

# ***THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH***

# ***C O N S T I T U T I O N***

The  
**OAC**  
OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH

The original text, in English, duly signed and executed, is kept at the office of the Secretary of the Conference of Apostles. Copies and/or translations, where applicable, are kept at all Provincial, District and Regional offices of THE CHURCH.

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# THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH

## 1 NAME

1.1 The name of the Church is in the English language:

**THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH** (the name of the country may be inserted in brackets after the name of THE CHURCH where required)

(in abbreviated form known as "OAC").

and is hereinafter referred to as "THE CHURCH".

1.2 In every country where THE CHURCH is established, its name may be translated into the official languages applicable.

## 2 HEAD & ESTABLISHMENT

2.1 The HEAD OF THE CHURCH is JESUS CHRIST, the eternal Saviour of souls, the author and finisher of our faith.

2.2 THE CHURCH, established by JESUS CHRIST according to the Holy Scriptures, revived in Europe in the 19th century and was established in South Africa in 1894 and thereafter in other countries.

2.3 In every country where the Church is established, it shall function in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution; and the objects, funds and property of the Church in any specific country shall, subject to the legislation of such country, be applied primarily within that country for promoting the aims of the Church in such country.

## 3 OBJECTS

3.1 The objects of THE CHURCH are :

3.1.1 To promote the gospel of Jesus Christ in the doctrine of THE CHURCH.

3.1.2 To establish congregations for the promotion of the said doctrine of THE CHURCH.

- 3.1.3 To establish Sunday schools, choirs and other functions, having for their objects the instruction and training of the adherents in the said doctrine of THE CHURCH.
- 3.2 In pursuance of its objects THE CHURCH may :
  - 3.2.1 Establish and conduct welfare services, old age homes, schools, creches and other similar institutions for the benefit of its members.
  - 3.2.2 Make donations to institutions that operate in the country of registration or in another country on condition that the receiving institution has similar objectives and a similar tax exempt status as the donating institution.
- 3.3 THE CHURCH has the power regarding its objects and activities to :
  - 3.3.1 Purchase, sell, dispose of, lease, hire or in any other manner acquire movable and immovable property and to mortgage, hypothecate or otherwise alienate the same in such manner as may be requisite or necessary.
  - 3.3.2 Construct, demolish, renovate and alter buildings for the purposes of THE CHURCH.
  - 3.3.3 Invest and deal with funds of THE CHURCH upon such securities and in such manner as may be determined from time to time; to borrow money on such terms as may be deemed expedient; to subscribe for preference shares, building society shares, debentures and government or municipal stock; and to undertake and execute trusts.
  - 3.3.4 Guarantee the fulfilment of any obligations and to secure such guarantees by mortgage or pledge of THE CHURCH's assets; and to secure, by way of suretyship, the performance of any contract.
  - 3.3.5 Grant options over, improve, develop, exchange, lease or otherwise deal with any of the assets of THE CHURCH.
  - 3.3.6 Employ such staff as may be necessary, to determine their conditions of service and to remunerate and grant them pensions.
  - 3.3.7 Do all such things and to acquire all such other rights and privileges as may be necessary for, conducive to or consonant with the attainment of the above objects.
- 3.4 The activities of THE CHURCH shall be carried on in a non-profit manner and with altruistic and philanthropic intent. No activity of THE CHURCH shall directly or indirectly promote the economic self-interest of any fiduciary or employee of THE CHURCH otherwise than by way of reasonable and market related remuneration that shall not be excessive for the duties that are performed.

No funds shall be distributed to any person other than in the course of undertaking an activity of THE CHURCH. In the event a change is made to the Constitution that may have an effect on the “tax exempt” status of THE CHURCH, a copy of the amended Constitution will be submitted to all the relevant governmental authorities where THE CHURCH has “tax exempt” status.  
(Also refer to clause 15.7)

- 3.5 The Church shall at all levels operate within a strong governance framework that is aimed at compliance with its Constitution and the laws of the country where it operates as well as sound, effective and efficient administration. It espouses the principles of good corporate governance through sound business practices, business processes, reporting and combined monitoring and assurance mechanisms.

## **4 MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 Any person without regard to nationality, race or colour, may become a member of THE CHURCH. Membership is the privilege of those who have been taken up/baptised and who have been sealed by the Apostle.
- 4.2 The name of every member shall be enrolled upon the membership register of the Province, District or Region as the case may be, which has governance over him/her.
- 4.3 Membership does not entail the payment of a fee or subscription. In the event of any member losing his or her right of membership, whether by resignation, expulsion or otherwise, he or she shall have no claim of any kind whatsoever against THE CHURCH or any of its members or officers whether in respect of its property or in respect of monies contributed or donated by him or her during the period of his or her membership, or any other claim whatsoever.
- 4.4 The privilege of continued membership of THE CHURCH shall be dependent upon complete subordination to the officers appointed and ordained by the Apostle, and total acceptance of all the formularies, regulations, rules and decisions decreed or amended by the Conference of Apostles or Apostolate.

## **5 OFFICERS**

- 5.1 The following officers shall be recognised by THE CHURCH:
- 5.1.1 Apostle, Prophet/Evangelist/Overseer (collectively known as Fourfold Officers), Elder, Priest and Underdeacon, in seniority from highest to lowest.
- 5.1.2 All officers in clause 5.1.1 shall be appointed, ordained and anointed by and as prescribed in clauses 13.1 or 13.2.4 and clause 11.6.4 and/or per resolution of the Conference of Apostles.
- 5.2 Apostles serve at the behest of the Apostolate and all other officers serve at the behest of the Apostle for an indefinite period.
- 5.3 A certificate of appointment, signed by the Apostle shall be issued to every anointed officer. This certificate shall remain the property of THE CHURCH and shall be surrendered to THE CHURCH upon demand by the Apostle or an officer duly ordained and authorised to do so by the Apostle.
- 5.4 Every officer shall have the power to administer, act and perform all duties conferred upon him by the Apostle, in conformity with the policies, formularies, regulations, officers code of conduct, precepts, rules and directives approved by the Conference of Apostles or the Apostolate from time to time.
- 5.5 Subject to all civil laws and regulations in force, marriage officers shall be nominated for the solemnisation of marriages. Only serving Apostles, Fourfold Officers, Elders and Priests may be appointed to perform these duties.
- 5.6 The appointment and ordainment of an officer in THE CHURCH shall not in itself create or bring into being a contract of service or employment between such officer and THE CHURCH.

## **6 CONGREGATIONS & CONGREGATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Members of THE CHURCH serve in congregations established with the approval of the Apostle with due regard to the location, composition, language and culture of the local populace, the size and needs of the local following and the prevailing laws of the country in which the congregation is situated.

- 6.2 Members in congregations serve in Priestships under the care of Priests assisted by Underdeacons.
- 6.3 Priestships are grouped into Elderships and function under the care of an Elder.
- 6.4 Elderships are grouped into Overseerships and function under the care of Fourfold Officers.

## **7 REGIONS**

- 7.1 A Region may be established in an independent country in accordance with the provisions of clauses 10.2.3 and 10.2.3.2, and such Region shall function in the same manner as Provinces and Districts as provided for in clauses 13.6, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 21.
- 7.2 A Region need not be confined to one country or form a geographical unit, but its component parts must be clearly defined geographical areas.
- 7.3 A Region shall be known as “The Old Apostolic Church, (name of Region)” as contemplated in clause 1.1.

## **8 APOSTLESHIPS**

- 8.1 An Apostleship is established within a Province per resolution of the Apostolate of that Province in terms of clause 12.7.1, and shall consist of such congregations and regions as determined by the Apostles of the District or Province as the case may be.
- 8.2 An Apostleship need not be a geographical unit.

## **9 DISTRICTS**

- 9.1 Without prejudice to the provisions of clause 10.2.1.2, two or more Apostleships of a Province may be structured as a District in accordance with a resolution of the Apostolate of that Province in terms of clause 12.7.1.
- 9.2 A District as defined and compiled by the Apostolate as referred to in clause 9.1, need not form a geographical unit but its component parts must be clearly defined geographical areas.

## 10 PROVINCES

- 10.1 THE CHURCH is established in independent countries in accordance with a decision of the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.6.2.
- 10.2 With due regard to the membership, activities and interests of THE CHURCH in independent countries, such countries shall be structured into Provinces of THE CHURCH in accordance with a decision of the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.6.3, on the following basis:
- 10.2.1 Where two or more Apostleships have been established in a country, such country shall be declared a Province comprising:
- 10.2.1.1 Districts as provided for in clause 9; or
- 10.2.1.2 Apostleships functioning as a Province, provided that where extreme distances between Apostleships and the head office of the Church in a Province, and/or an insufficient infrastructure in a country so require, each Apostleship may be structured as a District by resolution of the Apostolate of such Province in terms of clause 12.7.1.
- 10.2.2 Where and/or when only one Apostleship has been established in an independent country, that country may, in the discretion of the Conference of Apostles, be declared a Province, subject to the provisions of clause 12.2, or be made part of another Province.
- 10.2.3 Where the membership, activities and interests of THE CHURCH in an independent country are too small to warrant the establishment of an Apostleship, THE CHURCH in that country --
- 10.2.3.1 shall by resolution of the Conference of Apostles be made part of an Apostleship of a Province or a District of a Province or a Region declared in terms of clause 10.2.1 or clause 10.2.2 or clause 10.2.3.2; or
- 10.2.3.2 may, in the sole discretion of the Conference of Apostles after due consideration of the prevailing circumstances, be declared a Region under the control of the Apostle of an Apostleship of a Province or a District of a Province declared in terms of clause 10.2.1 or clause 10.2.2.
- 10.2.4 Where a number of countries or states are joined together as a union, commonwealth or other grouping, such union, commonwealth or group of countries may in the sole discretion of the Conference of Apostles and with due regard to the prevailing circumstances, be declared a province.



- 10.3 Every Province of THE CHURCH shall be governed by an Apostolate constituted in accordance with clause 12.1 and, where applicable, clause 12.2.

## **11 CONFERENCE OF APOSTLES: COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONING & POWERS**

- 11.1 The Conference of Apostles is the co-ordinating body of THE CHURCH and consists of all the Apostles ordained in terms of clause 13.1 and serving in the Apostolates of the Provinces as active or Emeritus Apostles.
- 11.2 The Conference of Apostles elects a Chairman from its ranks who shall serve in this capacity in accordance with the Regulations with regard to the Functioning of the Conference of Apostles issued in terms of clause 11.6.5.
- 11.3 At the demise or demission of the Chairman, the remaining members of the Conference of Apostles shall elect a new Chairman from their ranks.
- 11.4 If the Conference of Apostles decides that a Chairman has become incapable of performing his functions as Chairman, for any reason whatsoever, the remaining members shall elect a new Chairman from their ranks.
- 11.5 The Conference of Apostles appoints a Secretary from its ranks who shall be known as the Secretary of the Conference of Apostles.
- 11.6 The Conference of Apostles shall have the following powers relating to THE CHURCH:
- 11.6.1 To approve and amend the constitution as it deems necessary from time to time.
- 11.6.2 To approve the establishment of THE CHURCH in independent countries.
- 11.6.3 To approve the establishment, structuring, restructuring or disestablishment of Provinces.
- 11.6.4 To issue and amend rules, regulations and formularies deemed necessary to be prescribed for implementation in the Provinces for the promotion of the unity of the faith and the achievement of the objects of THE CHURCH.

11.6.5 To issue and amend such regulations as it deems necessary to regulate and discipline its own meetings and actions, to formulate the responsibilities of its officials and members and to ensure that its decisions are properly executed and/or implemented.

11.6.6 To appoint Standing Committees with charters approved by the Conference of Apostles to –

- be of assistance to the Conference of Apostles, Apostolates, Apostles Head Office Administration, Forums of Apostles and Provincial/District/Regional Head Offices in establishing and maintaining effective governance structures in Provincial/District/Regional Head Offices regarding
  - finance, audit and risk management;
  - legal services;
  - publications, rules, directives and formularies; and
  - information technology services;

and

- monitor and report to the Conference of Apostles on
  - the compliance/non-compliance by Apostolates, Apostles and Provincial/District/Regional Head Offices of the Church's Constitution, formularies, regulations and rules and the resolutions of the Conference of Apostles and the Apostolate;
  - improving administrative procedures and excellence, financial audit and risk management, management of resources, supervision, personnel skills and transparency in the Church; and
  - any matter referred to them by the Conference of Apostles.

11.7 Subject to the provisions of clause 11.7.2, the resolutions of the Conference of Apostles shall be made by majority vote:

11.7.1 The Chairman shall have no casting vote and in the event of an equality of votes, the matter under consideration shall be postponed until a resolution by majority vote or by the prescribed percentage majority vote or by unanimous vote, as the case may be, is achieved.

- 11.7.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the constitution or any regulations issued by the Conference of Apostles, no resolution shall be passed and binding in respect of the following matters unless such resolution is passed by a 90% majority or unanimous vote as indicated below:
- 11.7.2.1 The approval, revocation or amendment of the Constitution - an unanimous vote is required.
- 11.7.2.2 Any resolution which may have financial implications for or any effect on the finances of a Province or a District and/or a Region in a Province, provided that the provisions of this clause shall not restrict or prevent the convention or attendance of any meeting of the Conference of Apostles - an unanimous vote is required.
- 11.7.2.3 The issue, amendment or repeal of regulations, rules and formularies - a 90% majority vote is required.
- 11.7.2.4 The establishment, structuring, restructuring or disestablishment of Provinces - a 90% majority vote is required.
- 11.8 The Conference of Apostles shall in particular dedicate itself to:
- 11.8.1 Establishing and maintaining the unity of the faith and promoting the interests of the brotherhood of the faith.
- 11.8.2 Developing the abilities and expertise of the officers of THE CHURCH.
- 11.8.3 Procuring the involvement of all Apostles in addressing matters/problems with which THE CHURCH in general is confronted.
- 11.8.4 Communicating matters of general importance and interest to the members of THE CHURCH across the borders of countries, cultures and languages.
- 11.8.5 Keeping Apostles informed of matters of general importance regarding the employees of THE CHURCH.
- 11.9 The Conference of Apostles shall determine its methods and frequency of communication for proper management of the affairs of THE CHURCH according to prevailing circumstances and shall incorporate its decisions in this regard into routines and programmes as it deems necessary. The following shall apply:
- 11.9.1 Meetings shall be held as often as is necessary to attend to the matters of the Church, provided that –
- 11.9.1.1 at least one ordinary meeting shall be held in every 12 months and that such ordinary meeting shall be planned at least 6 months in advance;

- 11.9.1.2 special meetings shall be convened by the Chairman of the Conference of Apostles and the Chairmen of all the Apostolates;
- 11.9.1.3 with a view to considering motions of exigency or other matters of urgency, and with the approval of all the Chairmen of the Apostolates, the Chairman of the Conference of Apostles may convene a meeting by telephone conference or other electronic means that permit Apostles to communicate adequately with each other. The person chairing the meeting shall satisfy himself that the method of communication adopted, is sufficiently secure for the purposes of the meeting, and each Apostle present by such means shall identify himself to the meeting for the purposes of establishing whether a quorum as provided for in clause 11.9.1.5, is present; and
- 11.9.1.4 in special circumstances where it is not possible for Apostles to attend a meeting by telephone conference, a resolution may be taken in writing, and such resolution shall be valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting duly convened and held, provided that
- a copy of the proposed resolution together with the relevant particulars thereof are sent or submitted to all Apostles;
  - the majority of Apostles as prescribed in clauses 11.7.2.1 to 11.7.2.4 have signed their agreement to such resolution in an authenticated document or documents which are received by the Secretary of the Conference of Apostles within a period of 21 days with effect from the circulation date; and
  - such resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more Apostles have signified their agreement.
- 11.9.1.5 no business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Conference of Apostles mentioned in paragraphs 11.9.1.1 to 11.9.1.4 hereinbefore, unless a quorum consisting of 90% of the members of the Conference of Apostles who are entitled to vote, is present at such meeting, provided that if any members have applied in writing for leave of absence from a meeting, and the members present at such meeting are 90% or more of the remaining members of the Conference of Apostles, the Conference of Apostles shall be entitled to conduct its business. "Present" includes being present by suitable electronic means agreed by the members in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants.
- 11.9.2 An Apostle may be granted leave of absence from a meeting of the Conference of Apostles in the discretion of the Chairman or the Chairman of the Apostolate of the Province in which he serves. An Apostle who is absent from a meeting shall not have the authority to nominate a substitute with power of attorney on his behalf.

- 11.9.3 Motions or proposals shall be in writing and shall be directed to the Secretary of the Conference of Apostles for inclusion on the agenda of the impending meeting. In the case of pre-planned meetings, such motions must reach the Secretary of the Conference of Apostles at least six weeks before the date of the meeting. In the case of special meetings the urgency of the matter(s) to be considered may dictate that special arrangements apply in this regard.
- 11.9.4 The Secretary of the Conference of Apostles shall disseminate the agenda of an impending meeting to all Apostles to reach them at least three weeks before the date of the meeting. Special arrangements will apply in the case of special meetings.
- 11.9.5 Every decision of the Conference of Apostles shall be recorded in writing and shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary upon confirmation at the subsequent meeting.
- 11.9.6 Every decision of the Conference of Apostles shall be communicated to officers and members as prescribed, shall be final and binding on all officers and members of THE CHURCH and there shall be no right of appeal to any court of law or other body in connection with or arising out of any of its decisions.

## **12 APOSTOLATE: COMPOSITION FUNCTIONING & POWERS**

- 12.1 An Apostolate is constituted for each Province established in terms of clause 10.2.1, 10.2.2 or 10.2.4 as the governing body of the Province and consists of all the Apostles ordained in terms of clause 13.1 and serving in such Province as active or Emeritus Apostles.
- 12.2 Where a country or a number of countries that are grouped together, is declared a Province in terms of clause 10.2.1, 10.2.2 or 10.2.4 and the Province consists of less than five Apostles appointed in terms of clause 13.1, the Apostolate of that Province shall comprise the Apostles of that Province and Apostles from other Provinces that are designated by the Conference of Apostles in order for the Apostolate to consist of a minimum of five Apostles.
- 12.3 The Apostolate elects a Chairman from its ranks, who shall serve in this capacity in accordance with the Regulations with regard to the Functioning of the Apostolate, issued in terms of clause 12.12.
- 12.4 At the demise or demission of the Chairman, the remaining members of the Apostolate shall elect a new Chairman from their ranks.

- 12.5 If the Apostolate decides that a Chairman has become incapable of performing his functions as Chairman, for any reason whatsoever, the remaining members of the Apostolate shall elect a new Chairman from their ranks.
- 12.6 The Apostolate appoints a Secretary from its ranks who shall be known as the Secretary of the Apostolate.
- 12.7 Save for the powers vested in the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.6, the Apostolate shall have supreme power in all matters, spiritual and temporal, relating to THE CHURCH in the Province where it has jurisdiction, which includes the power to:
- 12.7.1 Establish or disestablish Apostleships and Districts.
- 12.7.2 Appoint and ordain, recall, transfer, restrict the power of (including the right to vote at meetings of Apostles Forums, the Apostolate and the Conference of Apostles because of mental deficiency), classify as Emeritus Apostle, or remove from office an Apostle, including an Apostle: Head Office Administration referred to in clauses 13.4, 13.5 or 13.6.
- 12.7.3 Approve the appointment and ordaining or removal from office by an Apostle of a Prophet, Evangelist and/or Overseer.
- 12.7.4 Suspend and/or excommunicate from membership of THE CHURCH any person who serves in a congregation in the Province of its jurisdiction.
- 12.7.5 Issue and amend rules and regulations pertaining to any matter which is required or necessary to be prescribed in terms of the constitution or pertaining to any other matter which it considers necessary or expedient to prescribe in order that the objectives of THE CHURCH may be achieved in the Province.
- 12.8 Subject to the provisions of clause 12.8.2 the decisions of the Apostolate shall be taken by majority vote:
- 12.8.1 The Chairman shall not have a casting vote and in the event of an equality of votes, the matter under consideration shall be postponed until a resolution by majority vote or by the prescribed percentage majority vote or by unanimous vote, as the case may be, is achieved.
- 12.8.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the constitution or any regulations issued by the Apostolate or Conference of Apostles, no resolution shall be passed and binding in respect of the following matters unless such resolution is passed by an 80% majority or unanimous vote as indicated below:

- 12.8.2.1 The establishment or disestablishment of Districts and/or Apostleships - an unanimous vote is required.
- 12.8.2.2 The appointment, recall, transfer, pension, restriction of power, inactive classification with retention of office, and/or removal from office of an Apostle - an unanimous vote is required, not counting the vote of the affected individual.
- 12.8.2.3 The appointment of an Apostle as Apostle: Head Office Administration, the restriction of powers conferred or imposed upon him in terms of the constitution and regulations issued by the Apostolate, and his removal from such office - an unanimous vote is required, not counting the vote of the affected individual.
- 12.8.2.4 Any resolution which may have financial implications for a District or Apostleship or Region in an Apostleship, or may have an effect on the finances of a District or Region, provided that the provisions of this clause shall not restrict or prevent the convention or attendance of any meeting of the Apostolate - an unanimous vote is required.
- 12.8.2.5 The issue, amendment or repeal of regulations and rules - an 80% majority vote is required.
- 12.9 The Apostolate shall assemble as often as is necessary to attend to the matters of THE CHURCH, but shall assemble at least once in every twelve months.
- 12.10 The Apostolate shall determine its methods and frequency of communication for proper management of the affairs of THE CHURCH according to prevailing circumstances and shall incorporate its decisions in this regard into routines and programmes as it deems necessary. Decisions made during informal gatherings or contacts, shall be formally resolved at a meeting of the Apostolate.
- 12.11 The decisions of the Apostolate shall be recorded and disseminated to the Apostles of the Province in writing, shall be communicated to officers and members as prescribed by the Apostolate, shall be final and binding on all officers and members of THE CHURCH in the Province and there shall be no right of appeal to any court of law or other body in connection with or arising out of any of its decisions.
- 12.12 The Apostolate shall issue and amend such regulations as it deems necessary to regulate and discipline its meetings, to formulate the responsibilities and activities of its officials and members and to ensure that its decisions are properly executed and/or implemented.

## 13 APOSTLES: FUNCTIONING & POWERS

- 13.1 An Apostle is appointed and ordained through Christ by the Apostolate of a Province as the leader of THE CHURCH in a designated Apostleship. An Apostle automatically serves as an Emeritus Apostle from the first day following the end of the year in which he turns 70 years of age and his duties as head of an Apostleship are handed over to his successor appointed by the Apostolate.
- 13.2 Every Apostle is subject to the authority of the Conference of Apostles and the Apostolate of the Province which has jurisdiction over him and the decisions, ordinances, rules and regulations determined by the Conference of Apostles and the Apostolate are binding on him. Within the bounds of the freedom afforded an Apostle by the Apostolate of the Province to perform the work of the ministry as an Ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ, he shall have the specific powers set out below in the Apostleship in which he serves:
- 13.2.1 To exercise the power to perform the ceremony of sealing, which is the essential qualification for membership.
- 13.2.2 To establish congregations as necessary.
- 13.2.3 To structure his Apostleship in accordance with clause 6 with due regard to clause 12.7.3.
- 13.2.4 To appoint and ordain, recall, restrict (partially or totally) the powers of, classify inactive with retention of office, or remove from office any officer, save as provided for in clause 12.7.2 and provided that the appointment and ordainment or removal from office of a Prophet, Evangelist and/or Overseer be approved of by the Apostolate. Such decision by the Apostle, and approval thereof by the Apostolate in the case of a Prophet, Evangelist and/or Overseer, shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of appeal to any court of law or other body in connection with or arising out of such decision.
- 13.3 In addition to the powers referred to in clause 13.2, the Apostle shall be responsible and accountable for all spiritual and temporal affairs in his Apostleship in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and, where applicable, the Forum of Apostles of a District consisting of all the Apostles of that District.
- 13.4 Where Apostleships are structured as a District in terms of clause 9 or 10.2.1.2, one of the Apostles serving in the District shall be appointed Apostle: Head Office Administration of that District by the Apostolate of the Province. In addition to his responsibilities as the Apostle of an Apostleship, he shall in respect of the District:



- 13.4.1 Be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the District Office in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and the Forum of Apostles of the District consisting of all the Apostles of that District and shall sign all documents pertaining to the legal and temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in that District over the title "Apostle: Head Office Administration".
- 13.4.2 Appoint a District Finance Committee and other Committees or Bodies as approved by the Apostolate, to assist him with his management functions and shall have the power to appoint and dismiss the members of such Committees or Bodies in his discretion after consultation with all Apostles in the District.
- 13.5 Where the structure of a Province does not include Districts, one of the Apostles serving in the Province shall be appointed Apostle: Head Office Administration for that Province by the Apostolate of such Province, and shall in respect of the Province:
- 13.5.1 Be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the Provincial Head Office in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and the Forum of Apostles of the Province consisting of all the Apostles of that Province, and shall sign all documents pertaining to the legal and temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in that Province over the title "Apostle: Head Office Administration".
- 13.5.2 Appoint a Provincial Finance Committee and other Committees or Bodies as approved by the Apostolate, to assist him with his management functions and shall have the power to appoint and dismiss the members of such Committees or Bodies in his discretion after consultation with all Apostles of the Province.
- 13.6 Where an independent country has been structured as a Region in terms of clause 7, the Apostolate of the Province shall appoint an Apostle of the Province, or an Apostle of a District to which responsibility for a Region has been allocated in terms of clause 10.2.3.2, as the Apostle: Head Office Administration of that Region and shall in respect of the Region:
- 13.6.1. Be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the Regional Office in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and, where applicable, the Forum of Apostles of the District consisting of all the Apostles of that District, and shall sign all documents pertaining to the legal and temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in that Region over the title "Apostle: Head Office Administration", provided that he shall have the right to authorise the Chairman and Secretary of the Regional Finance Committee referred to in clauses 13.6.2 and 14, to sign such documents on his behalf over the titles "Chairman: R F C" and "Secretary: R F C".

- 13.6.2 Appoint a Regional Finance Committee from the ranks of officers from the Region and/or the Province/District to which the Region has been allocated in terms of clause 10.2.3.2, and such other Committees or Bodies as approved by the Apostolate, to assist him with his management functions and shall have the power to appoint and dismiss the members of such Regional Finance and other Committees or Bodies in his discretion after consultation with all the Apostles of the District or the Province referred to in clause 10.2.3.2.
- 13.7 Upon the death, recall or removal from office for any reason whatsoever, of an Apostle and until a new Apostle is appointed, all the officers serving under and/or appointed by the outgoing Apostle during his period of office shall, ipso facto, fall under the direct control and jurisdiction of the Chairman of the Apostolate of the Province, and all his decisions shall be regarded as valid unless they shall have been rescinded by the said Chairman, and all congregations of the Apostleship concerned shall, ipso facto, fall under the jurisdiction and spiritual power of the said Chairman. Where applicable, the Chairman shall also take over the functions of the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the District and/or Region. Should it, in the Chairman's discretion, not be possible or expedient for him to undertake the responsibilities of an Apostle/Apostleship in the interim, he shall obtain the approval of the Apostolate to designate another Apostle to undertake this interim task. Notwithstanding what actions are taken, the matter shall be deliberated by the Apostolate not more than two (2) months after institution of such interim measures.

## **14 DISTRICT/PROVINCIAL/REGIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 14.1 The Apostle: Head Office Administration of a District shall manage the temporal affairs of the District through a District Finance Committee (DFC) which shall consist of a District Chairman, District Vice-Chairman, and not less than three (3) other officers of the District representative of all the Apostleships in the District, all of whom shall be appointed by the Apostle: Head Office Administration in consultation with the other Apostles of the District.
- 14.2 The Apostle: Head Office Administration of a District shall appoint a District Secretary, who shall also be the Secretary of the D.F.C., and other paid officials of THE CHURCH such as an Accountant, Treasurer, Manager of Works, etc. as the needs of the District dictate. No official employed by THE CHURCH shall be, ex officio, a member of the DFC.
- 14.3 The DFC. shall execute the tasks allotted to it and conduct its meetings and affairs as laid down by the constitution, regulations approved in terms of the constitution, relevant resolutions of the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate resolutions and the instructions of the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the District.

- 14.4 Without prejudice to the provisions of clause 13.6.2, the provisions of clauses 14.1 to 14.3 shall mutatis mutandis apply to the management of the temporal affairs of a Province and a Region by the Apostle: Head Office Administration referred to in clauses 13.5 and 13.6 respectively.
- 14.5 At least three persons who serve on the finance committees contemplated in clauses 13.4.2, 13.5.2, 13.6.2, 14.1 and 14.4 as well as the Apostle: Head Office Administration shall not be connected persons in relation to each other.

## **15 FUNDS**

- 15.1 The funds of THE CHURCH shall only be used for the objects for which THE CHURCH was established and will be collected by means of tithes, contributions and donations that are made on a voluntary basis and no monetary charge shall be levied or accepted for any blessing or service such as baptism, Holy Communion, wedding, burial and the like. No funds shall be accepted that are conditional or revocable at the instance of the giver.
- 15.2 Each Province, District and Region, as well as each independent country included in a Province or District or Region in terms of clause 10.2.3.1, shall be financially autonomous but shall manage its funds within the policy approved by the responsible Apostolate and remain subject to the rules, regulations and resolutions of that Apostolate.
- 15.3 The Apostolate of each Province shall approve and enforce regulations and rules setting out financial policy to ensure sound management and control of the funds of THE CHURCH in such Province, its Districts and Regions, as it deems necessary.

## **15.4 CENTRAL FUNDS: DISTRICTS, PROVINCES & REGIONS**

- 15.4.1 Subject to the provisions of clause 15.4.2 the D.F.C. shall establish and control a central fund for the District which shall be used for defraying expenses involved in the work of the D.F.C. and the work in general of THE CHURCH in the District. The fund shall consist of the tithes received by the District Secretary (or District Accountant/Treasurer where applicable) from the congregations within the District as well as any other sources of income approved by the Apostolate.
- 15.4.2 Where the jurisdiction of a District is spread over two or more independent countries, a separate central fund as contemplated in clause 15.4.1 shall be established in respect of every independent country.

- 15.4.3 The D.F.C. shall open and operate, in respect of the Central Fund for each country under its jurisdiction, a banking account with bankers in the name of THE CHURCH.
- 15.4.4 The provisions of clauses 15.4.1 to 15.4.3 shall mutatis mutandis apply to a Provincial and a Regional Finance Committee referred to in clause 14.1 read with clause 14.4.

## **15.5 CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS**

- 15.5.1 The temporal matters of every congregation shall be conducted and controlled by a Chairman, and wherever possible a Vice-Chairman, a Treasurer, a Secretary and at least two (2) internal Auditors who shall be appointed from the members of the congregation by the responsible Apostle or by a person or persons delegated by such Apostle to make such appointments.
- 15.5.2 Every Apostolate shall approve and enforce regulations setting out the duties and responsibilities of the officials referred to in clause 15.5.1 and the Apostle: Head Office Administration shall issue such additional instructions and institute such measures as are dictated by local circumstances to ensure that these regulations are complied with.
- 15.5.3 A meeting open to all members of a congregation shall be held once every month for the purpose of discussing the temporal affairs of the congregation and proper minutes of such meetings shall be kept by the Secretary of the congregation.

## **15.6 AUDITORS**

All accounts shall be audited by internal and external Auditors appointed by the Apostle: Head Office Administration.

## **15.7 PECUNIARY INTEREST**

- 15.7.1 No officer, member or employee of the Church shall receive any pecuniary profit or gain from the Church, or any commission, grant, rebate or other kind of personal benefit from any bank, insurer, contractor, supplier or any other institution relating to the business of the Church, save for:
- 15.7.1.1 the remuneration, emoluments and fringe benefits payable by the Church to its employees as approved by the responsible Apostolate and/or the Provincial/District/Regional Finance or appointed Personnel Committee;

- 15.7.1.2 the reimbursement for approved expenses properly incurred by an officer, member or employee concerning the affairs of the Church, in accordance with the policy, regulations and rules of the Apostolate and the further directives of the Provincial/District/Regional Finance Committee; and
- 15.7.1.3 the usual professional, business or trade charges and other payments for services rendered in terms of a legitimate contract with the Church as approved of by the Provincial/District/Regional Finance Committee.
- 15.7.2 An officer, member or employee shall not be present at, take part in or vote on any matter before the Conference of Apostles, the Apostolate, the Provincial/District/Regional Finance Committee or any other appointed committee of the Church, in which he, his spouse or his child has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest, provided that this clause shall not be so construed as to prohibit such a person from being present at, taking part in and voting on any matter before the said bodies where the pecuniary interest of such person, his spouse or child --
- 15.7.2.1 is common to that of the other members of the Church; and
- 15.7.2.2 has been disclosed by such member beforehand and the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate or Provincial/District/Regional Finance Committee, as the case may be, has resolved that the interest is so small or remote that a conflict of interests is improbable, provided that the person concerned shall not be present during discussion of and voting on the proposal so to resolve.

## **16 ANNUAL REPORTS**

- 16.1 In the case of Provinces structured with Districts and/or Regions, the respective District and Regional Secretaries, supported by the District/Regional Accountants/Treasurers and other departmental heads, where applicable, of each District and Region, shall submit once each year a detailed report of the activities and financial affairs to the Apostles of the District and/or Region, as the case may be. Such reports shall also be submitted to the Apostolate for approval.
- 16.2 In the case of Provinces structured without Districts, the Secretary of the Province shall submit the report referred to in clause 16.1 to the Apostles of the Province for approval by the Apostolate.

## **17 DISCIPLINE**

Every member and officer shall be bound by, obey and subject himself to the order, formularies, regulations, doctrine, teachings and precepts of THE CHURCH and at all times behave himself accordingly.

## **18 PROPERTY**

- 18.1 All property, whether movable or immovable, shall vest in, and in the case of immovable property be registered in the name of THE CHURCH.
- 18.2 Where it is prescribed by the laws of a country that property shall be registered in the name of the Trustees for the time being of an unincorporated body, such property shall be registered in the name of the Chairman and the Secretary of the Apostolate responsible for THE CHURCH in such country, for the time being, provided that they may delegate such power and authority to any person/s to execute any such documents on their behalf.
- 18.3 All contracts, deeds, bonds, powers and other instruments requiring to be executed in connection with any transaction relating to the property of THE CHURCH, shall be signed by the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the District (or Province or Region as the case may be) and the District Secretary (or Provincial or Regional Secretary as the case may be) and where necessary such other officer/s of the District/Province/Region in which the property is located.

## **19 INCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS/BODIES/TRUSTS**

- 19.1 Where the laws of a country require, or where legal advice dictates that the temporal affairs of the Church in a country be managed and administered by an Incorporated Association / Body or trustees of a Trust incorporated as a Trust Board or similar body, such Incorporated Association / Body / Trust be established and registered for the Church in such country, provided that
- 19.1.1 the Rules / Deed of Trust of the Incorporated Association / Body / Trust be approved by the Conference of Apostles beforehand;

- 19.1.2 such Rules / Deed of Trust shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution of the Church, which Constitution shall be annexed to the said Rules / Deed of Trust when submitted to the authorities of the country for approval;
- 19.1.3 the name of the Incorporated Association / Body / Trust shall be The Old Apostolic Church (name of country); and
- 19.1.4 the original members of the management body / trustees of the Incorporated Association / Body / Trust as well as the substitution of such members or the appointment of new or additional members, shall be those persons nominated by the Apostle responsible for the Church in such country, and shall include the said Apostle.
- 19.2 Where it is prescribed by the laws of a country that
- 19.2.1 a management committee, a board or similar body, and
- 19.2.2 certain statutory officers such as a president, treasurer, secretary and / or any other officers as may be required in terms of the legislation of the country concerned,
- be appointed for the Incorporated Association / Body / Trust, such appointments be provided for in the Rules / Deed of Trust referred to in clauses 19.1.1 and 19.1.2.
- 19.3 All funds referred to in clause 15 and all properties referred to in clause 18, shall vest in, and in the case of immovable property, be registered in the name of the Incorporated Association / Body / Trustees for the time being / Trust Board and shall be managed and controlled by the said Incorporated Association / Body / Trustees in accordance with the provisions of the Rules / Deed of Trust referred to in clauses 19.1.1 and 19.1.2.

## **20 DELEGATION OF POWERS**

- 20.1 The Conference of Apostles and an Apostolate may delegate any power conferred upon it by or under the constitution to an Apostle or Apostles of THE CHURCH.
- 20.2 The Apostle: Head Office Administration of a District (or Province or Region where applicable) may delegate any power conferred upon him by or under the constitution to an officer/s of THE CHURCH.

- 20.3 The District Finance Committee (or Provincial or Regional Finance Committee where applicable) may delegate any power conferred upon it by or under the constitution to a sub-committee or officer/s of THE CHURCH, subject to the approval of the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the District/ Province/ Region.

## **21 LEGAL**

THE CHURCH may sue or be sued or litigate in any other manner in its own name as an unincorporated association or incorporated body, provided the necessary resolution to sue or defend or litigate, be passed by the Apostolate concerned from time to time.

## **22 POLITICS**

Officers and members shall refrain from involving THE CHURCH in politics or in discussions of a political nature, but shall be free to vote for a political party or person according to their personal persuasion.

## **23 LANGUAGE**

The languages generally spoken by the local congregations shall be acknowledged and used in THE CHURCH. Interpreters may be used where necessary.

## **24 DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution or winding-up of the Church in any country where it is established, all its assets in such country remaining after the settling of all its debts and liabilities, shall per resolution of the Conference of Apostles be distributed to a non-profit entity that is organised and operated exclusively for religious or similar purposes in such country, and has established an equivalent tax-exemption status in terms of the laws of such country.



## **25 REPEAL OF PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS**

This constitution encompasses and constitutes the original constitution of THE CHURCH as amended from 1927 to 2014.