

The Constitution of Bridges International

At Indiana University

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this student group is Bridges International at Indiana University

This student group is a student chapter (hereafter Chapter) recognized by Bridges International, a nonprofit corporation with its principal offices in Austin, TX.

ARTICLE II—PURPOSE

The purpose of the Chapter is to provide service opportunities, social connections and spiritual conversations with international students at Indiana University. We seek to model and provide opportunities for Christian exploration and growth to interested students.

ARTICLE III- STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Section 1:

Statement of University Compliance: This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Section 2:

Anti-Hazing Policy: Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Section 3:

Personal Gain Clause: This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from for profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Section 4:

International Travel Clause: This organization, when traveling internationally, will coordinate their travel through the Office of Overseas Study

ARTICLE IV—STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The Statement of Belief for this organization can be found at http://www.ccci.org/statement_of_faith.html. It is also attached as Appendix I to this Constitution.

ARTICLE V—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

Membership in this Chapter is open to anyone officially connected to Indiana University as students, faculty or staff as well as those from the community, such as alumni and staff members of Bridges International, as long as 2/3 of active members are currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students.

Section 2.

We welcome and encourage everyone to be part of our movement and community, and do not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical and mental disability, medical condition, ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship or veteran status.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officers of this organization, forming part of the leadership team (described in Art. VI), will serve as liaisons with the University. All officers must exemplify the application of Scriptural life principles, in accordance with the national standards of Bridges International. The offices of this organization shall be the following:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Section 2.

Officers are selected from the general membership and must be enrolled students at Indiana University. Officers serve as representatives of the Chapter and organization of Bridges International, and, as members of the leadership team, must subscribe to the Statement of Belief.

They must agree that an important part of such belief is taking action and making decisions that are consistent with and based upon those beliefs. They must acknowledge that being a leader requires one to set an example for others on how to live a holy and Biblically-based life. They must also be committed to advancing the purpose and mission of Bridges International.

Section 3.

Term of office: An officer shall serve for one year from the start of his term or until his/her successor is appointed.

ARTICLE VII—LEADERSHIP

Section 1.

The leadership of the Chapter is made up of individuals selected, as set forth below, from the Membership.

Section 2.

All leadership team members and small group leaders must subscribe to the Statement of Belief. They must agree that an important part of such belief is taking action and making decisions that are consistent with and based upon those beliefs. They must acknowledge that being a leader requires one to set an example for others on how to live a holy and Biblically-based life.

They must also be committed to advancing the purpose and mission of Bridges International.

Section 3.

The leadership of the Chapter will consist of a leadership team, the size of which may vary from year to year based upon the size, needs and desires of the group. The leadership team may consist of both a small group of core student leaders and additional groups of leaders that provide direction for different aspects of the Chapter's purpose.

In addition, small group leaders will head discussion groups or Bible studies in a variety of locations and for various affinity groups on campus.

Organizational details of the leadership team are subject to change without amendment to this constitution. Indiana University students must constitute at least 2/3 of the leadership team.

Section 4.

The current leadership team selects new leadership each year, usually occurring in the Spring. Individual leaders may also be added to the leadership team throughout the year. All prospective leaders must subscribe to the Statement of Belief and Purpose Statement as stated in Articles II and III.

The staff members of Bridges International serve an advisory role in the selection process, working with the current leadership team to consider and evaluate recommendations for new leaders. The leadership team will then select individuals, inviting them to take the new leadership roles. The leadership team will be responsible to see that all prospective leaders subscribe to the Statement of Belief and Purpose Statement as stated in Articles II and III.

Section 5.

Leaders may be removed from their positions based upon general consensus of the core leadership. Any member of the group may make a complaint against any leader, including a member of the leadership team. The leadership team will meet, confer with the Bridges International staff members for advice and counsel, hear from the accused leader (sometimes in a private one-on-one setting), and make a decision.

Misrepresentation of initial agreement with or a change in an individual's ability to subscribe to the Statement of Belief and the Purpose Statement of this organization shall be grounds for immediate removal of the leader by the leadership team.

ARTICLE VIII—MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held to further the purposes of the Chapter. The leadership team, in consultation with Bridges International staff, shall determine the frequency, time and place, and agenda of the various meetings.

Large group meetings typically occur weekly during the school year, breaking when instruction ends and during school vacation periods. Small group meetings (Bible Studies, Discussion Groups) also meet weekly within the same parameters. Other

meetings necessary to advance the purposes of the Chapter will be held as occasion warrants.

ARTICLE IX—FINANCES

The Chapter may raise revenues through contributions, fundraising activities or by applying for school funds available to student groups. Dues shall not be charged to members for participation. Students, however, may be charged for such services as special social gatherings, retreats and conferences. The Chapter will hold to high standards of financial integrity. A member or several members of the leadership team will be responsible to carefully administer any school funds granted to the Chapter.

ARTICLE X—CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

This constitution may be amended by a general consensus of the leadership team.

Section 2.

Articles II and III may not be amended without express written permission of Bridges International.

Section 3.

All amendments, additions or deletions must be filed with the office of Indiana University within two weeks of adoption, and will become valid at the time of filing.

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APPENDIX I—STATEMENT OF BELIEF

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The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it was written without error (inerrant) in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

We accept those areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our movement, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters,

provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.

1. There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of personality.
2. Jesus Christ is God, the living Word, who became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. Hence, He is perfect Deity and true humanity united in one person forever.
3. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone.
4. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died.
5. He ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own.
6. Man was originally created in the image of God. He sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation.
7. Man's nature is corrupted, and he is thus totally unable to please God. Every man is in need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
8. The salvation of man is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justified them in His sight.
9. It is the privilege of all who are born again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their Savior. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the testimony of God in His written word.
10. The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth and seals them until the day of redemption. His fullness, power and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith.

11. Every believer is called to live so in the power of the indwelling Spirit that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh but will bear fruit to the glory of God.
12. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His Body, which is composed of all men, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith.
13. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement.
14. At physical death the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing.
15. At physical death the unbeliever enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgment and condemnation.
16. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth – personally, visibly and bodily – to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
17. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to disciple men of every nation. The fulfillment of that Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to “Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.”