

Otago Combined Christian Groups Constitution – Final Draft

1. Statement of Purpose

The Otago Combined Christian Groups (CCG) exists “To glorify God and express Christ’s message together on our University and Polytechnic campuses through united prayer, worship and loving service”. The members of CCG endeavour to uphold and promote the truth of the scriptures as expressed in the CCG Affirmation of Faith as originally affirmed on Monday 14th August 2000.

Each CCG member recognises that we are a part of the body of Jesus Christ and in no way regards Otago University or Polytechnic campuses as our exclusive ministry field. We recognise that many students and faculties may be helped through the various appeals and styles of the different Churches and Christian Groups.

2. Statement of Faith

Part One: Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfilment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated on the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

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We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Part 2: Soteriological Rider

We believe our salvation is by God's grace¹,
though faith in Jesus Christ² made evident by works³.

Part 3: Statement of Love

They shall know we are Christians by our love⁴.

References: ¹Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-7. ²Romans 3:21-27. ³James 2:14-26. ⁴John 13:35.

3. Groups

The C.C.G. will consist of two groups:

- 1) The C.C.G. Student Ministry Support Network (MSN)
 - i. The MSN exists to foster friendship, support and co-operation for those involved in leading Student Ministries in CCG Affiliate Churches and Organisations, and to support the SN in pursuing the aims.
 - ii. The MSN will be coordinated by a team of representatives who are elected from Affiliate churches and organisations, and the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy.
- 2) The C.C.G. Student Network (SN)
 - i. The SN exists to provide a banner under which Tertiary students in Dunedin can gather in order to pursue the purpose of the C.C.G. (see above).
 - ii. The SN will be led by an elected Student Executive with the support of two Ministry Representatives elected from the MSN.

4. Membership

There will be four types of membership available:

a) Affiliate Churches

Members in this category will:

- I. Have an active student ministry that serves university or polytechnic students but where the student ministry is not also an affiliate organisation.
- II. Be in agreement with the statement of purpose and statement of faith, affirmation of which will be supplied on an annual basis. Any member that becomes unable to sign either the Statement of Purpose or Statement of Faith will cease to be a member of the CCG.
- III. Make a financial contribution towards the running of the CCG

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- IV. Nominate one student representative for the executive of the CCG
- V. Provide a member of ministry staff will be asked to serve as an advisor to leadership of the CCG as described under point 5
- b) Affiliate Organisations
 - i. As for affiliate churches, but members in this category will not be attached to a particular local church
- c) Alumni
 - i. Individuals who have a historic connection with the CCG and wish to be kept informed of the progress of the CCG and events that they may be able to attend
 - ii. Individuals in this category are not able to vote, be on the leadership of the CCG, or serve as an advisor to the leadership
- d) Friends
 - i. Churches that are in agreement with the statement of purpose and the statement of faith, with a connection to the University, but have no active student ministry
 - ii. Organisations that the leadership of the CCG chose to support that are in harmony with the statement of purpose and are run with a Christian ethos.
 - iii. Representatives or individuals in this category may request to be publicised at CCG events or in CCG publications. Where a cost is incurred then a contribution towards that cost will be requested.
 - iv. Representatives or individuals in this category are not able to vote, be on the leadership of the CCG, or serve as an advisor to the leadership
- 5. Description of the role of Ministry Representative:
 - 1) The primary purpose of this role is to support and guide the members of the student executive in pursuing the purpose of the CCG. They are to guide the student executive by asking questions that encourage reflection and support the work of the executive by providing a more experienced perspective on student ministry in Dunedin and where appropriate drawing on the history of the CCG in order to help it the executive lead it into the future.
 - 2) The Student Ministry Representatives are members of the Student Executive and as such are eligible to vote on decisions made by the Student Executive. The executive is to be led by students so only in exceptional circumstances will the Ministry Representatives make proposals regarding the activities of the CCG.
 - 3) Ministry Representatives are not eligible to stand as officers on the executive.
- 6. Qualifications of Ministry Representatives:
 - 1) A ministry representative will be a person who is ordained, commissioned or employed by a member church or organisation. Full-time undergraduate students are not permitted to be Ministry Representatives.

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- 2) The ministry rep. should be of high moral and spiritual character.
 - 3) The ministry rep. should be willing to commit to two academic years.
 - 4) The ministry rep should be able and willing to act and plan collaboratively and prayerfully with the student exec.
 - 5) Each Ministry representative will serve for no more than two years. On completion of this period, the ministry that provided a particular representative is not eligible to put forward another ministry representative until two years have passed from their last Ministry Representative completing their term of service.
 - 6) If for any reason a Ministry Representative's member Church or Organisation ceases to be a member of the CCG then that Ministry Representative will cease in their role and a replacement from another eligible member will be appointed.
7. Description of the Student Executive
- 1) The student executive shall be comprised of one representative from each of the affiliate churches and organisations.
 - 2) Students representing Friend organisation or churches will have the right to appoint a representative to the student exec, but will not have voting power, and will maintain a status ex-officio.
8. Qualifications of student representatives
- 1) Student representatives should be committed members of the affiliate student ministry's core leadership team.
 - 2) The student rep. should be of high moral and spiritual character.
 - 3) The student rep. should be willing to commit to the entire academic year.
 - 4) The student rep. should be able and willing to act and plan collaboratively and prayerfully with the other members of the student exec.
9. Meetings
- 1) Student exec shall meet at least once monthly for prayer, planning, and visioning.
 - 2) Student exec shall recognize a quorum of 65% needed to hold a business meeting.
 - 3) Each rep. shall cast one vote.
 - 4) Motions need only garner a simple majority to pass.
10. Leadership
- 1) MSN
 - i. In the 3rd quarter of the academic year members of the MSN shall elect a leadership team charged with co-ordinating the MSN.
 - ii. The following leaders shall be elected for one year terms:
 1. Convener- this person coordinates the MSN and acts as co-chair of the CCG.
 2. Vice-chair- this person performs the duties of the Convener in their absence.
 3. Treasurer- this person manages the funds of the CCG
 4. Representative from the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy
 - 2) SN

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- i. At the start of second semester members of the student exec shall elect a leadership team charged with:
 1. Running meetings
 2. Coordinating follow up on planned events.
 3. Ensuring communication with Ministry leaders and Alumni
- ii. The following leaders shall be elected for one year terms:
 1. Convener- this person chairs the student exec and acts as co-chair of the CCG.
 2. Vice-chair- this person performs the duties of the Convener in their absence.
 3. Communications/Secretary- this person is responsible for the taking of minutes and the publication of a yearly alumni newsletter.
 4. Representative from the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy
- 3) Each member of the leadership teams will vacate his or her role either upon graduation or after one academic year.
 - i. Elected leaders may be re-elected but may only serve for a maximum of two years back to back.

11. Commitments

- 1) To faithfully represent the Triune God to the students, faculty, and staff of Otago university.
- 2) To prayerfully seek God's help in reaching out to students who are not Christian.
- 3) To meet together at least once monthly.
- 4) To follow all the by-laws contained herein.
- 5) To faithfully and dutifully steward all financial resources of the Student Exec.
- 6) To ensure the future ministry and success of the CCG.
- 7) Activities¹:
 - i. The MSN will organise:
 1. A tent during orientation week. This will be used for the following purposes:
 - a. Welcoming new and returning students
 - b. Advertising Member Churches and Organisations, and Friends whom request it
 - c. Serving students by providing food and hydration at night
 - ii. The Executive of the SN will organise:
 1. Two organized outreach events per year that demonstrate the unity of the body of Christ in Dunedin and show the love of God to their fellow students.
 2. An annual newsletter for alumni

¹ It is our hope that as the leadership listen to the Holy Spirit and engage their God-given creativity that the listed events will be appropriately re-imagined each year, and that where appropriate some events be discontinued and that new initiatives may take their place

3. Regular maintenance of the website listing similar information, including redesigning the site at appropriate intervals
- iii. Both groups will organise:
 1. An annual meeting for local church leaders reporting back on the activities of the CCG and looking to the year ahead.
 2. Production of a brochure that provides information on Affiliate Churches and Organisations, and Friends who request to be included.

12. Conflict Resolution

- 1) The Ministry Representatives will be the first point of contact for resolving conflict between members of the student executive, and other members of the MSN can be included as appropriate.
- 2) The Ministry Representatives on the executive will refer a decision to the wider network of ministry representative if a decision or course of action being proposed by the SN student executive would bring a significant change in direction of the CCG (for example modifying the constitution) or has significant budgetary implications. Where this happens 65% of the member churches and organisations (consisting of one vote cast by a ministry representative from each member church and organisation) must be in agreement in order for the proposed action to be carried out.
- 3) Should questions or concerns arise regarding a particular Student Ministry Representative, the Convenor and co-chair of the SN will raise this with the Convenor and co-chair of the MSN. The Convenor and co-chair of the MSN will meet with appropriate members of the MSN and if the concerns cannot be resolved then a replacement Ministry Representative will be appointed.