

Hello ACF,

It's been a while since many of you have seen me around. For some, you don't even know who I am, so I'll give you a brief introduction. I'm an actuarial science student coming back to Western from my year off in Waterloo doing an internship. I have one more year of school left, so technically I'm still a 4th year (not an old 4+, I promise ). I enjoy watching hockey, over easy eggs, and grieving people at Weldon, so I'm always down to sTUDy.

The reason why I want to serve as president is because I see the potential of where we as a community can take our faith next year. I am very encouraged to see how much the fellowship has grown since the pandemic days. Community has been thriving and the heart for prayer is evident every week, but I believe there are more things that we still have to focus on in order to ensure that ACF can be a place that reflects God's love, turns people to Christ, and builds believers to know how to live out their faith after they graduate.

### **Parachurch ministry**

The role of a campus fellowship like ours is to serve as a parachurch ministry and to supplement the church. It is very important to emphasize that ACF does not replace the church, as it has no authority to be that key source of biblical teaching. In my opinion, it is better to see a member of our community prioritize consistently attending a church small group, or serving in the local church, rather than attending the programs that we set. This is important because of two main reasons:

1. We are all students with minimal extra life experience than the person beside us. We aren't ordained pastors, nor elders of a church. Therefore, we should not present/rely on our fellowship as a sufficient sustenance to Christian living while we are far from our homes. It would be like the blind leading the blind if ACF was your main time of worship each week.
2. The church is an ordained place for us to receive sound biblical teaching and be shepherded by church leaders.<sup>1</sup> This implies that those in church leadership have been given the authority and responsibility to teach and mature us in our faith, and we ought to take going to/finding a church very seriously. This also means that the phrase, "ACF is not a church" should imply going out of your comfort zone/convenience to find a place where the pastor is faithfully preaching the gospel, teaching the Word of God in sound doctrine, and a community of believers that spurs you on in the faith.<sup>234</sup>

The last thing we want to do is cause a brother or sister to stumble into sin. In Scripture, church leaders are expected to live above approach. However the reality is that many, if not all, of us students fail to achieve this standard.<sup>56</sup> Although our young age does not excuse our responsibility of setting an example for believers in the way we live and our conduct<sup>7</sup>, it would be an injustice to their faith and our faith if we are not renewed weekly by God's promises for us, taught by someone who God has placed to teach. This is why part of my vision for next year is to focus on discussing what it means to be plugged into a church and why it is so important.

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 4:11-14

<sup>2</sup> Titus 1:9

<sup>3</sup> Titus 2:1

<sup>4</sup> 2 Timothy 4:2-4

<sup>5</sup> Titus 1:7

<sup>6</sup> 1 Timothy 3:2

<sup>7</sup> 1 Timothy 4:12

## **Mutual ministry**

The second half of my vision for next year is to improve on mutual ministry. As I explained in the section above, all of us are walking very similar paths of sin, struggles, and life. This is why it is even more important that when we are gathering, we are going in with an attitude to mutually minister to one another, while only looking to what is written in the Bible to point us into the right direction.

My vision for improving mutual ministry in ACF is to introduce something called small groups(SG). This would be mixed-gendered, mixed-year groups that gather for programs requiring discussions(Bible study, topical, preaching, retreats) and also for bonding outside of ACF. The point of these groups is to:

1. Develop comfortability around different people in the fellowship, and as a result improve the quality of discussions as the term progresses
2. Allow for those who can't commit to a weekly gathering (KOINs) to have a group of brothers and sisters that they can still lean onto and pour into
3. Give opportunities for people in the fellowship to serve when they do not feel equipped enough to lead a KOIN

People would be allowed to join both, as this is not meant as a replacement for KOIN. It is, however, a way to improve logistics (finding Bible study leaders and retreat small group leaders), while also allowing KOIN to focus more on discipleship.

## **KOIN**

The purpose of a more discipleship focused KOIN is to pursue Jesus' last command for us before He ascended. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."<sup>8</sup> KGLs would still have the freedom to lead their group however they choose, but I believe two components can not be neglected: 1)Accountability, and 2)Prayer. These two things are crucial to defeating sin in our lives.<sup>9,10</sup> As Christians, it is not a matter if we will defeat our sin, but when we defeat our sin. Jesus' first message was on repentance of sin<sup>11</sup>, so we ought to take repentance of our own sins very seriously. Hopefully, KOIN can be that avenue where we can mutually edify, rebuke, and build up each other to be more mature in our faiths and walk with God.

To close off, this past year going to UW's CCF has been extremely encouraging for me. God has revived my joy in fellowshiping with others, and has reminded me constantly of his love. I remember doing my devotional and the verse in Hebrews 6:10-12 really left me in awe about how every moment of serving for God's kingdom is not overlooked by Him. I was burnt out from fellowship, but God reminded me of His promise to never forsake me.

Although I do believe that the ideas that I have explained above are the right ways to move forward and guide the fellowship for the future, I also understand that God doesn't need me to grow His kingdom here at ACF. If I do get elected for this position, I would hope that you all keep me accountable and in check with the decisions me and the exec team make. Even if I don't get elected, I know that serving is what God has called me to do as I return to Western and I would continue to work to glorify Him alone.

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>9</sup> James 5:16

<sup>10</sup> Hebrews 3:13

<sup>11</sup> Matthews 4:17