

Constitution of the International Christian Medical Fellowship (“ICMFEL”) *June 2021*

PREAMBLE

This document is more of an organizational requirement rather than a spiritual guide, meant to provide order and administrative structure for the fellowship; however, as Christians, our main constitution is the Holy Bible. This Constitution is a 'living document' and may be amended, as needed, to better serve the needs of the ICMF. Rules for amending this document are defined in ARTICLE 12 below.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the International Christian Medical Fellowship (“ICMF”). The ICMF is a non-affiliated, inter-denominational, Bible-based Christian fellowship.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

The mission of ICMF is to "unite Christian doctors", "support Christian medical students", "advance Christian mission", "publish Christian literature", "encourage and equip Christian doctors and nurses to live and speak for Jesus Christ" and "promoting Christian values"

ARTICLE 3 - OUR BELIEFS: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

God: We believe there is one God, existing eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and possessing the same attributes and perfections (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30, 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Jesus Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ is God (John 10:33). We believe in: His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:17, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34-35); His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26); His miracles (John 2:11); His vicarious and atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9); His resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:4); His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19); His personal return to earth in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11-16).

The Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, dwells in every true believer (1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Corinthians 6:16-17). We believe that the Holy Spirit seals and lives in every believer, spiritually uniting them with one another (Ephesians 1:13, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:9, Galatians 3:26-28). We believe the Holy Spirit enables the trusting, obedient believer to live a godly life (Romans 8:13-14, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, 5:18) and continues to endow believers with

gifts for the purpose of building up the body, for the common good, just as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

The Scriptures: We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, without error and infallible in the original manuscripts. We believe the Bible is the final authority in faith and life (2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:20, Psalm 19:7-9).

The Condition of Man: We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, in innocence, and without sin. In Adam's sin humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became spiritually dead and alienated from God. We believe that, within himself, man is incapable of redeeming himself from his lost and depraved condition (Genesis 1:26, 3:1-24, Romans 3:10-18, 5:12, Ephesians 2:1-3).

The Work of Christ: We believe that God's eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became man, without ceasing to be God, in order to reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe Christ voluntarily offered Himself as our sacrificial substitute on the cross, satisfying God's righteous judgment

against sin. We believe God's only provision for our sin is Christ's death on our behalf, through which God reconciles us to Himself (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 2 Corinthians 5:21). We believe Jesus is the way and the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Jesus (John 14:6).

Salvation: We believe that salvation from the penalty of sin is a gift of God's grace, cannot be gained by any work, and is provided on the single ground of trust in Christ's work on the cross. All who trust Christ in this way are forgiven of their sins and born into God's family by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:16-19, Romans 3:23, 5:1-9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5).

The Fellowship: We believe that the fellowship, called in Scripture the Body of Christ, is a spiritual organism and that every true believer is a member of His Body. We also believe that Scripture affirms the establishment and continuation of a local fellowship, groups of Christian believers called together for worship, instruction, fellowship, and service (Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Acts 2:42, 13:1).

Eternal State: We believe that at the moment of death, the souls of all who trust in Christ for salvation immediately enter Christ's presence, awaiting the resurrection of life. We believe that at death the souls of all who do not trust Christ for salvation immediately enter into conscious separation from God, awaiting the resurrection of condemnation, the eternal consequence of unbelief (Luke 16:19-26, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Revelation 20:11-15).

ARTICLE 4 - OUR VALUES: CORE BIBLICAL VALUES

ICMFEL's Christian values can be summed up in Christ's two great commandments (Luke 10:27). 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' (Deuteronomy 6:5); and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Leviticus 19:18)

As Christian healthcare professionals and students seeking to live and speak for Jesus Christ, we aim:

1. To acknowledge, love, and obey God as the Creator, Sustainer, and Lord of all life.
2. To practice whole-person healthcare that addresses our patients' physical, emotional and spiritual needs
3. To maintain the deepest respect for human life from its beginning to its end, including people who are unborn, the elderly, and those living with disabilities.
4. To serve our patients according to their healthcare needs without partiality or discrimination on any basis.
5. To care sacrificially for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized
6. To uphold marriage between a man and a woman, faithfulness and the family
7. To speak the truth, respect privacy and safeguard our patients' confidences.
8. To put our patients first whilst fully accepting our duty to promote preventive medicine and public health.
9. To deal honestly with our professional and administrative colleagues and to respect the governing authorities
10. To work constructively in scientific research and in training others for the benefit of individual patients and the advance of health care throughout the world.

ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP

ICMF unites and equips Christian doctors, nurses, and midwives. Membership is open to doctors, medical students, nurses, midwives, and nursing and midwifery students. Others can also join as Associate Members with access to ICMF's connections, opportunities, resources, training, and support networks. You can also become a Friend of ICMF to receive regular updates by email.

1. Covenant of Fellowship

Members affirm commitment to the following, to be expressed through affiliation with the ICMF:

- To Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
- To seek Him through a life of faith, and to obedience to the teaching of the word of God;
- To the Doctrinal Statement of the ICMF;
- To relate graciously and lovingly to other members, preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; and
- To support the ICMF in prayer, and through systematic, proportionate giving as God supplies and directs.

2. Members Meetings

The Members Meeting shall be held at least twice during the Academic Year. During this meeting, the Fellowship Leaders will provide Members with an update on ministry progress in the ICMF, direction for the coming six months, the finances of the ICMF, and any other necessary information. The Chairman of the Fellowship Board shall lead the meeting.

3. Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated only as follows:

- Death;

- Change of view regarding the ICMF Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, the Core Biblical Values, or failure to fulfill the obligations of the Covenant of Fellowship.
- Withdrawal from Membership;
- Termination of Membership by the Leadership Council; or
- Failure to renew Membership as required.

Members in good standing who leave shall be given, upon request, a letter of recommendation affirming their faithfulness in serving the Lord through the ICMF.

4. Discipline

To maintain the peace and purity of the fellowship, the following Bible Scriptures permit the removal of any person from the membership for disciplinary reasons (Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 2:16-21). When a Member engages in conduct that in the opinion of the Fellowship Leaders is detrimental to the unity, peace, purity or ministry of the ICMF, the Fellowship Leaders will appoint appropriate individuals to counsel, and if necessary rebuke the individual (Matthew 18:15-16; Galatians 6:1). If reasonable attempts toward restoration are unsuccessful, charges shall be submitted to the Leadership Council in writing. The accused person shall be notified of the charges and, if he desires to respond, he shall be given the opportunity to respond to the Leadership Council. He shall be notified of the meeting at least one week in advance of the meeting date. Termination or any other form of discipline shall require a three-fourths majority vote of the Leadership Council after careful and prayerful consideration. The Leadership Council will then declare to the Fellowship Board the kind of disciplinary action taken. The person whose membership has been terminated but who demonstrates a genuine attitude of repentance may be restored to membership consistent with the regulations governing the reception of new members.

ARTICLE 6 – Administration

The administration of the ICMF, under the leadership of Jesus Christ, is vested in the Fellowship Leaders as defined below.

Fellowship Leaders and Leadership Council

(1) Qualifications

The qualifications for a Fellowship Leader are those described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition to meeting these qualifications, each nominee must be able to affirm without reservation the ICMF Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, Core Biblical Values, and Covenant of Fellowship.

(2) Nomination

The Leadership Council should normally consist of not less than three individuals and may be increased depending on the needs of the Fellowship and the leading of the Holy Spirit, as determined by the prevailing Leadership Council. When the Leadership Council by a majority vote believes it necessary to increase the number of Fellowship Leaders or to replace a departing Fellowship Leader, they will inform the Fellowship Board of this decision. Any member of the Fellowship Board may then privately nominate to the Leadership Council a candidate who meets the aforementioned qualifications. By a minimum three-fourths vote, the Leadership Council will then either approve or disapprove the nomination. If the Leadership Council approves the nomination and the candidate agrees to serve, the Fellowship Board, at least one week before the Fellowship Board Meeting, will then be informed of the nomination and the candidate's willingness to serve as Fellowship Leader.

(3) Election

The Fellowship Board will then approve the nomination through a three-fourths vote of the Fellowship Board. The election shall be through a secret ballot.

(4) Term of Office, Meetings, and Quorum

The Fellowship Leaders shall be elected by the Fellowship Board to serve a two-year term. A Fellowship Leader may serve for three consecutive terms. After three consecutive terms, a Fellowship Leader shall step down from the Leadership Council for at least one year, after which he may again be nominated and serve. Terms shall begin from September.

Fellowship Leaders serving in the role of Ministry leader, Senior Administrator, or Chairperson, may serve additional terms beyond the three consecutive term limit provided that the Fellowship Board approves each new two-year term by a three-quarters majority vote. This vote shall be through a secret ballot. At the first meeting of the Leadership Council at the beginning of the Academic Year, the Leadership Council shall elect from its own a Fellowship Chairperson. The regular meetings of the Leadership Council shall be held at such time and place as the Leadership Council may determine. Special meetings may be called at the request of the Fellowship Chairperson or a majority of the Fellowship Leaders. Notice of a regular or special meeting of the Leadership Council shall be given at least one day prior to the meeting. A majority of all the Fellowship Leaders shall constitute a quorum for the Council, and the acts of the majority of those members present shall be the acts of the Leadership Council unless otherwise specifically required by this Constitution.

(5) Duties

The Fellowship Leaders bear responsibility for (but are not limited to) the following duties:

- Shepherd and nurture the ICMF spiritually, guard the purity of its teaching and practice, and discipline the ICMF consistent with Scripture.
- Establish and oversee the main areas of ministry in Inspiration, Education,

Relationships and Impact are consistent with their individual gifts and experience.

- Assist in praying for all people in the ICMF; counseling the needy; comforting the suffering and bereaved; visiting the sick; teaching as needed; providing counsel for those couples who are engaged, married, or divorcing; and any other care or mercy need to be required by the people in the Fellowship.
- To start fellowship as the Leadership Council deems necessary, appropriate, or convenient to purpose, and such action has to be approved by the Fellowship Board. Although the Fellowship Leaders lead and are officially responsible for the spiritual oversight of the whole ICMF, they are not the total ministry of the ICMF. Ministry is the work of the whole ICMF.

(6) Limitations

The Leadership Council may not assume any of the following prerogatives without approval by the Fellowship Board:

- Amend the ICMF Constitution;
- Adopt an annual budget. ;
- Purchase, lease, sell or mortgage real estate property;
- Hire pastoral or non-pastoral staff apart from a three-fourths majority vote of the Fellowship Board;
- Purchase non-budgeted supplies, materials, or equipment;
- Incur expenses for the ICMF exceeding the annual budgeted revenue of the ICMF;
- Adopt any home or foreign missionary for regular monthly support or alter the amount of support given or

- Infringe upon any other right reserved to the Fellowship Board in this Constitution.

(7) Termination

A Fellowship Leader may be terminated from service as a Fellowship Leader only as follows:

- Death;
- Repeated absence: Absence for a period of more than six continuous months without prior notice or acceptable reasons given to the Leadership Council;
- Resignation;
- Refusal to fulfill the responsibilities designated in this Constitution, and so declared by a majority present at a duly called meeting of the Leadership Council;
- Removal by a three-fourths vote of the Leadership Council, if showing himself in attitude or behavior to be disturbing the purity, peace, or unity of the

ICMFEL, has admitted to changing his views regarding the Doctrinal Statement or fails to live in harmony with the standards expressed in the Covenant of Fellowship or Constitution. Any Fellowship Leader who cannot attend a meeting in which such termination is discussed shall submit his vote in writing. However, such absent voting shall not be counted as determining a quorum.

Any Fellowship Leader to be removed from the Leadership Council shall have the right, exercisable by giving written notice to appeal that decision to the Fellowship Board. If the said Fellowship Leader does not give notice of an appeal within fifteen days after the Leadership Council's removal action, then the Leadership Council's removal action shall become final and cannot be appealed. If the said Fellowship Leader gives notice of appeal, then a special meeting

of the Fellowship Board shall be called by the Leadership Council for this purpose on a date that is not more than thirty days after the Leadership Council's removal action. At the special meeting, the Fellowship Leader shall have the right to address the members concerning the Council's removal action. The Leadership Council's removal action shall be reviewed, and the said Fellowship Leader shall continue in his office for the remainder of his term, by a majority vote of the Fellowship Board represented at the meeting. Otherwise, the Leadership Council's removal shall become final.

3. The ICMF Treasurer

A ICMFEL treasurer shall be a member of the Fellowship Board and shall be elected to serve a two-year term, by a three-fourths majority vote of this Board at its first regular meeting of the Academic Year. Terms shall begin in September. The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing the ICMF budget, managing and safeguarding the fellowship's cash, and providing monthly financial updates to the Fellowship Board and semi-annual reports to the Members. The position of Treasurer shall be a non-paid staff of ICMF.

4. The Fellowship Board

The administration of the ICMF is vested in the Fellowship Leaders as defined in this Constitution. The Fellowship Board collectively seeks guidance and wisdom from the Scripture in fulfilling the ministries of the ICMF. The Fellowship Board shall be organized as defined below.

(1) Organization

A. Leadership: At the beginning of each ICMF academic year, the Leadership Council shall appoint a fellowship chairperson to serve as the secretary for the Fellowship Board meetings. The meeting shall be chaired by the founder and visionary of the fellowship; in the absence of

the visionary, the meeting shall be chaired by the fellowship chairperson/secretary to the fellowship board.

B. Meetings: The time and location of the Fellowship Board meeting shall be

announced during the fellowship meetings and in the ICMF Bulletin at least one week prior to the meeting. The Fellowship Board shall meet as necessary to elect all officers as required by the Constitution, and otherwise at a frequency deemed necessary by the Leadership Council.

C. Quorum: A majority of all the Fellowship Board members shall constitute a quorum for the Board. The acts of the majority of those present shall be the acts of the Fellowship Board unless otherwise specifically required by law or by this Constitution. If a member of the Fellowship Board is absent, he/she could, when so desired, give his proxy in writing to any other Fellowship Board member who is present at the said meeting. However, such a proxy shall not be counted in determining a quorum.

D. Order: The proceedings of meetings shall follow the order agreed upon by the Leaders.

E. Agenda: At the primary regular meeting of Fellowship Leaders, the meeting shall seek to unite the hearts and minds of each member by beginning with an initial focus on Scripture, and prayer. When necessary, the meeting will attend to the business of nominating, recognizing, and electing the officers of the ICMF. The meeting will seek collective wisdom on spiritual or organizational questions that affect the entire fellowship, will provide brief reports from the various ministries, and will include prayer for those ministries.

F. Minutes: Minutes of all Fellowship Leader meetings shall be taken by an appointed secretary and kept in a well-organized file. A copy of which shall be given to each member of the

Fellowship Board at least 3 days prior to the date of the following meeting. The minutes of a previous meeting shall be approved during the following meeting.

G. Committees, Task Forces, and Ad hoc Groups: The Board may create and dissolve one or more committees, task forces, or other ad hoc groups and assign such powers and responsibilities as the Fellowship Board deems necessary, appropriate, or convenient for the purpose.

ARTICLE 7 - THE ICMF YEAR

The ICMF Year shall begin on the first day of September and shall end on the last day of August of the following year. The ICMF Fiscal Year shall begin on the first day of January and shall end on the last day of December of the same year.

ARTICLE 11 - FINANCIAL POLICY

The ICMF shall seek to maintain a balanced budget, spending only within the means God has provided. The annual budget shall seek to balance expenditures between overhead and giving. The ICMF shall not purchase long-term assets, including real estate unless approved by a three-fourths majority by the Fellowship Board voting through a secret ballot.

ARTICLE 12 – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended through a proposed amendment being submitted to the Fellowship Board. After one month of prayerful reflection, the proposed amendment may be approved through an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of the Fellowship Board

voting at such a meeting called for this purpose. And the approved amendment shall be effective after approval unless otherwise specified in the amendment itself. If any member of the Fellowship Board is absent, he shall submit his vote in writing. However, such absent voting shall not be counted in determining a quorum.[i]

[i] This Constitution was made by The International Christian Medical Fellowship (“ICMF”).