

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
NEWMAN CLUB/BEARCAT CATHOLICS AT
LANDER UNIVERSITY**

Article I: Name

The name of this organization will be the Lander University Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics.

Article II: Mission and Purpose

The members of the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics are the presence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on the campus of Lander University. The members will strive to live in the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will bring this Spirit to the Lander University community by providing spiritual, service, and social opportunities to students, faculty, staff, and alumni. All members shall be in compliance to applicable federal, state, local, and University laws and regulations.

Article III: Membership

- A. Membership in the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics is open to all currently and actively enrolled undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and alumni of Lander University regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or ability.
- B. Active membership is determined by regular attendance and participation in organizational meetings and events. Students who do not maintain active membership in the club are considered Newman associates.
- C. All members shall be expected to participate in fundraising activities during the course of the year. Appropriate accountability for all activities shall be maintained by the Executive Council.
- D. Each member shall be expected to pay dues (either semester or yearly) as set by a vote of the general membership. All persons shall be given an appropriate deadline to pay dues. Any late submission of dues shall incur a \$ 25 penalty.

Article IV: Leadership and Organizational Structure

- A. The Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics has an executive board, known as the Executive Council, which is composed of a President and a Vice President; Spiritual, Service, Social, and Communications Committee Chairs.
- B. Other committees may be organized as necessary as seen fit by the council.
- C. The Newman Club shall be, by option of the Executive Council, a member of the any appropriate affiliate organizations through the University or subsidiary collegiate Catholic organizations recognized by the Archdiocese of Atlanta or the Diocese of Charleston.

Article V: Advisor, Chaplain, and Advisory Board

- A. The University Advisor of the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics must be a faculty and/or staff member in good standing at the University.
- B. The chaplain of the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics shall be the pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Greenwood, South Carolina or an alternate spiritual advisor appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston.

- C. An advisory board made up of the University Advisor, Chaplain, and at least two to three other faculty and staff members shall be installed to serve in advisory capacity to student officers and the general membership.

Article VI: Meetings

- A. Meetings will be open to all students, faculty and alumni as well as the Executive Council.
- B. Meetings will occur on a regular basis at least once a month. All members shall be notified via e-mail regarding regular and special meetings by the Vice President.
- C. For the purposes of any vote on Group-related matters, a quorum shall consist of 5 members, including at least two members of the Executive Council.
- D. Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall be used to ensure property meeting function and procedure.

Article VII: Responsibilities of Officers

A. President

1. This student will chair meetings of the Executive Board and the general membership.
2. This student has the authority to call additional meetings or cancel existing meetings.
3. This student must attend appropriate leadership meetings on the campus of Lander University as outlined by the Division of Student Affairs.
4. This student is responsible for ensuring that spiritual, social, and service events take place on a regular basis.
5. This student has the authority to delegate event responsibilities to other council members.
6. In his or her absence, the student will delegate the running of the meeting to the Vice President.
7. Any active undergraduate member of the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics is eligible to be elected to this office.

B. Vice-President

1. This student will take minutes at all Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics meetings.
2. This student will ensure that minutes are typed and distributed, via email, prior to the next meeting.
3. This student will maintain an archive of meeting minutes and any distributed materials.
4. This student is expected to contribute to the planning of spiritual, social and service events.
5. This student is responsible for ensuring that the Newman Club email list is updated and maintained.
6. This student is responsible for ensuring that the Newman Club web page is maintained and publishing the Bearcat Catholics newsletter once a term.
7. This student also assumes duties of president when the president is unavailable.
8. Any active undergraduate member of the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics is eligible to be elected to this office.

C. Treasurer

1. This student will oversee all finances
2. This student will be responsible for compiling the annual budget and reporting the quarterly summary of expenditures.
3. This student will over see the planning and execution of fundraising events. All finances and fundraising activities shall be used for philanthropic, educational, and spiritual functions and shall be subjected to appropriate Lander University regulations.
4. This student is expected to contribute to the planning of spiritual, social and service events.
5. Any active undergraduate member of the Newman Catholic Community is eligible to be elected to this office.
6. Any active member of the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics is eligible to be elected to this office.
- 7. Duties and responsibilities of officers may be flexible depending on the qualifications of the officer**

Article VII: Elections

- A. Nominations and elections will be held once a year, unless a vacancy occurs.
- B. All active undergraduate members may run for office.
- C. All those wishing to run for an office must announce their intentions to the President, or accept nomination from another, before the day of the election.
- D. The election process will be a ballot on which all positions are printed. All active members may vote. The advisor does not vote.
- E. Ballots will be counted by a member not running for office. The count is supervised by the advisor.
- F. Successful candidates receive a simple majority of votes cast. When there is no majority, there will be a runoff with the two candidates with the most votes on the ballot. In the event of a tie, the position will be decided by the Advisor.
- G. If a vacancy occurs, a special election should be held at the next meeting following the announcement of the vacancy.

Article X: Ratification

This Constitution must be ratified by a majority of students, faculty, and staff who expressed interest in the formation of the organization.

Article XI: Amendments

Prospective amendments to the constitution shall be submitted to the membership at least one week before an appropriate vote. Any changes to this Constitution must be voted upon by the Newman Club/Bearcat Catholics and approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Article XII: Dissolution

- A. Proposal for voluntary dissolution of the organization must be submitted to the members of the Executive Council and must be voted on by active club members.
- B. There must be 100% support for the proposal in order to disband the club.
- C. Dissolution in the eyes of Lander University may, for cause, be ordered by the Division of Student Affairs.