

**Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship**  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**Article I - Name**

1. *Section 1: Name*

The name of this organization shall be Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship (XA) at The University of North Texas, Denton, Texas. This will be the special name and acronym used to refer to our group on and off campus and among other organizations. Our official non-profit name is; however, Collegiate Community Outreach.

2. *Section 2: Mission*

The mission of Chi Alpha shall be to develop the spiritual life and abilities of the students in relation to God, to each other, and to the world at large within a Pentecostal Christian context and in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Assemblies of God USA. As part of this mission, Chi Alpha seeks to introduce fellow collegians to an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. Chi Alpha plans to do this through:

1. Prayer - Communication with God.
2. Worship - Expressions of thanks through word, music and service.
3. Fellowship - Community of students developing quality relationships.
4. Discipleship - Learning about Jesus and following His example as expressed in the Bible.
5. Mission - Living a life that reflects our relationship with God in what we say and do.

**Article II - Governing Rules and Regulations**

- A. This organization shall comply with all University policies (including the Code of Student Conduct) and procedures, as well as local, state, and federal laws and its declared mission and purpose.
- B. The most current version of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this constitution.

**Article III - Membership**

*Section 1: General Membership*

All meetings and activities of Chi Alpha are open to all regularly enrolled UNT students, faculty and staff. Anyone who desires to participate in the meetings and activities may become a general member.

*Section 2: Voting Membership*

Our organization does not vote on officers, policies, programming or any other decisions.

**Article IV - Officers**

We have never kept and continue to keep no officers except a chief officer (president). The chief officer is our connection to doing business on campus such as room reservations and events.

- i. To be eligible to serve as an officer of this organization, an active student member shall possess (at the time of election and during their term of office) at least the minimum requirements regarding enrollment, GPA, and disciplinary standing as stated in UNT Policy 18.4.2
- ii. President: The Chi Alpha president shall serve as official liaison to university affairs such as organization registration renewal, form submissions, training sessions, and other university business.

- iii. Leadership: Students can become small group leaders to fulfill the organization's mission and purpose. Small group leaders will meet with their group of students weekly to accomplish the purpose as stated in Article I, Section 2.
  - a. Nominations:
    - i. Officer nominees must be in good standing and regularly enrolled students at the university.
    - ii. *Attendance requirement:* President and Leadership nominees must be attending members, according to Article III, Section 1 for at least one semester. During this time, they must also have attended at least 75% of weekly large group meetings (unless they were not in residence due to participation in an off campus study abroad program or internship)
    - iii. *Interview:* Leadership nominees must be interviewed and approved by the organizations community advisor(s) (university registered pastors).
    - iv. Leadership nominees must embrace and be willing to actively work toward the mission of the chapter as stated in Article I.
  - b. Removal Process:
    - i. The process for removal of any officer shall be commenced by a 2/3 agreement by the community advisors (university registered pastors). The officer shall have one week to prepare a written response to the request and/or the opportunity to meet with the organizations registered pastors to speak with them about the decision.
    - ii. Notwithstanding the procedures outlined in the previous paragraph, any misrepresentation in the student leader's application or change in a leader's representations regarding the beliefs and mission of Chi Alpha (and, hence their ability to communicate the messages of the Chapter accurately) shall be grounds for the immediate review of the leader's position by the university registered pastors. If, after review, the pastors decide that the leader can no longer effectively represent Chi Alpha or further its mission, the pastors may remove the officer.

## Article V - Meetings

- 1. Section 1: Types of meetings
  - a. Leadership Meetings: Periodic meetings for appointed leadership to partner in accomplishing the organization's mission.
  - b. Large and small group meetings: Regularly scheduled meetings for all members to attend.
  - c. Additional meetings: Gatherings, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to all members.
- 2. Section 2: Purpose of Meetings
  - a. Meetings shall be held to further direct the mission of the chapter, and shall include regular times of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship (including Bible Study), and instruction in missional living, all consistent with the teachings of the Assemblies of God USA. The Chi Alpha staff (advisors) shall determine the frequency, time and place, and agenda of the various meetings.
  - b. Large group meetings typically occur weekly during fall and spring semesters, breaking when exams end and during school vacation periods. Small group meetings (discussion groups: book or Bible based) also meet weekly within the same parameters. Other meetings necessary to advance the purposes of the chapter will be held as occasion warrants.

## Article VI - Advisors

- 1) Section 1: Faculty/Staff Advisor
  - a. The organization shall appoint an individual employed as a faculty or staff member by the University of North Texas to serve as the university advisor to this organization as required by the university.
  - b. To be eligible to serve as the advisor, the person must be a full-time UNT faculty or staff member.
  - c. The advisor has no term limit as long as they remain eligible and may be replaced at the decision of the organization.
  
- 3) Section 2: Expectations
  - a. Perform the responsibilities listed in UNT Policy 18.4.2 (Student Organization Policy).
  - b. Has no voting rights within the organization.
  - c. Be available to officers and members for consultation, advice, counsel, and as a resource.
  - d. Be familiar with and provide guidance on university policies and Student Activities procedures pertaining to student organizations
  
- 4) Section 3: Community Advisor
  - a. The organization shall maintain the preparative to also appoint one or more community advisors representing the national Chi Alpha organization. These advisors must be registered with the university spiritual life department.
  
- 5) Section 4: Advisory Board
  - a. The organization shall appoint an advisory board for the purpose to provide accountability and advise the Chi Alpha staff (community advisor(s)).
  - b. The board will meet at least semi-annually to review financial reports, health of the organization, programming, and other necessary topics. The board may meet additionally as needed. When necessary business may be conducted via email or online meetings.
  - c. Existing board members will appoint new individuals to replace retiring board members.
  - d. Board members will hold a term of 3 years at a time and may voluntarily choose to resign or remain from the board. Terms will be staggered. Six members will hold terms on the board; There will be three groups of two. Each year, two board members will complete their three year term. Resignation must be given by May 1st of final year of term.

#### **Article VII - Executive Committee**

The executive committee shall consist of the advisors registered with Chi Alpha and with the university spiritual life department. The function of the Executive Committee is to provide for the spiritual welfare of the students and student leaders.

#### **Article VIII - Chapter Affiliates**

The chapter shall seek a charter annually with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, USA (National Chi Alpha) because of the common goals which both organizations pursue. Chi Alpha is a national organization whose offices are located at 1445 N. Booneville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802. To affiliate with Chi Alpha is a privilege. National Chi Alpha reserves the right at any time and for any reason to withdraw its charter from a chapter. In the event that National Chi Alpha rejects this chapter's charter, this chapter commits to change its name to omit any of the names identified in Article I to prevent confusion.

#### **Article IX - Non-Hazing**

As defined in state law (Texas Education Code 37.151-157) and University policy, this organization will not engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution.

**Article X - Dissolution of Organization**

Upon dissolution, all uncommitted funds and property shall be turned over to another Christian ministry as voted upon by the remaining members of the executive committee. This honors our Articles of Affiliation as agreed by the State of Texas. If there should be no members, all assets shall revert to the following organizations:

1. North Texas District Chi Alpha
2. National Chi Alpha

**Article XI - Provision for By-Laws**

By-laws shall be established or amended by a simple majority of the organization advisory board at any meeting where at least fifty percent of board members are present.

**Article XII - Procedure to Amend Constitution**

Amendments to the constitution may be made by a two thirds vote of a quorum (representing one half of the advisory board) present. Articles I and II may not be amended without the approval of National Chi Alpha.

*This constitution was adopted on January 15, 2015 and was most recently revised on August 11, 2018.*

## **Bylaws**

### **Article I**

Our organization is a fellowship and not a political organization. We exist to educate and encourage one another in the Christian Faith. Ultimately our goal is to uplift Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

### **Article II**

Once a person has come and visited us once, we consider them a member. We welcome people of all races, colors, and religions to our groups. If one is agnostic or atheist we still welcome them to participate in our meetings.

### **Article III**

We have never kept and continue to keep no officers except a chief officer. The chief officer is our connection to doing business on campus such as room reservations and events.

### **Article IV**

We keep a strict screening system behind who is our new leadership each year. Our chief officer is chosen based upon their attendance at our meetings and availability. Our leaders are chosen based upon the above as well as their maturity and ability to lead others as stated in our mission statement. We conduct interviews for leadership positions and decide based upon their qualifications. One qualification for a leader is that they do hold the same belief system as listed in our mission statement, and that their lives fit a certain moral standard. We focus on morality, as a criteria, because we are a religious organization.

### **Article V**

We are a part of a larger student organization. This organization has existed since 1953 and we have not changed. We are not politically based nor do we vote for our representatives. We select leaders based upon their spiritual maturity and leadership qualities through interviews conducted during the year. All students may apply for leadership.

### **Article VI**

An organization policy manual has been created to direct protocol regarding any student officer removal.