

### **Spiritual Life**

To me, the gospel is a marker of the unchanging and encompassing nature of God. In your most broken times, God's promise to you remains whole, and in your shortsightedness, God is there to guide you through trials. Even if you fail God, he will never stop chasing after you and this is the beautiful truth that we, as Christians, get to hold fast to.

I had grown up in the faith, but during COVID, I completely stopped going to church and ceased contact with many of my Christian friends. And with several devastating things happening simultaneously in my life, I had entirely given up on the goodness and faithfulness of God. But even in my wrath, God still found a way to welcome me back into his arms. I did return to UTCCF and on fall retreat Sabbath of my second year, I put myself before God and begged to see his goodness again. Though I was lost, God's love and the eternal promise of life with him brought me back. Ever since that time, I have grown deeply in my love of Christ, and although I face many challenges today, this gospel has secured my place with our Father in Heaven.

I continue to pursue and grow in my relationship with God through UTCCF and Grace Toronto Church. Currently, I am serving as a children's ministry volunteer and am blessed with many older brothers and sisters to learn more of God's character through them. In this community, I have a place where I can be poured in and out of to fellow believers, allowing me to anchor myself to God's word and his family.

### **My Candidacy**

UTCCF is a place for anyone to be able to experience the love of God and to grow in their walk in him, all while being supported by a community of like-minded people. My hope is that people will find a family here to grow, worship, and encourage each other. That being said, UTCCF is only a portion of our mission field. This fellowship should compel us to be salt and light on campus and build us up in our faith so that, after our time in this community, we can boldly go out into the world. And it is the job of the committee to guide this fellowship in the growth that God desires for us. While the committee is considered the "leaders" of UTCCF, their purpose is to serve and be vessels for God to do his work.

In my time here at UTCCF, I have seen this fellowship go through many challenges and emerge victorious. By the grace of God, the community held fast to each other, even during the peak of the pandemic. Through the pandemic, the fellowship has solidified itself as a family and home for many. This is a clear strength of UTCCF. However, since my second year, I have identified areas of improvement for this fellowship, which I believe God has placed on my heart. I thought the fellowship did little to emphasize growing one's personal relationship with God. Or rather, the community aspect of UTCCF was so heavily highlighted to the point that knowing God

individually fell to the wayside. I believed that God called me to the position of Chair to facilitate a space where both the personal relationship with God and brotherly/sisterly relationships we have with each other had equal importance. However, if I am not elected, I will still joyfully serve UTCCF within the capacity that God wishes me to.

### **Vision - The Great yet Intimate God**

#### 3 Point Summary

- Recognize God's vastness, which moves us to seek more of his character
- Grow intimately in God and experience his infinite love
- Share our faith boldly as we are empowered by his greatness and love

The strength of UTCCF lies in its strong community mindset, this is clear to almost anyone who enters KP208. And this community's desire to grow as a family is certainly within God's will, but it is so strongly emphasized that it overpowers the importance of one's personal relationship with God. We are not fulfilled by our brothers and sisters, no matter how loving they are. Rather we should be satisfied by our relationship with God alone.

People often associate pursuing a relationship with God as reading their Bible or going to church. However, the desire to pursue God does not purely come from these actions. Instead, it is a recognition of God's power that makes us in awe of him and the grace of Jesus who died on the cross which moves us to do so. It is my hope for the members of UTCCF to see the **vastness of our God**, as someone far beyond our scope and is worthy of our praise. Yet he is **an intimate God**, who, despite his grandeur, seeks to know small people like us.

#### Strive to know God's Character

*"For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
He is to be feared above all gods."  
- Psalm 96: 4*

For many of us, we have heard of the power and greatness of God, but what does sincerely recognizing these characteristics of God look like? In acknowledging his immensity, we will be in awe of him and this should compel us to glorify him in all we do and move us to **seek out more of the Almighty God's character**.

Through this initial understanding of God's vastness, there should be a visible change in how we approach our lives, singing songs of praises to our Lord, casting aside our desire for control, and ultimately striving to understand more of God's character. Within UTCCF, I hope to facilitate the space where we can support those who are seeking to know God deeper, regardless of what stage they are in their faith. This can be achieved through discipleship groups, accountability partners, or organized quiet time.

### Overflow with True Agape Love

*“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.”*  
- John 15: 15

Just as God’s power is endless, so is his love, compassion, and mercy for us. He could have easily just been a higher being in the clouds, never to reveal himself to mortal eyes, yet he made himself the most intimate and personal to us. In **experiencing God’s flawless character so intimately, we then have the ability to emulate it.** As such, his perfect and sacrificial Agape love is also made known to us, allowing us to generously and purely love our brothers and sisters.

*“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. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”*  
- 1 John 4: 7 - 9

We have the ability to love perfectly because we know of God’s awesomeness and devotion to his people. While knowing God is not a prerequisite to showing love to others, only his perfect love has the capacity to truly move hearts. My hope is that we will understand the depth of God’s love, so that UTCCF is a place overflowing with Agape love and hospitality to each other.

### Empowered to Proclaim

*“And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel”*  
- Ephesians 6:19

As we understand more of God’s character and love, this should continue to fuel our admiration and amazement in him. In turn, **should this not compel us to share God’s greatness and goodness urgently and boldly**, too? In being equipped with God’s love and strength, we can set our sights beyond the boundaries of UTCCF and see the city as our mission field as well. As UTCCF starts to adopt a mission-focused mindset, we also need those who can facilitate and guide this heart of evangelism. I plan to strongly support the efforts of the Outreach Coordinator, so that we may have an approachable outlet to boldly proclaim the good works and love of God.

### Practical Points:

- Introduce discipleship groups or accountability partners into UTCCF
- Encourage one on one time with God through devotions and dedicated quiet time throughout the week

- Greatly support the efforts of Outreach ministry/coordinator, Social coordinator and Hospitality ministry
- Centre bible study on God's love and great yet personal character

### **Personal Evaluation**

Among the gifts that God has given me, I think he has blessed me with a heart of commitment to whatever task I designate for myself. I am a very driven individual who will get things done, and while this can be seen as intimidating and cold, this duty oriented mindset allows me to accomplish the things I need to do. I believe this makes me reliable in completing the necessary tasks associated with a leadership position. To counteract this, God has also given me a check in the form of discernment. Despite my more intense side, I will often spend time reflecting and searching for the will of God and guide myself according to Biblical truths. These polar opposite traits of action and reflection allow me to shepherd the fellowship in a Christ-centered way with passion and boldness.

However, as someone who has very high standards for myself and other people, I have the tendency to criticize those who do not meet these standards. This usually results in frustrations and judgment towards these people, which may later impact how I view them. I am very aware of this weakness as it can dangerously and negatively affect how I treat other people. Thankfully, God has placed many gentle and kind-hearted people in my life to teach and keep me accountable for my actions. And through their gentleness, I am reminded of God's patience and grace, so I seek to make an effort to listen and understand first rather than judge. And despite my imperfections, I know God will continue to perfect and refine me, so that I can glorify him in all that I do.