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**ACCI Constitution**

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*ACCI Constitution*

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE APOSTLES' CONTINUATION  
CHURCH INTERNATIONAL**

PREAMBLE:

**1. Whereas** we regard The Apostles' Continuation Church International (hereinafter called "**The Church**") as part of the body of **Christ** which traces its origin to the ministry which Apostle Emmanuel Kwadwo Owusu and eight others began in 1980 culminating in the registration of the Apostles' Continuation Church Ghana, Duayaw Nkwanta 1991 and of which **Jesus Christ** is the head.

**2. a. And whereas** on the first day of September, 1995, the Apostles' Continuation Church International as its new name and thereafter registered its Board of Trustees with its new name on 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 1999 under certificate No. GS, 434 as non-profit making religious organization.

**b. Headquarters of the Church-**The Church's Headquarters shall for ever be at Duayaw-Nkwanta with the exception of Regional and District Offices which shall be opened for transmission of accounting returns and office correspondence.

3. a. **And whereas** the main aims and objectives of the church are to practice and also inculcate in others, what the Lord Jesus Christ had commended in the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) with particular reference to Mark 16:15-16 “Go ye into the entire world and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved”.

b. The Doctrine of the Church/Order of Service:-

The church’s Doctrine and Order of Service is divine and as such shall never be changed until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. What follows from the next page in this document (from article one up to fifteen) is officially declared to be the constitution which shall guide the Church in carrying out the work of the Lord and that by this constitution the Church is again empowered to liaise and/ or affiliate with other Churches, organizations, associations, clubs etc. with similar doctrines, aims and objectives, as well as using all net income/receipts for religious, educational and charitable/humanitarian purposes.

**And in solemn** declaration and affirmation of our commitment to carry out the **LORD’S commission** and all the Basis of Faith of our Church.

**Do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this CONSTITUTION**

## STATUTE I

### BASIS OF FAITH

#### ARTICLE 1 BASIS OF FAITH

**1.1 THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Bible, comprising the old and New Testaments as originally given, is the inspired and infallible word of God. It is therefore the sole and sufficient rule in all matters of faith, conduct and practice (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet 1:20,21).

**1.2 THE ONE TRUE GOD:** We believe in the existence and unity of the Godhead the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as equally divine, eternal and personal, and in the sovereignty of God in creation providence and redemption. (Gen 1:1; Isa 6:3; Matt. 3:16-17; Jn. 5:7)

**1.2.1 God the Father:** We believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity and is the eternal, unchanging, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, all-loving, completely just and perfectly holy, sovereign Ruler and Sustainer of the universe. He is the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the Father of all true believers (Gen 1:1; Eph 4:6; John 1:12-13, 5:19-21, 17:1-5, Isa. 40:21-28, 43:10-13, 46:8-11, Rom 8:14-16)

**1.2.2 God the Son:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity and is the only begotten eternal Son of God, who became flesh to reveal God to man, to fulfil prophecy, and to become the Saviour of the lost world. In becoming man Jesus

did not cease in anyway to be God so that He is fully God and fully man inseparably united in one person forever.

Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; lived a sinless life; died on the cross as the substitution, all-sufficient atoning sacrifice for all of the sins of all men of all time; was buried; bodily rose from the dead; physically ascended into heaven in His glorified, resurrected body; is seated at the right hand of the Father performing His ministry of intercession; will return in the air to claim His bride the church; and will come again to the earth in bodily form, personally and visibly, to conclude human history and consummate God's eternal plan by executing judgment and ushering in His Millennial Kingdom reign to be followed by the eternal state. (John 1:1, 14:18, 3:16; Luke 1:30-35; Phil 2:5-8; Col 2:3,9; Mark 10:45, Acts 2:22-24; John 1:29; Rom 3:25-26; Heb 10:5-14, 1Pet 2:24, 3:18; John 20:20; Phil 3:20-21; Heb 1:3; Rom 8:34; 1 John 2:1; Acts 1:11; Heb 9:28; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 2Thess 2:7; Matt 24:44; Rev 19:11-21; Rev 21-22)

**1.2. 3 God the Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity Who specially came into the world on the day of Pentecost to glorify Christ to enable men to appropriate the salvation brought by Christ. He is the primary agent for the conviction of sin and for regeneration. Simultaneously with salvation, the Holy Spirit imparts new life, baptises the believer into the body of Christ (His church), permanently indwells the believer, and securely seals the believer unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit fills (directs and controls) those

believers who are yielded to Him, enables believers to bear fruit, and empowers believers to live a life free from sin's dominion. We also believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers for the purpose of edifying the church in accordance with the teachings of scripture. (1Cor 13:8, 14:22; John 16:7-15; 1Cor 6:19, 12:13; Eph 1:13-14, 4:30; Gal 5:16-17, 22:23, Rom 8:5-13, 1Pet 10-11; Rom 12:3-8)

**1.4 MAN'S DEPRIVED NATURE:** We believe that human nature since the fall of mankind is universally sinful and guilty, rendering mankind subject to God's wrath and condemnation; and need repentance and regeneration. (Gen 3:1-19; Isa 53:6, Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30, Gen 3:3; 2Pet 1:4)

**1.5 THE SAVIOUR:** We believe that redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin is ONLY through the sacrificial Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ; His intercession and second coming (John 1:1, 8:46, 14:30, 20:28, Col 1:15, 2Cor 5:19, Rom 3:25, Acts 2:36, Phil 2:9-11, Heb 9:24, 1 Thes 4:16-17, Luke 21:17, Rev 22:20)

**1.5.1 Satan:** We believe that Satan is the instigator of evil and a real spirit being, not simply the personification of evil. He is a fallen angel who, under the sovereign permission of God, has been given temporary rulership of the earth. He was utterly defeated at the cross, but the execution of his judgment has been postponed by God until after the Millennial Kingdom when he will be cast into the eternal lake of fire. In the meantime, he deceives the world and seeks to establish his counterfeit Kingdom .

on earth to discredit and blaspheme God and to tempt, accuse, attack and destroy believers. He can be resisted by the believer through faith and reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit. (Gen 3:1-5; Isa 14:12-17; Ezek 28:11-19; Job 1-2; 1John 5:19; 2Cor 11:14; 1Tim 3:6, 1Pet 5:8-9; James 4:7; Rev 12:9, 20:1-3; 7-10).

**1.6 REPENTANCE, JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION:** We believe all men have to repent from their sinful nature, confess their sins and believe on the vicarious death of Christ Jesus before they can be justified before God. We believe in the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in conviction, conversion and the indwelling work of the spirit in the believer and in God's gift of eternal life. (Rom 3:4; Gal 5:16-17, 5:22-23; Rom 6:23, 8:11; John 10:28)

**1.7 THE CHURCH:** We believe that the one Holy Universal Church, to which all who truly believe belong, is the Body of Christ. It is by nature one and a unity, uniformity being unnecessary to it.

**1.8 THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** We believe in the sacrament of Baptism by immersion in water as a clear testimony of a convert who has attained responsible age (15 years, Mk. 16:16; Lk 3:21). Infants and children are however DEDICATED to the Lord (Lk. 2:22-24, 34; Mk 16:16)

**1.9 BAPTISM AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers with signs following the operation of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit according to (1Cor 12:8-11, Mk 16:17; Acts 2:4; Gal 5:22)

**1.10 NEXT LIFE:** We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Resurrection of both believers and non-believers, and the judgment of the world by Him, the eternal blessedness of the righteous and mankind (unrighteous) to eternal punishment (damnation). (Rom 2:7; 6:2, 1Jn 1:2, 2:25; Rev 2:7; Job 19:26; Jn 5:28; 11:23; 1Cor 15:2; Col 3:3; 2Pet 1:11)

**1.11 TITHES & OFFERING:** We believe in tithing and free will offerings (giving) in support of God's work. (Gen 14:20; Mal 3:10; 2Cor 9:9; Heb 7:1-4; Lk 6:38; Acts 20:35)

**1.12 DIVINE HEALING:** We believe in the atonement, the healing of the sick provided for God's people (Mk 16:18; Matt 8:17; James 5:14-16; Isa 53:4-5; 1Jn 3:8; Lk 13:16; Acts 10:38). However, we do not oppose to seeking the assistance of qualified medical practitioners or any health orders of the government.

## **ARTICLE 2 COMMON SEAL**

**2.1** There shall be Common Seal of the Church approved by the General Council.

**2.2** The Common Seal shall be kept by the General Secretary or a Minister who shall act in the absence of the General Secretary.

**2.3** The Common Seal shall be affixed on all Deeds, Agreements and Similar documents by the General Secretary in the presence of at least one (1) Trustee.

### **ARTICLE 3 CHURCH SERVICES AND CONVENTIONS**

**3.1 SERVICES:** Church service shall be held on the Lord's Day (Sunday). There shall be mid-week and weekend services on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively for teaching and prayers. However, services may also be held on any other day(s) apart from Wednesdays and Fridays as the Regional, District and Local Presbytery Council considers appropriate. Any such changes should be known by headquarters.

**3.2 REVIVALS:** There shall be revivals in all assemblies at times approved by the Pastors and the Elders, at least once every month to rekindle the spirit of the members, which may come from the Pastors or through prophecy. Revival shall last for at least 3 days depending on the nature of the prophecy.

**3.3 RALLIES:** There shall be Rallies in cities, towns and villages at any time approved (authorised) by the Pastor and/or the local Presbytery basically with the aim of saving more souls (the unsaved.)

**3.4 CAMPAIGNS:** There shall be Evangelistic campaigns to help accelerate the pace of opening new assemblies.

**3.5 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS:** There shall be District Conventions held under the chairmanship of the District head.

**3.6 REGIONAL CONVENTIONS:** There shall be Regional Conventions held during Christmas, Easter and any other suitable time(s).

**3.7 GENERAL CONVENTIONS:** There shall be general convention held whenever the General Council deems it appropriate/convenient and shall be

under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Church or his representative(s). There shall be Planning and Implementation Committee (Ad hoc) appointed by the General Council to take care of all the planning, organizing and accounting for the convention.

**3.8 MOVEMENTS:** There shall be various Movements as:

- a) Women's Ministry
- b) Witness Movements
- c) Children's Movement
- d) Men's Fellowship
- e) Youth Ministry

Rules and guidelines for these movements shall be determined by The General Council from time to time.

## **STATUTE II**

### **GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH**

#### **ARTICLE 4 TRUSTEES**

**4.1 MEMBERSHIP:** The General Council shall, upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, approve seven persons filled with the Holy Spirit and of designated professions and experiences, three of whom shall be Ministers and four Elders to be Trustees. There shall be, among the Elders, a Land Economist/Valuation Expert and one with proven entrepreneurial skills/mind set. Any Trustee who leaves the church for another church forfeits his/her right as a trustee.

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**4.2 TERM OF OFFICE:** The term of office of a Trustee shall be five (5) years and may be renewed for further terms. In the event of the demise of a Trustee, another person shall be appointed subject to *Art. 4 sub-section 4.1*. Trustees for the missionary areas shall be appointed by the respective National Councils.

**4.3 FUNCTIONS:**

(a) The Trustees for and on behalf of the church shall hold or acquire, convey or re-convey/assign, surrender or demise all movable or unmovable properties acquired by the church.

(b) They shall have the power to sue and be sued in the corporate name in consultation with the General Council.

(c) They shall have the power to demand for all relevant reports that will facilitate their function. It shall appoint two members to serve on Executive Council.

(d) The Trustees shall meet at least once a year or as much as they consider appropriate.

(e) A Trustee can send a representation at any such meetings with full voting rights, provided a prior notice is given, at least two months.

**ARTICLE 5 THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**5.1 MEMBERSHIP:**(a) There shall be a General Council, made up of all Apostles, Prophets, Trustees, all active ordained Ministers, Regional Executive Committee Members, National Heads, National Deacons, National Secretaries, Chairmen of Boards and Committees and Movement/ Ministry's General Leaders or Director(s).

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(b) The Executive may invite Specialists, Retired Ministers and other persons to attend but without voting rights.

**5.2 FUNCTIONS:**

- a) The General Council shall be the highest policy-making body.
- b) It shall elect The Chairman, all the Executive Council members, the General Secretary and the International Missions Director.
- c) It shall be the final appellate body in all disciplinary matters affecting members of the General Council for which purpose the Council may appoint an appellate committee.
- d) It shall have the right to impeach any member of the General Council on the grounds of stated misconduct should the Executive Council fail to do so.
- e) It shall receive and approve all reports submitted by the various Bodies and Committees.
- f) It shall have the authority to invite or summon a particular person(s) or group of persons, a committee to a meeting as and when it deems it necessary.

**5.3 MEETINGS:** The General Council meetings shall be held annually. They shall be duly constituted as follows:

**5.3.1 National Representation:** All Apostles, Prophets, Regional Heads, all active ordained Pastors, Trustees, Chairmen of Boards and Committees, Movement/Ministry General Leaders and Directors, Three (3) Elders representatives including the Regional Deacon of the Regional Presbytery Council.

**5.3.2 International Representation:** All Apostles, Prophets, National Heads and National Deacons from external branches.

**5.3.3 Emergency Meetings:** The General Council may, however, convene emergency meetings as and when it becomes necessary.

(i) Such meetings shall be called by the Executive Council in consultation with the Trustees.

(ii) Only the National Heads from the external branches shall attend when the agenda demand their input.

**5.4 VOTING:** All voting at the General Council shall be by secret ballot, acclamation or by show of hands.

**5.5 QUORUM:** Two- thirds (2/3) of the General Council members present shall form a quorum.

## **ARTICLE 6 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

6.1 There shall be an Executive Council which shall be responsible for the administration of the church.

**6.2 MEMBERSHIP:** The Executive Council shall be made of nine (9) members comprising the following;

- a) The Chairman
- b) The General Secretary
- c) The International Missions Director

d) Two (2) Apostles /Prophets / National Heads, elected from external branches; one(1) from Francophone jurisdiction and the other from Anglophone jurisdiction.

e) Four (4) others elected from among the Apostles and Prophets in Ghana

## **6.3 FUNCTIONS:**

a)The Executive Council shall be responsible to the General Council.

b) It shall implement policies and decisions of the General Council.

c) When the General Council is not in session, the Executive Council receives reports and memoranda from Committees and Boards.

d) The Executive Council may appoint an Acting General Secretary, or Acting Chairman or Acting International Missions Director should any one of them be incapacitated for a period not exceeding six (6) months.

e) The Executive Council shall, in case of emergency, act on behalf of and report to the General Council for the ratification of its said decisions.

f) The Executive Council shall be responsible for the callings, appointments, demotions, upgrading, retirements, transfers and dismissal of Ministers.

g) The Executive Council may appoint an acting Chairman, General Secretary and the International Missions Director, should anyone be away.



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- h) The Executive Council shall have the authority to take administrative measures in any matter not otherwise provided for in this constitution towards the growth of the church. This should be done provided such measures taken do not affect the fundamental provisions of the constitution.
- i) The Executive Council may recommend policy matters to the General Council for consideration.
  - j) In case of the demise of the Chairman, the General Secretary or the International Missions Director, the Executive Council shall, in consultation with the Trustees, convene a meeting of the General Council within three (3) months to elect the Chairman, a General Secretary or an International Missions Director, as the case may be.
  - k) In the event of the Chairman proceeding on leave, course or conference, the Executive Council shall appoint an Acting Chairman from among its members until (The Chairman's) return, excluding the General Secretary and the International Missions Director.

**6.4 APPOINTMENTS/ ELECTIONS:**

- a) The Chairman serving under this constitution shall nominate candidates whenever vacancies occur either from or through retirement, death, resignation, removal or expiration of term of office, from among the Apostles and Prophets to the General Council for voting.
- b) The following shall be the procedure for the nominations:

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- (i) For one (1) vacancy, three (3) candidates shall be nominated to be elected by simple majority.
  - (ii) For two (2) vacancies, four (4) candidates shall be nominated for voting. The first two (2), in terms of number of votes obtained, shall be deemed elected
  - (iii) For three (3) vacancies, five (5) candidates shall be nominated for voting. The first three (3), in terms of votes obtained, shall be deemed to have been elected
  - (iv) For Four (4) vacancies, six (6) candidates shall be nominated for voting. The first four (4), in terms of votes obtained, shall be deemed to have been elected.
  - (v) Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- a) The Executive Council members so elected, under normal conditions, shall remain in office until their term expires or they retire or are removed.
- b) The Chairman, in consultation with the Executive Council may co-opt other members to the Executive Council meetings if found necessary but with no voting rights.
- c) In respect of the other representatives on the Executive Council, the Chairman shall present candidates in excess of two more than the available number of vacancies to the General Council for voting. The required number of candidates, who receives the highest votes cast, shall serve on the Executive Council.

d) The Chairman elected under this Constitution shall inherit the existing Executive Council Members whose term of office has not yet expired.

**6.5 VOTING:** All voting shall be by secret ballot.

**6.6 MEETING:** The Executive Council shall meet as often as they consider necessary. The Chairman or, in his absence the Acting Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Council. Five (5) members shall form a quorum for all meetings.

**6.7 TERM OF OFFICE:** The Term of Office for all Executive Council members shall be for five (5) years. Members of the Executive Council may be re-elected for further terms.

## **ARTICLE 7 REGIONAL PRESBYTERY COUNCILS**

7.1 There shall be Regional, District and Local Presbytery Councils.

**7.2 REGIONAL/AREA PRESBYTERY COUNCIL:** There shall be a Regional Presbytery Council which shall be the coordinating and the highest policy making body in the regions.

**7.2.1 Membership:** The Regional Presbytery Council shall comprise: (a) The Regional Head, (b) The Regional Executive Members, (c) All Area Office Holders, (d) All District Executive Committee Members, (e) Two(2)

Deacons Representatives from each District, (f) Three (3) Deaconesses Representative from each District, (g) All Other Serving Ministers in the Region, (h) Three(3) Ministers' Wives one of whom shall be the Regional Head's wife, (i) Retired Ministers/Officers may be invited to attend but without voting right.

**7.2.2 Functions:** The Regional Presbytery Council;

(i) Shall be the highest policy making body in the Region/Area

(ii) Shall elect the Regional Executive members

(iii) Shall receive and approve reports submitted by the various organs of the church in the Regions/Areas.

(iv) Shall elect, approve, appoint and/or review Regional Office holders.

(v) Shall approve the Regional/Area Budget.

**7.2.3 Nomination and Election of Deacons Representative:** The District Executive Committee shall nominate four (4) Deacons to be voted upon by the District Presbytery. The two (2) Deacons who obtain the highest votes shall represent the District. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

**7.2.4 Nomination and Election of Deaconesses Representative:** The District Executive Committee shall nominate five (5) Deaconesses to be voted upon by the District Presbytery. The three (3) Deaconesses who obtain the highest votes shall represent the District. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

**7.2.5 Nomination of Ministers' Wives Representatives:**

The Ministers' Wives Representatives shall be nominated by the Area/Regional Executive Committee.

**7.2.6 Quorum:** The quorum of the Regional presbytery Council shall be two-thirds (2/3) of membership.

**7.2.7 Voting:** Voting at the Regional Presbytery Council shall be by secret ballot or popular acclamation.

**7.2.8 Terms of Office:** Deacons and Deaconesses Representatives to the Regional Presbytery Council shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**7.3 REGIONAL/AREA HEAD.**

There shall be a Regional/Area Head who shall be of the office of an Apostle, Prophet or a Senior Pastor, or an experienced Minister appointed by the Executive Council for ratification by General Council.

**7.3.1 Functions:** The Regional/Area head,

(i) Shall be responsible to the Chairman of the church for the administration of the region/area.

(ii) Shall chair the meetings of the Regional/Area Presbytery Council, the Regional/Area Executive Committee and every Regional/Area meeting, convention or rally he attends in the Area.

(iii) Shall implement the policies and decisions of the General Council and the Executive Council in the Region/Area.

(iv) Shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the church in the Region/Area and the implementation of the decisions of the Regional/Area Presbytery Council.

(v) Shall perform such functions as are assigned to him by the Chairman and the Executive Council.

(vi) Shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards, and Committees in the Region/Area.

(vii) Shall report on the Region/Area to the General Council through the Chairman of the church.

(viii) Shall organize Retreats, Seminars and Prayer sessions for the Region/Area.

**7.4. REGIONAL /AREA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** There shall be established a Regional/Area Executive Committee at the Regions/Areas to be responsible to the Regional/Area Presbytery Council.

**7.4.1 Membership:** The Regional/Area Executive Committee shall be made up of seven (7) members including, the Regional/Area Head as Chairman, the Regional / Area Secretary who shall be either be a Minister or a dedicated Elder, two (2) active Ministers, the Regional/Area Deacon and two (2) Elders. In the Area where a Prophet is a District Pastor, he shall become an automatic member of the Executive Committee.

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If the Prophet joined the Region/Area after the establishment of the Executive Committee, he shall be co-opted until a vacancy occurs in the membership of active Ministers.

**7.4.2 Functions:** The Regional/Area Executive Committee;

- (i) Shall be responsible for the running of the church in the Region/Area.
- (ii) Shall implement the decisions of the Executive Council and the Regional/Area Presbytery Council.
- (iii) Shall act as an appellate body in all matters decided upon by the District Executive Committees.
- (iv) Shall consider policy matters affecting the Region/Area and make recommendations to the Regional/Area Presbytery Council for ratification.

**7.4.3 Incapacitation or Absence of Regional/Area Head:** In the event of incapacitation or absence of the Regional/Area Head, the Executive Council shall arrange for another Regional/Area Head to have oversight responsibility or appoint a Senior Minister to act for a period not exceeding six (6) months.

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**7.4.4 Election of Ministers:**

- (i) The Regional/Area Head and the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Chairman of the Church shall nominate four (4) Ministers to be voted upon by the Regional/Area Presbytery Council.
- (ii) The two (2) who obtain the highest of the valid votes cast shall serve on the committee.
- (iii) Where there is a Prophet as a District Minister, three (3) Ministers shall be so nominated for the election.
- (iv) The candidate who receive the highest valid votes cast shall serve on the committee.

**7.4.5 Election of Elders:**

- (i) The Regional/Area Head in conjunction with Executive Committee shall nominate four (4) Elders to be voted upon by the Regional/Area Presbytery Council.
- (ii) The first two (2) candidates who receive the highest number of valid votes cast shall serve on the committee.

**7.4.6 Co-option:**

The Regional/Area Executive Committee may co-opt other members from either a professional or technocrat as and when their experience is needed.

**7.4.7 Quorum:**

The quorum for the Regional/Area Executive Committee shall be five (5) including the Chairman and the Secretary or anybody acting in their stead.

**7.4.8 Term of Office:**

(i) The Regional/Area Executive Committee members shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and may be re-elected for further terms.

(ii) In the event of vacancies occurring by virtue of retirement, transfer or any other reason(s), the vacancy shall be filled within three (3) months.

(iii) Should the vacancy be created in respect of one (1) member, three (3) candidates shall be nominated. In the case of two (2) vacancies, four (4) candidates shall be nominated.

**7.4.9 Voting**

Voting shall be by secret ballot.

**7.5. AREA SECRETARY**

There shall be an Area/Regional Secretary who shall be a Minister or a dedicated Elder appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery.

**7.5.1. FUNCTION**

(a) He shall take minutes at the Area/Regional Presbytery and Area Executive Committee meetings.

(b) He shall be responsible to the Area/Regional Head.

(c) He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees in the Area/Region.

(d) He shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the Area/Regional Head.

**7.5.2. ELECTION**

(a) The Area Head shall nominate one (1) minister or Elder to be voted upon by the Area Presbytery.

(b) The candidate so nominated shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) majority votes of the members present and voting.

**7.5.3. TERM OF OFFICE**

The Area Secretary shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**7.6 DISTRICT PRESBYTERY COUNCIL:** There shall be a District Presbytery Council which shall be the coordinating and highest decision making body in the district.

**7.6.1 Membership:** The District Presbytery Council shall be made of the District Pastor and his Wife All Pastors / Overseer, One Pastor's Wife Representative, The District Executives, Two (2) Elders representatives, two (2) Deacons and Deaconesses and two (2) Prophets / Prophetesses in the District.

**7.6.2 Functions:**

- (a) It shall be the highest policy-making body in the District.
- (b) It shall discuss and decide on matters affecting the welfare of the Local Assemblies in the district.
- (c) It shall elect the District Secretary and other Executive Committee Members.
- (d) It shall receive and approve reports submitted by the various organs of the church in the District.
- (e) It shall appoint and review District Office Holders.
- (f) It shall approve the District Budget.

**7.6.3. MEETINGS**

It shall meet at least once in four (4) months.

**7.7 DISTRICT MINISTER**

There shall be a District Minister who shall be appointed by the General Council upon the recommendation of the Executive Council.

**7.7.1 FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT MINISTER**

- (a) He shall be responsible to the Area Head for the administration of the church in the District.

- (b) He shall chair meetings of the District Presbytery, the District Executive Committee and every meeting, convention or rally he attends in the District.
- (c) He shall implement the policies and decisions of the General Council and the Area Presbytery in the District.
- (d) He shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the church in the District.
- (e) He shall perform such functions as shall be assigned to him by the Area Head.
- (f) He shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards and Committees of the church in the District.
- (g) He shall organize rallies, seminars, retreats and prayer sessions for the District.
- (h) He shall perform Pastoral duties sanctioned by the constitution.

**7.8 DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There shall be established a District Executive Committee at the level to be responsible to the District Presbytery.

**7.8.1 MEMBERSHIP**

A District Executive Committee shall be made up of;

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- (a) The District Minister
- b) Two (2) Pastors
- (c) The District Secretary
- (d) Chairman of the District Finance Committee and
- (e) Two (2) Elders
- (f) The Area Deacon shall not serve on the District Executive Committee.

**7.8.2 FUNCTION**

- (a) It shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the church in the District by implementing decisions of the Area Executive Committee including decisions of the Executive Council.
- (b) It shall adjudicate on all matters brought to it by the Area Executive Committee or on its own, and report to the Area Executive Committee.
- (c) It may consider policy matters affecting the District and make recommendations to the District Presbytery.

**7.8.3 ELECTION OF ELDERS**

- (a) The District Minister in consultation with the Area Head shall nominate five (5) candidates from the Eldership to be voted on by the District Presbytery.
- (b) The first two (2) candidates who receive the highest votes cast shall serve on the Executive Committee.

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**7.8.4 TERMS OF OFFICE**

Three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**7.8.5. VOTING**

Voting shall be by secret ballot.

**7.8.6 FILLING OF VACANCIES**

- (a) In cases of vacancies created by virtue of retirement, transfer or any other reason(s), the vacancies shall be filled within three (3) months.
- (b) Should a vacancy be created in respect of one (1) member, three (3) members shall be nominated in the case of two (2) vacancies four (4) nominations shall be made.

**7.9 DISTRICT SECRETARY**

There shall be a District Secretary who shall be an Elder.

**7.9.1 FUNCTION**

- (a) He shall take minutes at the District Presbytery and District Executive Committee meetings.
- (b) He shall be responsible to the District Minister.
- (c) He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees in the District.
- (d) He shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the District Minister.

**7.9.2. ELECTION**

(a) The District Minister in consultation with the District Executive Committee shall nominate one (1) Elder to be voted upon by the District Presbytery.

(b) The candidate so nominated shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) majority votes of the members present and voting.

**7.9.3. TERM OF OFFICE**

Three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**7.10. DISTRICT FINANCE CHAIRMAN**

There shall be a District Finance Committee Chairman who shall be an Elder of good repute and integrity with a fair accounting knowledge.

**7.10.1 FUNCTION**

(a) He shall be responsible to the District Presbytery and the District Minister.

(b) He shall preside over meetings of the Finance Committee.

(c) He shall see to it that the Local Assemblies submit their tithes and offerings (Quota) and financial statements in good time for collection and payments to the Area/Regional Office.

(d) He shall ensure that Financial Secretaries/Clerks keep all books of accounts up to date and that all cash/cheques are banked intact and in good time.

(e) He shall ensure that Bank Statement is obtained from the bank and a Bank Reconciliation Statement is prepared monthly.

(f) He shall ensure that all payments are authorised and properly audited.

(g) He shall ensure that the Annual District Budget is prepared in good time for approval by the District Presbytery.

(h) He shall ensure that financial policies of the church are implemented.

(i) He shall perform such other functions as are from time to time assigned by the District Minister or the District Presbytery or the District Executive Committee.

**7.10.2 ELECTION**

(a) The District Minister in consultation with the District Executive Committee shall nominate a qualified Elder to be voted upon by the District Presbytery.

(b) The candidate so nominated shall be elected by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present and voting.

**7.10.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.



**7.11 LOCAL PRESBYTERY COUNCIL:**

There shall be a Local Presbytery Council which shall be the coordinating and highest decision making body at the local assembly.

**7.11.1 Membership:** The Local Presbytery Council shall be made up of the Pastor, the Presiding Elder, all Elders at the local assembly, all Deacons and Deaconesses in the local assembly.

**7.11.2 Functions:** The Local Presbytery Council;

- (i) Shall discuss and decide and report on matters affecting the assembly.
- (ii) Shall meet at least once a month.
- (iii) Shall be responsible to the District Presbytery Council.

**7.12. LOCAL SECRETARY**

There shall be a Local Secretary who shall be an officer or member of the Local Assembly.

**7.12.1 FUNCTIONS**

(a) He shall take minutes at the meetings of the Local Presbytery and keep the minutes book.

(b) He shall be responsible to the Local Presbytery, Pastor or the Presiding Elder.

**7.12.2 ELECTION**

The Pastor or the Presiding Elder in consultation with the Local Presbytery shall nominate an officer or a member to be elected by the Local Presbytery by two-thirds (2/3) majority votes of the members present and voting.

**7.12.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**7.13 LOCAL FINANCE SECRETARY**

There shall be a Local Finance Secretary who shall be an officer or member of the Local Assembly.

**7.13.1 FUNCTIONS**

(a) He shall take proper records of all cash books and tithe cards (b) He shall be responsible to the Local Presbytery, Pastor or the Presiding Elder.

**7.13.2 ELECTION**

The Pastor or the Presiding Elder in consultation with the Local Presbytery shall nominate an officer or a member to be elected by the Local Presbytery by two-thirds (2/3) majority votes of the members present and voting.

**7.13.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**STATUTE III**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**ARTICLE 8 THE CHAIRMAN**

8.1 There shall be a Chairman, of the church who shall take precedence over all other officers and members of the church. The General Council shall approve, review and pay him such allowances, remuneration and any other benefits it finds appropriate.

**8.2 QUALIFICATION: He shall be an active Minister of the church with an apostolic or prophetic unction.**

**8.3 ELECTION/APPOINTMENT:**

(a) The Executive Council, regulating its own proceedings shall, after prayerful considerations, present a candidate from the list of eligible candidates to the General Council for voting.

(b) The Trustees and the General Council shall select seven Prophets/Prophetesses of good repute who after some days of fasting and praying, shall by a word of prophecy or revelation through the Holy Spirit and open discussion, submit a list of eligible candidates to the Executive Council for consideration.

**8.4 VOTING:** It shall be by a secret ballot.

**8.5 FUNCTIONS:**

(a) He shall be both the Spiritual and Administrative head of the Church. He shall chair Executive and General Council meetings

(b) He shall be an ex-officio member of every board, council and committee meetings of the church.

(c) He shall chair every Rally, convention he attends.

(d) He may assign to the General Secretary such duties as shall from time to time become necessary.

(e) He may issue Pastoral and secular letters as and when he deems necessary.

(f) He shall confer with the General Secretary on all matters concerning the government or outside bodies.

(g) He shall organize retreats, seminars and prayer sessions for National/Regional Heads, Pastors, Prophets and Prophetesses.

(h) Subject to the provisions of this constitution he may take decisions and actions with any Regional Head where disciplinary or other action is urgently required and report to the Executive Council thereafter.

**8.6 TERM OF OFFICE:**

The Chairman shall hold office for a term of five (5) years and may be re-elected for a further term only, i.e. he shall not be elected to hold office for more than two (2) terms.

**8.7 INCAPACITATION/DEATH/ABSENCE:**

(a) Where the Chairman is incapacitated the Executive Council shall appoint an Acting Chairman for a period not exceeding one year.

(b) Where the Chairman dies, the General Council shall elect/appoint one within three months according to *Art. 8 sub-section 8.3* of this constitution.

(c) Where the Chairman is absent from duty the Executive Council may appoint an Acting Chairman for a period not exceeding one year.

**8.8 DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

(a) Should the Chairman abuse his office, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to interdict him and appoint an independent body within the church to go into the matter according to the constitution and the principles of the church.

(b) During the period of interdiction an Acting Chairman shall be appointed.

(c) The body so appointed shall report to the Executive Council. If the Chairman be found guilty and the seriousness of the offence so requires, the Executive Council shall give him written notice of his removal from the office forthwith.

**8.9 APPEAL:**

(a) The Chairman shall have the right to appeal to the General Council within one (1) month of the date of service of the removal notice.

(b) The decision of the General Council thereafter shall be final.

**ARTICLE 9 GENERAL SECRETARY:**

9.1 There shall be a General Secretary of the Church. He shall be paid such allowances and remuneration as are from time to time approved by the General Council. He shall be entitled to end of service benefit.

**9.2 QUALIFICATION:** He must be a mature Minister in the Church with a good educational background.

**9.3 FUNCTION:**

(a) He shall be responsible to the Chairman.

(b) He shall take minutes at both the General and Executive Council Meetings.

(c) He deals with the correspondence of the church.

(d) He is an ex-officio member of all Boards, committee and meetings.

(e) He performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman.

(f) The General Secretary shall no longer be a field personnel as long as he remains General Secretary.

**9.4 ELECTION/APPOINTMENTS:**

(a) The General Council shall have the absolute authority to elect a General Secretary for the church.

(b) The Executive Council, regulating its own proceedings shall, after prayerful consideration present a candidate to the General Council for consideration and secret ballot.

(c) Where there is a prophecy it shall be judged by the Executive Council on its own merit.

(d) All voting regarding this appointment at all levels shall be by secret ballot and on simple majority basis.

**9.5 TERM OF OFFICE:**

The General Secretary shall hold office for a term of five (5) years and may be re-elected for another term only.

**9.6 ABSENCE/INCAPACITATION/DEATH:**

(a) When the General Secretary is absent / incapacitated, the Executive Council shall appoint an acting General Secretary for a period not exceeding one year.

(b) When the General Secretary dies, the General Council shall elect one within three months.

**9.7 DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

(a) Should the General Secretary abuse his office, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to interdict him and appoint an independent body within the church to go into the matter according to the constitution and the principles of the Church.

(b) During the period of interdiction an Acting General Secretary shall be appointed.

(c) The body so appointed shall report to the Executive Council.

(d) If the General Secretary be found guilty and the seriousness of the offence so requires the Executive Council shall give him a written notice of his removal from office forthwith.

**ARTICLE 10 INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR:** There shall be an International Mission Director of the church. He shall be paid such allowances and remuneration as are from time to time be approved by the General Council and also be entitled to end of service award/benefit.

**10.1 QUALIFICATION:** He must be a Pastor of the church with apostolic unction and a reasonable educational background.

**10.2 APPOINTMENT:**

- a. Shall be elected/appointed by the General Council by voting
- b. The Executive Council shall submit candidates who successfully apply and voted upon.
- c. The General Council shall vote to elect or appoint one of the candidates as the International Missions Director. Should there be a tie; the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- d. Where there is a prophecy, it shall be judged by the Executive Council on its own merits.
- e. All voting regarding this appointment at all levels shall be by secret ballot and on simple majority.

**10.3 FUNCTIONS:**

- a. He shall recommend the establishment of missionary activities.
- b. He shall receive Missionaries and members from other countries.

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- c. To develop and maintain good relationship with overseas donor organizations and Church Mission boards.
- d. Shall be responsible for the proper management of the assemblies outside Ghana.
- e. He is an Ex-Officio member of all boards, Committees and Meetings.
- f. He shall be responsible to the General Secretary.

**10.4 TERM OF OFFICE:** The International Missions Director shall hold office for a term of five (5) years and may be re-elected for another term.

**10.5 ABSENCE/INCAPACITATION/DEATH**

- a. When the International Missions Director is absent/incapacitated, the Executive Council shall appoint an acting IMD for a period not exceeding one year.
- b. Should the International Missions Director dies, the Executive Council shall elect/appoint one within three months.

**10.6 DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Should the IMD abuse his office, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to interdict him and appoint an independent body within the church to go into the matter according to the constitution and the principles of the church. During the period of interdiction an acting IMD shall be appointed. The body so appointed shall report to the Executive Council. Should the IMD be found guilty and the seriousness of the offence so requires, the Executive Council shall give a written notice of his removal from office forthwith.

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**ARTICLE 11 MINISTERS**

11.1 (a) There shall be full time Ministers to direct and govern the church (Eph. 4:11-13; 1Cor 12:28). Approved men shall be called to fill these offices by prophecy or revelation or recommendation by the Executive Council.

(b) Prospective candidate shall have been approved by the hierarchy of Local, District and Regional/Area Presbyteries through the respective Ministerial Committees. 11.2 **QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO THE FULL TIME MINISTRY** (1 Tim. 3:1-17; Titus 1:6-9)

- a. The person must be born again and be baptized in the Holy Spirit
- b. He should be a good man with a blameless life.
- c. He must have only one wife.
- d. He must be hard working, thoughtful and orderly.
- e. He must enjoy having guest in his home.
- f. He must not be a drunkard and quarrelsome.
- g. He must be gentle and kind.
- h. He must not love money.
- i. He must have well behaved family.
- j. He must not be new convert (Christian)
- k. He must be a matured person (between the ages of 25 to 45).
- l. He must be willing to learn.
- m. He must be fair and honest to everyone irrespective of colour, race, tribe, or nationality; and

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n. He must respect and be obedient to the rules, guidelines, instructions and the general policies as laid down by the General Council of the church and the Executive Council.

o. Elders of proven pastoral ability who are above the age of forty-two (42) years may be called into the Ministry upon the recommendation of the Executive Council provided that in all such cases they shall be approved by the General Council.

**11.3 CATEGORIES OF MINISTERS:** The church recognizes the following categories of ministers:

**(a) Probationary Overseers:** New entrants shall be put on probation for at least two(2) years effective from the date of admission into the Ministry which period they may, upon the recommendation of the respective National or Area Heads to the Executive Council, be confirmed as Overseers or released from the Ministry.

**Functions**

They shall perform all duties of an Overseer under a District Pastor as in article 11.3c, except dedication of church building, and blessing of marriages.

**(b) Overseers:** New entrants or Probationers who perform satisfactorily shall be confirmed into full-time Ministry as Overseers. They perform all duties of overseers under the District Pastor except the blessing of marriages dedication of church buildings and ordination of officers.

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**(c) Pastors:** Overseers who prove themselves capable of the task (Pastoral work) shall be selected for a short course at the head quarters (The Apostles' continuation Ministerial Training Center A.C.M.T.C) and ordained into the pastorate (depending on ability/performance). The pastor should feed and care for the flock, thus he is the leader of the local and or district church. He administers the Lord's supper, visit the sick, bless marriages, baptize new converts, dedicate children, bury the dead, teach and preach the gospel and do all other things incidental to the calling.

**(d) Senior Pastor:** Satisfactory service for five (5) years as Pastor.

**(e) Evangelists:** Pastors whose talents stand out in evangelism shall be called Evangelists. They shall be encouraged to preach the gospel especially to the unsaved and to break new grounds for the establishment of new assemblies (Acts 8:5-7).

**(f) Prophets:** These are ministers who exercise the prophetic ministry. The office of the prophet is complementary to that of an Apostle's in calling, directing, ordaining men into the ministry and dedicating buildings (1Cor 14:3-4).

**(g) Apostles:** These are Ministers called to establish churches to build and care for them, meeting them, meeting the spiritual needs of the various officers, members in the church and dedicate buildings. They ordain pastors and officers of the church keep discipline in the church and impart spiritual gifts to others. (Rom. 1:11; 2Tim 1:6; Luke 6:13).

(h) **Teachers:** Ministers whose ministry stands out in the Teaching Ministry may be called to the Office of a Teacher.

### FUNCTIONS

(a) They shall perform pastoral functions.

(b) They shall teach the Word of God and faithfully piont the body of Christ to sound and life-giving Christian doctrine.

#### (i) **Tent-Making Ministers**

Elders who are specialists in their chosen fields of endeavour and are of proven pastoral ability and have not attained the age of 65 years may be called into the ministry as “**TENT-MAKING**” **MINISTERS** upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, provided that in all such cases they shall be approved by the General Council.

### FUNCTIONS

To perform all functions prescribed under clause 11.3 (c) of this Constitution.

#### **11.4 RETIREMENT:**

(a) There shall be a retiring age of 65 years. However, if the General Council finds out that Minister is still healthy enough and willing to continue in the full time ministry, it will write officially to that effect.

(b) If on the other hand the General Council finds out that a Minister’s health and or circumstances will not permit him to continue in the full time ministry, he may be prematurely retired.

(c) A minister shall be entitled to all the end of service benefits under the pensions scheme should he be retired by the church at the age of 65 or prematurely.

(d) Subject to *Art. 11 subsection 4 (a)* of this constitution, the church does not entertain voluntary retirement of ministers called into full time ministry. Nevertheless a minister may resign or retire voluntarily before the 60 years age. Such a minister so resigning or retiring shall be entitled to only 33% of what they should otherwise have earned under the pension scheme.

**11.5 DISCIPLINE:** The Executive Council may dismiss a minister with any of the following misconduct or behaviour.

(a) Unfaithfulness to the church.

(b) Disobedience to his calling.

(c) Refusal to fellowship with fellow ministers after attempts has been made to settle any misunderstanding.

(d) Preaching erroneous doctrine contrary to our believe and practices (the bible)

- (e) Living questionable life.
- (f) Getting involved in any conduct either directly or indirectly which in the opting of the General Council may bring the church into disrepute.
- (g) Living or behaving in a way contrary to Article 11.2(n)

**11.6 SUMMARY DISMISSAL:** The Chairman and a Regional Head or the Executive Council may similarly dismiss without notice or pay in lieu thereof, a Minister who commits any of the following offence:

- (a) Immorality
- (b) Fraud
- (c) Dishonesty
- (d) Theft

**11.7 APPEAL:** The aggrieved minister may appeal to the General Council through the General Secretary within 30 days of dismissal notice.

**STATUTE IV**

**MINISTRIES, MOVEMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**ARTICLE 12 WITNESS MOVEMENT**

12.1 The Witness Movement shall represent the evangelistic wing of the church. It shall comprise members of both sexes in the local assemblies.

**12.2 MEETINGS:** It shall hold meetings at least once a week for prayer and fellowship and the study of the word of God. It shall hold evangelistic meetings within and outside the church. It shall evangelise on school campuses and or work places/streets.

**12.3 APPOINTMENTS:**

**12.3.1 Witness General Leaders:** The Executive Council with the approval of the General Council shall appoint an ordained pastor as the witness General Leader who shall perform the following duties.

- a. General supervision of the Witness Movement
- b. Responsible for the preparation, updating, and review of the lessons/programmes of the movements.
- c. Shall be responsible to the General Secretary.
- d. Shall help other officers to join and maintain the interest of the members in the evangelistic work of the church.
- e. His term of office shall be four (4) years and may be re-elected for another term(s).



**12.3.2 Regional Witness Leader:** The Regional head in consultation with the Regional Presbytery Council shall appoint a pastor as the Regional witness leader who shall perform the following duties:

- a. Shall have general supervision of the witness Movement in the Region.
- b. Shall chair all Regional Rallies.
- c. Shall work in consultation with the Regional Head and co-operate with the District Head and local leader.
- d. Shall be responsible to the National Witness Leader through the Regional Head.
- e. His term of office shall be four (4) years and may be re-elected for another term(s).

**12.3.3 Witness District Leader:** The Pastor and the District presbytery Council shall appoint an Elder or Deacon of good repute to be the District leader and shall perform the following duties:

- a. Supervise the Witness Movement in the District.
- b. Communicate through the District Pastor to the Regional witness leader.
- c. Responsible for the preparation of programmes for witness meetings in consultation with the District Pastor. He shall hold office for four (4) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

**12.3.4 Witness Local Leader:** The Pastor or Overseer and the local presbytery Council shall appoint an Elder or Deacon or Brother of good repute to be the local leader. He shall be responsible for the

assembly's witness meetings and see to the teaching of the members the word of God and lessons in the witness syllabi. He shall co-operate with the local presbytery Council as well as the pastor or the overseer in charge of his duties. He shall hold office for two (2) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

**12.3.5 Finance:** Free-will offerings shall be taken at meetings. The General Council shall determine a percentage of its amount that should be paid to the General Fund.

## **ARTICLE 13 WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

13.1 There shall be a Women's Ministry consisting of all the women in the local Assemblies. It shall hold meetings at least once a week.

### **13.1(1) FUNCTIONS OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

- (a) To pray for the growth of the church.
- (b) To organise seminars, workshops, lectures and symposia in all aspects of life including:
  - (i) Marriage enrichment, wives' responsibilities at home, child welfare, care and education,
  - (ii) Business Management techniques,
  - (iii) The teaching of basic principles of law relating to the family e.g. Succession, marriage, etc.

- (c) To promote the welfare of widows, orphans, the needy, etc.
- (d) To carry out evangelism that is preaching, witnessing and winning souls for the Lord.
- (e) To train women to be responsible married women in the church and the society.
- (f) To develop the talents of women and the total womanhood to enhance the social, physical, spiritual and intellectual status of the women.

### **13.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Women Ministry shall be run by an Executive Committee of seven (7) members appointed by the General Council on the recommendation of the Executive Council.

#### **13.2.1 MEMBERSHIP**

The Executive Committee of the Women's Ministry shall be made up of the following;

- (a) One (1) Apostle, Prophet or an experienced Minister as Patron,
- (b) One (1) Women's Ministry Leader,
- (c) One (1) Women's Ministry Deputy Leader,
- (d) Two (2) Ministers' Wives
- (e) Two (2) Deaconesses.

### **13.2.2 PATRON**

The Executive Council shall appoint a Minister as Women's Ministry Patron to be ratified by the General Council.

### **13.2.3 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) The Patron shall be responsible to the Chairman of the Church.
- (b) He shall have general supervision of the Women's Ministry.
- (c) He shall be an adviser to the Women's Leader and other officers of the Ministry.
- (d) He shall chair the Women's Ministry Executive Committee meetings and in his absence, the Women's Leader shall preside.
- (e) He shall chair Women's Ministry General Conventions.

### **13.3 WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADER**

The Executive Council shall appoint a Deaconess of good repute to be the Leader of the Women's Ministry for ratification by the General Council.

#### **13.3.1 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) She shall prepare and carry out the Ministry's programmes and implement decisions of the General Council, the Executive Council and the Ministry's Executive Committee.

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- (b) She shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Ministry.
- (c) She shall prepare Agenda for the Women's Ministry meetings and shall arrange to make them available to the members.
- (d) She shall chair the Women's Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the Patron.
- (e) She shall submit the Women's Ministry General Reports to the General Council.
- (f) She shall supply study materials for the Ministry.
- (g) She shall perform such functions and duties as may be directed by the Ministry's Executive Committee or the Chairman of the church.
- (h) She shall be responsible to the Chairman of the church for the effective administration of the Ministry.
- (i) She shall liaise with other women bodies in the para-churches and other Christian organisations.
- (j) She shall direct affairs during Women's Ministry Leadership meetings and other related activities of the Ministry.

**13.4 DEPUTY WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADER**

The Deputy Women's Leader shall be appointed by the Executive Council for ratification by the General Council.

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**13.4.1 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) The Deputy Women's Leader shall deputise for the Leader.
- (b) She shall assist the Women's Leader in her functions
- (c) She shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Women's Leader or the Executive Committee of the Ministry.

**13.4.2 TERM OF OFFICE**

The Patron, the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Women's Ministry and all other Executive Committee shall hold office for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**13.5 AREA/REGIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY PATRON**

The Area/Regional Women's Patron shall be appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery on the recommendation of the **Area/Regional Executive Committee and the other Ministers.**

**13.5.1 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) The Area/Regional Women's Patron shall be responsible to the Area/Regional Head.
- (b) He shall have general supervision of the Women's Ministry in the Area/Regional.

(c) He shall be an adviser to the Area/Regional Women's Leader and the Area/Regional Leadership.

(d) He shall chair the Women's Ministry Executive Committee meetings and in his absence the Area/Regional Women's Leader shall preside.

(e) He shall chair the Women's Ministry Area/Regional Conventions.

### **13.6 AREA/REGIONAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADER**

A Deaconess of good repute shall be appointed as the Area/Regional Leader. She shall be assisted by another Deaconess.

#### **13.6.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Area/Regional Women's Leader and her Assistant shall be appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery on the recommendation of the Area/Regional Executive Committee.

#### **13.6.2 FUNCTIONS**

(a) To have a general supervision of the Women's Ministry in the Area/Region.

(b) She shall work in consultation with the Area/Regional Head and report to the Area/Regional Presbytery.

### **13.6.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The Area/Regional Women's Patron, the Area Women's Leader and her Assistant shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **13.7 DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEADER**

A Deaconess of good repute shall be appointed as a District Women's Leader. She shall have an Assistant.

#### **13.7.1 APPOINTMENT**

The District Women's Leader and her Assistant shall be appointed by the District Presbytery on the recommendation of the District Executive Committee.

#### **13.7.2 FUNCTIONS**

(a) She shall supervise the Women's Ministry in the District.

(b) She shall communicate all relevant matters with the consent of the District Minister to the Area/Regional Leader.

(c) She shall see to the teaching of the women the word of God and lessons in the women's syllabus.

(d) She shall be responsible for the preparation of programmes for Women's Ministry meetings in consultation with the District Minister.

### **13.7.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office shall be three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **13.8 LOCAL WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADER**

A Deaconess of good repute shall be appointed as the Local Women's Leader. She shall have an Assistant.

#### **13.8.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Local Women's Leader and her Assistant shall be appointed by the Local Presbytery.

#### **13.8.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) She shall co-operate with the Local Presbytery and the Minister in the discharge of her duties.
- (b) She shall take charge of the Local Women's Ministry meetings.
- (c) She shall see to the teaching of the women the word of God and lessons in the women's syllabus.

#### **13.8.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office shall be two (2) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**13.8.4 Other Officers:** The Women's Ministry at all levels shall appoint other officers like Treasurer, Secretary and Organiser to enhance the smooth running of the Ministry and other related activities. All such officers may have a term of three (3) years and may be re-elected for further terms.

### **13.9 FINANCE**

Free will offerings shall be taken at meetings. Members may also set themselves to pay monthly dues to raise funds to help their course. A percentage as determined by the General Council from time to time shall be paid into the General Fund of the Church.

## **ARTICLE 14 CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT**

14.1 There shall be Children's Movement consisting of all the children and their Teacher in the local Assembly.

### **14.2 MEETINGS:**

- (a) The Movement shall hold Sunday Services to fellowship, pray and study the word of God.
- (b) It shall hold periodic competitions, quiz programmes and other related activities as shall endure the Children's spiritual growth and sustain their interest in the service of the Lord.

### **14.3 APPOINTMENT**

**14.3.1 Children's Movement General Leader:** The Executive Council shall appoint a Pastor as the General Leader of the Children's Movement, with the approval of the General Council.

**14.3.2 Functions:** The duties of the Leader shall include:

- (a) The General supervision of all the activities of the Children's Movement.
- (b) Arranging rallies and religious excursions from time to time for the Movement.
- (c) Preparation of the syllabi and arranging for teaching and learning aids for the Movement.
- (d) Planning and executing training schemes as well as equipping the teachers for the spiritual upbringing of the children.

**14.3.3 Term of Office:** It shall be four (4) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

**14.3.4 Children's Movement Regional Leader:** The Regional Head and the Regional Presbytery Council shall appoint an officer of the Church as the Children's Regional Leader.

**14.3.5. Functions:** The duties of the Leader shall include:

- (a) The General supervision of the Movement in the Region.
- (b) Shall work in co-operation with the District and Local Teachers.
- (c) Shall chair all Regional rallies, etc.

**14.3.6 Term of Office:** It shall be for four (4) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

**14.3.7 Children's Movement District Leader:** The District Pastor and the District Presbytery shall appoint a member or an officer of the church to be the District Leader.

**14.3.8 Functions:** The duties shall include:

- (a) Supervision of the activities of the movement in the district.
- (b) To chair all meetings (rallies) of the Movement in the District.
- (c) To perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Regional Leader.
- (d) To liaise with the other Leaders in consultation with the District Pastor.
- (e) To co-ordinate the activities of the Movement in the District. Shall hold office for three (3) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

**14.3.9 Children's Movement Local Leaders:** The District Pastor and the local Presbytery Council shall appoint a member or an officer to be the local leader.

**14.3.10 Functions:** The duties shall include:

- (a) Taking care (responsible) of the Movement's activities in the assembly with the co-operation of the pastor and local Presbytery.

(b) Carrying out such duties as may be assigned to him by the District leader.

(c) Planning the lesson in line with the syllabi and the Teacher's teaching plans for the movement in the Local Assemblies.

(d) To chair meetings of the Movement in the Local Assemblies.

**14.3.11 Term of Office:** It shall be for three (3) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

## **ARTICLE 15 MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

### **15.1 ESTABLISHMENT**

There shall be established a Men's Fellowship (MEF) to cater for the interest of all the men in the church.

#### **15.1.1 FUNCTIONS**

To organize seminars, workshops, lectures and symposia on all aspects of life including;

(a) Marriage enrichment, husband's responsibilities at home, child welfare, care and education.

(b) Business management and techniques.

(c) Leadership and responsibility in the church and the state.

(d) Current affairs at both national and international levels.

(e) The teaching of basic principles of Domestic Law, e.g. the making of Will and Agreement for the purchase of real and personal properties.

(f) The Apostles' Continuation Church History.

### **15.1.2 MEETINGS**

They shall hold meetings at least once a month.

### **15.2 NATIONAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE**

The Men's Fellowship shall be run by an Executive Committee of seven (7) members made up of four (4) Ministers and three (3) Elders.

#### **15.2.1 APPOINTMENT**

The General Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Council, shall appoint to serve on the MEF Executive Committee, the following;

(a) An Apostle, a Prophet or an experienced Minister as MEF General Patron who shall be the Chairman of the fellowship.

(b) A MEF General Leader who shall be a Minister.

(c) A Deputy MEF Leader who shall be an Elder of good repute.

(d) Two (2) Ministers.

(e) Two (2) Elders.

### **15.2.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE PATRON**

- (a) The Patron shall be the Chairman of the Fellowship.
- (b) He shall be an adviser to the MEF General Leader and other Officers of the Fellowship.
- (c) He shall chair the MEF Executive Committee meetings and in his absence the MEF General Leader shall preside.

### **15.2.3 FUNCTIONS OF THE MEF GENERAL LEADER**

- (a) He shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Fellowship.
- (b) He shall chair the Men's Fellowship Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the Patron.
- (c) He shall have general supervision of the MEF.
- (d) He shall submit the Men's Fellowship general report to the General Council through the Church's Chairman.
- (e) He may assign to the Deputy MEF General Leader such duties as he deems necessary.
- (f) He shall be responsible to the Church's Chairman.
- (g) He shall be responsible for the preparation of the MEF Syllabus.

### **15.2.4 FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MEF LEADER**

- (a) He shall assist the General MEF Leader in the supervision of the Men's Fellowship.
- (b) He shall deputise for the MEF General Leader at meetings and other functions when he is absent.
- (c) He shall perform such functions as shall be assigned to him by the MEF General Leader or the MEF Executive Committee.

### **15.2.5 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office of the MEF General Leader, the Deputy and all other Executive Members shall be four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **15.3 AREA/REGIONAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

#### **LEADER (MEF)**

A Minister shall be appointed as the Area/Regional MEF Leader. He shall be assisted by an Elder.

#### **15.3.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Area/Regional MEF Leader and his Assistant shall be appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery on the recommendation of the Area/Regional Executive Committee and the Ministers.



### **15.3.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) He shall have general supervision of the MEF in the Area/Region.
- (b) He shall work in consultation with the Area/Regional Head and report to the Area/Regional Presbytery.

### **15.3.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office of the Area/Regional Leader and his Assistant shall be three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **15.4 DISTRICT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LEADER (MEF)**

An Elder shall be appointed as a District MEF Leader. He shall have an Assistant.

#### **15.4.1 APPOINTMENT**

The District MEF Leader and his Assistant shall be appointed by the District Presbytery on the recommendation of the District Executive Committee.

#### **15.4.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) He shall supervise the work of the MEF in the District.
- (b) He shall report through the District Minister.
- (c) He shall see to the teaching of the men the word of God and the lessons in the MEF Syllabus.
- (d) He shall be responsible for the preparation of programmes for MEF meetings in consultation with the District Minister.

### **15.4.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office shall be three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **15.5 LOCAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LEADER (MEF)**

There shall be appointed an Elder or a Brother of good repute as Local MEF Leader who shall have an Assistant.

#### **15.5.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Local Leader and his Assistant shall be appointed by the Local Presbytery.

#### **15.5.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) He shall co-operate with the Local Presbytery and with the Minister in the discharge of his duties.
- (b) He shall take charge of the Local MEF meetings.
- (c) He shall see to the teaching of the word of God and the lessons in the MEF Syllabus.

#### **15.5.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office shall be two (2) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**15.5.4 Other Officers:** The Men's Fellowship at all levels shall appoint other officers like Treasurer, Secretary and Organiser to enhance the smooth running of the Ministry and other related activities. All such officers may have a term of three (3) years and may be re-elected for further terms.

## **15.6 FINANCE**

Free will offerings shall be taken at meetings. Members may also set themselves to pay monthly dues to raise funds to help their course. A percentage as determined by the General Council from time to time shall be paid into the General Fund of the Church.

## **ARTICLE 16 YOUTH MINISTRY**

16.1 There shall be established **THE APOSTLES' CONTINUATION YOUTH MINISTRY** as the youth Wing of The Church.

### **16.1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

It shall comprise **THE APOSTLES' CONTINUATION STUDENTS** and **ASSOCIATES (ACONSU)** which shall operate in colleges and other tertiary institutions, a **TEENAGE MINISTRY** and other youth. Meetings shall be held at least once a week.

### **16.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

(a) To carry out **EVANGELISM**, i.e. preaching, witnessing and winning souls.

(b) To encourage the youth to participate in the full programmes and activities of the Church and to further expose them to various Ministries within The Church.

(c) To afford the youth the full opportunity to plan and organise programmes and activities for evangelism in schools, colleges and the tertiary institutions and to encourage them to develop the gifts and qualities of leadership.

(d) To plan and organise programmes and activities that meet the peculiar needs and aspirations of the youth.

(e) Other specialised Youth related Ministries.

(f) To carry out such other functions as the General Council or the Executive Council may assign it.

## **16.2 YOUTH MINISTRY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Apostles' Continuation Youth Ministry shall be run by an Executive Committee of seven (7) members made up of two (2) Ministers, two Youth Leaders (2) One (1) Elder, one (1) Deaconess and one (1) Minister's wife.

### **16.2.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Executive Council shall appoint for ratification by the General Council, the Youth Executive Committee as follows;

(a) An Apostle, a Prophet or experienced Minister as a Patron who shall be an Honorary Chairman of the Ministry.

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- (b) A Minister as a full-time Director of the Ministry.
- (c) A Minister/An Elder as a Deputy Director
- (d) Two (2) Youth Executives
- (e) Two (2) Elders
- (f) One (1) Deaconess
- (g) One (1) Minister's Wife
- (h) Provided that where the Director is an Apostle or Prophet, there shall be no Patron and an additional Minister shall be appointed to the Committee.

**16.2.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE PATRON**

- (a) The Patron shall be Honorary Chairman of the Ministry.
- (b) He shall be an Adviser to the Youth Director and other Officers of the Ministry.
- (c) He shall chair the Youth Ministry Executive Committee meetings and in his absence, the Youth Director shall preside.

**16.2.3 FUNCTIONS OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR**

- (a) He shall be a full-time Director and shall prepare and carry out the Ministry's programmes and implement decisions of the General Council,

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the Executive Council and The Apostles' Continuation Youth Ministry Executive Committee.

(b) He shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Youth Ministry.

(c) He shall in consultation with the Patron plan programmes for evangelism in schools, colleges and the universities and to plan special programmes for the Youth Ministry occasionally.

(d) He shall prepare the Agenda for the Youth Ministry Executive Committee meetings and shall arrange to make them available to members.

(e) He shall chair the Youth Ministry Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the Patron.

(f) He shall direct affairs during Youth Ministry Leadership meetings and other related activities of the Ministry.

(g) He shall provide study materials for the Ministry.

(h) He shall perform such functions and duties as may be directed by the Ministry Executive Committee or the Chairman of the Church.

(i) He shall be responsible to the Chairman of The Church.

(j) He shall liaise with other youth bodies in the para-churches and other Christian organisations.

### **16.2.4 FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPUTY YOUTH DIRECTOR**

- (a) He shall deputise for the Youth Director in his absence.
- (b) He shall assist the Youth Director in his duties except for exclusive ministerial functions where he is an Elder.
- (c) He shall perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Youth Director or the Executive Committee of the Youth Ministry.

### **16.2.5 TERM OF OFFICE**

The Patron, the Youth Director, the Deputy Youth Director and all other members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **16.3 AREA /REGIONAL YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Youth Ministry shall be administered by a seven member Executive Committee appointed by the Area Presbytery upon the recommendation of the Area Executive Committee.

A Minister shall be appointed as The Area/Regional Youth Leader. He shall be assisted by an Elder, and Five (5) Area Regional Youth Executives.

### **16.3.1 MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Area Youth Ministry Leader
- b) Assistant Area Youth Ministry Leader
- c) Four (4) Elders one of whom shall be the secretary
- d) One (1) Deaconess

### **16.3.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) The Area/Regional Youth Leader shall be responsible to the Area/Regional Presbytery through the Area/Regional Head for the day-to-day running and oversight of the Youth Ministry in the Area/Region.
- (b) He shall plan programmes for evangelism, discipleship and leadership training in schools, colleges and universities.
- (c) He shall chair meetings of the Ministry.
- (d) He shall be responsible for the formation, sustenance and growth of the Youth Ministry in the Area/Region for the fulfilment of the Great Commission especially by the Youth.
- (e) He shall report bi-annually to the Youth Director and the Area/Regional Presbytery on the state of the Youth Ministry in the Area/Region.
- (f) He shall perform such other functions as the Youth Director and/or the Area/Regional Head shall assign to him from time to time.

### **16.3.3 TERMS OF OFFICE**

The Area/Regional Youth Leader and his Assistant shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **16.4 DISTRICT YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Youth Ministry shall be administered by a five (5) member executive committee appointed by the District Presbytery on the recommendation of the District executive committee..

#### **16.4.1 MEMBERSHIP**

- a) District Youth Ministry Patron
- b) District Youth Ministry Leader
- c) Assistant Youth Ministry Leader
- d) One (1) Deacon and one (1) Deaconess

#### **16.4.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) He shall supervise the Youth Ministry in the District.
- (b) He shall communicate all relevant matters with the consent of the District Minister to the Area/Regional Leader.
- (c) He shall see to the teaching of the word of God and lessons in the Youth Ministry Syllabus.
- (d) He shall be responsible for the preparation of programmes for Youth Ministry meetings in consultation with the District Minister.

#### **16.4.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The District Youth Leader and the Assistant shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

#### **16.5 LOCAL YOUTH LEADER**

There shall be appointed a Local Youth Leader who shall have an Assistant.

##### **16.5.1 APPOINTMENT**

The Local Youth Leader and his Assistant shall be appointed by the Local Presbytery.

#### **16.5.2 FUNCTIONS**

- (a) He shall take charge of the Youth Ministry in the Local Assembly.
- (b) He shall communicate all relevant matters with the consent of the Minister/Presiding Elder to the District Leader.
- (c) He shall see to the teaching of the word of God and lessons in the Youth Ministry Syllabus.
- (d) He shall be responsible for the preparation of programmes of the Youth Ministry meetings in consultation with the Minister/Presiding Elder of the Local Assembly and District Minister.

#### **16.5.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The Local Youth Leader and his Assistant shall hold office for two (2) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**16.5.4 Other Officers:** The Youth Ministry at all levels shall appoint other officers like Treasurer, Secretary and Organiser to enhance the smooth running of the Ministry and other related activities. All such officers may have a term of three (3) years and may be re-elected for further terms.

#### **16.6 FINANCE**

Free will offerings shall be taken at meetings. Members may also set themselves to pay monthly dues to raise funds to help their course. A percentage as determined by the General Council from time to time shall be paid into the General Fund of the Church.

**STATUTE V**

**OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

**ARTICLE 17 UNPAID OFFICERS**

17.1 There shall be unpaid Officers of the Church.

**17.2 REGIONAL DEACON:** The Regional head and the Regional Presbytery Council shall appoint an experienced Elder of good standing as a Regional Deacon.

**17.3 FUNCTIONS:** His duties shall include:

- (a) To take care of all material things (physical assets) of the church in the region.
- (b) To ensure that secretaries of the assemblies send tithes and other designated funds to headquarters on regular basis.
- (c) To be responsible to the Regional Presbytery Council.
- (d) To work and liaise closely with the Regional Head.
- (e) Report periodically (annually) and on request, to the finance board.

**17.4 Term of Office:** It shall be for four (4) years and may be re-elected for further term(s).

**17.5 Elders:** These are experienced members of the church ordained to take charge of local assemblies in the absence of the Pastor or Overseer (1Tim. 3: 1 - 10 , Titus 1 : 59)

They also keep the register of names and addresses of members. From among the Elders, a presiding elder is appointed to act in place of the Pastor or Overseer.

**17.6 The Presiding Elder:** There shall be a Presiding Elder appointed from among the Elders in a Local Assembly, to act in place of the Pastor or Overseer. The Presiding Elder's term of office shall be four (4) years and may be reviewed for further term(s).

**17.7Regional Representative Elders:** The Regional Head and Regional Presbytery Council shall appoint some number of Elders to represent the Region at General Council meetings. Their term(s) of office shall be four (4) years and may be reviewed for further term(s). The Executive Council shall determine the number of Elders to be appointed for each region to serve at the General council meeting based on the numerical strength of the region. However, a minimum of three (3) Elders shall be appointed to represent each region.

**17.8 Deacons and Deaconesses:** These are ordained brothers and sisters called to look after the physical assets of the church. They shall also serve at the Lord's tables and at other church gatherings. (1 Tim 3:8-13; Titus 2:3-5)

**17.9 QUALIFICATION**

- (a) These persons must be born-again and be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- (b) They must qualify in terms of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-8.
- (c) They must possess at least a moderate amount of education or be a functionally literate.

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- (d) They must possess a clear voice without any impediment in their speech.
- (e) They must be willing to learn.
- (f) They must be mature persons of sound body and mind.

**17.10 RETIREMENT OF UNPAID OFFICERS**

Unpaid officers shall be retired from active service at the age of sixty five (65) years.

**ARTICLE 18 DISCIPLINE**

18.1 We believe that the purpose of church discipline is for the glory of God, the spiritual benefit of members and the purity of the Church. It thus serves as a warning to the congregation and also averts reproach upon the name of Christ: For the transgressor, especially, that he may repent and be saved. Disciplinary measure of suspension from office (or dismissal from the pastorate when the charge is serious) shall be taken by the Executive Council, the Chairman or the trustees in case of an officer. In case of a member, a pastor and or the Presbyter may take the action.

18.2 Disciplinary measures are taken when officer or a member:

- a. Falls into open sin.
- b. Makes a practice of going to questionable place or taking part in adulterous performance.
- c. Embraces or spreads false doctrine.
- d. Marries more than one wife/husband.
- e. Gets married to a married person.

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- f. Fails to attend to the worship of the church, particularly the Lord's Supper, without justifiable reason for period of more than twelve months.
- g. Divorces wife or husband in a way contrary to the word of God.
- h. Lead any life that is contrary to the teaching of Christ or that brings disunity into the fellowship of the Church. Converts who polygamists are baptized but not received into full membership until they live blameless life of monogamy.
- i. Disobeying and showing disrespect to The Church authority at any level.

**18.2.1 SANCTIONS**

- a). Depending upon the gravity of the offence committed by an offending officer or member.
- b). May be suspended from taking part in all church programmes and activities.
- c). Shall not partake of the Lord's Supper.
- d). Shall not minister or witness on the platform at the Church etc.
- e). In extreme cases, the District Pastor in consultation with the Regional Head may recommend that the offender be excommunicated from the Church.
- f). May be removed from the office.
- g). The office of deacon and deaconess may be revoked by the appointed authority.
- h). May be publicly rebuked.

**18.3 RIGHT OF APPEAL:** An aggrieved officer or member may first appeal to the District Presbytery Council, then to the Regional Presbytery Council and finally to the Executive council to seek redress.

A member may resort to proceedings outside The Church to address issues or grievances within the church only after exhausting the laid down procedures (as above) of the church.

## **ARTICLE 19 CHURCH MEMBERSHIPS**

**19.1** There shall be both adults as well as infants (children) members of the church.

**19.2 ADULT MEMBERS:** All members 15 years and above constitute the adult membership based on whether they have

- a. Accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal saviour.
- b. Baptized into the church.
- c. Adhere to the basis of faith.
- d. Strive to show a true spirit of Christian life towards one another.
- e. Habitually attend the meetings of the Church for worship, prayers etc.

**19.3 CHILDREN MEMBERS:** Members below 15 years and have been dedicated by a minister of the Church shall be referred to as the children member. Such members shall not be communicants until baptised in the church.

**19.4 POLYGAMOUS CONVERTS:** Polygamous converts may be baptised but not received into full fellowship (membership) until they renounce polygamy.

**19.5 MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS:** A Christian brother or sister from another denomination may be received into full membership if he/she produces a baptismal certificate (baptism by immersion) or a satisfactory identity.

## **19.6 RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP**

(a) Admittance into full membership of The Church shall be by the ceremony of extension of the Right Hand of Fellowship. The Right Hand of Fellowship shall be extended by a Minister or a Presiding Elder during Church service.

(b) Backsliders who repent and return to Fellowship may also be given the Right Hand of Fellowship within two(2) months.

## **19.7 CONDITIONS PRECEDENT**

The following conditions shall be fully met before the Right Hand of Fellowship is extended within a reasonable time of conversion.

- (I) A clear testimony of salvation/repentance
- (ii) Baptism by immersion.



## **STATUTE VI**

### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **ARTICLE 20 INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS BOARD**

20.1 There shall be established an international missions board which shall be responsible for the spread of the gospel worldwide and in Africa in particular.

##### **20.1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairman of the Church, the General Secretary and the International Missions Director shall be automatic members of the Board by virtue of their offices. One (1) Apostle/Prophet, two (2) Ministers, two (2) Elders and Finance Board Chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Council to serve as the other members of the board. One (1) Trustee, the Finance and Administrative Director and the Missions Accountant shall be co-opted members.

##### **20.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

The Board, which shall be responsible to the General Council through the Executive Council, shall have the following functions:

- (a) To develop and maintain relations with overseas church missions, boards and donor organisations.
- (b) To organise missionary works outside and seek opportunities to establish churches whenever possible.

(c) To plan and co-ordinate missionary programmes.

(d) To establish principles and standards of ethics that shall govern all parties concerned with missionary programmes.

(e) To encourage and enable Assemblies of the Church to support missions activities and work.

(f) To promote the programmes of the Board to raise funds and interest therein.

(g) To receive and transmit appeals in matters relating to missionary programmes to the Executive Council for determination.

##### **20.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

With the exception of the Chairman, the General Secretary and the International Missions Director who shall serve on the Board during their term of office, other members of the board shall serve for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

#### **20.2 AREA/REGIONAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE**

There shall be established an Area/Regional Missionary Committee.

##### **20.2.1 MEMBERSHIP**

There shall be two (2) Ministers, one (1) of whom will be the Chairman, one (1) Witness Movement Representative, one (1) Representative of the Women's Movement, two (2) Elders and one (1) Deaconess.

### **20.2.2 APPOINTMENT**

The members of the Area/Regional Missionary Committee shall be appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery.

### **20.2.3 FUNCTIONS**

They shall be responsible for the co-ordination and promotion of missions' interest in the Area/Region and shall report to the International Missions Director through the Area/Regional Head.

### **20.2.4 TERM OF OFFICE**

Members shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **20.3 DISTRICT MISSIONARY SECRETARY**

District Missionary Secretary shall be appointed by the District Presbytery on the recommendation of the District Executive Committee.

#### **20.3.1 FUNCTIONS**

The District Missionary Secretary shall be responsible for the co-ordination and promotion of Missionary Interest in the District and Assemblies.

#### **20.3.2 TERM OF OFFICE**

He shall hold office for two (2) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

### **20.4 SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

The day-to-day administration of the Missions Board shall be under the International Missions Director who shall be responsible to the Executive Council through the Board. He shall be assisted in his duties by such officers to be appointed by the Executive Council of The Church as shall from time to time become necessary.

### **20.5 GRANT OF AUTONOMY TO EXTERNAL BRANCHES**

The Executive Council shall, where it is satisfied, recommend the granting of autonomy to the National Church to the General Council for ratification when the prerequisites for attaining autonomy prescribed in the Missions Manual have been fulfilled by the National Church.

### **ARTICLE 21 FINANCE BOARD**

21.1 There shall be Finance Board comprising nine (9) members appointed by the General Council on the recommendation of the Executive Council. They shall be responsible to the Executive Council through the General Secretary.

**21.1.1 MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. Finance Board Chairman.
- b. One (1) Apostle
- c. Two (2) Pastors
- d. The Accountant
- e. One (1) Banker
- f. Two (2) Area/Regional Deacons
- g. One (1) Trustee

The Finance Manager and The Internal Auditor, and other Trustees shall be co-opted members.

**21.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

- a. To administer the Central Fund of The Church and encourage a uniform accounting systems for all the assemblies.
- b. To prepare and submit an Annual Budget of the Church to the General Council at least two months before the commencement of a new financial year.
- c. To develop, practice and implement new methods of raising church funds.
- d. To encourage tithing and the spirit of Christian giving.
- e. To maintain an effective internal audit system throughout the church (local, district, regional, head office and boards).
- f. To ensure timely internal audit of the General Accounts of The Church including those of the Headquarters, the Area/Regional, District and Local Offices.

g. To undertake monthly appraisal of Budget performance of the departmental heads and the Finance and Administration Director.

h. To review the Budget performance quarterly.

i. To submit copies of the Audited Accounts and Audit Report to the Executive Council and the Trustees.

j. To invest funds of The Church with the prior approval of the Executive Council.

**21.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE:**

The term of office is four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**ARTICLE 22 PENSION BOARD**

22.1 Upon the recommendation of the Executive Council, the General Council shall appoint a nine (9) member Pension Board to administer the Pension Scheme of the Church.

**22.1.1 MEMBERSHIP:**

- a. Two (2) Apostles or Prophets one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman.
- b. Two (2) Ministers
- c. One (1) Area/Regional Deacon
- d. One (1) Elder
- e. One (1) Trustee
- f. One (1) Lawyer
- g. One (1) Accountant/Investment Banker.

**22.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

- a. They shall be responsible for the overall administration of the Pension Scheme.
- b. They shall have the right to invest the capital or income of the Fund in any Bank, Deposit House or any permanent and safe investment not in any way contrary to the principles of the Church.
- c. They shall cause proper Books of Accounts to be kept for the Fund and Final Accounts prepared once a year.
- d. They shall organise fund-raising activities to raise funds to support the Pension Scheme.
- e. They shall run programmes to prepare Ministers for Pension.
- f. They shall run programmes to sustain Pensioners.

**22.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE:** It shall be for four (4) years for the members and may be reviewed for further term(s).

**22.2 AREA/REGIONAL PENSION COMMITTEE**

There shall be the Area/Regional Pension Committee made up of seven (7) members appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery on the recommendation of the Area/Regional Executive Committee.

**22.2.1 MEMBERSHIP**

Three (3) Ministers, one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman, three (3) Elders and one (1) Deaconess. The Area/Regional Head and the Area/Regional Deacon shall be ex-officio members.

**22.2.2 FUNCTIONS**

- a. They shall implement the programmes and policies of the Pension Board.
- b. They shall organise fund-raising activities to support the Pension Scheme.
- c. They shall organise programmes to educate officers and members of The Church on the Pension Scheme and their own pension.
- d. They shall run programmes to sustain the retired Ministers of the Church in the Area/Region.
- e. They shall be responsible to the Pension Board through the Area/Regional Executive Committee.

**22.2.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office shall be three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**ARTICLE 23 NATIONAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**

23.1 There shall be a National Ministerial Committee made up of five (5) members appointed by the Executive Council for ratification by the General Council.

**23.1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Two (2) members of the Executive Council one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman.
- b. Two (2) Ministers.
- c. The Principal of the Bible College.

The Personnel Manager shall be co-opted member.

**23.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

To interview and recommend to the Executive Council the successful candidate(s) into the Ministry.

**23.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Members shall hold office for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**23.2 AREA/REGIONAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**

There shall be established the Area/Regional Ministerial Committee made up of five (5) members appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery on the recommendation of the Area/Regional Executive Committee.

**23.2.1 MEMBERSHIP**

The Area/Regional Head as the Chairman and four (4) other Ministers.

**23.2. 2 FUNCTIONS**

To interview and recommend successful candidate(s) into the Ministry to the National Ministerial Committee; and also candidates into other offices of The Church.

**23.2.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Members shall hold office for three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**23.3 DISTRICT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**

There shall be a District Ministerial Committee made up of five (5) members appointed by the District Presbytery on the recommendation of the District Executive Committee.

**23.3.1 MEMBERSHIP**

The District Minister as Chairman and four (4) Elders

**23.3.2 FUNCTIONS**

To recommend to the Area/Regional Ministerial Committee successful candidate(s) into the Ministry and candidate(s) for any other office(s).

**23.3.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

The term of office shall be three (3) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**ARTICLE 24 PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

24.1 There shall be a seven-member Property Committee appointed by the Executive Council and approved by the General Council.

**24.1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) Two (2) Ministers, one of whom shall be the Chairman
- (b) Two (2) Trustees
- (c) One (1) Lawyer
- (d) Two (2) Elders/Deacon/Members with requisite technical background
- (e) The Estate Manager (Co-opted)

**24.1.2 FUNCTIONS:**

- a. Shall advise the Board of Trustees on all estate or property and development matters.
- b. Shall give technical advice on the construction of buildings and other related projects of the church.
- c. Shall keep records of all properties of the church.
- d. Shall advise the Regional Deacons on the acquisition, demarcation, retracing or reclaiming of any lost church properties.
- e. Shall be responsible for collection and preservation of documents and records pertaining to church properties.
- f. Shall advise Assemblies in the choice and acquisition of properties.

**24.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE:** Members shall serve for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further term(s).

**ARTICLE 25 SOCIAL SERVICES**

25.1 The General Council shall maintain a Unit of The Church which shall fulfil the social/charitable missions of The Church. It shall be known as **CARE SERVICES** hereinafter called Care Committee, which shall be appointed by the Executive Council for the ratification by the General Council.

**25.1.1 MEMBERSHIP:**

The Care Committee shall be made up of nine (9) members as follows:

- a. One (1) Apostle or Prophet as Chairman
- b. One (1) Minister
- c. One (1) Educationist
- d. One (1) Agriculturist
- e. One (1) Medical Practitioner
- f. One (1) Social Worker
- g. One (1) Lawyer
- h. Two (2) others including one (1) woman.

**25.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

- a. To be responsible to the General Council through the Executive Council for the initiation, promotion, development and management of social services and projects of The Church.
- b. To promote the active involvement of members of the Church in social services in their communities.

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- c. To advise The Church in matters relating to social services in the country.
- d. To serve as the technical consulting body for all social projects initiated by The Church at all levels.
- e. To liaise with other non-governmental organisations and donor/aid agencies and other Christian donor organisations in matters relating to support for the Care projects through the office of the Chairman.
- f. To perform such other social assignments as the Executive Council may delegate or assign.

**25.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Members shall hold office for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**ARTICLE 26 MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

26.1 There shall be a Medical Committee of seven (7) members which shall be appointed by the Executive Council for ratification by the General Council.

**26.1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

- a. The Chairman
- b. The General Secretary
- c. One (1) Doctor
- d. One (1) Missionary whose church has links with the church
- e. Finance Board Chairman

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- f. One (1) Elder
- g. One (1) Nurse

**26.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

- a. To establish, run and maintain hospitals, mobile clinics, health posts, medical stores and pharmacies.
- b. They shall also be concerned with the health aspects of ministers and all workers of the church.

26.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE: Members shall hold office for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further term(s).

**ARTICLE 27 LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

27.1 There shall be a Literature Committee made up of nine (9) members appointed by the Executive Council for ratification by the General Council.

**27.1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

- a. Two (2) Ministers one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman
- b. One (1) Representative of the Witness Movement
- c. One (1) Representative of the Youth Ministry
- d. One (1) Representative of the Women Ministry
- e. One (1) Children's Movement Representative
- f. One (1) Lawyer
- g. The Editor of the Official Church Magazine
- h. The Managing Director of The Apostles' Continuation Press Limited.

**27.1.2 FUNCTIONS**

- a. To vet, edit and recommend for approval of the Executive Council the church's literature.
- b. To see to the literature needs of The Church, including tracts.
- c. To vet, edit and recommend for approval of the Executive Council independent publications by Ministers of The Church.

**27.1.3 TERM OF OFFICE**

Members shall serve for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**ARTICLE 28 NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

28.1 There shall be an Electoral Commission made up of five (5) persons appointed by the Executive Council. It shall be responsible for the conduct of elections at the National and the Executive Council levels. The Executive Council shall appoint its Chairman.

**28.1.1 TERM OF OFFICE**

The commission shall hold office for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**28.2 AREA/REGIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION.**

There shall be the Area/Regional Electoral Commission made up of three (3) persons appointed by the Area/Regional Presbytery who shall conduct elections at the Regional and District levels.

**28.2.1 TERM OF OFFICE**

The Commission shall serve for four (4) years and may be reviewed for further terms.

**ARTICLE 29 OTHER BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

29.1 The Executive Council of the church have the authority (mandate) to establish any such Boards, Movements and Committees as shall become necessary for the smooth running of the church.

**29.2 REGIONAL, DISTRICT AND LOCAL COMMITTEES**

The various Area/Regional, District and Local Presbyteries shall have power to establish Area/Regional, District and Local Branches of the National Committees which are provided for in this Constitution.



**STATUTE VII**

**ARTICLE 30 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**30.1 FINANCE**

The General Council shall have the responsibility of raising the funds needed to finance the various financial commitments of the church.

**30.2 SOURCES OF FINANCE:** The Church shall raise funds from Offerings, Tithes, Donations, Missionary Offerings and any other monies received from other sources.

**30.3 CENTRAL FUND**

- a. The headquarters shall operate a central fund into which shall be paid all monies received from the regions and other sources. It is from the same account that the church shall pay both capital and re-current expenditure.
- b. A finance and an Administrative director appointed by the Executive Council shall operate the fund. The finance and administrative director shall be responsible to the Executive Council through the General Secretary.
- c. The Internal Auditor shall have the authority (power) to audit this fund and any other accounts at Regional, District and Local levels anytime with or without prior notice.

**30.4 REGIONAL/DISTRICT/LOCAL FUND:** The church shall operate Regional, District and Local Funds into which shall be paid offerings (net) and other income. Running expenses of the church shall be paid from such funds and if possible (ideally) all such transfer to the central fund.

**30.5 OTHER FUNDS:** There shall be other funds such as the Witness fund, Women's fund, Children's fund and other funds as may be approved by the General Council, all of which shall be used for the purpose of furthering the work of the Lord.

**30.6 AUDITORS AND AUDITS**

**30.6.1 EXTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL**

- a. The Executive Council shall have the Accounts of The Church and of its Boards, Committees and Legal Corporations audited at least once each calendar year and the Auditor shall report upon same to the Executive Council annually. The Auditor's Report shall be presented also to the General Council. The Auditor shall also be responsible for the auditing of the Regional and District Accounts. The Auditor shall be under the general direction of the Executive Council.
- b. The Auditor shall audit the books of all such organs or institutions as shall fall under the Central Fund of The Church.
- c. For effective performance of his duties, the Auditor shall have the right of access at all times to all books, accounting records, accounts and vouchers of The Church, its Organs, Boards, Corporations or Committees.

- a. The Auditor shall have the right to require from officers of The Church such information as he may need, in the performance of his duties.
- b. The Auditor shall be appointed by the General Council on the recommendation of the Executive Council and paid such fees as may be approved by the General Council.
- c. The External Auditor of the Church shall present the Audited Accounts of the Church for each year at the General Council Meeting upon invitation by the Chairman of the Church. The appointment of the Auditors may be renewed for further terms based on merit.

#### **30.6.2 INTERNAL AUDIT AND CONTROL**

- a. The Church shall maintain an Internal Auditor appointed by the Executive Council for ratification by the General Council.
- b. The Internal Auditor shall ensure effective internal control and internal audit of all the organs and institutions of The Church and provide measures to achieve internal accounting objectives.
- c. The Internal Auditor shall be responsible to the Chairman of The Church.
- d. The Internal Auditor's Report shall be submitted to the Executive Council through the Chairman.

**30.7 BANKING ACCOUNT:** All Local, District, Regional and National levels shall be operated by such signatories as may from time to time be approved by the Executive Council, Regional, and District or Local Presbytery Council as the case may be.

### **STATUTE VIII**

#### **ARTICLE 31 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

##### **31.1 GENERAL COUNCIL APPROVALS**

Where in the Constitution, the General Council is to give approval for decisions or appointments, such approval may be given by acclamation or consensus or in any other manner as the General Council may deem fit.

**31.2 MARRIAGES:** The Church believe in chastity before marriage and does not encourage divorce nor does it condone polygamy (Matt. 5:31; Rom. 7:1-3; 1Cor 7:10-15; Matt. 19:3-11). The Church shall bless marriages and encourage registration of customary marriages.

**31.3 INHERITANCE:** The church upholds both maternal and paternal inheritance.

- a. The Church accepts wills/testaments for safe keeping from members and presents to the bereaved family(ies) at the appropriate time.
- b. When a member dies interstate, the Interstate Succession Law of the land shall be applied.

### **31.4 AMMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- a. No provision of this constitution shall be amended or altered, directly or indirectly by an act or conduct of the church unless that act or conduct shall have been approved at General Council meetings by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- b. Any members seeking to effect an amendment to any provision of this constitution shall first get the approval from the Regional Level before a notice of the proposed amendment sent to the General Secretary at least 90 days before the General Council meeting. General Secretary shall then inform the Trustees by copies of the proposed amendment at most 30 days on receipt of such proposal.
- c. If the proposed amendment originates from any of the National bodies created by this constitution, then the proposed amendment shall be communicated direct through the General Secretary to the General Council. The General Secretary shall inform the Trustees with copies at most 30 days thereafter.
- d. The General Secretary shall ensure that all members of the General Council receive copies of the said proposal at least 30 days before the General Council meeting.
- e. The Proposal shall appear on the General Council meeting agenda, debated and accepted if it draws two-thirds or more of the votes from members present and voting.

### **31.5 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

1. This second (2<sup>nd</sup>) amendment of the Constitution was promulgated at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Council Meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 at Duayaw Nkwanta, Margaret Buchner Vocational Institute.
2. All offices apart from that of the present Chairman (otherwise known as the office of the Apostle), shall be deemed vacant.
3. The Chairman shall notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this constitution, continue to preside over that meeting as Chairman and shall appoint an Electoral Committee to supervise all elections under this constitution.
4. The Chairman shall on the election of the General Secretary break the meeting for a period to enable the Chairman consider candidates for his Executive Council.
5. The Chairman, The General Secretary, The International Missions Director and The Executive Council shall be ushered into office within two months of their election.
6. The current Chairman of the church, Apostle Clement Brakatu, shall preside over the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Council Meeting that shall approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution.
7. The incumbent Chairman upon the coming into force of this amended Constitution, Apostle Clement Brakatu, shall continue to hold Office until his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday; after which time the first election of new Chairman shall be held as stipulated under statute 111, Article (8) of the constitution.

## ACCI Constitution

8. Paragraph (2) notwithstanding, the incumbent Chairman may call for election of a new Chairman if he has reasonable grounds to do so.
9. It is also established under this constitution that the incumbent chairman, Apostle Clement Brakatu shall not exercise any prerogative of nominating or appointing a Successor to the position of Chairmanship.
10. It is further established that all clauses under Article 31.5 (Transitional Provision) are hereby entrenched.
11. After the promulgation of this Constitution, the Executive Council shall appoint a Committee to consider the end of Service Benefits of retired Chairman. Such proposals shall be submitted for consideration and approval at the next General Council Meeting immediately following the coming into force of this Constitution.

### 31.6 EXISTING OFFICES, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

All existing offices, committees, Boards, and movements immediately before the coming into force of this constitution shall continue in the office for a period not exceeding two months. In the same way any person who immediately before the coming into force of this constitution hold or acting in an office, on a committee, movement or board of existence immediately

## ACCI Constitution

before the coming into force of this constitution shall continue in office for a period not exceeding two months and ONLY for the purpose of handing over to the incoming officers. Within three (3) months of the promulgation of this constitution the in-coming officers shall convene General Council meeting to consider the Business of the Church.

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.*

*(Heb 13:8)*

I hereby certify this to be the true copy of the Apostles' Continuation Church International Constitution

**Apostle Clement Brakatu**

**(CHAIRMAN OF THE APOSTLES' CONTINUATION CHURCH  
INTERNATIONAL)**