



# CONSORTIUM OF CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTERS

PO Box 6555 | Charlottesville, VA 22906 | 434.296.3333  
info@cscmovement.org | www.cscmovement.org

---

## MEMBERSHIP PACKET TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Membership Benefits. . . . .</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Membership Requirements. . . . .</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Membership Fee Structure. . . . .</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>CCSC Common Vision and Core Commitments. . . . .</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>CCSC History. . . . .</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>CCSC Mission Statement and Strategies . . . . .</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>CCSC Doctrinal Stance. . . . .</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>CCSC Programs. . . . .</u>	<u>10</u>

# CCSC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

## CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTER

1. Membership gives your center easy access to other study centers' practices, personnel, and other resources.
2. Membership makes your center part of a national network of study centers and other organizations, all of which have a similar interest in the intersection of the Christian faith and the University.
3. Membership demonstrates ethical and doctrinal clarity and organizational responsibility in the public eye.
4. Membership gives your center attendance privileges at our Annual Meeting, and therefore access to seminars, lectures and discussions on the following topics, which will be addressed within their relation to Christian faith through specific examples:
  - Theological, cultural, doctrinal and biblical issues e.g. higher education, spiritual formation, cultural engagement, the arts, politics, literature, film, music
  - Academic issues including current discussion within individual disciplines in the humanities, hard sciences, social sciences, medicine, and law
  - Practical issues including fundraising, management, legal changes, financial, organizational and structural development.
5. Membership gives your center access to consulting and teaching services provided by the Consortium staff.
6. Membership gives your center's representatives discounts on event registrations and other goods and services, e.g. subscriptions to magazines and journals of partner organizations.

# CCSC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

## CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTER

1. Agreement with the CCSC mission statement and goals and willingness to uphold both.
2. Full agreement, or a substantial agreement, whose exceptions have been stated in writing and approved by the CCSC Membership Committee, with the Apostles' Creed in all its particulars.
3. Full agreement, or a substantial agreement, whose exceptions have been stated in writing and approved by the CCSC Membership Committee, with the common vision and core commitments of what a Christian study center is as articulated in the document "The Common Vision and Core Commitments of a Christian Study Center".
4. Creation of log-in ID on the CCSC website [www.cscmovement.org](http://www.cscmovement.org) (forthcoming).
5. Agreement to make a good faith effort to attend the Annual Meeting of the CCSC and any other CCSC-sponsored meetings.
6. Agreement that your institution is an accepted 501(c)(3) institution by the Internal Revenue Service.
7. Willingness to make available such information about your study center's programs, finances, attendance or other matters that would be of use by the CCSC in compiling a profile for the CCSC. The CCSC covenants to keep this information in the strictest confidence and not to divulge it in any form other than as part of a greater statistical or informational whole.
8. Payment of annual membership dues prior to Jan. 1 of the year in which one seeks membership. Complete annual dues must be received by the CCSC office before membership benefits can be received by the member.

## CCSC MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Dues Deadline: Dec 31 of the year prior. Late fee of \$50 is assessed if dues are not paid by Jan 31 of the year for which they are due. Please note that for those under a parent organization, e.g. a church, the budget referred to in this table is that of the parent organization.

2026 (to be paid by Dec 31, 2025)

<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Membership Fee</b>
≤\$250K/yr	\$330/yr
>\$250K to \$500K/yr	\$650/yr
>\$500K to \$1M/yr	\$1,100/yr
>\$1,000,000/yr	\$2,200/yr

2027 (to be paid by Dec 31, 2026)

<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Membership Fee</b>
≤\$250K/yr	\$360/yr
>\$250K to \$500K/yr	\$700/yr
>\$500K to \$1M/yr	\$1,200/yr
>\$1,000,000/yr	\$2,400/yr

# THE COMMON VISION AND CORE COMMITMENTS OF A CHRISTIAN STUDY CENTER

## *A Common Vision*

Christian study centers encourage honest answers to honest questions. They celebrate the enterprise of learning and value scholarship for the good and useful thing it is. Christian study centers regard the local college or university they serve as a friend, a friend with whom they may have deep differences, but a friend nonetheless. Instead of viewing academic discourse as the exercise of power, Christian study centers seek to provide an environment in which discussion of the larger questions of philosophy and life takes place from a variety of viewpoints, never eschewing the importance of spirited debate, but equally never forgetting the value of love to the discovery of truth.

The rich variety of organization, programs, strengths and emphases of the Christian study centers now in existence and coming into existence in the U.S. and around the world presents a challenge when one tries to articulate a set of core values that set them apart from other institutions. Indeed, the Consortium of Christian Study Centers (CCSC) holds as one of its central principles a respect for the individuality of any particular center. At the same time there are many commitments study centers hold in common, all of which flow from a desire to address a familiar challenge.

Study centers seek to retrieve Christian faith from the margins of academia and academic life by raising tough questions and holding forth counter-cultural challenges to the prevailing zeitgeist. These questions and challenges bear witness to a robust Christian vision of human need and human flourishing. Through a diverse range of activities, from small group discussions to larger seminars, campus-wide lectures, conferences, from efforts to connect with students to those that serve faculty and administrators, from personal mentoring to retreats, study centers have as a common aim the integration of Christian faith and learning with life. In all of their work, they take seriously the nurturing of Christian faith in the context of the contemporary university and the current academic scene.

At the same time as they seek to aid the individual, Christian study centers also desire to enter into the institutional life of the university, contributing to the university's health and progress. Study centers strive to be servants to the thought-life of the university, standing alongside university departments and organizations in providing lectures and discussions that add to that body of knowledge the university is responsible to provide for our society. Centers also often participate in the social life of the university and serve in many places as important contributors to the university's efforts to create an atmosphere of respect, tolerance and social health in which true learning can take place.

## *Core Commitments*

The broad common vision described above gives birth to a number of core commitments, which CCSC member institutions share. These are:

- A commitment to Jesus Christ and to the mission of Christ as both servants and witnesses within the world.
- A commitment to the life of the mind and to the integration of faith and learning as crucial areas of Christian discipleship and witness.
- A commitment to the unity of the human person and the treatment of questions of all kinds as important for the development of the human spirit.
- A commitment to the well-being of any local university or college, with whom the center has either a formal or informal relationship.
- A commitment to public integrity and accountability in all aspects of the center, including the personal character of the Board and staff, finances, relationships with other organizations, and the relationship with the university or college it serves.
- A commitment to the mission and purposes of the CCSC as described in its vision statement and goals.
- A commitment to the work of the church broadly, without reference to any specific denomination.

# HISTORY OF THE CONSORTIUM

## 1970s & 1980s

The Consortium of Christian Study Centers grew out of the grassroots Christian study center movement. University-based study centers, influenced by destination study centers such as L'Abri and the lay theological education movement led by Regent College (Vancouver, BC), first emerged in North America in the 1970s and 1980s. The earliest centers include the Center for Christian Study (UVA, Charlottesville, 1975), New College Berkeley (UC Berkeley, 1977), and the MacLaurin Institute (UMN, Twin Cities, 1982).

## 1990s

The 1990s was a fertile decade for Christian scholarship generally and the study center movement in particular. Taking to heart the message of manifestos for Christian learning such as Mark Noll's *Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* (1994) and George Marsden's *Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship* (1997), combined with the creative and catalytic periodical *Books & Culture: A Christian Review*, new centers began popping up, mostly at research universities. By the end of the decade, these included Rivendell Institute (Yale, 1995), the Christian Study Center of Gainesville (UF, 2000), and Chesterton House (Cornell, 2000). In 1998, when Drew Trotter was invited to give the Francis Schaeffer Memorial Lectures at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, a handful of center directors intentionally gathered to discuss their common vision for the first time.

## 2000s

Similar informal gatherings of center directors continued intermittently for about a decade. In July 2007, a dozen directors gathered at Chesterton House and resolved to formalize their collective endeavor. In July 2008, representatives of six centers met in St. Paul, MN and officially formed the Consortium of Christian Study Centers. The founders were Randy Bare of Westminster House (UC, Berkeley), Rick Howe of the Dayspring Institute, (CU Boulder), Karl Johnson of Chesterton House, Dave Mahan of Rivendell Institute, Bob Osburn of the MacLaurin Institute (now Anselm House), and Drew Trotter of the Center for Christian Study. They crafted a mission statement, adopted by-laws, and appointed Trotter as full-time Executive Director, to begin Jan. 1, 2009.

## 2010s

With the mission of service to member centers, in 2011 the Consortium held its first Annual Meeting—an opportunity for center staff to engage one another in workshops and seminars related to all aspects of center management and programming, as well as to hear keynote addresses from invited scholars. Twenty-two representatives attended. Johnson, Mahan and Trotter led a panel discussion, sharing insights on what they had learned in a combined fifty years of Study Center experience. Attendees included several recent center founders, including Missy DeRegibus of Cogito (Hampden-Sydney College, 2010), Chad Donohoe, The Oread Center for Christian Thought (KU Lawrence, 2012), Rimes McElveen of Mere Christianity Forum (Furman, 2001), Ben

Sanders of Arizona Center for Christian Studies (ASU, 2011) as well as Edward Dixon, who would soon start the Center for Christianity and Scholarship (Duke, 2012).

Also in 2011, the Consortium held its first Symposium—an opportunity for center staff and board members to meet for discussion with an author of a recent book over a 24-hour retreat. Eighteen center staff and board members representing nine centers met with James Davison Hunter to discuss *To Change the World*. Hunter's notion of faithful presence soon became an influential complement to the movement's earlier emphasis on Christian scholarship.

In 2016, the Consortium rolled out The Vocation Project, which allows center-affiliated students to attend two weeks of summer school at Regent College in Vancouver, BC and engage in discussions of vocation and Christian life and study with Dr. Trotter and various visiting scholars.

By the end of the decade, the Consortium had 29 member centers and 32 partner organizations. The Consortium office in Charlottesville had 2.5 staff members including Elaine Rollogas, who joined the Consortium as its first full-time Operations Manager in 2014, and Marie Trotter, who became Administrative Assistant in 2016. The Annual Meeting in Chicago drew over 80 participants. At the meeting, a letter from Johnson, Board Chair, was read indicating that Trotter would step down as Executive Director in December 2020.

## **2020 & Beyond**

Despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Meeting, the movement continued to grow and thrive. In January 2021, Karl Johnson succeeded Drew Trotter as Executive Director, while Trotter assumed the new role of Senior Scholar. The 2021 Annual Meeting, held virtually over five days spread throughout the month of July, included over 40 workshops and was attended by over 100 staff and board members. In the fall of that year, the Consortium held a well-attended webinar featuring New Testament scholar N.T. Wright.

Five new centers joined the Consortium in 2020 and 2021, and several existing centers embarked on multi-million-dollar capital campaigns related to the purchase and remodeling of physical facilities. At the end of 2021, a survey found that two-thirds of centers own their own facility.

During the winter of 2021-2022, Kim Glass joined the staff team as Communications and Development Manager, and Charity Wahrenberger became the ministry's Internship Program Director. Kim promptly redesigned the webpage and also the e-newsletter, now called *Periscope*. The new Internship Program was made possible by grants from three foundations totaling more than \$500,000. In the summer of 2022, we finally reconvened in person for the 12th Annual Meeting at Upper House, the study center at UW Madison.

In 2023, the Annual Meeting was held at the brand new Anselm House facility in Minneapolis, MN with 120 attendees. Executive Directors enjoyed a pre-conference

with philosopher Oliver O'Donovan, and on the last evening we honored Drew Trotter for his many years of service to the Consortium and the movement.

2024 was another year of healthy and steady growth for the Consortium. In addition to formally receiving our first international center into the network (Saviourgate Study Centre in York, England), we are in contact with a dozen emerging centers in Argentina, Germany, Hungary, South Africa, and elsewhere. The Annual Meeting, hosted by the North Carolina Study Center, reached new heights with nearly 150 attendees, and the Internship Program also continued along its growth trajectory—from five to eight full-time interns.

By January 2025, the Consortium put the finishing touches on its first strategic plan and embarked on its first capital campaign. Dr. Fred Barber joined the team as Director of Strategic Initiatives. With Fred's expertise in organizational design and program planning, we aim to speed up the process of starting new hubs of Christian community, hospitality and learning at strategically located secular universities. The Annual Meeting was held at the marvelously renovated Center for Christian Study in Charlottesville.

## MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIES OF THE CONSORTIUM

The Consortium of Christian Study Centers is organized and operated to integrate Christian faith and learning with life and to cultivate Christian faith in the context of the contemporary university by catalyzing and empowering thoughtful Christian presence and practice at colleges and universities around the world, in service of the common good.

In pursuit of this mission, the Consortium has the following strategies:

- a. To facilitate the flourishing of existing Christian study centers
- b. To encourage the development of new Christian study centers
- c. To raise awareness of the Christian study center movement

## DOCTRINAL STANCE OF THE CONSORTIUM

Christian study centers seek to inhabit and serve the academic campuses and communities of which we are a part, and to do so as Christians. While welcoming persons of all faiths to events and programming, the Consortium and its members affirm the historic, orthodox beliefs of the Christian faith as summarized in the Apostles' Creed.

## PROGRAMS OF THE CONSORTIUM

### Annual Meeting

The CCSC's Annual Meeting takes place in the summer in a retreat-like atmosphere in order to provide member study center staff and Board members to share best practices, hear stimulating lectures to enhance their vision and work, and interact with each other and with selected partner organization personnel. Special topics of academic and cultural interest are interlaced with discussion of the programs various study centers employ and presentations by experts in such practical fields as fund raising, strategic planning and legal issues related to non-profit organizations. Much of the benefit of the Annual Meeting comes in conversations at meal and break times. Anyone who has an interest in the study center movement is invited for practical instruction, spiritual encouragement, academic stimulation, and open discussion of the Consortium and how it can best help study centers.

### Internship Program

The CCSC's Internship Program provides training, development and coaching for recent college graduates serving at Christian study centers for one year. Interns receive experience in programming, operations and fundraising, and they develop a better understanding of their vocational goals and their place in God's kingdom. On a day-to-day basis, interns work with center staff to provide programming and opportunities for students. Over the course of the year, interns benefit from exposure to the study center movement through CCSC's Annual Meeting and other opportunities to interact with interns and staff at other study centers and foundations. This is a full-time, paid internship that includes a vocational mentor and ongoing training with a cohort of other young professionals. Housing and some funds are provided; fundraising training is also provided to assist interns with raising additional support.

### Partner Organizations

The CCSC is a national nexus of Christian learning, and we are pleased to partner with dozens of organizations interested in working with study centers. Partner organizations are diverse but all share one thing in common: they are interested in working with study centers to advance the mission of Christian learning on secular university campuses.

### Communications Services

The CCSC offers communications services on an as-needed basis for member study centers through its Communications & Development Manager. This person is available to be engaged on whatever communications-related projects member study centers have, including annual reports, event flyers, press releases, social media management,

virtual event assistance, among other things. The purpose of this initiative is to relieve study centers from needing to find and hire the right talent.

### Prayer Initiative

The CCSC encourages regular prayer by and for member centers through a monthly email that consists of prayer requests gathered from study centers. The importance of prayer cannot be overemphasized in our work, and CCSC hopes this practice will add not only information but also the rejoicing, petitioning and imitating in our movement between member centers.

### Resources

The CCSC's website is an important tool for keeping member institutions aware of each other and of resources useful to them. A monthly news and events email called *Periscope* has several purposes: detailing activities of the Consortium, its member study centers, and its partner organizations; connecting readers to the CCSC website; and sharing news and announcements within the movement. Located within the study center portal (to be released in 2024) is a repository of legal and structural documents for understanding and implementing the framing of a Christian study center. The CCSC also has a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter to keep followers up to date on related news and activities.

### Consultation and Advice

The Executive Director offers consultations with staff and Board Members of present study centers, and also with groups interested in developing Centers, to offer advice and mentoring. The Executive Director has 20+ years of experience with leading and managing study centers and can provide invaluable guidance and coaching for others. In addition, his speaking engagements and writings promote awareness of the study center movement.