



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER  
**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
GOVERNMENT

**Protestant Chapel Community**

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the Protestant Chapel Community of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its government. Failure to follow this constitution could result in revocation of Students' Association recognition of this organization.

**Article I. Mission Statement**

The Protestant Chapel Community (PCC) is a ministry of Genesee Area Campus Ministries (hereinafter "GACM") and is led by a student Steering Committee and a Chaplain who is an ordained Protestant minister and the Director of GACM.

PCC is a gathering of Christians from many spiritual backgrounds working together to serve God in the University and beyond. PCC provides a place for Christian worship, camaraderie, service, and the thoughtful study of scripture. We welcome a diversity of traditions and viewpoints, while celebrating the progressive nature of Christ's teachings, and accepting his challenge to go forth into the world as voices of positive change.

**Article II. Membership**

**Section A. Membership**

1. Eligibility – All Students' Association members shall be eligible for membership. An SA Member is a University of Rochester undergraduate of the College who has paid their SA activities fee. All University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's Campus Club Connection site.
2. Membership in PCC shall be open to all graduate and undergraduate students in good standing at the University of Rochester, regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, or disability. Any student who participates regularly in any activity of PCC shall be considered a member. Membership shall be retained during the vacations and recesses of the University.

**Section B. Guests**

1. Any faculty, staff or local resident (and their family) who wishes to participate in PCC events are welcomed guests.

**Article III. Meetings and Voting**

**Section A.** A meeting shall be valid if quorum is present. Quorum is defined as 20% of the organization's active membership plus the Vice President.

**Section B. Steering Committee Meetings**

1. As the executive board of PCC, the Steering Committee shall meet weekly during the academic year. It has full power to make all decisions regarding PCC. A Steering Committee meeting will be considered a valid meeting if a quorum of is present. A quorum is defined as two thirds of the voting student officers in addition to the chaplain.
2. Decisions shall be made by consensus, and if necessary by vote with a simple majority prevailing, except for constitutional amendments, which shall require a unanimous vote or a two-thirds majority vote in a congregational meeting as described by *Article IV: Section C*.
3. Steering committee meetings are open to the public but may be closed by a simple two-thirds majority vote of present committee members.
4. The composition of the Steering Committee is determined by *Article IV*.

**Section C. Congregational Meetings**

1. Congregational meetings are for the purpose of elections to Steering Committee as detailed in *Article IV: Section C* or for constitutional changes that failed to receive a unanimous vote in the Steering Committee as noted in *Article VIII*.

**Section D. Voting**

1. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
2. All member shall have equal voting powers.
3. Procedure – All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote unless otherwise specified by the presiding officer. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

**Article IV. Officers and Qualifications**

**Section A. Officer Positions**

The Steering Committee will be composed of up to 10 voting student officers and one Interfaith Chapel staff chaplain. The following positions are held by members of the Steering Committee:

1. **President:** The President must have served on the Steering Committee for two semesters in order to be eligible. The President is determined by an internal vote of the Steering Committee. Additionally, an individual may not serve as president for more than two years.
2. **Vice President:** The Vice President position is determined by an internal vote of the Steering Committee.
3. **Clerk:** The clerk position is determined by an internal vote of the Steering Committee.
4. **Treasurer:** The treasurer position is filled by a Steering Committee member selected by the chaplain. The treasurer is an employee of the GACM.
5. **Graduate Advisers:** In addition to the up to 10 undergraduate members of the Steering Committee elected by the congregation, up to 2 graduate students, chosen by the Steering Committee, may be asked to serve on the

Steering Committee in an ex officio capacity with voice but no vote. No graduate student may serve in this capacity for more than 2 years.

#### **Section B. Duties of Officers**

1. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
2. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members, within regulations specific to religious groups.
3. All officers shall uphold and enforce this constitution.
4. All officers shall be responsible for knowing and adhering to the sections of the SA constitution and bylaws that apply to the group.
5. The President, together with the chaplain, shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers, and delegate duties to maintain a functioning group that fulfills the purposes outlined in Article I. The President, together with the Vice President, serves as the student spokesperson of PCC to the campus community. The Vice President is responsible for stepping into the role of President if the President is unavailable.
6. For SA purposes, the treasurer is PCC's business manager. The treasurer will be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions. The treasurer is additionally responsible for providing all necessary financial data to the GACM bookkeeper, making financial records available to the steering committee upon request, and other duties assigned by the chaplain.
7. The clerk shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to inspection by all members of this organization, senators, and all members of the Students' Association. They will also take roll call at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes. In the event of their absence, the clerk shall arrange for a temporary replacement who will fulfill their duties.

#### **Section C. Nominations and Elections**

1. Nomination and Elections Procedure
  - a. Nominations
    - i. Nominations are solicited by email from all students that have attended at least three PCC events during the academic year. Nominations are reviewed by the Steering Committee. Nominees should be considered in light of many factors, including their attendance and other indications of commitment to PCC and to the Christian faith, denominational backgrounds, and class year. All students who have attended at least three PCC events during the current academic year are eligible for nomination.
    - ii. The President shall be elected by a vote of the combined sitting and incoming Steering Committee, from the pool of eligible Steering Committee members for the next academic year. Members of the Steering Committee who have served for a year (may be served across academic years in the event of Study

Abroad), are returning for the next year, and have not been President for two years already are eligible to be nominated.

iii. After selection of the incoming President, the Vice President and Clerk shall be elected by vote of the combined sitting and incoming Steering Committee, from the pool of eligible Steering Committee members.

**b. Elections**

i. The Steering Committee shall present the congregation with a ballot that includes the names of all eligible students who have been nominated. The ballot shall also include space for making additional nominations (“write-ins”). The congregation will vote for a number of nominees up to the number of open Steering Committee positions.

ii. At the time of voting, each member of the congregation will sign in by printing and writing their name on a registration sheet provided by the Steering Committee. The purpose of this registration is to insure that only members of the congregation vote, and that each member votes only once.

iii. The number of nominees equal to the number of open slots who receive the most votes will be elected into the Steering Committee. A minimum of four votes must be received to be elected.

2. **Terms of Office** – The terms for all Steering Committee members shall be one academic year.

3. **Timing of Elections** – Elections to the Steering Committee shall occur annually in March. Nominations are received by secret ballot during a one week period (including two Sundays with worship services), to begin no more than one month before the Sunday designated for elections.

**Section D. Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals**

1. At the valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in the Nominations and Elections Procedure.

2. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a two-thirds majority of the active membership to pass the motion.

3. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, it must be given an official meeting's notice. Any member of the organization can call for a vote of no confidence.

4. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

**Article V. Committees**

PCC does not use committees.

**Article VI. Finances**

**Section A.** PCC does not give priority to Students' Association members because PCC is not SA funded due to its religious designation.

**Article VII. Classification**

**Section A.** PCC shall be classified as a type O Religious organization. PCC is overseen by an Interfaith Chapel staff chaplain.

**Article VIII. Adoption of the Constitution**

**Section A.** A constitution may be approved by unanimous vote of the Steering Committee. In the event of a non-unanimous vote, a 2/3 majority of the congregation must approve the constitution at a congregational meeting.

**Section B.** This constitution will be ratified upon approval of the Senate and the signature of the Speaker.

**Section C.** This constitution shall not conflict with the Students' Association constitution or by-laws.

**Article IX. Amendments**

**Section A.** Adoption and ratification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire constitution.

**Article X. By-laws**

**Section A.** At least a 2/3 majority of the active membership must approve the by-laws and any amendments.

**Section B.** By-laws should not conflict with this constitution or the SA constitution or by-laws.

**Article XI. Hazing Policy**

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the Protestant Chapel Community. Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

**Article XII. Discrimination Policy**

The Protestant Chapel Community of the University of Rochester does not discriminate against any individual or organization of individuals on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or political affiliation.

January 15, 2016

*Claire Webster*

Signature of Officer  
Submitting Constitution

Date

SA Speaker  
Granting Recognition

*2/8/16*  
Date

Signature of