**INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**CHAPTER CONSTITUTION**

**Revised Date Fall 2016**

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of the organization will be the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) at Paul Smiths College.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

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

The purpose of this Chapter is to establish and advance at Paul Smiths College witnessing 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.

Part of that representation of our faith will be through fellowship activities, outreach events and bible studies on campus.

**ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL BASIS**

We believe in:

The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things, existing eternally in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – full of love and glory.

The unique divine inspiration, entire trustworthiness and authority of the Bible.

The value of dignity of all people: created in God’s image to live in love and holiness but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt, and justly subject to God’s wrath.

Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, who lived as a perfect example, who assumed the judgment due sinners by dying in our place, and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and Lord.

Justification by God’s grave to all who repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

The indwelling presence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit, who gives to all believers a new life and a new calling to obedient service.

The unity of all believers in Jesus Christ, manifest in worshipping and witnessing churches making disciples throughout the world.

The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ, who will judge all people with justice and mercy, giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation but receiving the redeemed into eternal life.

To God be glory forever.

**ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Chapter is open to any student, faculty, or staff of Paul Smiths College, as well as anyone from the surrounding communities.

**ARTICLE V. 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.

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

(c.f. Article II). A leader must also be an active member for one semester before becoming a leader.

Section 3.

Leadership of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Paul Smiths College involves significant spiritual commitment. Chapter leaders are expected to indicate their agreement with InterVarsity’s Doctorine and Purpose Statements and exemplify Christ-like character, conduct and leadership (c.f. Article II and III).

**ARTICLE VI. OPERATIONS**

Section 1.

Nominations for the following semester’s leaders shall be made by the members of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Paul Smiths College at a time chosen by the current leaders near the close of the present semester.

Section 2.

Election shall be held at a time chosen by the current leaders of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Paul Smiths College. At that time nominations may be declined.

Section 3.

All leaders shall be elected to their position by receiving a majority of votes by the membership. Each member may vote for one nominee for each office.

**ARTICLE VII. FINANCES**

Club finances shall be monitored and distributed by the treasurer and advisors. Funds shall be acquired through fundraising activities and student government allocations.

**ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the constitution shall be subject to change through an approved vote of a majority of the membership and/or the consultation of advisors and officers.

**ARTICLE IX. HAZING**

No club or organization shall engage in hazing or hazing-type behavior, whether required as a condition for membership, expected as part of a group tradition, or carried out as a spontaneous action. Hazing is defined as: any activity or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the physical or mental health of anyone, this involves, but is not limited to the forced or coerced ingestion of alcohol or any other substance or drug, or that interferes with anyone’s academic obligations. New York State law prohibits hazing. Any student who feels he or she has been subjected to hazing is encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of a member of the Campus Safety and/or Campus Life Staff.

College sponsored clubs, and/or organizations, found “Responsible” – via the college’s internal judicial process - for hazing and/or hazing-type behavior (as defined below) may be placed within a period of “Probation”, “Suspension”, or permanently “Dissolved” as a college club and/or organization.

**Definition of Hazing:***The College defines hazing as any action taken or situation created, whether on or off College premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule for the purposes of initiation into, affiliation with, admission to, or as a condition for continued membership in, a group, team, club, or other organization.*