

**Candidate: Chloe Cheng**

**Position: Chair**

## **Spiritual Life**

- a. What is the gospel to you? Briefly share your personal testimony.*
- b. Describe your current walk with Christ. Are you supported by a church community and if so, how are you involved?*

To me, the gospel is a beautiful story of sacrificial love and incomparable mercy. God created this world to be beautiful and He created us in His image, made to worship Him and be in relationship with Him. But when presented with a choice, we chose to listen to the father of lies and turn away from God. Rather than abandon us, God pursued His people through a series of redemption plans, all of which were rejected, until God gave His only Son, Jesus. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we have the gift of salvation, allowing us to return to God and a life of worshipping Him. Jesus' life and actions during his time in this world is the perfect example of what we all as Christians strive to emanate. Though we fall short, how blessed and undeserving are we to have a God that picks us up when we are at our lowest and cares for us.

Having grown up in a Christian family, I was taught the gospel from a young age. Over time, my awe for the gospel and Jesus faded and almost died completely. At 16, I began to rediscover Jesus and dig deeper into my faith. With a community in CCF that encouraged me in my daily walk with Jesus, my faith began to flourish and grow, even in the most difficult of circumstances. Over the past year and a half, God used many trials in my personal life to bring me closer to Him. Learning to continuously seek Him as a refuge and source of comfort has rooted me in my faith, and I can confidently say that Christ has become an anchor and rock in my life.

I am currently supported by a church community here in Toronto. I have mentors with whom I can share and from whom I can seek advice. Through my interactions with my church community both here and back home, I have been able to remain grounded in my faith and pursue Christ.

## **Your Candidacy**

- a. What do you believe is the purpose of UTCCF and the UTCCF committee?*
- b. How has God led you to run for committee, as well as the specific position you are running for?*
- c. If you are not elected to your chosen role, how will you still serve and carry out your vision at CCF next year?*

I believe UTCCF is a place where Christians can be a family; a place of encouragement and edification, all with Christ's love and mercy in mind. With that said, CCF is temporary and therefore serves as a steppingstone. It is a place for us to experience what it means to have God-glorifying community in our time at university so that when we graduate and move on to our respective destinations, we can continue to seek meaningful community. The purpose of the UTCCF committee is to identify what would facilitate better fellowship and more meaningful community in UTCCF, then guide the fellowship in pursuit of that.

It is also the role of committee to support ministry and IG leaders, and ultimately help UTCCF function as a well-oiled machine.

In the past almost three years I've been a part of CCF, I've been able to experience fellowship as a participant, as well as a leader. As my love for the fellowship and people in this fellowship grew, so did my desire to serve. Though some part of me desires praise and recognition for my service to CCF, what has been most fulfilling and gratifying in my 2 years of leadership was seeing how God used me and the areas I've led to grow this fellowship and impact the people in it, even in the smallest ways. It is because of my love for the fellowship and desire to see it grow that led me to consider running for committee. Although I did not initially consider running for Chair and the prospect of shepherding the entire fellowship was intimidating, it was my desire to see CCF grow and the people in it to grow closer as a family in Christ that prompted me to reconsider running for said position. If I am not elected, I will still be content serving as a participant and leading by example in bringing our fellowship closer as a family.

## **Vision – Rooted in love**

### **3 point summary:**

- Learn about God's love and learn to love each other as He does
- Become a true family in God and expand His family
- Encourage and edify one another

My vision for UTCCF in the upcoming year is to understand and delve deeper into God's love so that we might also learn how to love each other as a family in Christ. This is near and dear to my heart, because of the hardships, as well as great blessings, that I've experienced in the past two years that led me to learn what it means to have brothers and sisters who love each other and walk with each other in pursuit of Christ. Prior to the most difficult season I experienced a year and a half ago, God placed certain people around me, who –when the time came – reminded me of biblical truths and lifted me in my lowest of lows. I could feel God's love overflowing from them, and it was then when I truly learnt the significance of God's family and community.

The pandemic has made it more difficult for us to seek community. But at the same time, spending time apart has given us a clean slate, primed for change. It has made us all more eager to meet as a fellowship and invest more time in one another. I believe God is calling us to build on this desire to meet and dive even deeper into our connections as brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Love as God loves us

*“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”*

*– Romans 15:5-7*

As believers, we are a family through Christ, purposed to give God glory as one body. Though we have our distinctions and roles, we are called to welcome one another, just as Christ welcomed us. This is rooted in love and grace; love for the way we are created by God to be unique for His individual purposes for us, and grace for our differences and shortcomings. To love one another is to see each other the way God sees us and serve with a sacrificial love, with Jesus as our greatest example.

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

– 1 John 4:7-8

How can we learn to love one another? As John writes, God is not only the embodiment of love; He is love. Those who know God love differently. Throughout scripture, we are given numerous examples of God’s characteristics and how He loves. With this in mind, it is my hope that together in bible studies and through discussion, we can explore God’s love.

#### A household of God

*“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

– Ephesians 4:15-16

As members of the family of God, we are no longer strangers to one another. Rather, we are part of one body, of which Christ is the head. We are commanded to, as one body, grow in maturity and emulate Jesus more and more so that the body of Christ grows, as people within this body love each other the way Christ loves us. As we continue to fellowship together, it is my hope that we can welcome one another and grow together, simply by humbling ourselves and being willing to be vulnerable with one another.

Similarly in the way that the body of Christ builds itself up and matures, we are also commanded to grow God’s family. We all have experienced the power of God’s love and how it changes our lives inside out. Would an outward showing of the joy we experience from new life not be natural? I pray that as we learn to love one another within our fellowship, we can also extend this love to non-believers and let them experience the joys of being in the household of God.

#### Stirring one another up

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

– Hebrews 10:24-25

Some practical aspects of being part of God’s family I believe are essential are edification and accountability. Our love for each other as children of the LORD is most evident when we intentionally walk together,

encourage each other to grow into Christ, and remind each other of spiritual truths. Though CCF perhaps is too large a community for all of us to be doing that together, it is my desire for the fellowship to facilitate this, whether that be within IGs, ministries or even our own smaller communities within CCF.

#### Practical Points:

- Encourage more edification and accountability within IGs and ministries
- Encourage more prayer for one another
- Provide opportunities to volunteer outside of CCF together in small groups
- Make bible study themes centring on God's love

#### **Personal Evaluation**

- a. *What God-given gifts do you see in your life? How do you see God using these gifts to further His kingdom at UTCCF?*
- b. *What are some areas of weakness in your life? How are you taking grace-driven steps to overcome them and become more like Christ?*

One gift I believe God has blessed me with is the ability to remain steadfast and principled. Although I have my moments where I am swayed by what people around me say, it is very difficult for me to do something that goes against my principles and what I know is right, whether that is from a biblical or moral standpoint. Because I am a principled person, I also am willing – if the situation arises – to speak truth as gently as I am able so that those around me can do what is right and pursue Christ. I believe my principled nature would be beneficial for ensuring that committee stays true to our vision and that we would be able to do everything with the whole fellowship's wellbeing in mind.

Another gift God has given me is music. Although the role I am running for is not exactly involved with worship, I hope to be able to lead CCF in worship, whether that be a consistent role or a one-time job. Even if I do not get the chance to lead CCF in worship, I still hope to encourage CCF in some way to worship joyfully and wholeheartedly.

While I am a principled person, I am also stubborn at times when my principles are being questioned. Something that goes hand in hand with this is my rational nature, which makes it difficult for me to factor in what other people feel and consider the fact that there are multiple perspectives. Because of these weaknesses, it is more difficult for me to work with people who think very differently to me. Knowing that these separate, yet connected struggles are weaknesses in my life, I have been making a conscious effort to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. One thing I also am more conscious of in order to deal with these weaknesses is that God has created everyone uniquely, and I should be more gracious when it comes to differences. Although at times I slip up, I know that by the grace of God, I am growing into the person that He has created me to be.