

The Agapé Christian Fellowship Constitution

Article I: Name and Affiliation

The name of the organization is Agapé Christian Fellowship at Northeastern University. It is affiliated with Campus Crusade for Christ International. For the remainder of this document, “Agapé” will be used to refer to the Northeastern organization, unless otherwise stated.

Article II: Purpose Statement

As a group, Agapé Christian Fellowship strives to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). We do this by:

1. Sharing the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ in a relevant way to all Northeastern Students.
2. Providing a place for Christians at Northeastern to grow through prayer, worship, and the study of Scripture.
3. Developing a strong community of Northeastern Christians who are committed to each other.
4. Being involved in fellowship with other Christians at Northeastern and Boston-wide.
5. Encouraging individuals to reach out beyond the campus during vacations and co-ops.

Article III: Servants Team

Section I: Responsibilities of the Servants Team

The Servants Team is responsible for leading Agapé. This team is responsible for arranging meetings times and places, organizing events and programs, participating in weekly meetings, discipling new Christians, electing officers, and any other responsibility associated with leading Agapé which is not expressly given to an officer. The Servants Team is the heart of the campus organization and must seek God for wisdom and His will. All decisions made by the Servants Team should be made in unity based on the mission statement and the available resources. If an agreement cannot be reached, it will be the responsibility of the acting President to make a decision based on the opinions of the team, the mission statement, and the advancement of God’s will at Northeastern. Servants Team meeting will only be open to active members of the team, staff members of the larger Campus Crusade for Christ movement, and alumni of the team who have received prior permission from the President. If an inactive member has something to contribute to a Servants Team meeting, they may also attend if they receive prior permission from the President.

Section II: Membership Requirements for the Servants Team

The Servants Team will consist of a maximum of 12 upper-class, undergraduate students. They must have participated in Agapé for at least two full semesters and shown interest in activities apart from the weekly meetings. To become a Servants Team member, an existing team member must recommend the individual to the President or Vice-President in private. The President and Vice-President will then discuss the individual with the team member that recommended him or

her. The team member, the Vice-President and the President will evaluate the nominee on the following criteria. To be eligible the nominee must:

1. Fulfill all requirements of a Servants Team member as stated above.
2. Have completed the March of his or her freshman year, or a sufficient period at Northeastern for non-traditional and transfer students.
3. Be prepared and able to dedicate the time and energy required of a Servants Team member as described above.
4. Be “temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money” (1 Timothy 3:2).
5. Have a lifestyle in which a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is shown by the fruit of the Spirit which is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22).
6. Tangibly demonstrate a heart and willingness to reach out to unsaved students on Northeastern’s campus, in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

After the individual has been considered, the President and Vice-President will decide whether or not to officially nominate the person and recommend him or her to the Servants Team. The Servants Team will then vote on the nominee and a three-fourths majority will be needed for confirmation. At least half of the active members must be present to hold a vote, and voting will be limited to the members of the team that are present. Only after confirmation by the Servants Team will the nominee be informed of the nomination and invited to the team, with the expectation of committing to serve actively for a minimum of two years or until graduation, unless personal circumstances demand otherwise, as to be discussed with the President. This system, though complicated, is designed to avoid public conversation and evaluation of an individual’s lifestyle. If there is an objection after the President and Vice-President have made a nomination, then the Servants Team can openly discuss the reason behind the objection. Freshmen may not join the Servants Team, although they may be elected at the end of the Spring semester and officially join the following Fall semester. The Servants Team is encouraged (though not required) to nominate new members each November and each March. When inviting a person to join the Servants Team, the following must be given and discussed: a copy of the current constitution, an invitation to attend a Servants Team meeting, and a discussion of their expected responsibilities. They must make a decision by the first meeting of the following semester.

Section III: Active and Inactive Members

All Servants Team members must inform the president of their status (active or inactive) by the first meeting of each semester. Members may declare themselves inactive if they cannot actively participate in the leadership of Agapé. Inactive members will receive copies of the minutes from all meetings, but will not participate in meetings. If a Servants Team member becomes inactive for more than eight consecutive months, he or she will be removed from the team.

Section IV: Removal from the Servants Team

Any Servants team member can recommend the removal of another member to the President if the member in question is failing to meet the high standards required of a leader. If the President agrees, the President must privately ask the member in question to step down from the team. If the member refuses, the President can recommend the removal of the member to the rest of the Servants Team. After a discussion with the member in question and the rest of the team, the member's removal will be voted on. A three-fourths majority of the rest of the team's active members will be necessary for the removal of a Servants Team member. The removal of a Servants Team member is a serious event and requires clear evidence of a deviation from the standards that a Servants Team member is expected to follow. If the member in question is the President, the same process can occur with the Vice-President making all recommendations.

Article IV: Officers

Section I: Terms

Agapé will have two elected officers (President and Vice-President) whose term will run from Summer I to Spring. Officers must be Northeastern undergraduate students who have served on the Servants Team for at least one full semester. If at all possible, the elected officers should live within a one-mile radius of campus. If a staff member from Campus Crusade for Christ International has been active on campus for at least two semesters, they may participate in the responsibilities of the President with a unanimous vote of the Servants Team.

Section II: President

The President will serve during all semesters in which he or she is enrolled in classes and during co-op semesters when it is possible. The President must have junior or senior standing for the majority of his or her tenure; however, this need not apply for acting officers. By accepting the office of president, he or she must commit to being active for a minimum of one semester and one Summer session, and a greater amount of time if at all possible. It is especially important that the President is active during the Fall semester. If the President is unable to perform his or her duties while on co-op, the Vice President will become the interim President and the elected President must appoint an interim Vice-President. If the Vice-President will be unavailable, then the President must appoint an interim President and interim Vice-President to serve in their absence. The interim President will have all of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the elected President and is responsible for keeping the elected President informed of all events. It is imperative that the elected President be well informed of Agapé activities and issues through frequent communication with the interim President. The President is responsible for scheduling and chairing Servants Team meetings, settling issues in which the Servants Team is not in unity, nominating potential Servants Team members, providing general leadership for Agapé, and interfacing with the International and Boston-wide movements of Campus Crusade for Christ International. When a decision must be made for the group and there is no opportunity to hold a Servants Team meeting, the President will make the decision with the mission statement in mind. The President will also be the public voice of Agapé.

Section III: Vice-President

The Vice-President will serve during all academic semesters and during co-op semesters when it is possible, to a minimum of one semester and one summer session. If the elected President

expects to be inactive for an entire semester, the Vice-President must commit to being active for that semester unless excepted by the outgoing President in case of extraordinary circumstances. The Vice-President must have middle, junior or senior standing for the majority of his or her tenure. When the Vice-President is unavailable for a semester, the President will appoint an interim Vice-President to serve. The Vice-President will serve as the interim President whenever the President is unavailable. The Vice-President's obligations also include assisting the President in decisions, working with the President to appoint potential Servants Team members, providing general leadership for Agapé, overseeing all financial matters of the group as Treasurer (if no other is selected), and preparing, or delegating preparation of, minutes of Servants Team meetings.

Section IV: Elections

Election of officers shall take place during each Spring semester. They must be announced at least one week in advance, and only members who have been active for the entire semester or since joining the team shall be eligible to vote. A member who has served less than one full semester may recuse him or herself from voting, but must do so at the outset of the process. All active members may be present during voting procedures, as may full-time representatives of Campus Crusade for Christ who are invited by the President. The following process is intended to expedite elections and give minimal opportunity for personal grievance during the election process.

1. If inactive members are eligible to hold offices, the President must contact them ahead of time and ask whether they would or would not accept nominations. Inactive members are encouraged to consider this question prayerfully.
2. The President shall verify that at least 2/3 of active members are present and then declare that elections have begun, read this process aloud to the team, and answer any questions on the format or intent of the election. The Vice-President or another member shall keep a record of all nominations and the results of all votes.
3. The President shall then accept nominations for the office of President. All early nominations (see step 1) are first revealed, excepting those declined by the nominee. Then any member of the team may nominate another member to the office of President.
4. At the moment of each nomination, the nominee must either accept or decline. A nominee who is ineligible to serve (for reasons of year, tenure, planned inactivity, etc.) must decline.
5. After all nominations and acceptances or declinations have been received and recorded, the President shall ask the candidates to leave the room. This is required even in the case of a single candidate. All those remaining in the room must agree to keep all that is said or done completely confidential.
6. The President shall open discussion of the candidates, and any member may express support for or concerns regarding a candidate. The President is responsible to cut short gossip, hearsay, or slander, bearing in mind that any qualification for the presidency may be questioned in a candidate.
7. Once the President feels that useful discussion has run its course, he or she shall call for a vote on the nominees. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot, and abstentions are not allowed. If in the first round of voting no single candidate

receives more than 50% of the vote, the vote shall be retaken, including only the two candidates with the highest levels of support. If there is a tie for first or second place, all those tied shall be included in the second round, and the President shall call for an additional round of voting every time a candidate has been eliminated by the previous round. If, however, no candidate is eliminated and no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes in the second or a subsequent round, the President must choose between the remaining candidates and may not call for repeated voting rounds.

8. The President may not reveal the numerical results of any vote, only the name of the new officer or the conditions of the next round of voting, if necessary.
9. Once the decision has been taken, the President shall ensure that the ballots are destroyed, those present reminded of the confidentiality of the preceding process, and the candidates invited back into the room and told the results.
10. The same process is then repeated for the office of Vice-President. The new President-Elect may not accept nominations for Vice-President, but all other candidates may.
11. The new officers shall take their positions upon the commencement of the first Summer session following their election. They will also serve in their new positions at the Spring Leadership Retreat, as applicable.
12. The sitting President remains the authority over the election, and presides as moderator and interpreter of this Constitution. He or she may deviate from it in exceptional circumstances (for instance, giving up moderating duties if standing as a candidate), but must inform the assembled members of any deviation.

Article V: Amendments

To amend this constitution, the change must be proposed by a Servants Team member. After discussion, the change will be voted on by the active and inactive members of the team. It is the President's responsibility to contact all of the members and collect their votes. For the change to be accepted, it must be approved by a two-thirds majority unless the amendment affects Article II (Purpose and Mission Statement), in which case, the vote must be unanimous. Approved amendments will take effect as soon as they are passed.

Article VI: Ratification

To ratify this constitution, a unanimous vote of the current (Spring 1995) Servants Team must be achieved.

Amendments

I

The Shepherds Team will be replaced by the Servants team. This change is one in name. All responsibilities heretofore granted to the Shepherds Team are transferred to the Servants Team. This amendment shall be effective immediately and will be reflected by actual changes of the text. Ratified 1996.

II

Article II Clause I, which currently reads “Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a relevant way to Northeastern students” will now read “Sharing the Gospel and Love of Jesus Christ in a relevant way to all Northeastern students.” This amendment will take effect upon a unanimous vote by the Servants Team and will be reflected by actual changes of the text. Ratified April 24, 1999.

III

Servants Team members newly elected in the spring will be confirmed in time for the next year’s officer elections. If newly elected members feel led to vote and are prepared to do so, they may. This is not a requirement to vote. Such a newly elected member may abstain from voting if they feel they are not properly prepared to do so at that time. (This is to provide a newly elected member with an idea of how the Team works and how the election process is conducted.) This amendment will take effect upon a two-thirds majority vote by the Servants team. Ratified April 24, 1999.

IV

Removal from the Servants Team

This amendment will institute a five-step process for the removal of a Servants Team member.

1. An initial confrontation between the member in question and the member making the accusation.

(a) If the member in question concludes (with the member making the accusation) that the issue is in fact a non-issue, the process stops here.

Otherwise the action proceeds to step two.

2. If the member in question fails to correct the issue, the member making the accusation will talk to the President. The President and that member will then decide on a course of action. Courses of action include, but are not limited to:

(a) Taking no action upon conclusion that the issue is a non-issue.

(b) The President talking with the member in question.

(c) The member making the accusation talking with the member in question.

(d) Both the President and the member talking with the member in question.

3. A second confrontation with the member in question. Who and how this is done is dependant on what is decided in step two.

(a) If the member in question either corrects the issue or concludes (with the member making the accusation and the President) that the issue is in fact a non-issue, the process stops here. Otherwise the action proceeds to step four.

4. If by this time, the issue is not corrected, the President will then privately ask the member in question to step down from the Servants Team.

5. If the member in question refuses to step down, the President can then recommend removal to the entire Servants Team.

As rigid as this process sounds, remember that it can stop at any time. Step two is intended to be flexible with the understanding that every situation is different. Remember that this process is not intended to defame a member in any way. The fewer people involved the less chance of this

happening. Thus the last step is to bring this before the entire Servants Team. This amendment will take effect upon a two-thirds majority vote of the Servants team. These steps are based on what is found in: Luke 17:3, Titus 3 (Titus 3:10). Ratified April 24, 1999.

V

The name of the movement on the Northeastern University campus will be changed from “Campus Crusade for Christ” to “Agapé Christian Fellowship. This change in name reflects a desire of the Servants Team to prevent alienation from the group by a name that carries unfavorable connotations, as well as find a way to better convey the love of God which it is our desire, as a movement, to share. This amendment will take effect upon a two-thirds majority vote by the Servants team. Ratified Monday, January 27, 2003.

VI

In the Spring of 2004, following the University’s transition to a Semester schedule, from the prior Quarter System, a number of significant changes were made to this Constitution. The changes, to be voted on and ratified by the Servants Team, have been made to the original text. A copy of the prior Constitution will be attached to the current Constitution, to illustrate the history of the group. However, the original Constitution will no longer be in effect upon ratification of these changes. This amendment will take effect upon a two-thirds majority vote by the Servants Team. Ratified Friday, April 23, 2004.

VII

In the Spring of 2006, the Servants Team revised the Constitution with the following purposes: to better reflect the purpose of Agapé; to address issues that have been a concern in the past in order to avoid their repetition in the future; and to improve the clarity and usefulness of the Constitution for present and future Servants Team members. The changes, to be voted on and ratified by the Servants Team, will be made to the original text. This amendment will take effect upon a two-thirds majority vote by the Servants Team for all changes except for those made to Article II, which will take effect upon a unanimous vote by the Servants Team. Ratified Monday, March 27, 2006.