

Brothers Under Christ

BYX

Beta Upsilon Chi

Covenant Agreement

2017

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”

Psalm 133:1



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A Note from Nationals

Brothers –

Brothers Under Christ was formed at The University of Texas at Austin in the spring of 1985 by a handful of Christian men desiring an alternative to the current fraternal lifestyle. A group of Christian men met and planned the first “BYX Island Party” to formally announce the fraternity’s founding. It was the vision of the founding fathers to have a fraternity of committed Christian men, based on the unique brotherhood that a Christian atmosphere affords, for the purpose of fellowship and glorification of Jesus Christ. Through such events as parties, service projects, and evangelical outreaches, the charter members of Beta Upsilon Chi chose to unite in fellowship and glorify Jesus Christ on the University of Texas campus.

Over thirty-two years later, Beta Upsilon Chi is a national fraternity head-quartered in Fort Worth, Texas. The Lord has blessed the ministry of BYX, choosing to expand it to thirty-five universities across sixteen states. On this day, you have chosen to renew your covenant with Beta Upsilon Chi. This commitment is not to be taken lightly. It is an honor and a privilege to be considered a member of this fraternity. This covenant carries with it a responsibility. By signing it, you are committing your semester to demonstrating the character worthy of being a member of Beta Upsilon Chi.

The brotherhood and unity built in the company of these men will no doubt change your life forever. A BYX alumnus said this about BYX and its impact on his life, “As spiritual brothers we stand back to back and fight the good fight together, standing in the gap and binding one another’s wounds when trouble comes. It’s been one of the greatest thrills of my life to be even a small part of this fraternity for years now.” As a member of BYX you will have the opportunity to be poured into as well to pour into the lives of your brothers. You will have the expectation to continually serve your brothers long after you have completed your college days through alumni involvement and financial giving to ensure that the next generation of young college men will have the same opportunity to be edified by the brotherhood of BYX.

This semester you have brothers across the country, including fellow pledges, active members, and alumni continually praying for you. Know that the National Office of Beta Upsilon Chi is praying with you and for you as you embark on this journey of brotherhood and unity with brothers throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Jason Hoyt
President and COO



The Purpose of BYX

The Purpose of Beta Upsilon Chi is to establish brotherhood and unity among college aged men, based on the common bond of Jesus Christ.

The Identity of BYX

We are a lifelong brotherhood of committed Christian men seeking the bonds of brotherhood and unity in Christ through the avenue of a social fraternity on a college campus.

Doctrinal Statement

1. We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
2. We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man, that it is uniquely inspired, and wholly authoritative. (Matthew 4:4, Matthew 5:18, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miraculous works, His substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, His present ministry of intercession for us, and His return to earth in power and glory. (Zechariah 4: 4-11, Matthew 24-25, Luke 1:35, John 1:1, John 1:14, John 14:1-3, Acts 1:11, Romans 3:24-26, Titus 2:13, Revelation 19-20)
4. We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that He performs the miracle of regeneration in new believers--sealing them for the day of redemption--and then indwells them, thus enabling them to live godly lives. (John 3:3-7, John 16:7-11, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Galatians 5:16-25)
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, became alienated from God. But God, while we were still sinners, demonstrated His own love toward us by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross in our place. Thus, the removal of that alienation was made possible by His grace, and indeed has been applied to everyone who has trusted in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ alone for his salvation. (Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3:1-24, John 1:12, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:10-12, Ephesians 1:17, Ephesians 2:8-12, Titus 3:5-6)



Honor Code

The BYX Honor Code is intended to preserve the identity and purpose of BYX. It promotes brotherhood and unity by encouraging conduct that glorifies Jesus Christ. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all sins outlined in the Scriptures. It addresses specific issues pertinent to college men and detrimental to the social and spiritual witness of Beta Upsilon Chi. Each violation of the Honor Code should be dealt with in an active, loving and Gospel-centered manner that maintains unity so far as it depends on you.

1. The organizational position of BYX is that the consumption of alcohol in and of itself is not a sin. However, if the consumer is under the legal age limit set by the state, then for him it is sin. Also, if the consumption of alcohol takes the form of abuse, that is sin as well. Therefore, we prohibit any under-age drinking, alcohol abuse, or recreational drug use of any kind by BYX pledges and members.
2. The organizational position of BYX is that sex is a great gift of God to be enjoyed only inside God's established covenant of marriage. Therefore, we do not condone sexual immorality in the lives of our members.
3. The organizational position of BYX is that our conduct should induce praise-not disgrace-of our Lord and Savior from anyone who should be watching us. Every believer should strive to be above reproach and to maintain a good reputation with those outside the Church. Therefore, with respect to the purity and effectiveness of our witness, we submit the following:
 - a. We prohibit alcohol consumption by BYX officers and prohibit alcohol consumption by any member while wearing BYX paraphernalia.
 - b. We expect all BYX chapters to conduct their affairs responsibly, humbly, and forthrightly with those involved in the administration of their university, with other campus organizations, and with any such business whom they may engage.
4. We expect that brothers will not impugn the BYX Doctrinal Statement and Honor Code standards. It is of utmost importance to BYX that it preserves the integrity of its communications to the community. We thus require brothers to speak and live in a manner consistent with the ethical, moral and doctrinal positions that BYX advocates, so that its message is not contradicted, diminished, or discounted by the departures of its representatives. If a brother through word, symbol, or deed publicly advocates points of view on Christian belief that are at odds with the BYX Doctrinal Statement, or publicly advocates in favor of conduct that violates the foregoing terms of this Honor Code, he shall be subject to appropriate counsel and discipline.
5. We expect that all brothers adhere to the laws that govern our land unless those laws contradict God's laws.



Discipline

A majority of the campus executive officers may vote to recommend removal or suspension of a brother from membership for conduct deemed to be seriously in conflict with biblical principles, the BYX Honor Code, or fraternity purpose. The recommendation will be presented to the National President who will, in turn, seek the counsel of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must first approve all suspensions, expulsions, or other major disciplinary action. Attempts at reconciliation through confrontation and encouragement should be tried before any suspension or other severe measure. The focus must ultimately be to help the brother in his relationship with Christ. If he is unwilling to receive help and conform to guidance, then disciplinary actions will be considered and may be employed.

Pledgeship Goals

The purpose of pledgeship shall be to:

- a. acquaint active fraternity members and pledges, and build unity among all fraternity members spiritually, socially, and intellectually, as set forth in Article II, Section 2 of the BYX Constitution.
- b. contribute to spiritual growth and build Christ-Like character in the pledges, and
- c. develop in the pledges a commitment to and proper respect for the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity and what it stands for.

The pledge captain/trainer shall be responsible for seeing that pledgeship is carried out properly. Pledgeship should include exercises in spiritual, social, and intellectual discipline and participation in group projects. Pledgeship shall not be degrading, humiliating, or damaging to the pledge, but rather a positive and edifying experience. All responsibilities given to the pledges or tasks required of pledges shall be geared towards achieving a positive, specific purpose. The length of pledgeship shall be one semester and shall conclude in the pledges becoming active members if they have fulfilled all the expectations of pledgeship.

Hazing Policy

Hazing is forbidden and will not be tolerated within BYX. Pledges are to be served by the active members as Christ came to serve. Once a pledge becomes a member, he has the right and obligation to serve future pledges. Any mistreatment of pledges or members violates the purposes of this fraternity. If at any time a pledge feels uncomfortable with an activity, he should first take his concern to the pledge trainers, then to the other executive officers of the chapter. If that is not reasonable, the pledge should contact the national office to inform its personnel of his concern. We expect all BYX chapters, alumni, members, and pledges to abide by the governing laws of your respective state and university.



Attendance Policy

If a member misses three meetings in a semester, the secretary or another officer shall contact the member to constructively discuss the problem. Such meetings include chapter meeting, cell group meeting, full/member retreat and other required events/meetings set out by the executive officers. If a member misses a fourth meeting in a semester, that member shall be inactive in the fraternity and disallowed to complete that semester as an active member.

Sexual Abuse and Harassment

Zero Tolerance Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy

Sexual abuse within the fraternity or any fraternity-related activity is criminal behavior and is not tolerated by Beta Upsilon Chi (BYX). It is the policy of BYX that sexual abuse by any member towards another member, Board Member towards a member, any alumni towards a member, any faculty towards a member, any member towards a third party, or any third party towards a member is prohibited. A violation of this policy will be subject to criminal penalties and fraternity sanctions. No individual, no matter his position, within the organization has the authority to commit or allow sexual abuse. Sexual harassment as well, is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Sexual abuse includes sexual molestation, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or sexual injury, but does not include sexual harassment. Any incidents of sexual abuse reasonably believed to have occurred will be reportable to appropriate law enforcement agencies, university authorities, and/or regulatory agencies.

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical, that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating or coercive. Sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Reporting Procedure

Any member of BYX and others who believe(s) he has been the victim, or if you are aware of, or suspect sexual abuse or harassment taking place, are encouraged to immediately report the incident to a member of the BYX Chapter Officer Corps who then will immediately report it to a member of the BYX National Staff. National Staff will then determine to notify appropriate university authorities, and/or the local 911 authorities.



Covenant Agreement

I _____, certify that I have read and understood the foregoing material, including the Purpose and Identity Statement, Doctrinal Statement, and Honor Code of Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity. I hereby covenant and agree that as a follower of Jesus Christ I will strive to uphold and adhere to the above Honor Code. When I do sin, I commit to bringing it into the light through confession and repentance in order that the Lord might, in His grace, continue to transform me from the power of sin, and conform me more into the image of Jesus for His glory and my joy in Him. In this spirit, as part of my restoration process, I will also subject myself to the discipline of this Fraternity as outlined in its Charter, Constitution, and Bylaws.

I understand that if I am absent four times from required meetings during this semester, I cannot remain an active member of BYX this semester. As a member, I will respect all members, pledges and executive officers, earning their respect as a BYX fraternity brother as well as a brother in Christ.

I understand that active membership in BYX is a privilege. My BYX experience should conform to the terms of the BYX purpose statement, its Honor Code, its Doctrinal Statement, Hazing Policy, and Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy. If at any time I identify apparent departures from these governing standards, I promise to use the open channels of communication within BYX to seek to have that matter addressed. I will first approach one of the chapter officers to share my concerns. If I feel the need to take an additional step, I will utilize the chapter's website and notify the National Office by going to www.betaupsilonchi.org and clicking on the "Contact" then "Feedback" button to report my concern.

I recognize that my commitment to the fraternity is a commitment for the rest of my undergraduate years as an active member and a life time commitment as an active alumnus. I understand that as I become a mature member of BYX it is my responsibility to serve the younger members and pledges. I pledge to serve these men, as is my calling through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior.

Printed Name Date

Member Signature Date

Officer Signature Date