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Striving to Rebuild God's Kingdom, Together.

## Spiritual Life

I started attending church from as early as I can remember-as soon as it was safe for my parents to bring me to church. I did Awana and Sunday School each week at a church in Mississauga until my parents decided to move to a church closer to home. When I joined this new church's youth group in grade six, that was the first time I felt comfortable sharing about my own faith journey and discussing my faith with my peers. I was blessed with amazing mentors, and fellow sisters in Christ whom I still see every week. In grade seven I made the decision to serve Christ and my community with the gifts God had blessed me with on the worship team and as I got older I served in other capacities such as A/V team, scripture reader, intercessor, and Children's Ministry volunteer. At the age of fourteen, I accepted Christ and was baptized. That year I was blessed by God in many ways until I found out my mother had cancer. This threw my world off its axis and I felt like God had abandoned me and blamed God for everything that went wrong in my life. I suffered from mental health issues, stress from school, and anxiety about my mother. Overtime, with the help of my church friends things got better; however, looking back on it now, I was still quite lost and immature in my faith upon joining CCF. I joined CCF in my first year hoping to find another Christian community upon 'graduating' from youth group and though my faith did grow, it was at a fairly slow pace(there is nothing wrong with this). In 2023, I lost myself again, and lots of pent up trauma, and suffering came to light and I felt extremely hopeless and again resentful of God. I felt conviction from the Holy Spirit, and immediately reached out to two of my pastors. My parents recommended bible verses for me to read and the friends and family God had blessed me with in and outside of CCF showed me God's amazing love through their comfort and concern for me. My daily evening prayers with my family became more elaborate, and I found my love for God again-stronger than before.

Currently I am living out the gospel through attending my church every week regardless of whether I am working<sup>1</sup> or not, attending my small group, participating in CCF, using my spiritual gifts to spread the gospel, praying everyday(at least once with my family and often other times on my own), reading the Bible, and meditating on the Word, and trusting that God will provide for me despite my own will to control my life. I am aware that there is always room to grow and am actively seeking and asking God for ways I can continue to live out the gospel and grow in my own faith.

*Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' - John 7:38(ESV)*

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<sup>1</sup> I work at my church. I do A/V work for my church and I would be serving in this capacity regardless of whether it was work or not. I attend church regardless(so even if I have the week off) and my job does not stop me from being able to participate and worship God.

## My Candidacy

I believe that the purpose of UTCCF is to be a space and group on campus in which all who are questioning, curious, doubtful, or faithful may learn about God, the faith, and how to live out the gospel. I believe that CCF is a place in which we may fulfill the gospel as community is not made up of one person but many:

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

*For the body does not consist of one member but of many*

*1 Corinthians 12:12-14(ESV)*

UTCCF Committee acts as representatives and overseers of the fellowship. Committee is responsible for the fellowship and for creating an environment in which God's mission can be carried out, and where those who are questioning, curious, doubtful, or faithful may coexist and grow together spiritually.

Through much discernment and many conversations with God, I feel that God has led me to run for committee. This community has given me so much and God has blessed me with many loving brothers and sisters especially this past year that I would like to give back to the community and to God with the gifts he has blessed me with to further glorify him. I prayed quite a bit when I was discerning whether the position; Social Coordinator was right for me or whether I should serve in other capacities. I have served as a worship team member, IG Leader(in my first and second year), Winter Retreat mentor, and Hospitality Ministry member through my years at CCF and I believe that those roles have equipped me for this position. Being captain of the CCF soccer team and a Hospitality Min member allowed me to take initiative and reach out to new faces in CCF, and integrate them into the fellowship better. I have also taken initiative within my IG to reach out to newcomers and spend time with them outside of CCF and planned and suggested many events for CCF in the past few years(Liz Unofficial Office Hours, some Hospitality Min Events, CCF Summer 2022 Programming, Frosh Connection '22) as well as planned and filmed promotional materials for a few of my church's sermon series'.

If I am not elected to my chosen role, I will either serve as an IG leader or Hospitality Min member again as well as Worship Team and carry out my vision there as well.

## My Vision

As I mentioned in my candidacy, and as the Word says in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,<sup>2</sup> we are each members of the body and the body cannot consist of solely one member. I believe that the Committee should be a unified front as we will be working together and should conflict arise, we

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<sup>2</sup> See verse under My Candidacy.

should be equipped and ready to settle it responsibly and in a God-like manner. I believe that as a fellowship, we are to walk in our faith together, rejoicing with each other when there is need for rejoicing, and weeping with those who weep. Committee should also be accessible to members of the fellowship and this gap can be bridged through Comm office hours, Comm communicating with leaders more often, and perhaps more in depth introductions of Comm members so they seem less intimidating.

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. - Romans 12:15(ESV).*

One of the laws we are told to abide by is to bear one another's burdens. I would like to help create a community in which those who are questioning, curious, doubtful, or faithful may feel comfortable rejoicing together as well as weeping together. Being Christian is not a smooth pathway. There are days in which your faith in God will be extremely strong and other days where it may feel weaker. I would like to create a space in which people feel comfortable sharing such burdens, and pray together.

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. - Galatians 6:29(ESV).*

One way I believe that we can integrate this into our fellowship is having an anonymous prayer request form that is open to the fellowship which can be treated as a prayer of intercessions book and serve as a place in which you can see what your fellow brothers and sisters may need prayer for.

As we are a campus based fellowship, I believe that there is more that our fellowship can do to reach out to those on campus whether that is through having a stronger social media presence(UTCCF TikTok era?), putting up flyers across campus etc. Through reaching out to those on campus we can share the gospel with more people and expand our fellowship, obeying God's command to spread the Gospel.

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20.*

We are lucky to be a fellowship with an amazing community that lives all across the city and Greater Toronto Area, however, I found that in my first year even as a mid-distance commuter, it was hard to attend CCF events or stay out super late which I quickly learned was when most people got to know their fellow brothers and sisters better and form deeper connections with each other. I would be interested in implementing more commuter friendly events(midtown CCF trip perhaps) while still being conscious of the numerous CCF events that happen weekly.

I believe that through large group events we can reach more people on campus if there is a variance in the type of events we do. Coffee House this year was a huge success and it was a low pressure environment in which those who were less familiar with the faith were able to participate while still learning about the gospel. I also think that the collaborations with other fellowships(ACF collab, and UofTogether) are a great way to meet more fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and that if timing allows, we can connect with those groups more often.

Finally, and most importantly, we cannot grow together and form a community without God. Through supporting each other in our journeys of faith, I hope that we can create a space that allows for God to enter our hearts. We are not a community without God and we cannot walk in our faith alone. God calls us to rely on our fellow brothers and sisters and to trust that he will provide for us. Ultimately we are to work for God's Kingdom, rebuilding it until the day He returns.

*Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. - Luke 12:31-34(ESV)*

### **Personal Evaluation**

I am thankful to have been blessed by God with many gifts. I am very passionate in all I do, have strong leadership skills, problem solving skills, social skills, and am very creative. My creativity is something I have seen God put to use quite a bit whether it is coming up with crazy event ideas for Hospitality Ministry, playing the bass or singing for worship team, picking up the organ to play on worship team at church, coming up with ice breakers when leading, and even leading my event for Coffee House earlier this year(building mini models). I see God putting my social skills to use(despite being introverted) to make new friends in any environment, sharing the gospel with them when I can, and showing God's grace, kindness, love, and generosity when interacting with others.

As someone who tries(emphasis on tries) to be self-aware, I am aware that I am far from perfect. While I have been blessed with many gifts, I also have many flaws(some of which have been outlined in my nominations as well). I am an emotionally driven person and while this can be a good thing sometimes, I can also be too dependent on my emotions and feel disappointment when things I am passionate about do not go my way. My judgment may be clouded as a result as well(something I am not proud of but working on!). I am always happy to be a listening ear to others and aid others but this can also result in emotional burnout. I am also someone who has struggled with anxiety for a while and I have gotten a lot better at dealing with it but it is always a constant work in progress.

To overcome such flaws and to become more like Christ, I turn to prayer and to the Word. When things are not feeling right, when I am anxious, when I am disappointed, I now turn to God. I remind myself that because the Spirit is with me at all times, what can I ever be afraid of?

I am able to turn negative/anxious thoughts into topics I can talk to God about. Anxiety over something that happened? Let me ask God for strength and patience. Concerns about something going on in my life? Let me ask God for peace. When prayer and the Word is not enough, I turn to my pastors, my mentors, my parents, and my friends who are also firm in their faith and I know that God will provide for me despite all my flaws. God loves all of us despite our flaws and he will always be there for us in times of need.

*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly[and sisterly] love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*

*1 Peter 3:8(ESV)*