

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Florida A Call to Leadership

Leadership is an interpersonal matter. People do not follow programs, but leaders who inspire them. They act when vision stirs in them a reckless hope of something greater than themselves, hope of fulfillment they never before dared to aspire to. And hope is passed from person to person. God given visions of hope are shared, shared by leaders who see the vision with people who don't. But sharing is more than talking. Hope bursts into flame when leaders begin to act. As they follow their vision, clearly and openly, facing the difficulties, God mobilizes the many by the challenging actions of a few.

John White, *Excellence in Leadership*

Purpose of this Leadership Commitment

God gives specific commands to leaders. Leadership is presented as a beautiful yet weighty thing and leaders are held to a higher standard in Scripture.¹ This Leadership Commitment is meant to paint a picture of how the commands God gives leaders in Scripture collide with our context today. It seeks to begin answering the question: What does it look like for student leaders in the US to align their lives and leadership with these commands?

Soon before their deaths, the apostles Paul and Peter wrote final letters to some of the leaders they had trained.ⁱⁱ The letters include encouragements, warnings, and clear instructions. Some of their instructions to these younger leaders will be used as the backbone of this Leadership Commitment.

I. Doctrinal Belief & Personal Relationship With God

1 Timothy 4:6-10 ⁶ *If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.* ⁷ *Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.* ⁸ *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.* ⁹ *This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.* ¹⁰ *That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.*

IV National Purpose Statement:

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

The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities 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.

IV National Vision:

*Students and faculty transformed,
Campuses renewed,
And World Changers developed.*

IVUCF Vision:

*We are a missional multiethnic family
Giving every students from every corner of UCF
A chance to respond to Jesus*

Application: InterVarsity's Doctrinal Statement

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 and 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 grace 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 worshiping 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.

Application: InterVarsity's Vision

In response to God's love, grace and truth: The Purpose of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA is to establish and advance at colleges and universities 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.

Application: Personal relationship with Godⁱⁱⁱ

1. Loving God and growing in your relationship with him is the main job description of the leader. First, this means spending time with him. Remember the job description of a disciple is to "be with Jesus". Take responsibility for your own growth.
2. Spend time regularly in God's word and seek to obey it and bear fruit. It means that you are "pressing in" in all life's circumstances and offering the "mustard seeds" of faith to Christ.
3. Practice spiritual disciplines not because you have to, but because you get to and it is good for you.

II. Setting an Example

1 Timothy 4:11-12 ¹¹ *Command and teach these things.* ¹² *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*

Application: Relationships with Others

1. *Ministry Partnership*^{iv}

Jesus sends people in pairs and teams. Your partner and your team are given to you to support you and for you to lean on them. Take your relationship with your co-leaders and teams seriously and invest in them and build a relationship with them. It means openness with your team about big decisions you make, and a willingness to hear and consider the wisdom of others.

2. *Conflict Resolution*^v

This means you don't hold grudges or hide things from people when you are hurt. It means that you take the initiative to resolve conflict with your team member or person in the chapter. You do need to forgive and offer forgiveness. You need to own your anger and not gossip as a way to release your frustrations with your team member(s). You need to be willing to work hard on ethnic conflicts and misunderstanding. God wants to bless you with authentic, honest relationships.

3. *Friendships*^{vi}

Deep friendships (particularly with those of the same sex) are key to your formation as a Christ-follower. Find several people that you enjoy spending time with and cultivate deep relationships with them. This may mean quality time spent, praying together, enjoying one another's company. As we seek to build authentic multiethnic community within the fellowship, having deep friendships across ethnicity is also crucial.

4. *Sexuality*^{vii}

Scripture teaches that sexual desires may be expressed fully only within the context of life-long, monogamous heterosexual marriage. God designed sex to unite men and women within the safety, trust, commitment, and intimacy that marriage vows provide. As a leader, you live out this belief by rejecting sexual behaviors, which fall short of this ideal. You abstain from sexual behaviors, which exploit other people (e.g. assault, harassment, pornography, pre-marital foreplay) and from genital sexual activity, which reduces sexual expression to self-satisfaction (e.g. masturbation) or which occur outside of marriage. Recognizing that romantic relationships point toward marriage, you abstain from romantic relationships that cannot ultimately lead to a heterosexual marriage between Christians.

Application: Relationship with Self

1. *Humility and Learning Posture*^{viii}

God desires us to experience grace. Do you see yourself as a learner? Will you take risks with people? Leaders need to be open to receiving criticism and learning from their mistakes.

2. *Self Control*^{ix}

God wants us to have freedom rather than being in bondage. Leaders need to seek help for areas in which they lack self-control, in particular is the area of substance usage and finances.

- *Substance usage:* Leaders should abide by US laws, meaning leaders should not use any illegal drugs and underage leaders should not drink. Leaders should also avoid abusing substances including alcohol, prescription, and over-the-counter drugs. Leaders also need to maintain self-control and drink with caution. We ask that above-age leaders choose love above personal rights, especially around younger under-age leaders.
- *Finances:* Leaders are charged to steward their possessions and finances well, not accruing credit card debt and choosing to live simply regarding material possessions.
- *Media & technology usage:* Leaders should also be careful about social media, video game, and technology usage that negatively affects productivity and/or in-person relationships/interactions.

III. Ministry Posture

1 Peter 5:1-4 ¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ²As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1. *Views of ministry commitments*

Viewing your commitments as a “basketful from Jesus” is important. For ex. “Is this another meeting?” vs. “What might God want to do in us as we gather together?”

2. *Ownership*

This is your ministry. You may complain, but complain like you are in the game and not on the sidelines. Be an active, compassionate change agent, rather than a passive blame-shifter.

3. *Meetings*

Attend leadership and coaching meetings. Prep your small group weekly. Be consistent in community events (IV Weekly). Attend any quarterly retreats that you agree to as a team (i.e. Welcome Back Retreat, Spring Semester Retreat, etc.)

4. *Outreach and Personal Witness*

Participate in outreach events to new students (NSO) and any evangelism activities. Mobilize your spheres of influence to join in. Seek to model an evangelistic attitude with actions at all times.

5. *Conferences*

Make every attempt to attend Meta Student Conference, Spring Conference, Focus Week and any other training events. Recruit students. See these events as ways of building chapter vision, community and a place of spiritual renewal.

If there is misconduct or integrity issues, there will be follow up from both student leaders and InterVarsity staff for the sake of restoration, which may include confession to the leadership team and removal from your leadership position within the fellowship. Please note we move through Grace and break these commitments all the time. We do not seek perfection, but repentance, reconciliation, and a heart to live like Jesus.

If you accept the above requirements for leadership. Please print name below.

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Scriptural Support for Further Reading

ⁱ Ezekiel 34:1-24; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-16

ⁱⁱ 1-2 Timothy; Titus; 1-2 Peter

ⁱⁱⁱ John 15:1-17

^{iv} Read through the first couple of verses and the last chunks of Paul's letters (especially Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 2 Timothy)—he had people all around him that ministered alongside him, and these partnerships were clearly very essential in his mind. Acts 11:19-30 gives us a window into Paul and Barnabas' ministry partnership, as well.

^v Matthew 18:15-35; Matthew 5:21-26

^{vi} Luke 6:6-12, 9:1-6, 24:33-49; John 17:20-21; Acts 2:42-29—Jesus called the Twelve (all from very different backgrounds to live and work closely together; this community was the foundation of the church).

^{vii} See InterVarsity's *Theology of Human Sexuality Paper* (ask your staff for a copy if you need one) to go deeper into Scripture about these topics; also see 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 for "abstain from romantic relationships with non-Christians"

^{viii} Matthew 18:1-4

^{ix} Philippians 4:8-9; Matthew 23:25-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13