that are able to serve the Chapter as needed for the academic year term. The officers and additional leaders are collectively referred to as the Leadership Team.

### **Section 2: Qualifications**

In order to be eligible for an officer position, active members must demonstrate that they are qualified to serve as representatives of the Chapter and the organization of Young Life.

- A. Attendance Requirement: Officers must have been involved in the Chapter, another Young Life ministry, or another youth ministry for at least one academic year prior to seeking an officer position, having attended 75% of the club meetings and/or small group Bible study meetings.
- B. Knowledge Requirement: Applicant must have completed the Chapter's leadership application, which shall determine the applicant's skill in providing spiritual leadership for the Chapter and knowledge of the Chapter's core messages.
- C. Alignment Requirement: Officers must commit to lead the Chapter in a way which is consistent with the mission and faithful to the messages of Young Life. Officers must commit not to undermine the mission and message of Young Life.
- D. Additional Eligibility Requirements: Officers must meet the school's eligibility requirements for leaders of registered student organizations.

### **Section 3: Selection Process**

- A. Prospective officers of this Chapter will apply for the position and be formally nominated by the current officers and the Associated Advisors. The prospective officers will then be confirmed either through election by active membership (see Article VI). The additional leaders will be selected from the active membership and chosen based on their ability to meet the same qualifications as the officers.
- B. Applicants for officer positions who meet the qualifications outlined above shall be eligible for nomination and to stand for election for a leadership position.

- C. During the election process, applicants may be asked about their faith, beliefs and views. Qualified applicants may be asked about their willingness to model the Chapter's core messages through their behavior so that the messages are communicated with integrity.

#### **Section 4: Removal of Leaders**

Leaders may be removed from their positions by the Leadership Team. Any misrepresentation on the leadership application or a change in the leader's commitment to lead the Chapter to fulfill its purpose as stated in Article II, shall be grounds for the immediate review of the leader's position. A leader may not be removed without being afforded an opportunity to respond to the grounds for removal.

### **Article VI-Elections**

#### **Section 1.**

Nominations: Nominations for officer positions will be made by the current officers and the Associated Advisors.

#### **Section 2.**

Types of Elections: Elections will occur at the end of each academic year to select the following academic year's officers.

#### **Section 3.**

Form of Vote: Active members shall vote under this article by secret ballot. Active Members will vote "Yes" or "No" for the candidates that have been nominated. Officers will be confirmed with a 75% or better vote of confirmation. If a candidate does not receive at least 75% confirmation, a new nomination for the officer position will be made according to Section of this Article VI.

### **Article VII-Meetings**

#### **Section 1.**

Types of meetings:

- A. Officer meetings: Formal meetings for officers to conduct business of the Chapter.
- B. Membership Meetings: Formal meetings of the active membership to conduct a vote.
- C. Club Meetings and Small Group Bible Studies: Regularly scheduled meetings for all members to attend.
- D. Additional Meetings: Gatherings, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to all members.

#### **Section 2.**

Quorum for Membership meetings: In order to conduct a vote of the active members, at least half of the active membership must be present at the meeting.

## **Article VIII-Finances**

The Chapter may raise revenues through contributions, fundraising activities or by applying for school funds available to student groups. Paying dues is not a mandatory requirement to be considered a member of this organization. Students, however, may be charged for such services as special social gatherings, retreats and conferences.

The Chapter will hold to high standards of financial integrity. A member or several members of the Leadership Team will be responsible to carefully administer any school funds granted to the Chapter.

## **Article IX- Constitutional Amendments**

### **Section 1.**

The Leadership Team may seek to amend this constitution by general consensus.

### **Section 2.**

Articles II and III may not be amended without express written permission of Young Life.

### **Section 3.**

All amendments, additions or deletions must be filed within Christopher Newport's Office of Student Activities.

*Created: 3-21-18*

*Amended : 4-16-23*

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