

1. Spiritual Life [350 words]

1. What is the gospel to you? Briefly share your personal testimony.

To me, the Gospel is a story of love and redemption. In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth to be perfect and glorifying to Him. He loved us so much that He created us in His own image and allowed Adam and Eve to freely eat from any tree in the garden (except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil).

However, given the choice, we as humans decided to turn our backs against God. Instead of doing the same and turning His back on us, God decided to redeem us through His Son Jesus Christ, because He loved us dearly. Jesus died on the cross and bore all our sins and wrongdoings, and resurrected three days later, conquering death. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He was able to bridge the gap, giving us the choice to be with God again.

God's unfailing love has redeemed us from certain death; the best part is that we don't deserve it and that we don't need to "do" anything to be saved, only to accept that this is true and invite Jesus into our hearts as our Lord.

2. Describe your relationship and current walk with Christ.

Growing up in a Christian family, I've known about the existence of God since I was young. Going to Sunday school, a Christian primary (and high school), I did everything that "checked off the boxes".

It wasn't until grade 9 when I started finding my own church community that I started to take my faith more seriously and not doing it just because someone told me to. During my high school years, I was able to grow by learning to make my faith my own and believing because I have personally experienced the joy of Christ, rather than believing out of knowledge I may have been taught at school.

Since arriving to CCF in my first year, I have been able to grow exponentially in my understanding of scripture and CCF has helped me understand what being in a community where everyone was truly hungry and passionate about the Word meant.

Over the past year, stepping back from leading has allowed me to explore what being Christian in the "real world" meant, and how I'm supposed to deal with the ethical questions people may have through a Christian lens. This process has caused me to deconstruct pre-conceived notions I had about God and the faith, and really understand why I believe the things I do. The result of this is a stronger foundation of my faith and relationship with God, and a better understanding of His character every day.

Are you supported by a church community? Have you been continually seeking to grow in your walk with God and letting Him shape you to be more like Christ?

I am currently supported by both a local church community and a church community back home. Through mentors both abroad and here in Toronto, I've been able to not let my walk with God become stagnant, and to make sure I continue my inquisitiveness in knowing more about God and what it means to live a Christian life; all of this amounts to my pursuit of being a more God-fearing man so that I may serve and live out His plans for me.

2. Your Candidacy [350 words]

What do you believe is the purpose of UTCCF and the UTCCF Committee?

I believe that the purpose of our fellowship is to be a space on campus where people can come and hear the word of God. Whether it be someone hearing it for the first time, or someone hearing it for the first time in a long time, or someone who has been part of the fellowship and/or a church community for many years.

UTCCF should also be a place where people gather to be curious about the Word. A place that welcomes questioning of complex ideas within Christianity, differing viewpoints and basic questions about the faith. Lastly, UTCCF should be a place where brothers and sisters of the faith can gather just to enjoy one another's company and celebrate/journey life as a Christian. These three things can be achieved by having a space of vulnerability, compassion, openness, understanding, and gentle rebuke (if necessary).

I believe that it's the job of committee to empower the ministries and small group leaders to facilitate an environment within the fellowship where these things can occur.

How has God led you to run for committee, as well as the specific position you are running for?

Throughout this year being part of the fellowship, I was able to take a step back and focus on self-growth and having a deeper understanding of my relationship with God. Through this time, I was able to better understand how to view things in life through the lens of a Christian. I was better able to understand what being a Christian meant and apply myself to areas outside of my personal walk with God.

Having these areas of my life strengthened, I believe God has led me to run for committee because I am better able to understand the current state of the fellowship and have the capacity to care for it with more love, time, and understanding.

Previously, I don't think I was suitable to run for committee because there were questions I still had about what being Christian in the 21st century meant. While those questions aren't all answered, God has given me the assurance that my relationship with Him is secure, and that these questions I have are not doubts about my faith, but a desire to be more Christ-like. Working through this with God has allowed me to now be at peace to run for committee and to serve full-heartedly.

As for why Chair specifically, the main reason is because of the gifts God has given me which I will more explicitly touch on below in a different section; another reason is because being Chair would allow me to be part of a bigger visioning for the entire fellowship, and through discernment, I believe my vision is Christ-centered and rooted in the word, and something that God is calling for us as a fellowship to usher into.

If you are not elected to your chosen role, how will you still serve and carry out your vision at CCF next year?

The role of Chair would greatly help in my pursuit of making CCF more deeply rooted in church mentorship and the Word, but I'd still carry out my vision of creating a community where Christ followers can gather and be inquisitive regardless of being on committee or not. Although it would be at a smaller capacity, I believe that I can carry out my vision for CCF being someone that welcomes anyone with interest to Christianity as an active participant or ministry leader. I have full trust that God would make the most of my position and I pray that I can faithfully and joyfully fulfill that in the upcoming year.

3. Vision [600 words for Chair/Vice-Chair, 400 words for other positions]

(Note: Your "vision" should be centred around the Word)

1. Where do you see God leading UTCCF in the upcoming year?
 1. Potential things to consider: the past, current, and future state of the fellowship
- b. How has God called you to partner with Him in this vision?
- c. What are some practical points of implementation of this vision?

Rooted Inquisitiveness

In my personal walk with God, I have felt stagnant at times because I had just accepted what other believers had told me about Jesus and Christianity, without carefully and critically considering why I believe in them and its personal relevance. Over the past year, I have been able to carefully consider certain beliefs I had about our faith that I had taken for granted. Deconstructing these beliefs and slowly building them back up has allowed me to grow in my faith and come to a better understanding of who God is. In this upcoming year, I see God leading UTCCF down a path of discovering who He is and His characteristics, through the backing of pastoral leadership and a community that is willing to be vulnerable and lovingly challenging one another.

Being Rooted

²⁰ *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

-Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)

²⁰ *Listen to advice and accept instruction,
that you may gain wisdom in the future.*

-Proverbs 19:20 (ESV)

Being under the tutelage of pastoral leadership is important. They have devoted their entire lives to God and His teachings, because of this, they have a vaster knowledge than myself or any other UTCCF participant. They are also equipped to teach and disciple people who are not as mature in the faith. These two verses in Proverbs clearly states the importance of having guidance from a wiser, older mentor in order to grow in our faith.

Over the past year, we've had pastor Mikey and pastor Roger be a part of our fellowship, through speaking in events such as winter retreat and helping IG leaders prepare for Bible study respectively. I believe that these two men of God have been a great addition to CCF and that this is a relationship that God has blessed and wants to continue within the fellowship.

Over the years that I've been at this fellowship, I've heard stories of numerous people wanting to leave the fellowship because CCF may cater to newer believers, causing these people's spiritual enrichment to be stunted and giving them the feeling that they're no longer feel poured into. Because of this, myself (and others) had prayed for CCF to have more of a pastoral leadership like some other fellowships. God has answered my prayers through the time and care pastor Mikey and pastor Roger have poured into CCF and I believe He has called me to partner with Him by ensuring that this relationship is maintained and developed over the next year.

It is important to emphasize that CCF is not church and is not meant to replace church. However, having pastoral involvement in our fellowship will allow for spiritual growth not to be capped by university students on committee. Instead, those who are more mature in the faith can continue to have the opportunity to grow and be disciplined by teachers of the faith who have devoted their whole lives to equipping others to live a life of faith.

Being Inquisitive

⁷ *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* ⁸ *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

-Matthew 7:7-8

Jesus commands us as Christians to ask and seek. Our main ways of doing this is through prayer and reading the Bible. When we do these things, He promises that we'd be rewarded for doing so by finding answers. In my personal walk, asking and seeking has been instrumental in my maturation in the faith and this process has taught me to hear His voice. Questions that I have about what it means to be Christian drives me to dig deeper into His word in order to get a better, fuller picture of who He is.

I want to partner with God in this aspect by creating an environment where people feel comfortable asking questions, promoting the fact that "no question is a bad question". Furthermore, I want to take part in facilitating and asking questions that may be difficult to tackle, with the humility to admit that I may not have a good answer to these questions, and to grow together in discovering how we're supposed to live as sons and daughters of God.

Doing this in a loving community

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

-Hebrews 10:24-25

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

-Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Ultimately, we're not supposed to be alone (two is better than one!!). Instead, we're called to gather as brothers and sisters in order to support and journey alongside one another, sharing the joys and suffering that comes with living a Christian life together.

Community has always been a strong aspect of CCF, but over the past year this has taken a hit due to COVID. A transition to being a full online fellowship has led to people having zoom fatigue and "giving up meeting together." The Christian walk is not done alone, we need the support of our brothers and sisters (and the church) to run the race of faith.

With my gift of hospitality, God has called me to partner alongside Him to reignite the sense of community within our fellowship as we (hopefully) transition back to an in-person meeting style of campus fellowship.

4. Personal Evaluation [350 words]

What God-given gifts do you see in your life? How do you see God using these gifts to further His kingdom at UTCCF?

I think the biggest God-given gift I have is the gift of hospitality. From what people have told me, I have an ability to make people feel really comfortable in situations that may otherwise not be as comfortable. I see God using this gift He has blessed me with to further His kingdom by promoting a welcoming space in our fellowship that allows CCF's participants to be

comfortable and vulnerable to share whatever is troubling them or whatever God has put on their heart to challenge or teach the fellowship.

I believe that my heart of hospitality will also allow me to pour into and be intentional with my fellow committee members. I aim to be someone who supports them and be someone that can journey alongside them throughout the year, whether the issue is related to committee or not. I also want to use this gift to further God's kingdom at our fellowship by not limiting my support and time committee to members of committee, but also to leaders, participants, and newcomers that God calls me to reach out to.

Other gifts that I see in my life that God has given me are good communication skills and being a good management of time. I think that these two skills are essentially in keeping the logistical side of CCF functional. Good communication will help keep committee working as a tightknit team to be servant-leaders towards our leaders and participants; and good time management will ensure that CCF doesn't take a backseat in my everyday activities, but also to prevent serving on committee becoming an idol in my life.

What are some areas of weakness in your life? How are you taking grace-driven steps to overcome them and become more like Christ?

I think the biggest weakness in my life is that I'm easily influenced by others' opinions, and the reason for this is because I tend to care a lot about what people think about me. This is a weakness because there are times when other people's opinions of me overshadow God's opinion on me. This causes me to be unsure of myself and at times anxious.

However, this is something I'm constantly working on by placing less on an emphasis on people's opinions and turn to the Word instead when I am feeling anxious or uncertain (Jeremiah 29:11). A practical way I'm doing this is by taking another person's word as less of an absolute, but more of a constructive criticism (if said thing is negative). Instead of letting what others say define me, I'm learning to let God define me and have other people's opinions as ways to improve because I am by no means perfect.