

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Elon University

Constitution and Bylaws

Revised June 2019

Article I – Name

The name of the community ministry shall be the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Elon University (or Elon FCA), a local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), an international Christian sports ministry (www.fca.org). Elon FCA is an affiliate Community Ministry, not an Elon University program, that is authorized by the University to work on campus in accordance with Elon University policies.

Article II – Mission

Section 1. The mission of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is "to present to athletes and coaches, and whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church."

Section 2. The mission of Elon FCA is to support the spiritual lives of Christian students, coaches, faculty, and staff who are active in the campus athletic community, including student athletes and any who have an interest or association with sport or athletics at Elon. The goal is to support the spiritual growth, maturity, and leadership of Christian students through opportunities for worship, prayer, scripture study, fellowship, and social activities, and to present a good witness for Christian faith to the wider Elon community.

Article III – Statement of Faith

Elon FCA affirms and follows the Statement of Faith of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes:

1. We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, trustworthy and true, without error, Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. We believe there is only one God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
3. We believe Jesus Christ is God, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His death that paid for our sin through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension/rising up to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory. (John 1:1; Matthew 1:18,25; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 9:15-22; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:27-28)
4. We believe that acceptance of Jesus Christ and the corresponding renewal of the Holy Spirit are the only paths to salvation for lost/sinful men and women. (John 3:16; John 5:24; Titus 3:3-7)
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, who lives within and guides Christians so they are enabled to live godly lives. (John 14:15-26; John 16:5-16; Ephesians 1:13-14)
6. We believe in eternal life, and that through belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, we spend eternity with the Lord in Heaven. We believe that in rejecting Jesus Christ as Lord

and Savior, we receive eternal suffering in hell. (Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, that all believers are members of His body, the Church. (Philippians 2:1-4)
8. We believe God's design for sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the context of marriage. God instituted marriage between one man and one woman as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9)
9. We believe that God created all human beings in His image. Therefore, we believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end; that we must honor the physical and spiritual needs of all people; following Christ's example, we believe that every person should be treated with love, dignity and respect. (Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10)

Article IV – Members

Section 1. Members: All current Elon students, in good academic standing, regardless of belief or identity, are welcome to participate in any FCA program or event. While all students are welcome, FCA's mission of reaching and supporting athletes and coaches should remain obvious. Elon FCA focuses on reaching athletes, coaches, and members of the wider athletic community at Elon University, and group meetings will be promoted and scheduled to best reach this population.

Section 2. Active Members: Any current student, in good academic standing, who attends at least five weekly meetings during a semester shall be considered an "active member."

Article V – Leadership Team

Elon FCA is led by a Leadership Team that includes professional staff and student leaders. Staff will work with student leaders to direct meetings, manage group finances, and plan events and programs.

Section 1. FCA Staff: The FCA national or regional office may appoint professional staff to direct and oversee the local chapter at Elon University in collaboration with student leaders. All FCA staff must be approved by the Elon University Chaplain as Community Affiliates before they begin work with students. FCA staff are employees of FCA, not Elon University. They are subject to all policies of the University and the Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, which may review or revoke their authorization to work on campus with students at any time.

Section 2. Student Leaders: Student leaders are selected according to the process in Article VI. The number, positions, and roles of student leaders may vary each year depending on the needs of the group and the interests and gifts of the student leaders. The Servant Leadership Team (staff and student leaders together) will assign roles and positions as needed. One student leader will be designated as the primary student contact, one student leader will be designated as responsible for registering events and spaces according to University policies,

and one student leader will be designated as the group's representative on the Truitt Center's Multifaith Council of Student Organizations and Community Ministries.

Section 3. Advisor: The Leadership Team may invite a full-time faculty or staff member of Elon University to serve as Advisor to the group. Selecting an Advisor is encouraged when the group does not have current FCA staff on campus. The Advisor serves as a resource and mentor, at the invitation of the Leadership Team, in whatever manner is most helpful for the group.

Article VI – Leadership Selection

Section 1. Criteria for Leadership: Student leaders must visibly support and affirm the Christian Mission of FCA (Article II), affirm and follow the Statement of Faith (Article III), remain in good academic standing, and comply with all the rules and policies of Elon University. Leaders must be active members, committed to growing in their Christian faith, and demonstrating in their lives and relationships steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word.

Section 2. Nomination Process: Once a year, during the Fall Semester, the Leadership Team will invite nominations (including self-nominations) for the Leadership Team. Nominees will be asked to affirm FCA's Statement of Faith (Article III) and to explain how they support the Mission of FCA (Article II). They may also be asked to submit an application for leadership and to interview with current members of the Leadership Team.

Section 3. Leadership Selection: The standing Leadership Team (staff and student leaders together) will review applications and select the new Leadership Team. This process shall include prayerful discernment of the current needs of the group and the gifts and interests of the applicants. These decisions will be made by majority vote, when consensus is not possible.

Section 4. Leadership Term: The elected nominees will become the new Leadership Team on February 1, and the newly elected Leadership Team will determine the exact roles and positions of each Leadership Team member, including written descriptions of the duties and responsibilities for each role. The term of leadership will be one (1) year.

Section 5. Vacancies and New Positions: The Leadership Team may fill vacancies, create new positions, and elect new leaders, as needed, provided the new leaders meet the criteria for leadership (Article VI, Section 1).

Article VII – Removal of Leaders

Section 1. The following are reasons for initiating removal proceedings:

1. Failure to meet the criteria for leadership, including visible rejection of the group's Christian Mission and Statement of Faith in words or actions (Articles II and III).
2. Failure to remain status as an active member of the group (Article (IV)).
3. Failure to maintain good academic standing as defined by Elon University.
4. Violations of regulations set forth in the Elon University Student Handbook.
5. Failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their position.

Section 2. Procedure: Any active member may bring charges against a leader by presenting their concerns to FCA Staff or any member of the current Leadership Team. Whenever possible, FCA Staff, or designated student leader, will meet with both the accuser and the accused and resolve the problem without formal removal. When reconciliation is not possible, the Leadership Team will notify the accused in writing of the charges against them, the Leadership Team will meet with both the accuser and the accused, and the accused will be given an opportunity to respond to the charges in a fair hearing before the Leadership Team. Removal of a leader requires a two-thirds vote of all eligible members of the Leadership Team. The accused leader is not eligible to participate in these deliberations or to vote on their own removal.

Article VIII – Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings: Elon FCA will meet at least once each week during the academic year. The Leadership Team will decide the date, location, and timing of the regular weekly meeting, and will schedule other events and meetings as needed.

Section 2. Leadership Team Meetings: The Leadership Team will meet at least twice each month during the academic year to conduct the regular business of the group and to plan regular weekly meetings and other group activities.

Article IX – Finances

Elon FCA will obtain funding for events, conferences, and retreats through event fees paid by student participants and through private donations collected by FCA or by Elon University. The Leadership Team will be responsible for the group's finances, designating a leader to serve as Treasurer as needed, under the direction and supervision of FCA staff, and in accordance with Elon University and Truitt Center policies.

Article X – Amendments

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a 3/4th vote of the Leadership Team. Any proposed Amendment must first be approved by the Truitt Center to assure compliance with Elon University and Truitt Center policies.