Texas Christian University
Religious Life Code of Conduct

As representatives of their organizations, both student leaders and all related professionals, agree to the following:

Serve with Cooperation and Mutual Respect

- Do not recruit or seek conversions by deprecating other groups or individuals by harassment or manipulation. Present programs of enlistment and as applicable, of witness, in such a way that the integrity and legitimacy of the individual who holds a given faith (or no faith) is not disparaged or harassed. Understand that using coercion or explicit or implicit pressure to enlist or influence people, particularly those who might be vulnerable in their faith or personal lives, is prohibited and agree to refrain from such behavior.

- Respect the freedom of all individuals on campus to search for personal beliefs, spiritual meaning and/or religious truth. Maintain an openness to learn from ongoing dialogue and collaboration with other religious organizations, student leaders and related professionals as well as with the university community at large.

- Work toward achieving a climate of cooperation & mutual respect with each other & all members of the university community even though each member may claim beliefs substantially different from one another. Express beliefs, whether written or oral, in a respectful, non-antagonistic manner without denigrating or ridiculing others.

- Disagreement within Groups - Provide a safe space for students with differing opinions to engage in dialogue that promotes healthy communication. Provide a space where students can learn to disagree without anyone feeling the need to remove themselves from the community or be removed. Do not encourage hostile, aggressive or unethical behavior in times of disagreement.

- Election, Removal & Roles of Student Leadership - Ensure that the process and criteria for ethical election and removal of student leaders is clearly identified in the student religious organization's constitution and followed, and must adhere to university polices, Also make clear in the constitution the roles and duties of both staff and student leadership and how decisions are made.

- Membership, Removal of Student Members & Role of Non-Members - Ensure that organizations are intended for current students only and hence membership, voting rights and opportunities are for students and not faculty, staff, alumni or community members. Ensure that should a student member need to be removed from your organization, that you follow all university policies and first contact RSL professional staff for assistance and counsel.

Value the Student & the University

- Never as a group or as individuals representing the group, exhibit behavior or act in any manner which has an adverse impact on the academic or vocational pursuits of students, their physical, emotional well-being, causes students to be significantly absent from campus or clearly damage a student's academic pursuits, financial status or relationship with parents, family or peers.

- Student Safety and Bystander Responsibility – Ensure that all professionals and student leaders will intervene and help when observing individuals involved in a potentially harmful or unsafe situation, such as, but not limited to sexual or domestic violence, discrimination of any sort, or underage or high-risk binge-drinking.

- Refuse to engage in actions which have an adverse impact towards the goals and purposes of higher education in general and the educational goals and purposes of TCU and its students in particular; never create programs or events which intentionally create divisiveness with other religious groups or student organizations.

- Recognize and respect that TCU, in light of our heritage and relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and our educational mission, not only seeks to create opportunities for rich and diverse Christian life, but also to promote and support a campus atmosphere in which the richness, diversity and importance of all religious faiths and the expressions of spiritual life held by students, faculty & staff are deeply respected and productively engaged.

- Never require attendance of students who are not serving in leadership roles within the organization at meetings/events.

Publicize with Integrity

- Adhere to the Office of Student Organizations and RSL publicity policies including, but not limited to: 1) the clear labeling of all published and electronic materials with full organization name, co-sponsors, & contact information, and 2) making clear in all publications & communications the nature of the event or group.

- Never intrude, by phone, mail, email, text, Facebook, Twitter or other forms of communication & social media, or by visitation in residence halls, on the privacy of individuals without their explicit permission. This includes, but is not limited to unsolicited mass mailings, emails, texts or social media messages or mass leaflet dropping.

- Never issue publications or communications (written or verbal) which threaten, undermine or distort the integrity of another person's or group's beliefs or that cause harm to others.

- Use of the university's identifying marks including, but not limited to the name, initials (TCU), seal, mascots and all official logos must conform to the guidelines established by the university. Use the "Office of Religious & Spiritual Life" title on publicity only with the consent of RSL staff.

Honor Confidentiality

- Religious directors, advisors and all related individuals representing a religious agency, whether clergy or lay, function as religious professionals and therefore must honor the confidentiality of students and others whom they guide and counsel. Such confidentiality governs unless specifically waived or as covered under legal provisions.

- Likewise, student religious leaders and their individual group members should seek to maintain an atmosphere where the personal communication encouraged by a religious setting is respected as confidential.

- Please see Title IX Reporting Requirements on pages 10-11.

Consequences

Infractions involving any of these guidelines will result in referral to the Religious life Conduct Review Committee, the Minster to the University and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and may lead to probation or removal of staff and organizations. Furthermore, if religious groups, representatives or individuals engage in behaviors which harm the welfare or impede the success of TCU students, faculty, staff, departments or the TCU community at large, the university reserves the right to rescind the privilege to work on the TCU campus and/or with the named recognized religious organizations.

I have read and understand the TCU Religious Life Code of Conduct and agree to comply with it in full. I acknowledge that the University has the right to remove me from the university campus if I fail to satisfy any obligations or otherwise violate any term of these or other University policies.

Name of Religious Organization _____

Printed Name of Agency Official: _____ Title: _____

Signature of Agency Official: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Senior Professional: _____ Title: _____

Signature of Senior Professional _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Additional Staff: _____ Title: _____

Signature of Additional Staff: _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Additional Staff: _____ Title: _____

Signature of Additional Staff: _____ Date _____