



WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION  
EXTRAORDINARY VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
WSCF LEADERSHIP ELECTION SESSION / 29–31 JULY 2021



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# CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

## SUMMARY OF SOME IMPORTANT PROVISIONS



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## ARTICLE II: AIMS

The aims of the World Student Christian Federation in all its work among members of the academic community shall be:

1. To call them to faith in God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - according to the Scriptures and to discipleship within the life and mission of the Church;
2. To help them to grow in Christian life through prayer, study of the Bible and participation in the worship and witness of the Church;
3. To help them to witness Jesus Christ in the academic community;
4. To bring them into fellowship with one another in mutual service and to support efforts to serve all students in their needs;
5. To help them to strive for peace and justice in and among nations;
6. To help them to work for the manifestation of the unity of the Church;
7. To help them to be servants and messengers of God's kingdom in all the world



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## COMPOSITION OF THE FEDERATION

1. Affiliated movements – usually one per country – aims, work and nature in harmony with those of WSCF, more than one branch – evidence of stability, strength and growth – able to vote once accepted into membership by a General Assembly
2. Associated movements – participate in life of WSCF but either do not wish to be affiliated or not accepted for affiliation.



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## REGIONS

General Assembly defines the regions.

Each region has a Regional Committee to formulate policy, promote contacts within region and with other regions, to:

- nominate and evaluate Regional Executive staff to be appointed by the Executive Committee,
- prepare annual regional budget to be submitted to the Executive Committee,
- nominate members to the Executive Committee,
- report to the Executive Committee and
- facilitate WSCF policies and programs.



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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Shall meet as a rule every 4 years or within a period of 6 years in extraordinary circumstances

## **Functions:**

- review and assess situation of member movements, situation in regions, work of Executive Committee, worldwide situation of WSCF
- consider ideas, problems and aspirations of member movements and regions and determine objectives and programs of WSCF
- elect the Officers: Chairperson, one or two Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom a student, Hon Treasurer and regional members of the Executive Committee.
- to approve or disapprove candidates for General Secretary nominated by the Executive Committee
- to consider and vote upon proposed changes to the Constitution
- to determine applications for affiliated status and review the status of affiliated movements, following recommendations by Executive Committee and in consultation with appropriate regional committee.



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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY (CONT.)

### Composition

- Official representative of Affiliated movements - have the right to vote – representation to be balanced in terms of gender and student representation, exceptions to this may be granted by the Executive Committee.
- Voting members of the retiring Executive Committee
- Those who may participate but not vote: Representatives of associated movements, delegates from partner organisations, observers invited by the Executive Committee, staff of the Federation, guests.

### Agenda

- The agenda is to be proposed by the Executive Committee at the first session of the General Assembly and may be altered or added to, moved from the floor of the Assembly by any voting member.

### Quorum

- Accredited representatives of more than half of the Affiliated Movements.



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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Composed of:

- Two persons from each region, at least one of whom shall be a student at the time of election and at least one a woman. They are to be named by each region and serve for the period between two General Assemblies. Their proxies shall also be approved by the Regional Committee.
- Officers elected at the General Assembly, who may speak but not vote.
- General Secretary and/or other Inter-Regional Executive Staff, Regional Executive Staff and other staff as deemed necessary.
- Resource persons and guests, who may speak but not vote.
- Interval between meetings shall be from 12 – 18 months, with Extraordinary meetings called if requested by two regions.
- **Quorum:** More than one half of the Elected members, of which at least one half shall be registered students at the time of their election.



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## FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Functions of the Executive Committee are to:

- fulfil the mandate of the General Assembly in between Assemblies to ensure interregional contacts and initiate interregional programs
- represent and interpret the needs of the Federation
- solicit an assessment of the situation of National Movements from the Regional Committee
- elect or appoint persons to various committee and task forces as necessary
- coordinate the finances, prepare and approve the WSCF budget in cooperation with the regional bodies
- act where there are no regional structures
- make, amend, repeal Bye-Laws concerning conduct of business of the Federation, its Commissions and Committees
- plan the General Assembly
- report to the General Assembly on work done in the last period
- fulfil Executive Committee vacancies.
- evaluate the inter-regional programs and work of the General Secretary.





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## STAFF

The Executive Committee shall:

- appoint staff, including the General Secretary ( subject to the approval of the General Assembly), other InterRegional Executive Staff and Regional Executive staff ( upon nomination by the Regional Committee, usually for a period of two years, with two further terms possible upon recommendation of the Regional Committee).
- The Executive Committee shall appoint the General Secretary and present to the General Assembly their choice for the General Secretary, for the approval of the General Assembly (or not). The usual term of a General Secretary is for the period between two General Assemblies, with the possibility of reappointment to serve only a second mandate.



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## MEMBERSHIP FEES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- Affiliated and Associated member movements shall pay a membership fee as determined from time to time by the General Assembly, to be reviewed at each Assembly.
- Other resources shall come from donations, legacies and all other sources approved by the General Assembly



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## LEGALITIES

- The legal headquarters of the Federation shall be at Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee.
- Regional headquarters shall be organised in different parts of the world by decision of the Executive Committee.
- The Federation is legal represented by its Executive Committee or by such persons as the Executive Committee empowers.
- The Federation shall be legally bound by the joint signature of two of the following: Chairperson or one of the Vice-Chairpersons or the Treasurer, and General Secretary. Any two of those people shall be able to employ others to act singly on behalf of the Federation in relation to particular matters, by power of attorney, where necessary.
- The contracts of the Regional and Inter-Regional Executive Staff shall be signed by two of the officers.
- Commitments of the Federation are guaranteed solely by its own assets. Members of governing bodies have no personal liability.



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# AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- Amendments to the Constitution shall come from member movements and the Executive Committee.
- Notice of proposed amendments shall be sent to each member movement not less than six months preceding the General Assembly.
- Amendments require a vote of two thirds of the voting members present at a General Assembly.



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## BYE-LAWS

The Executive Committee can make, amend and repeal bye-laws. Some existing bye-laws provide that:

- Voting at a General Assembly is by simple majority of voting members and in the event of a tie a vote is deemed to have been rejected.
- Voting in elections for Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and Hon Treasurer shall be by ballot, to be carried by a simple majority.
- The Executive Committee uses a consensus model and only votes where there is no possibility to reach a consensus.
- Standing committees are at least as follows:
  - Finance Committee,
  - Personnel Committee
  - Search Committee
  - Special committees – determined from time to time
  - Regional Committee.



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## PRESENTED BY THE WSCF CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION