

CHI ALPHA SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP COVENANT

Please carefully read the covenant below and come to your interview with any questions or concerns. After reading the Chi Alpha Small Group Leadership Covenant, we invite you to apply online at www.rvaxa.com/apply.

I. The commitment of Chi Alpha Staff to Small Group Leaders

- The staff are here to help you succeed as a leader and disciple maker. A staff member will provide personal discipleship to each leader in the form of regular (bi-monthly) meet-ups to discuss spiritual growth & leadership.
- Staff members are your brothers and sisters in Christ. We are here to help you process life, pray with you, and be a listening ear when you need it.
- Staff members will equip and provide continual leadership development through a Retreat before the school year, Resource Groups, and Leaders meetings throughout the school year.

II. The commitment of a Small Group Leader to the Chi Alpha community

- Attend summer training sessions, including Small Group Leader's Retreat
- Participate in Welcome Week activities, events and follow up
- Build your small group by inviting lots of people
- Prepare for and lead a small group weekly meeting
- Have regular 1 on 1 meetings your small group members, and make time for doing life with them outside of group meetings
- Attend all retreats (Fall Retreat, SALT)
- Attend 4-6 leader/resource group meetings throughout the semester (Sundays at 2pm)
- Attend and participate in Wednesday Night Live weekly
- Help plan and participate in social events hosted by Chi Alpha
- Build a trusting friendship with their staff mentor, where thoughts, concerns, questions and struggles can be shared and worked through.

The job description above is not meant to overwhelm you, but to give you an expectation of what it takes to be effective and successful as a small group leader. It is important for leaders to be fully involved in the life of the community for the community to thrive. Although you may sometimes have to miss things here and there, it is important that you are able to prioritize these items if you are going to be a Chi Alpha small group leader. This means scheduling other things around them, when possible. When you do have to miss, communicate that with a staff member so any necessary adjustments can be made.

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III. The commitment of a Chi Alpha leader to God

“Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Scripture clearly teaches that those who are leaders in the body of Christ must live their lives by a careful standard. None of us are perfect; but we are all called to reflect the Lord Jesus as others follow us (1 Timothy 3:1-10). More than ever before, our witness is damaged by hypocrisy. The following ethical standards are not just expected of small group leaders, but the staff strives to live by these as well. As a leadership team we hope that we can together hold each other accountable and help each other, even in struggles, to live by these standards we have been called to.

A Growing relationship with God: Your first ministry is to Him! Abide in Him and you will bear fruit. (John 15:5) This means nurturing a life of prayer, Bible study, confession of sin, and obedience to God.

Dating: Scripture teaches us that believers should not be yoked together with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Corinthians 7:39). In other words, if you are in a dating relationship, that person should share your foundational belief in and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sexual purity: Whether we are in a dating relationship or not, we are called to carefully maintain our sexual purity. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7, we are to avoid all forms of sexual immorality, including pornography, premarital sex, and casual sexual encounters.

We are also called to avoid even *the appearance* of evil – and so we ask that a leader’s boy/girlfriend spend the night at a location other than the leader’s home.

Alcohol: As believers, we have freedom to choose, within limits, how we interact with alcohol. The limits we see in Scripture are the following –

- excessive drinking is prohibited (Ephesians 5:18)
- the drinking age laws should be obeyed (Romans 13:1-2)
- the weaker brother must be considered more important than our own freedom (Romans 14).

Over-age small group leaders need to be extremely thoughtful about their social life at VCU/VUU (fraternity parties, bars, posting drinks on social media, etc.) due to their influence in the lives of other students.

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Mind altering substances: If we, as believers, allow our judgement to be altered with drugs, we cannot live in the wisdom and purity we are called to (See Eph 5:15-20). For this reason we ask small group leaders to commit to refrain from using mind altering substances such as marijuana or other recreational drugs.

Studies: God has called you to VCU/VUU to be a student. Therefore, classes, assignments, and exams should be a priority in every small group leader's life, since Jesus receives glory as you do your work with excellence (Colossians 3:23). The basic minimum GPA is 2.0.

Tithing: Jesus taught that our hearts are connected to our wallets (Matthew 6:19-24). As small group leaders, we should therefore begin to practice generosity and learn to worship God through the discipline of tithing 10% (Leviticus 27:30). We expect that our leaders will tithe to the body of Christ wherever they are being spiritually fed, which in many cases is Chi Alpha.

Church Attendance: While we understand that Chi Alpha will probably be your primary community in Richmond, the local church should be essential to your Christian life (Hebrews 10:34-35; Ephesians 4:4-5).

IV. Chi Alpha Leadership's Statement of Faith

1. The Purpose of God

We affirm our belief in the one eternal God, Creator and Lord of the world, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who governs all things according to the purpose of His will. He has been calling out from the world a people for Himself, and sending His people back into the world to be His servants and His witnesses for the extension of His Kingdom, the building up of Christ's body, and the glory of His name.

2. The Authority and Power of the Bible

We affirm the divine inspiration, truthfulness, and authority of both Old and New Testament writings in their entirety as the only written word of God, without error in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:21, Isa. 55:11, Matt. 5:17-18)

3. The Uniqueness and Universality of Christ

We affirm that there is only one Savior and only one gospel. Jesus Christ, being Himself the only God-man, who gave Himself as the only ransom for sinners, is the only mediator between God and people. There is no other name by which we must be saved. All men and women are perishing because of sin, but God loves everyone, not wishing that any should perish but that all should repent. Yet those who reject Christ repudiate the joy of salvation and condemn themselves to eternal separation from God. Jesus Christ has been exalted above every other name; we long for the day when every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue

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shall confess Him Lord. (1 Tim. 2:5-6, Acts 4:12, John 3:16-19, 2 Pet. 3:9, Phil. 2:9-11)

4. The Nature of Evangelism

To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that as the reigning Lord, He now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gifts of the Spirit to all who repent and believe. Evangelism itself is the proclamation of the historical, Biblical Christ and Savior and Lord, with a view to persuading people to come to Him personally and so be reconciled to God. The results of evangelism include obedience to Christ, incorporation into His Church and responsible service in the world. (Matt. 28:18-20, John 20:21, Acts 2:32-39, 1 Cor. 5:20)

5. The Church and Evangelism

We affirm that Christ sends His redeemed people into the world as the Father sent Him, and that this calls for a similar deep and costly penetration of the world. (Matt. 28:19-20, John 17:18, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, Eph. 2:10)

6. Spiritual Conflict

We believe that we are engaged in constant spiritual warfare with the principalities and powers of evil, who are seeking to overthrow the Church and frustrate its task of world evangelization. We know our need to equip ourselves with God's armor and to fight this battle with the spiritual weapons of truth and prayer. (2 Cor. 4:3-4, 2 Cor. 10:3-5, Eph. 6:11-18)

7. The Power of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Father sent His Spirit to bear witness to His Son, without whose witness ours is futile. Conviction of sin, faith in Christ, new birth, and Christian growth are all His work. We also believe that all the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in Scripture are available today. Worldwide evangelization will become a realistic possibility only when the Spirit renews the Church in truth and wisdom, faith, holiness, love, and power. We therefore call upon all Christians to pray for such a visitation of the sovereign Spirit of God that all His fruit may appear in all His people and that all His gifts may enrich the body of Christ. (John 16:7-11, Acts 1:8, Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:4-31, Gal. 5:22-23)

8. The Return of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, to consummate His salvation and His judgment. (1 Thess. 4:13-18, Heb. 9:28, 2 Pet. 3:13, Rev. 21:1-5)