



CONSTITUTION
OF
THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH
GHANA

2007



Constitution

Of

The Apostolic Church, Ghana

PREAMBLE	1
ARTICLE 1 - NAME	1
ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION/MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH	1
ARTICLE 3 - NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHURCH	1
ARTICLE 4 - TERRITORY OF THE CHURCH	2
ARTICLE 5 - BRANCHES OF THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE GHANA	2
ARTICLE 6 - OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH	3
ARTICLE 7 - RELATIONSHIP WITH SISTER APOSTOLIC CHURCHES AND OTHER CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS	3
ARTICLE 8 - INCORPORATION OF OTHER BODIES	3
ARTICLE 9 - DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF THE CHURCH	4
ARTICLE 10 - TRUSTEES	6
ARTICLE 11 - PROPERTIES OF THE CHURCH	7
ARTICLE 12 - CORPORATE/GOVERNING STRUCTURES	7
ARTICLE 13 - THE NATIONAL COUNCIL	7
ARTICLE 14 - THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE	8
ARTICLE 15 - NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING	9
ARTICLE 16 : THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS	10
ARTICLE 17 - THE AREA PASTORATE	10
ARTICLES 18 - THE AREA PRESBYTERY	11
ARTICLE 19 - THE AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICERS	12
ARTICLE 20 - THE DISTRICT PRESBYTERY	13
ARTICLE 21 - DISTRICT MANAGEMENT OFFICERS	14
ARTICLE 22 - THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY	14
ARTICLE 23 - THE LOCAL PRESBYTERY	15
ARTICLE 24 - THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS	15
ARTICLE 25 - MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH	16
ARTICLE 26 - DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS	16
ARTICLE 27 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION	18
ARTICLE 28 - FINANCE	19
ARTICLE 29 - THE PRESIDENT	21
ARTICLE 30 - THE VICE PRESIDENT	23
ARTICLE 31 - GENERAL SECRETARY	23
ARTICLE 32 - THE AREA SUPERINTENDENT	24
ARTICLE 33 - THE AREA STAFF SECRETARY.	25
ARTICLE 34 - THE DISTRICT PASTOR	25
ARTICLE 35 - LOCAL PASTORS	26
ARTICLE 36 - LAY MINISTERS	26
ARTICLE 37 - MOVEMENTS OF THE CHURCH	28
ARTICLE 38 - DEPARTMENTS OF THE CHURCH	31
ARTICLE 39 - AMENDMENT	32
ARTICLE 40 - RESIDUAL POWERS	32
ARTICLE 41 - INTERPRETATION	33
ARTICLE 42 - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS	33
ARTICLE 43 - COMMENCEMENT	34
SCHEDULE ONE MEMBERS AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH	34
SCHEDULE TWO BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH	41

CONSTITUTION OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH, GHANA

PREAMBLE

We, the Members of The Apostolic Church, Ghana established in the Gold Coast in 1935, a branch of the worldwide Christian Denomination known as The Apostolic Church, which is an outgrowth of the 1904-5 Revival in Wales which is commemorated on the foundation stones of its Headquarters Church at Penygroes, Dyfed, South Wales and who are committed to the propagation of the full Gospel of Christ with evangelization and righteousness of the Kingdom of God as its Supreme calling; believing that the Church of our time ought to resemble the Church of the New Testament embracing Apostolic doctrine and submitting to Apostolic government and having had the affairs of the Church governed under various Constitutions enacted by the General Council of the Apostolic Church in the UK until the year 1985 when we enacted and began to govern our affairs as an autonomous entity under The Apostolic Church, Ghana, Its Principles & Practices; (hereinafter referred to as the First Constitution) and still desirous of maintaining the relevance and Distinctiveness of The Glorious Apostolic Vision, Missions and cherished aspiration but realizing the need for amendments, additions, deletions and adoption of new provisions of the said First Constitution to strengthen our institutional capacity to meet the growing challenges of our time and to facilitate Church growth and development, and also in our bid to have a peaceful co-existence within ourselves, the larger Apostolic family and our associates and Churches wanting to fellowship with us, do hereby adopt, enact and affirm to give ourselves willingly to work under all articles contained in this Constitution which represent amendments, additions, deletions and adoptions of new provisions in the First Constitution.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of the Church shall be "THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH, GHANA" (hereinafter referred to as "the Church")

ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION/MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The numerous Assemblies that comprise the fellowship of the Church in the various places constituting the territory of the Church, shall be considered as members of one entire body, which shall for all its purposes and government, come under the jurisdiction and control of the Church.

ARTICLE 3 - NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHURCH

The National Headquarters of the Church shall be located in the capital city of the Republic of Ghana.

ARTICLE 4 - TERRITORY OF THE CHURCH

The territory of the Church shall be the territory of Ghana as defined by the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and any other place outside the territory of Ghana where the Church may establish an Assembly or Branch.

ARTICLE 5 - BRANCHES OF THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE GHANA

- (1) GOVERNMENT OF BRANCHES OF THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE GHANA
Pursuant to Article 4 of this Constitution , all Branches of the church established outside Ghana are part of the church headquartered in Ghana , and shall be governed by this Constitution and all the structures of the church.
- (2) STRUCTURE OF BRANCHES OF THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE GHANA
 - (a) The entire church in a particular country outside Ghana shall be deemed to be one AREA OF THE CHURCH, and shall for all practical purposes be divided into Districts and Local Assemblies.
 - (b) The entire church in a country outside Ghana shall be headed by an AREA SUPERINTENDENT who shall be an Apostle appointed by the National Council for a specified period.
- (3) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BRANCHES OF THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE GHANA
 - (a) The authority and responsibilities of the Area Superintendent and his officers in Branches of the church established outside Ghana, shall be derived from the National Council, and in furtherance of this, Calls to Ministry, Ordination, Appointment and other allied ministerial responsibility of such Branches shall be approved by the National Council.
 - (b) The Area Superintendent shall submit Reports on all Branches of the church established outside Ghana to the National Council.
 - (c) Notwithstanding the fact that Branches of the church established outside Ghana are part of the church, they shall ensure that they conform to all the laws in their country of operation.
 - (d) A branch of the church established outside Ghana shall enact bye laws to facilitate their incorporation; registration of operation within the country in which they operate, save that such byelaws shall be subservient to this constitution and shall become operative upon its approval by the National Council. The Bye Laws shall not have the powers to dispense with nor supersede this Constitution.
 - (e) For the avoidance of doubt, any provision of such byelaws which conflicts with this Constitution or confers on it powers to set aside this Constitution shall be inconsistent with this Constitution and shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

ARTICLE 6 - OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH

The main object of the Church shall be to teach and preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and continue steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine, breaking of Bread, fellowship and prayers. In furtherance of this object, the activities and programmes of the Church shall be organized in a manner as:-

- (1) To encourage and promote evangelism;
- (2) To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of the faith that will receive the teachings and the Government of the Church by forming and establishing Assemblies;
- (3) To receive tithes, offerings, donations, and gifts and to raise funds by biblical means for the use of the work of the church;
- (4) To establish and maintain departments and institutions such as Bible Schools, Health facilities, Agricultural projects, Educational Institutions, Printing Presses, Bookshops, and any other venture as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Church, and
- (5) To have the right to buy, take, accept, lease or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of real and personal property, tangible or intangible, invest money as deemed necessary in bonds, debentures, bills and notes of whatsoever kind, to create trust deeds and mortgages, and to enter into contracts all as may be necessary for the work of the Church.

ARTICLE 7 - RELATIONSHIP WITH SISTER APOSTOLIC CHURCHES AND OTHER CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

The Church shall maintain:

- (1) Good relations with sister National Apostolic Churches throughout the world.
- (2) Good relations and membership of Christian Organizations of like faith.

ARTICLE 8 - INCORPORATION OF OTHER BODIES

The Church may incorporate any Christian body or Association as requested by the body or Association, upon their acceptance of the Doctrine, Beliefs, Teachings and Governing structure of the church. The final decision to accept any body into the fellowship of the church shall rest with the National Council. Any Christian Body or Association so accepted, shall be bound by the constitution and any other regulations or edict formulated by the National Council.

ARTICLE 9 - DOCTRINAL BELIEFS OF THE CHURCH

The following shall be the fundamental doctrinal beliefs of the Church, based on the Holy Scriptures and shall be an essential basis of the fellowship and union of members thereof:

(1) TENETS OF FAITH

- (a) The Unity of the Godhead and the Trinity of the Persons therein.
- (b) That utter depravity of human nature, the necessity for repentance and regeneration, and the eternal doom of the finally impenitent.
- (c) The virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, ascension and abiding intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ. His second coming and millennial reign upon earth.
- (d) Justification and sanctification of the believer through the finished Work of Christ.
- (e) The baptism of the Holy Ghost for believers with signs following.
- (f) The nine gifts of the Holy Ghost for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the church, which is the body of Christ.
- (g) The sacraments of Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.
- (h) The Divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures.
- (i) Church Government by Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Elders and Deacons.
- (j) The possibility of falling from grace.
- (k) The obligatory nature of tithes and offerings.

(2) ALTERATION

For the avoidance of doubt, the confession of faith as set out in Article 9(1) shall not be subject to amendment, and shall forever be the doctrinal standard of the church.

The Church and its members shall also subscribe to the following Rules of Belief and Rules of Conduct.

(3) RULES OF BELIEF

- (a) A personal testimony of salvation in Christ (Acts 4: 12; Rom 10: 9)
- (b) Your acknowledgment of obedience to the order and officers of the church – Apostles, Pastors, Elders, and Deacons (Heb. 13:7; Eph.4:11; 1 Cor.12:28).

- (c) Your presence in the meetings of the church and abiding in full communion, that is not to absent yourself from Communion Service for more than three times without sufficient reasons given for your absence (Heb. 10:25)
- (d) Your conformity with the fundamental doctrines of the church as well as with the two ordinances, namely baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. (II John 19; Rom 6:17; 6:4; Luke 22:19; 1Cor. 11:24).
- (e) That you contribute towards the support of the Cause as taught unto us in the Word of God. (Gen.14:20; 28:22; Lev. 27:30; 1 Chron. 29:14; 1 Cor.16:2; Matt.23:213; Heb. 7:8-9)
- (f) That you keep the counsel of the Church within the Church (Matt.7:6)
- (g) That you pray for and help every member, remembering that we are joint members in the Body of Christ. (Heb.10:24; 1Cor. 12:25-26; (Tim.2:1:Gal.6:2)
- (h) Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the Bond of peace. (Eph.4:3)

(4) RULES OF CONDUCT

- (a) Never come to the House of God without praying before coming. (Matt.6:6; Eph.6:18)
- (b) Be in your seat at the commencement of service. You will thus be a good example to those that are late and the neglectful. (Gen.22:3; Ps.108:2; Prov.8:17; Song of Sol.7:12)
- (c) Bring your children with you to the House of God. Relatives and Servants also have souls. It is your duty and privilege to take care of them. (Matt. 11:4; Exodus 20:10; Acts 10:24; John 1: 41 – 45; Gen.18:19)
- (d) Make the Pastor your personal friend. His sympathy; support and counsel are needed by you. Constantly pray for him. (1 Thess. 2:17; Joel 2:17; Mal.2:7; Rom. 15:20; II Cor. 1:11; Eph.6:19; Heb.13:17)
- (e) Make the church your spiritual home (Acts 2:46;47)
- (f) When conversing in the compound, never speak disrespectfully or criticisingly of God's Servant or their ministration in the presence of your children. If you sow to the wind, you may expect to reap the whirlwind.
- (g) Take your Bible with you to the House of God. (Ps.1:2; 119:16, 16:72; Rom.15:4; 11Tim3:16,17)
- (h) Enter reverently; pray fervently; listen attentively; give praise from a grateful heart and worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness. (Ps: 108:27 – 29; Eccl.5:1; Rom.12:11).

ARTICLE 10 - TRUSTEES

(1) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

There shall be a Board of Trustees which shall be registered in accordance with the laws of Ghana.

(2) **COMPOSITION OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of not more than seven members and not less than five members of the Church, including the General Secretary.

(3) **APPOINTMENT AND TENURE OF TRUSTEES**

(a) A Trustee shall be appointed by the National Council and shall hold office subject to satisfactory performance, save that no person shall serve as Trustee after attaining sixty-five (65) years of age.

(b) A relevant professional qualification is essential but not a sine qua non for the position of a Trustee, and the National Council in the appointment of Trustees shall ensure that more than one of the membership have professional backgrounds that will enhance their duties as Trustees.

(4) **FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF TRUSTEES**

(a) All properties of the Church of whatever tenure, description or nature shall vest in the registered Trustees.

(b) The Trustees shall see to the proper documentation of the Church's properties.

(c) The Trustees shall advise the Church on the acquisition, holding, conveyance, or assignment of all properties and capital assets and shall execute all instruments affecting such properties and assets.

(d) The Trustees shall also perform all other duties prescribed under the Trustees (Incorporation) Act, 1962 (Act 105) and its subsequent amendment thereof and any other duty delegated to it by the National Council.

(5) **QUALIFICATION OF THE TRUSTEES**

A person to be qualified as a Trustee must be spiritually matured and a full member of the Church.

(6) **DISCHARGE OF TRUSTEES**

(a) Any Trustee who ceases to be a member of the Church, or becomes insolvent or bankrupt, or remains outside Ghana for more than twelve consecutive months without the knowledge of the National Management Officers; or is declared unfit to act as a Trustee, or dies or resigns shall thereupon, immediately cease to be a Trustee.

(b) If any Trustee desires to be discharged from office, he shall give at least three (3) months notice in writing to the National Council.

(7) OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CHURCH

The official seal of the Church shall be kept in the custody of the General Secretary, and shall only be fixed on any document, in accordance with an ordinary resolution of the Board of Trustees; such fixture shall be evidenced by the signature of the General Secretary and one other member.

(8) QUORUM

The Quorum for a meeting of the Trustees shall not be less than three of the registered members.

ARTICLE 11 - PROPERTIES OF THE CHURCH

(1) All Properties of the Church of whatsoever tenure, description or nature, whether acquired by the Local Assembly, the District, Area, National Office, or any other affiliate body of the church shall vest in and be registered in the name of the registered Trustees.

(2) All original Title Deeds, of all bodies referred to in Article 11 (1) above shall be deposited at the Headquarters of the Church.

(3) All Properties of the Church shall belong to the church as a body corporate. No Officer or member or group of persons shall appropriate or take any such properties and/or convert same for personal or any other use in the event of a division, or breakaway from the Church.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, where any officer(s) and or member(s) of the church decide to breakaway from the church, all such properties of the church in the possession of such officer(s) and or member(s) shall be surrendered forthwith to the registered Trustees of the church or their accredited representatives.

ARTICLE 12 - CORPORATE/GOVERNING STRUCTURES

The Church shall have the following corporate structure:

- (1) The National Council
- (2) The National Executive
- (3) The National Management Officers
- (4) The National Consultative Meeting
- (5) The Area Pastorate
- (6) The Area Presbytery
- (7) The District Presbytery
- (8) The Local Presbytery

ARTICLE 13 - THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

(1) DEFINITION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

There shall be a National Council which shall be the governing body of the church. It shall be the highest decision and Policy making body of the church.

- (2) COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
The National Council shall consist of all Apostles of the Church both active and retired.
- (3) FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
To formulate policies and make decisions for the church in furtherance of obtaining the objects of the church as enshrined in Article 6 of this Constitution.
- (4) MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
 - (a) The National Council of the Church shall hold an ordinary meeting once a year.
 - (b) However, where the exigencies of the time demand, emergency meetings may be convened at the instance of the President, or at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the National Council.
 - (c) The President shall preside over all meetings of the National Council.
 - (d) The National Council shall formulate Standing Orders to regulate their meetings.
 - (e) The National Executive shall invite a maximum of (4) Four Prophets to be in attendance.

ARTICLE 14 - THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

- (1) DEFINITION OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
There shall be National Executive which shall ensure the implementation of decisions and policies of the National Council.
- (2) COMPOSITION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
The National Executive shall consist of:
 - (a) The President
 - (b) The Vice President
 - (c) The General Secretary
 - (d). Four (4) other Apostles appointed by the National Council.
- (3) APPOINTMENT/TENURE OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
 - (a) The President, Vice President and General Secretary shall remain as members of the National Executive so long as they continue in their respective offices.
 - (b) However, the four (4) other Apostles appointed by the National Council to serve on the National Executive Committee shall serve for two (2) years and at the expiration of the two years, the National Council shall review their membership, save that there shall be no term limitation for appointed Apostles on the National Executive.
- (4) FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
The National Executive shall ensure that all policies and decisions taken by the National Council are promptly implemented. In furtherance of this they may also:

- (a) Receive reports and minutes of all the Areas and ratify them on behalf of the National Council.
 - (b) Attend to all policy issues of the Church in between National Council meetings and make recommendations for ratification to the National Council.
 - (c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the National Council or under the provisions of the constitution.
- (5) MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
- (a) The National Executive shall hold four (4) regular meetings in a year.
 - (b) Emergency meetings may be called at the instance of the President or at least two-thirds (2/3) of the National Executive members as and when necessary.
 - (c) The National Executive shall formulate Standing Orders to regulate their meetings.

ARTICLE 15 - NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING

- (1) DEFINITION OF NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
There shall be a National Consultative meeting which shall act in an advisory capacity to the National Council.
- (2) COMPOSITION
The National Consultative meeting shall be composed of the following members:
- (a) All members of the National Council.
 - (b) Two Pastors from each Area who shall be nominated by a duly constituted Area Pastorate meeting.
 - (c) An Area Pastor or Area Head who is not an Apostle.
 - (d) Two Elders from each Area nominated by a duly constituted meeting of the Area Presbytery.
 - (e) Area Finance Committee Chairman.
 - (f) The Chairman and Secretary of the various National Standing Committees.
 - (g) Two representatives from all movements.
- (3). PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING.
- (a) To review the Annual Report on the state of the Church by the President.

- (b) To submit recommendations from their respective Areas, Committees and Movements for the consideration of the National Council.
- (4) MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
The National Consultative meeting shall be held once a year, such meetings being held at least one month before the ordinary meeting of the National Council.

ARTICLE 16 : THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

(1) DEFINITION OF NATIONAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

There shall be National Management Officers who shall be the Management Team of the Church at the National Level and shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the Church.

(2) COMPOSITION OF NATIONAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

The National Management Officers shall consist of the following:

- (a) The President;
- (b) The Vice President;
- (c) The General Secretary;
- (d) The Director of the Movement Oversight Division; and
- (e) The respective Heads of the Administration and Management Divisions

ARTICLE 17 - THE AREA PASTORATE

(1) DEFINITION OF AREA PASTORATE

There shall be an Area Pastorate which shall be the governing body of the church in the Areas and shall exercise general oversight responsibilities over the activities of the Districts and Local Assemblies in the Area.

(2) COMPOSITION OF AREA PASTORATE

- (a) All Apostles and Pastors in active service within the Area who are recognized by the National Council.
- (b) All Retired Apostles and Pastors within the Area.
- (c) The President, Vice President and General Secretary as ex-officio members.

(3) FUNCTIONS OF THE AREA PASTORATE

- (a) To formulate, in consultation with the Area Presbytery, policies for the Area, provided that such policies do not conflict with the policies laid down by the National Council;
- (b) To recommend the appointment of Area, District and Local Officers to the National Executive;

- (c) To recommend to the National Executive, the creation of such Districts within the Area as may be found necessary;
 - (d) To discuss the activities of the Movements in the Area;
 - (e) To organize seminars and other programmes to enhance the material and spiritual life of members in the Area and
 - (f) To perform any other functions as may be found necessary for the church in the Area so long as such functions do not conflict with the provisions of this constitution, or the policies of the National Council.
- (4) MEETINGS OF THE AREA PASTORATE
- (a) The Area Pastorate shall hold monthly meetings.
 - (b) Emergency meetings may be convened at the instance of the Area Superintendent or at least two-thirds, of members of the Area Pastorate.
 - (c) The Area Pastorate shall formulate Standing Orders to regulate their meetings.
 - (d) The quorum for meetings of the Area Pastorate shall be two-thirds of the total members.

ARTICLES 18 - THE AREA PRESBYTERY

- (1) DEFINITION OF THE AREA PRESBYTERY
There shall be an Area Presbytery which shall be the consultative and Advisory body to the Area Pastorate.
- (2) COMPOSITION OF THE AREA PRESBYTERY
The Area Presbytery shall be composed of:
- (a) All Apostles, Pastors and Elders recognized by the National Council in the Area.
 - (b) All Retired Apostles, Pastors and Elders within the Area.
 - (c) The President, Vice President and General Secretary shall be ex-officio members.
- (3) FUNCTIONS OF THE AREA PRESBYTERY
- (a) To deal with matters affecting the church in the Area;
 - (a) To develop strategies to improve the material and spiritual well being of members in the Area; and

- (b) To perform any other function as may be necessary for the growth of the church in the Area.
- (4) MEETINGS OF THE AREA PRESBYTERY
- (a) The Area Presbytery shall hold quarterly meetings.
 - (b) Emergency meetings may be convened at the instance of the Area Superintendent; a District Pastor with the approval of the Area Superintendent and at least one third of all members.
 - (c) The Area Presbytery shall formulate Standing Orders to regulate their meetings.
 - (c) The quorum of the meeting shall be one third of the total members.
 - (d)

ARTICLE 19 - THE AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

- (1) DEFINITION OF AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICERS
There shall be Area Management Officers who shall be the policy and decision implementation body of the Area. They shall see to the day to day administration of the Area.
- (2) COMPOSITION OF AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICERS
- (a) The Area Superintendent
 - (b) The Area Staff Secretary
 - (c) The Area Finance Chairperson
 - (d) Four other members appointed by the Area Presbytery.
3. FUNCTIONS OF THE AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICERS
The Area Management Officers shall:
- (a) be the policy and decision implementation body of the Area,
 - (b) be responsible for the day to day administration of the Area,
 - (c) receive reports, minutes, Plans and Budgets of the various Departments, Movements, and Committees in the Area, and
 - (d) perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Area Pastorate or Area Presbytery subject to this Constitution.

ARTICLE 20 - THE DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

(1) DEFINITION OF DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

There shall be a District Presbytery in each District which shall be the governing, policy and decision making body of the church in the District

(2) COMPOSITION OF THE DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

The District Presbytery shall be composed of:

- (a) All Apostles and Pastors in the District whether in active service or retired and who are recognized by the National Council;
- (b) All Elders recognized by the National Council in the District, whether in active service or retired
- (c) The President, Vice President, the General Secretary and the Area Superintendent as ex-officio members

(3) FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

- (a) The District Presbytery shall be the policy and decision making body for the District.
- (b) Exercise general oversight responsibilities over the activities of the Local Assemblies in the District.
- (c) Establish such Local assemblies as may be found necessary.
- (d) To monitor the activities of all Movements, Committees and Departments in the District..
- (e) To organize programmes to enhance the material and spiritual life of the members.
- (f) To perform such other functions as may be necessary for the progress of the church.

(4) MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

- (a) The District Presbytery shall meet monthly.
- (b) Emergency meetings may be convened at the instance of :
 - (i) The District Pastor
 - (ii) A Presiding Elder(s) with the approval of the District Pastor.
 - (iii) Two-thirds of all members of the Presbytery

- (c) The District Presbytery shall formulate Standing Orders to regulate its meetings.
- (d) The Quorum for the meeting shall be one-half of all members.

ARTICLE 21 - DISTRICT MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

(1) DEFINITION OF DISTRICT MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

There shall be District Management Officers which shall be the Policy and decision Implementation body of the District. They shall see to the day-to-day administration of the District.

(2) COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

The District Management Officers shall consist of:

- (a) The District Pastor
- (b) The District Presbytery Secretary
- (c) The District Finance Chairperson
- (d) Any four (4) other members of the church appointed by the District Presbytery

(3) FUNCTIONS OF DISTRICT MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

The District Management Officers shall:

- (a) See to the execution of all decisions of the District Presbytery
- (b) Be responsible for the day-to day administration of the District.
- (c) Exercise general oversight responsibilities over all activities of the District.
- (d) Perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the District Presbytery subject to this Constitution.

ARTICLE 22 - THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY

(1) COMPOSITION OF LOCAL ASSEMBLY

The Local Assembly shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) members of the church, who meet regularly for public worship under the leadership of a Pastor, Elder, Deacon or matured Brother.

(2) STATUS OF LOCAL ASSEMBLY

- (a) Every Local Assembly shall be and remain under the church, and shall be subject to this Constitution.

- (b) Every Local Assembly shall be subjected to the general direction of the National Council, particularly, in all matters of scriptural practice and conduct.

ARTICLE 23 - THE LOCAL PRESBYTERY

- (1) DEFINITION OF LOCAL PRESBYTERY
The Local Presbytery shall be the governing, decision and policy making body of the Local Assembly.
- (2) COMPOSITION OF LOCAL PRESBYTERY
The Local Presbytery shall be composed of:
 - (a) The District Pastor
 - (b) The Local Pastor (where the Assembly has one)
 - (c) All Elders in the Local Assembly
 - (d) All retired Apostles, Pastors and Elders in the Local Assembly
- (3) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL PRESBYTERY
 - (a) Be the policy and decision making body of the Local Assembly.
 - (b) Exercise general oversight responsibilities over the activities of the Local Assembly
 - (c) Perform any other functions assigned to them by the District Pastor, District Presbytery or District Management Officers.

ARTICLE 24 - THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS

- (1) DEFINITION OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS
There shall be Local Management Officers which shall be the Policy and Decision implementation body of the Local Assembly. They shall see to the day to day administration of the Local Assembly.
- (2) COMPOSITION OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS
The Local Management officers shall be:
 - (a) Local Pastor or Presiding Elder or any officer presiding over the Assembly.
 - (b) The Local Presbytery Secretary
 - (c) The Local Finance Chairperson.
 - (d) Any Four (4) other members of the church appointed by the Local Presbytery.

ARTICLE 25 - MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the church is attained by going through the following procedures:

- (a) A person accepting Jesus Christ publicly as his personal Saviour through the hearing of the gospel and a confessed purpose to follow Him faithfully;
- (b) A successful completion of a New members course to be run by the Local Assembly;
- (c) Baptism by Immersion by the Pastor or an Officer mandated by the Pastor, for persons aged fourteen (14) years and above;
- (d) Right Hand of Fellowship which entitles one to be a full fledged member, is then extended to those who have accepted the Tenets of Faith, Rules of Conduct and Rules of Belief as enshrined in Article 8 of this Constitution; and
- (e) Baptismal Certificate and Membership Card shall be issued during the Right Hand of Fellowship Service or any other public meeting of the Local Assembly.

ARTICLE 26 - DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

(1) Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible.

The aims of discipline are:

- (a) That God may be honoured.
- (b) That the purity and welfare of the church may be maintained.
- (c) That those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.
- (d) To act as a deterrent
- (e) To promote righteousness

(2) Any officer or member of the church shall in the event of any misconduct, be subject to disciplinary measures ranging from admonition, rebuke, suspension and in extreme cases to excommunication. Excommunication shall be administered by the National Council.

(3) GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Making it a practice of going to places of questionable entertainment and partaking in same,
 - (b) Holding membership of a secret society such as Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Cults etc,
 - (c) Falling into open sin such as fornication, adultery, smoking, drunkenness, gambling, dishonesty bordering on crime etc,
 - (d) Embracing or spreading of false doctrine,
 - (e) Failure to conform to Church government and authority,
 - (f) Continuously violating the Rules of Belief and Rules of Conduct,
 - (g) Wrongful expropriation and misapplication of church fund or allowing others to do so,
 - (h) Creating and causing division and disputes in the church,
 - (i) Continuously violating this Constitution and other regulations, directives or edicts of the National Council, and
 - (j) Any behaviour which has brought the church unto disrepute, shame and scandal.
- (4) DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE
Where any member is accused of any misconduct under Article 24 (3) :
- (a) The Local Presbytery shall constitute a Committee to thoroughly investigate the alleged misconduct and the committee shall recommend to the Local Presbytery, the disciplinary action they consider appropriate.
 - (b) The Local Presbytery may ratify the decision of the disciplinary action arrived at by the Committee, or prescribe other sanctions.
 - (c) In the case of officers of the church, the matter will be referred to the Area Pastorate to decide the disciplinary action appropriate.
 - (d) Ministers or National Officers shall be subject to the National Council for disciplinary action upon the recommendation of the National Executive.
 - (e) In all cases, the offending party shall be given a hearing before disciplinary action is taken against him.
- (5) CONSEQUENCES OF DISCIPLINE
- (a) Officers or Members found guilty of any of the aforementioned acts of misconduct, may be suspended from membership for not less than three (3) months. Due consideration of the circumstances of each case shall be taken before the disciplinary action shall be publicly announced to the Assembly.

- (b) When a person's membership has been suspended or removed whilst any appeal relating to the matter is being considered, then he shall have no right to lead any church activities such as individual prayers, testimonies, singing, scriptural reading, preaching etc.
 - (c) Any officer who by virtue of such office heads his peer group of officers shall upon restoration from suspension, whilst continuing to be a member of that body of officers, cease to head such group of officers.
- (6). RIGHT OF APPEAL
- (a) Any member, other than a minister who has been disciplined as a result of misconduct and is dissatisfied or aggrieved may appeal to the District Presbytery.
 - (b) Where the disciplined member is dissatisfied with the decision on his appeal by the District Presbytery, he may appeal to the Area Pastorate and finally to the National Council.
 - (c) If a member who has been disciplined and who had made an appeal refuses, fails or neglects without reasonable excuse to appear before the District Presbytery within a three months period to prosecute his Appeal, the Appeal shall be dismissed.
 - (d) A person whose name has been removed from the membership list should be encouraged to attend church service in the hope that he would be won back to obedience of the Lord. If he should repent and desire to be reinstated, he shall present his request in writing to the Local Presbytery.
 - (e) The Right of Appeal of all Ministers shall be as spelt out in their Standard Conditions of Service.

ARTICLE 27 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (1) Any dispute arising within the church which has the potential to cause serious misunderstanding, division or disintegration shall be referred to the Local Presbytery for resolution without first resorting to the court.
- (2) Any such dispute which remains unresolved after attempted resolution by the Local Presbytery shall be referred to the District Presbytery, Area Pastorate and finally to the National Executive.
- (3) Where the various levels fail to resolve such disputes which are likely to cause misunderstanding, division or disintegration, then upon reference to the National Executive, it shall constitute a Dispute Resolution Committee to resolve the dispute.
- (4) The Dispute Resolution Committee shall be composed of the following:
 - (a) Three Ministers of the church with at least ten (10) years pastoral experience, with one of them serving as the Chairman.

- (b) A lawyer, who is a member of the Church.
- (c) Three (3) other members of the church in good standing in the church and society.

ARTICLE 28 - FINANCE

(1) SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR THE CHURCH

- (a) The funds of the church shall be generated by way of tithes, offerings and donations for specific purposes and other fund heads or sources as the National Council shall decide from time to time.
- (b) The Church may receive gifts, donations and grants from philanthropic or other sources provided that these sources are not prohibited by this Constitution, the National Council or Area Presbytery as the case may be.
- (c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this article, the funds of the church shall not be generated by game of chance, money laundering or any mode contrary to scriptures or other means as the National Council may from time to time prohibit.

PROVIDED THAT

- (i) All fund heads for the church shall be contained in the Accounting Manual of the church or in a written circular of the National Council which shall be circulated to all assemblies of the church.
- (ii) No new fund heads shall be raised for any purpose whatsoever without the prior approval of the National Executive Committee in the case of the Area Presbytery, and the Area Presbytery in the case of the District and Local Assemblies.

(2) FINANCIAL SYSTEM OF THE CHURCH

- (a) The Church shall maintain and operate at all levels, a uniform system of Financial Accounting conducive to its programmes and activities as shall be approved from time to time by the National Council.
- (b) The rules for and the system of financial relations among, or between Areas, Districts, Local Assemblies, Movements on the one part the National Headquarters on the other part, shall be contained in the Accounting Manual of the Church or Circulars to be issued from time to time by the National Council.

(3) OPERATION OF BANK ACCOUNTS

- (a) The General Funds of the Church at the National Headquarters of the Church shall be lodged and kept in a Bank account as shall be approved by a resolution of the National Council for the various fund heads or for any purpose as it may deem fit.
- (b) The signatories to all General Fund Accounts of the Church shall be as follows:

- (i) The Vice President of the Church
 - (ii) The General Secretary of the Church
 - (iii) The Director of the Administrative and Management Division
 - (iv) The Director of the Movement Oversight Committee.
- (c) The Funds of each Area, District and Local Assembly (including all Movements and groups therein) shall be lodged and kept in a bank within their locality in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the Accounting Manual or circulars to be issued from time to time by the National Council.
- (d) The Area Presbytery, the District Presbytery and the Local Presbytery shall prior to the opening of a Bank Account, pass a resolution to that effect stipulating inter alia, the accredited signatories, powers of the signatories, control of funds and any other matter that would facilitate the opening of the Bank Account.

(4) BUDGETING

- (a) The National Council shall cause to be prepared and laid before the National Executive at least one month before the end of the Church's financial year, estimates of the revenues and expenditures of the church for the following financial year.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, the estimates shall involve that of the Movements at the National level.
- (c) The Area, District, and Local Presbyteries shall also ensure that detailed estimates of the revenue and expenditures of their operations and that of their Movements and groups are prepared at least one month before the end of the Church's Financial year.

(5) AUDITING

- (a) The Accounts of the Church shall be audited yearly by an External auditor to be appointed by the National Council.
- (b) The audited statement of Account for each financial year shall be tabled before the National Council for its approval at its first regular meeting for each year.
- (c) The Area Presbytery shall appoint auditors to audit its account and accounts of all Districts, Locals, Movements or Fellowship under its control at the end of each financial year.

(6) FINANCIAL YEAR

- (a) The Financial year of the church shall run from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December of each year.

- (b) The National Council shall by resolution amend the Financial year of the church any time it deems fit.

(7) DISBURSEMENTS AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS OF THE CHURCH

- (a) The income and property of the church, whenever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the church as set forth in this constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, profit or other wise to any of the Ministers, Members, Workers, Officers or servants of the church.
- (b) Nothing in section (a) of this clause shall prevent the payment, in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration to any Minister, Member, Worker, Officer or Servant of the Church in return for any service actually rendered to the church or for-out-of pocket expenses or for premises leased or let to the church or for any other services duly rendered to the church.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt nothing in sections (a) and (b) of this clause shall preclude the payment of Honorarium to any Minister, Member, Worker, Officers or Servants of the church for any purpose.

ARTICLE 29 - THE PRESIDENT

- (1) There shall be a President of the Church, who shall exercise oversight responsibility over the affairs of the Church. In furtherance of this, he shall chair all meetings of the National Council, National Executive, all other bodies in the church which he is a Member, as well as all church services and programmes that he attends.

(2) QUALIFICATION

To qualify for election as President of the church, a person shall:-

- (a) Satisfy all the scriptural standards, outlined in the Bible, more especially; I Timothy 3 : 1 - 7; Titus 1 : 5 - 9.
- (b) Be an ordained minister of the church and in active service.
- (c) Possess managerial, leadership and organizational skills.

(3) APPOINTMENT AND CALL OF A PRESIDENT

The appointment and call of a President of the Church shall be made in the following manner:

- (a) By Direct revelation or prophetic utterance to the Apostleship in the course of a National Council meeting, or any such similar forum of the Apostleship, and where that revelation or prophecy is unanimously adjudged to be of divine origin and purpose.
- (b) However, where the said Revelation or prophecy is received or uttered outside a properly constituted meeting of the National Council by a duly accredited Prophet

of the Church, that revelation or prophecy shall be brought to a meeting of the National Council for it to be judged and the necessary action taken on it.

- (c) Where there are no direct revelation or prophetic utterance, or where there are conflicting prophetic utterances and revelations, the National Council shall receive nominations for the position of the President, and after vetting of the Candidates, conduct a secret ballot.
- (d) A person shall not be elected as President of the church unless at the election to select him, he obtains more than fifty percent of the total number of valid votes cast.
- (e) Where at the election of the President, there are more than two candidates and no candidate obtains more than fifty percent of the valid votes cast, a second election shall be held immediately or within one month after the previous election, between the two Candidates who obtained the highest number of votes in that election.
- (f) The National Council shall by resolution adopt the guidelines for the election of the President of the Church.
- (g) Where a person elected President is not an Apostle he shall automatically be ordained as an Apostle before his induction.

(4) TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- (a) A person elected as President of the church shall hold office for a term of four years beginning from the date on which he is inducted into office as President.
- (b) A person shall not be elected to hold the office as President of the Church for more than two terms.
- (c) Where upon the completion of two terms as President, a person has not attained the age of sixty-five, or any age which for all practical purposes shall be the retiring age for ministers of the church at any point in time; such a person may be reassigned by the National Council to serve the Church in any other capacity.
- (d) A person shall not be eligible to stand for re-election as President, where the second term will take him beyond age sixty-five or the retiring age of ministers at any point in time..
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, a person shall be eligible to stand for President, where his first term will take him beyond age sixty-five; or the retiring age of ministers at any point in time.

(5) REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT

- (a) The President shall be removed from office on proven grounds of dishonesty, misconduct, abuse of office, infirmity of body or mind that renders him incapable of performing his functions as President, violating any principle of the church that may result in a disciplinary action against him; or generally

conducting himself in a manner that will bring the office of the President to disrepute, ridicule or contempt.

- (b) For the purpose of removing the President of the Church, a resolution to that effect shall be signed by at least two-thirds of all members of the National Council, provided always that the President before his removal shall be given a hearing before a Committee appointed by the National Council from non members of the Council, or in the case of infirmity of mind or body, before a panel constituted by the Director of the Ghana Health Service.

(6) VACANT OFFICE

Wherever the President resigns, dies or is removed from office, the Vice President shall act as the President until a replacement is appointed at the next regular meeting of the National Council.

ARTICLE 30 - THE VICE PRESIDENT

- (1) There shall be a Vice President of the Church who shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by this constitution, the President or the National Council.

(2) DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Where the President for any reason is unable to act as President, the Vice President shall act as the President.

(3) QUALIFICATION, APPOINTMENT, TERM OF OFFICE AND REMOVAL OF VICE PRESIDENT FROM OFFICE.

The provisions of Article 29 of this Constitution on Qualification, Appointment, Term of Office and Removal of President shall apply to the Vice President.

ARTICLE 31 - GENERAL SECRETARY

- (1) There shall be a General Secretary of the Church, who shall serve as Secretary to the National Council and the National Executive Committee.

(2) DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

- (a) Take and keep minutes of all meetings of the National Council and the National Executive Committee.
- (b) Ensure that all decisions of the National Council and National Executive Committee are duly communicated and executed.
- (c) Ensures that the decisions and policies of the National Council are conveyed to all the Departments and Committees of the Church.

- (d) Liaise with the Head of the Administrative and Managerial Division and the Head of the Movement Oversight Division to ensure the day to day administration of the church.
 - (e) He shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed under this Constitution or assigned by the National Council or National Executive.
- (3) QUALIFICATION, APPOINTMENT, TERM OF OFFICE AND REMOVAL OF GENERAL SECRETARY
The provisions of Article 29 of this Constitution on Qualification, Appointment, Terms of Office and Removal of President shall apply to the General Secretary.

ARTICLE 32 - THE AREA SUPERINTENDENT

- (1) There shall be an Area Superintendent in each Area who shall be the representative of the National Council, and shall in that capacity perform the following duties:
- (2) DUTIES OF THE AREA SUPERINTENDENT
- (a) Preside at all meetings of the Area Pastorate and the Area Presbytery.
 - (b) Submits Reports and Minutes of the Area Pastorate and Area Presbytery to the National Council through the Ministerial Affairs Department.
 - (c) Assists in solving problems which may arise among District and Local Assemblies and their Pastors and or other officers to ensure harmony within the Area.
 - (d) Be an ex-officio member of the District/Local Presbyteries and Movement and Committees within the Area.
 - (e) Perform any other duty assigned by this Constitution, the National Council or the National Executive Committee.
- (3) QUALIFICATIONS OF AREA SUPERINTENDENT
- (a) Must be an ordained Minister in active service.
 - (b) Must be a person of maturity, experience and ability, with leadership and management skills.
- (4) APPOINTMENT/CALL AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF AREA SUPERINTENDENT
The provisions of Article 27 of this Constitution on the Appointment/Call and Removal of the President shall apply to the Area Superintendent.
- (5) TERM OF OFFICE OF AREA SUPERINTENDENT
The National Council shall upon the advice of the Ministerial Affairs Department decide on the number of years that the Area Superintendent shall serve in office.

(6) VACANT OFFICE

Whenever the Area Superintendent dies, resigns or is removed from office, any ordained Minister may be appointed by the National Executive to act, until a replacement is made by the National Council at its next regular meeting.

ARTICLE 33 - THE AREA STAFF SECRETARY.

(1) There shall be an Area Staff Secretary in each Area, who shall be the Secretary for the Area Pastorate.

(2) DUTIES OF THE AREA STAFF SECRETARY

(a) He shall take and keep minutes of the Area Pastorate.

(b) He shall be responsible for the conveying of decisions taken by the Area Pastorate and Area Presbytery to the entire church in the Area through Circulars and other means of communication as the Area Presbytery may from time to time determine

(c) He shall on behalf of the Area Superintendent, collate all Minutes, Reports by Movements and District and their Minutes for onward submission to the National Council through the National Executive Committee.

(3) QUALIFICATION, APPOINTMENT, CALL, TERM OF OFFICE
AND REMOVAL OF OFFICE OF THE AREA STAFF SECRETARY

The qualification, Appointment, Term of Office and Removal of Office of the Area Staff Secretary shall be stipulated in the Standard Conditions of Service for Ministers in the Church.

ARTICLE 34 - THE DISTRICT PASTOR

(1) There shall be a District Pastor in each District of the church, who shall represent the National Council in the District and shall be the Chairman of the District Presbytery.

(2) DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT PASTOR

The District Pastor shall perform the following duties:

(a) He shall in conjunction with the Pastors, Elders and other Officers in the District plan and execute programmes for the advancement of the church in the District.

(b) He shall in the discharge of his duties exercise supervision over all local Assemblies and Movements within the District.

(c) He shall collate data on Local Assemblies and the Movements for the purposes of sending monthly reports to the Area Pastorate.

(d) He shall perform any other duty as provided for under this Constitution, the Ministers' Standard Conditions of Service or as directed by the Area Pastorate.

- (3) APPOINTMENT AND CALL OF DISTRICT PASTOR
The Appointment, Call, Probation, Retirement, Discipline and all other relevant provisions concerning District Pastors shall be as stipulated in the Standard Conditions of Service of Ministers.

ARTICLE 35 - LOCAL PASTORS

- (1) DEFINITION OF OFFICE
There shall be Local Pastors in such Local Assemblies as the National Council shall determine, who shall represent the National Council in the Local Assembly.
- (2) DUTIES OF LOCAL PASTOR
- (a) He shall exercise oversight responsibilities over the Local Assembly.
 - (b) He shall submit Reports to the Area Superintendent through his District Pastor.
 - (c) He shall in the absence of District Pastor chair meetings of the Local Presbytery.
 - (d) He shall perform any other duties as directed by the Area Pastorate, District Presbytery or as stipulated in the Standard Conditions of Service of Ministers.
 - (e) The Qualification, Appointment, Call, Probation, Ordination, Emoluments, Retirement and all other relevant provisions concerning Local Pastors shall be as stipulated in the Standard Conditions of Service of Ministers.

ARTICLE 36 - LAY MINISTERS

- (1) DEFINITION OF OFFICE
There shall be called and appointed for specific Local Assemblies, Lay Ministers to share in the responsibilities of governing the Local Assemblies.

LAY MINISTERS SHALL INCLUDE ELDERS, DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

- (2) ELDERS
There shall be Elders in Local Assemblies who shall be responsible for the government of the Local Assemblies.
- (3) APPOINTMENT AND CALL
- (a) All Elders shall be appointed by the National Council acting by the Area Superintendent upon the recommendation of the District Presbytery.
 - (b) Persons who are recommended by the District Presbytery shall be vetted by the Area Pastorate to ensure conformity with the high calling of Eldership.

- (c) Upon their ordination, all Elders shall be given a Certificate of Ordination, which shall be renewed at such regular intervals as the National Council may determine.
 - (d) Where an Elder is disciplined or removed, he shall surrender his Certificate of Ordination to the Area Superintendent.
- (4) DEACONS
There shall be Deacons in Local Assemblies who shall be responsible for all material and temporal matters of the Local Assembly. Deacons shall be expected to exercise their spiritual ministry under the direction and control of the Local Presbytery.
- (5) APPOINTMENT AND CALL OF DEACONS
All the provisions of clause 2 of this Article on the Appointment and Call of Elders shall apply to Deacons.
- (6) DEACONESSES
There shall be Deaconesses in Local Assemblies for all material and temporal matters of the Local Assembly as well as exercise leadership over the Sisters in the Local Assembly as the Local Presbytery may direct. Deaconess may also perform other functions as the Local Presbytery may determine.
- (7) APPOINTMENT AND CALL OF DEACONESSES
All the provisions of clause 2 of this Article on the Appointment and Call of Elders shall apply to Deaconess.
- (8) QUALIFICATION OF LAY MINISTERS
 - (a) A Lay Minister shall be a member of the church.
 - (b) A Lay Minister shall possess such spiritual, moral, physical and other characteristics as are outlined in the scripture, more especially in I Timothy 3: 1 - 13 ; Titus 1 : 5 - 9; Acts 6 : 1-3a
 - (c) Lay Ministers shall conform to the provisions of this constitution and any other requirements as the National Council shall from time to time determine.
- (9) REMOVAL OF LAY WORKERS
Any Lay Worker may be removed from office on Disciplinary grounds as enshrined in Article 26 of this Constitution.
- (10) RELATIONSHIP AMONG LAY WORKERS
Lay workers shall be equal in calling and authority within their respective offices, notwithstanding, that for the purposes of local administration, some may be appointed as Presiding Elders, Responsible Deacons and Deaconesses etc.
- (11) TRANSFER OF LAY WORKERS
Lay workers are called for specific Local Assemblies. Upon transfer or relocation to another Local Assembly, a lay worker shall submit his transfer letter and Certificate of Ordination to the District Presbytery where he is relocating. The District Presbytery may decide whether to allow him or her to operate as a Lay worker in that Assembly. For the

avoidance of doubt, it is not obligatory for a Lay worker to be allowed to operate as a lay worker in a new Local Assembly where he/she relocates, as it is subject to several factors such as vacancy and need for such Lay worker.

ARTICLE 37 - MOVEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

(1) There shall be a established Movement Oversight Division under which all Movements in the Church shall fall.

(2) **MOVEMENT OVERSIGHT DIVISION**

(a) There shall be a Movement Oversight Division under which all the recognized Movements in the church shall operate.

(b) The Movement Oversight Division shall be headed by a Director appointed by the National Council who shall be a Minister of the Church with managerial, leadership and organizational skills. The Appointment, Qualification and other terms of his office shall be on such terms as the National Council may determine

(3) **DUTIES OF THE MOVEMENT OVERSIGHT DIRECTOR**

The Movements Oversight Director shall be responsible to the General Secretary and shall perform the following:

(a) Develop policy framework and guidelines for the effective functioning of all Movements under the Division.

(b) He shall coordinate the activities and operations of all groups under the Division.

(c) He shall liaise with the Department in charge of Christian Education for suitable Bible Study materials to be prepared for all groups under the Division.

(d) He shall organize Seminars, Retreats, Workshops and Training Programmes for leaders of the Movements and other groups in the church.

(e) He shall receive regular reports from the National Superintendent/Heads of the respective movements under his tutelage.

(f) He shall perform any other function as provided for under this Constitution, or as directed by the National Council.

(4) **THE MOVEMENT OVERSIGHT DIVISION SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MOVEMENTS UNDER IT:**

(a) **CHILDREN AND TEENS MINISTRY**

(i) There shall be a Children and Teens Ministry in each Local Assembly.

(ii) The motto of the Children and Teens Ministry shall be "GOOD NEWS! CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS"

(iii) Membership for the Children's segment of the Ministry shall be for all Children in the church under the age of 12, whilst the Teen Ministry shall consist of children between the ages of thirteen to nineteen years.

- (iv) The Movement shall have the primary aim of winning children for Christ and training them for responsible positions in the church and society through impartation into them of sound scriptural tenets.
 - (v) The Movement shall have teachers who shall be adult members of the church who possess sound spiritual, moral and intellectual standards and are trained in Child Evangelism Courses.
 - (vi) The Movement shall operate at the National, Area, District and Local Assemblies and they shall for all purposes operate under the supervision and control of the National Council, Area Presbytery, District Presbytery or Local Presbytery, as the case may be.
 - (v) The activities, organization and all programmes of the Children and Teen's Ministry shall be regulated by operational guidelines or manual which shall be approved by the National Council.
- (b) WITNESS MOVEMENT
- (i) There shall be a Witness Movement in each Local Assembly.
 - (ii) The Motto of the Witness Movement shall be 'GOD FIRST' (Matt. 6:33)
 - (iii) Membership of the Movement shall be open to members of the church between the ages of twenty (20) and Thirty-five (35) years. The age bracket notwithstanding, other members of the church who align themselves with the aim of the Movement are free to join.
 - (iv) The Movement shall have the primary responsibility of training members for soul winning, activities, raising new converts and fitting them for church membership.
 - (v) The Movement shall operate at the National, Area, District and Local Assemblies, and shall for all purposes operate under the supervision and control of the National Council Area Presbytery, District Presbytery or Local Presbytery, as the case may be.
 - (vi) The activities, organization and programmes of the Witness Movement shall be regulated by its Operational Guideline which shall be approved by the National Council.
- (c) THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH, STUDENTS AND ASSOCIATES (APOSA)
- (i) There shall be a fellowship of Students and Associates of the church in local assemblies and Educational institutions as may be constituted.
 - (ii) The motto of the group shall be: "ARISE AND BUILD" (Neh. 2 : 20)

- (iii) The group shall be primarily responsible for the promotion of the spiritual, social, professional and Intellectual development of members of the church.
 - (iv) Membership shall be open to students and non-students, who have professed belief in the vision of APOSA.
 - (v) Associate membership shall be open to non-students and all non members of the church who have professed belief in the doctrines of the church and the vision of APOSA.
 - (vi) The Movement shall operate at the National, Area, District, and Local Assemblies and in the various educational institutions and shall for all purposes operate under the supervision and control of the National Council, Area Presbytery, District, or Local Presbytery, as the case may be.
 - (vii) The activities, organization, and programmes of APOSA shall be regulated by its Operational Guidelines or Manual which shall be approved by the National Council.
- (d) WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
- (i) There shall be a Women's Movement for each local assembly
 - (ii) The Motto of the Women's Movement shall be "HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD" (Zec. 14 : 20)
 - (iii) Membership shall be open to all women from age twenty years upwards; not withstanding the age stipulation, any woman who subscribes to the aims of the group may join it.
 - (iv) The movement shall have the primary responsibility of deepening the spiritual life of its members through prayer meetings, fellowship, sharing of the word of God and other such exercises as the Leadership may prescribe.
 - (v) The Movement shall operate at the National, Area, District and Local Assemblies and shall for all practical purpose operate under the supervision and control of the National Council, Area Presbytery, District Presbytery or Local Presbytery, as the case may be.
 - (vi) The activities, organization and programmes of the Movement shall, be regulated by its Operational Guidelines or Manual which shall be approved by the National Council.
- (e) MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
- (i) There shall be a Men's Fellowship in each Local Assembly.
 - (ii) The Motto of the Men's Fellowship shall be "BE STRONG IN THE LORD" (Eph. 6:10)

- (iii) Membership of the Fellowship shall be open to members of the church from the age of twenty years upwards. The age stipulation notwithstanding, other members of the church who align themselves with the aims of the Fellowship are free to join it.
 - (iv) The Fellowship shall operate at the National, Area, District and Local Assemblies and shall for all practical purposes operate under the supervision and control of the National Council, Area Presbytery, District Presbytery and local Presbytery as the case may be.
 - (v) The activities, organization and programme of the Men's Fellowship shall be regulated by its operational Guidelines or Manual which shall be approved by the National Council.
- (5) EXTRA MINISTERIAL GROUPS IN THE CHURCH
There shall be Extra Ministerial groups in the church to serve as channels for individual members to exercise their gifts, and talents. These extra-ministerial groups in the church shall include:
- (a) The Bible Study Group
 - (b) The Prayer Group
 - (c) Evangelism and Counseling Group
 - (d) The Ushering and Protocol Group
 - (e) The Praise and Worship Group
 - (f) The Church Choir
 - (g) Any other group as the Local Assembly with the approval of the Area Presbytery may form.
These Extra Ministerial Groups shall on their operation be subject to the control and direction of their respective Local Presbyteries.

ARTICLE 38 - DEPARTMENTS OF THE CHURCH

- (1) The following Departments shall be established in the church. :
- (a) Finance Department
 - (b) Human Resource Department
 - (c) Estate Department
 - (d) Policy Planning and Research Department
 - (e) Public Relations Department

- (f) Internal Audit
 - (g) Information, Communication and Technology Department
 - (h). Legal Department
 - (i) Other Departments as the National Council may set up.
- (2) Each of these Departments shall be headed by a Manager and shall have other personnel as the National Council may determine.
- (2) The various head of these Departments with the exception of Legal and Internal Audit shall be responsible to the Director of Administrative and Management Division.
- (2) Each Department shall be regulated by its own Departmental Manual which shall be approved by the National Council.

ARTICLE 39 - AMENDMENT

- (1) The National Council may at any time by resolution, amend the Constitution, either by way of alterations, additions, or deletions and adopt any new provisions with respect to any matter, except in regard to the Tenets of Faith in Article 9 of this Constitution, provided that such amendments are authorised at a properly constituted National Council Meeting and according to the procedure defined. In the event of any such alterations, additions or deletions, the members of the Church shall be informed at the earliest convenient opportunity. If a revised edition of this Constitution is not ordered at the time to be published within three calendar months of such revision having taking place, the amendment effected shall be issued by special circular to all assemblies and signed by the President and General Secretary. Such amendments shall be published within three calendar months of the date of their authorization by the National Council.
- (2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION
Any amendment, alteration, addition or deletion of this Constitution shall not be binding upon members, officers or ministers of the Church until one calendar month after the date of the revised edition or special circular mentioned above.

ARTICLE 40 - RESIDUAL POWERS

When any matter arises which is not specifically dealt with in this constitution, the matter shall be referred to the National Council or the National Executive Committee for direction.

ARTICLE 41 - INTERPRETATION

- (1) This Constitution shall be the guiding principles of the Church, and with the exception of the Bible, any other regulation or edict in the Church found to be inconsistent with any provision of this Constitution shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.
- (2) The National Council shall rule on all matters of interpretation of this Constitution.
- (3) All rulings made under this Article shall be binding until the National Council departs from its previous interpretation.

ARTICLE 42 - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- (1) EXISTING COMMITTEES AND BODIES
 - (a) Any organ or Committee of the church in existence immediately before the coming into force of this Constitution shall be deemed to have been duly established unless this Constitution expressly proscribes it. For the avoidance of doubt the following organs and Committees at the national level shall cease to exist with the coming into force of this Constitution:
 - (i) Administrative Management Committee
 - (ii) Finance Committee
 - (iii) Building Committee
 - (iv) Literature Committee
 - (v) Education Committee
 - (vi) Planning and Development Committee
 - (vii) Marriage Committee
 - (viii) Ministry Committee
 - (ix) Any other Ad hoc Committee constituted by the National Council before the coming into force of this Constitution, whose functions have been taken over by a body under this constitution.
- (2) PROVIDED that these Committees shall have a six month grace period after the coming into force of the Constitution to wind up their activities. The National Council still has power to constitute other committees.

- (3) FIRST PRESIDENT ELECTED UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION
Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the person duly elected President of the Church under the Constitution in force immediately before the coming into force of this Constitution shall be deemed to have been duly elected for purposes of this Constitution.
- (4) EXISTING APPOINTMENTS
Any person who has been called or holds any ministerial or non-ministerial appointment immediately before this Constitution comes into force shall be deemed to have been called or appointed under and in accordance with and shall be subject to the provisions of this Constitution.
- (5) EXISTING BRANCHES
All Branches of the church established in Ghana or outside the Territory of Ghana before the coming into force of this Constitution, shall be deemed to have been established under this Constitution, and shall have the same relationship with the National Council as before.
- (6) PRIOR ACTS
All acts, powers and functions done, exercised, performed or carried out in all spiritual, moral, doctrinal, ministerial, governmental, financial, and disciplinary matters by any officer or organ of the church prior to the coming into force of this Constitution shall be deemed to have been done, performed or carried out under and in accordance with this Constitution and shall continue to have effect accordingly.

ARTICLE 43 - COMMENCEMENT

This Constitution shall take effect one calendar month from the date on which a special circular on it is issued to all assemblies.

SCHEDULE ONE MEMBERS AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

- (1) PREPARATION AND BAPTISM OF NEW CONVERTS
- (a) An adult person for Baptism shall be required to go through a systematic, comprehensive and intensive biblical teaching and the rules and practices of the church. A person for baptism shall be expected to give up all idolatrous and worldly ways of life.
- (b) After the Church is satisfied that the person has undergone the necessary instructions, the person shall be baptized by a Minister in the presence of others, where the person shall pledge to renounce the glamour of the world, the sinful inclinations of the human nature and all the works of darkness.
- (c) In special cases where instruction is impossible for one reason or the other, the Minister may decide in consultation with the Presbytery to administer Baptism.

(2) HOLY COMMUNION

- (a) The church shall regard Holy Communion as the sacred means of grace in which members partake of the body and blood of Christ for the strengthening of faith.
- (b) Only members who sincerely acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and belong actively to the Church shall partake of the Holy Communion.
- (c) The Church shall urge members to maintain Communion with the Lord by regular participation in the Holy Communion.
- (d) The Church shall administer the Holy Communion, as far as possible, once a month but at least once every three months.
- (e) There shall be a Preparatory Service before the Holy Communion
- (f) As part of the preparation service, members shall indulge in self – examination as provided in 1 Cor. 11:26-32 and be warned by the Presiding Elder or Minister if they have been living carelessly and they shall be set aside for self – examination and repentance;
- (g) Holy Communion may be administered to the sick and infirm in their homes where necessary.
- (h) Members who are seriously ill may ask for the Holy Communion at any time.

(3) ADMISSION OF MEMBERS OF OTHER CHURCHES

- (a) Members of other denominations who have been baptized and seek admission into the Church, need not be re-baptized if they have already been baptized by immersion
- (b) They shall be admitted into the Church if they undertake to observe the rules of the Church.
- (c) They shall then be received into the congregation with prayer and the right hand of fellowship. In such cases, the Church shall satisfy itself that their motives are genuine.
- (d) Where there is any doubt as to whether they have already been baptized in any way other than immersion, they shall be regarded as not baptized.

(4) RELATION OF MEMBERS TO EACH OTHER

- (a) As members of the body of Christ, bound together by the love of God in one Faith, one Baptism and one Hope, they shall regard each other as brothers and sisters.
- (b) In the spirit of Christian love, fellowship and unity of purpose, members of the Church shall be one another's keeper.

(5) FUNERALS

- (a) The death of a member is an event which shall evoke sympathy and help of the congregation.
- (b) Members shall not grieve after the manner of those who have no hope. They shall be sober, refraining from taking or offering alcoholic drink on such occasions and observe simplicity in their expenses on the funeral.
- (c) Superstitious customs, necromancy, heathen rituals, Church membership card deposited in the coffin and long periods of mourning including confinement and hardship imposed on widows, shall be avoided.
- (d) There shall be no Wake keeping.
- (e) The funeral service shall be conducted in accordance with the approved procedures in an atmosphere of order and solemnity.
- (f) The Church is authorized to refuse to conduct the funeral service, if the rules above are disregarded.
- (g) The Burial Service of non-communicant members shall not be held in the church
- (h) Burial Service shall not be held for a member who committed suicide.

(2) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

(1) MARRIAGE

- (a) The Church shall organize counseling for a period of not less than three (3) months for couples who intend to marry.
- (b) The Church's policy on marriage is premised on monogamy.
- (c) The Church recognizes Customary Marriage duly contracted. However, because customary marriage is potentially Polygamous, members shall be encouraged to convert such customary marriages to marriage under the Marriage Ordinance (Cap 127) or its subsequent amendments.
- (d) With regard to Marriage under customary law, the service of blessing may be held in any church building or in any other suitable place. The approved procedures shall be used and not less than two witnesses shall be present.
- (e) Marriages prohibited by Law are certainly prohibited by the Church. Save that the Church only recognizes marriages between a man and a woman.
- (f) Marriage with Christian member of other Churches is permissible. However, marriage within the church shall be encouraged (2 Cor. 6:14).

(2) DIVORCE

It is the clear teaching of the Holy Scriptures that divorce was not in the original intention of God when He instituted the ordinance that joined man and woman together in marriage. We believe that the child of God should, when faced with problems in the marital relationship, take the high and holy way of forbearance and forgiveness.

If through chronic sickness or any other circumstances affecting one of the spouses, difficulties of various kinds arise in the matrimonial relationship, they should be prepared to endure rather than seek divorce. The words of the marriage service should be considered as vows in the highest sense. In view of this, we register what we consider to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures on Divorce, and the consequences of any Breach of Marriage.

- (a) It is to the Will of God. "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6) "From the beginning it was not so" (Matt. 19:8)
- (b) Divorce for any reason other than adultery, causes the divorced spouse to commit fornication and / or adultery If she/he engages in sexual intercourse.
- (c) The guilty divorced person who has sex has committed fornication or adultery, and will not be allowed membership or office.
- (d) Anyone marrying a divorced person commits adultery and will not be allowed membership or office. (1 Cor. 7:39)
- (e) Members of the Church obtaining divorce (except for adultery) are to become subject to discipline under the rules of discipline of the Church.
- (f) A person who has been divorced by the other spouse without having given guilty cause thereto (such as in cases of supposed desertion or incompatibility, cruelty or temporary mental sickness) shall not be debarred from membership, but such person is to be encouraged to seek reconciliation and re-marriage with the other spouse.
- (g) A person whose spouse has committed adultery may seek the law for divorce, but such a person should be encouraged to take a better way of forgiving the offending spouse and not to take any steps to obtain divorce. If divorce is obtained, such a one should remain unmarried, or re-marry the divorced spouse. This is according to the tenor of the Scripture in (1 Cor. 7; 10,16,39 and Rom. 7:2,3).
- (h) The evidence of Scripture is positively against an innocent divorced person re-marrying. (Luke 16:18; Mark 10:11,12). If they re-marry they will not be allowed membership or office, but they will be allowed to break bread on their own responsibility. The officiating servant should give a general warning in respect of sin on Scriptural lines.

Afterwards it should be left to the conscience of the persons as to whether they will participate in the ordinance or not.

- (i) The innocent party who has married or not married can break bread and remain in membership, but whether fit or unfit to hold office, shall be determined by the Church according to the merits of the case and according to the teachings of the Bible.
- (j) It is clearly understood that a person seeking salvation is not beyond the reach of Christ because such a person is a divorced man or woman, whether married again or not.
- (k) Any guilty divorced person who gets married again and seeks to partake in the Holy Communion should cease to co-habit. On the fulfillment of this condition they would be permitted to break bread on their own responsibility, and take part in public prayer, but they cannot be accepted into membership or placed into office.
- (l) In some countries the law allows the death of a person, unheard of for a length of time, to be presumed dead, and a spouse whose partner's death is presumed is allowed by law to re-marry; also in the case of insanity after the expiration of a given number of years, along with a medical certificate to the effect that the disease is incurable, re-marriage is permissible. The Church however, cannot countenance re-marriage under such circumstances and any member so marrying again without certain knowledge of the death of a spouse is to become subject to discipline, as having committed adultery.
- (m) The Church shall stand by the Biblical Provisions when dealing with the issue of Divorce. However, in any situation the Church shall treat it on its own merits.

3. RE-MARRIAGE

- (a) Divorce is contrary to God's ideal concerning marriage. "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder" (Matt. 19:6)
- (b) Any member divorcing his or her spouse other than on the grounds of illicit sexual relationship (Porneia) commits adultery by re-marriage. (Matt. 19:9).
- (c) Even when adultery has taken place a believer is encourage to take the better way of forgiveness, and not to take steps to obtain a divorce.
- (d) A member divorcing his or her spouse on grounds other than that of illicit sexual relationship (Porneia), is obliged to remain unmarried, and providing they do so, they will not necessarily be excluded from membership. (1Cor. 7:10).

- (e) A member who divorces other than for illicit sexual relationship (Porneia) disqualifies himself or herself from Church Office.
- (f) A believer who divorces other than for illicit sexual relationship (Porneia) and re-marries will not be allowed membership, ordinances or public participation in the Church.
- (g) A member who was involved in divorce and re-marriage prior to conversion will not be refused membership or holding office. If not re-married, such a person is free to marry.
- (h) A member who in a backslidden condition contracts a marriage contrary to the grounds set out in 3 (b) above, will be accepted as a believer on restoration to Christ. However, the Area Presbytery in conjunction with the National Council will consider admission to membership or office.
- (i) Separation in its modern understanding has no Biblical foundation, but when separation occurs, the member who unilaterally separates from his or her spouse will be excluded from membership. However, where the separation is mutual, then both couples shall be excluded from membership
- (j) The Church shall stand by the Biblical Provisions when dealing with the issue of Re-Marriage. However, in any situation the Church shall treat it on its own merits.

(3) FAMILY LIFE

- (1) Husbands and wives shall seek to manage their home in love and honour for unity and peace.
- (2) Long separation, that is, couples living apart for a long time shall be avoided. The Church will counsel couples against the dangers of living apart for an unreasonable long period of time.
- (3) Each member shall be encouraged to organize family prayers in their homes together.
- (4) Children are a heritage of the Lord, given to parents in trust. Christian parents shall train their children in the way of the Lord
- (5) The Church shall treat widows and orphans with love and sympathy, bearing in mind the fact that God cares for widows and the fatherless.
- (6) House Helps shall be regarded as members of the family. Their physical and spiritual welfare shall be actively promoted.

(4) THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY

(1) Christian Responsibility

As stewards of God's creation, Christians shall protect the environment from degradation and destruction. In pursuance of this, the environment of the Christian Community must be a model of neatness and order. Members of the Church shall cherish the virtue of simplicity and modesty in all aspects of life.

(2) Temporal Calling and Occupations

Each member in accordance with his abilities shall find an Occupation to be able to meet his personal family and public obligations.

(3) Temporal Property

(i) As stewards of worldly property which have come to us through the blessing of God, members must guard against wasteful habits and take good care of our property. Members shall spend wisely on children, our dependants and ourselves. They shall also support the poor, the sick, and be generous toward the Church.

(4) Relation to Neighbors

(i) Our duty in associating with members of the household of the Christian faith should not lead us to separate ourselves from other members of the Community. We must seek the welfare of those among whom we live. However, members must guard against the adoption of unchristian behaviour and mischievous practices.

(ii) Members must learn to meet ingratitude, hatred, persecution or injustice with forbearance and fortitude. Where quarrels arise, we must endeavor to effect reconciliation through peaceful arbitration.

(5) Observance of Traditional Customs

(i) Members shall not swear oath founded on traditions, customs and practices.

(ii) Where an oath is invoked against a member as a means of summoning him before a Traditional Authority or Court, the member may attend to present his side of the case.

(6) Loyalty to Chiefs

Members may join in national day celebrations and durbars where people are expected to show their respect and loyalty to the State. Ministers and Elders are also permitted to pay their respect to the Chief.

(7) Stool/Skin Functionaries

No member is expected to be a stool/skin functionary, for almost every stool functionary has to participate in some ceremony connected with ancestral spirits

- (8) Relation to the State and traditional Authority
- (a) A member shall be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God (Rom. 13:1).
 - (b) A member shall regard it as a sacred duty to be loyal to the Government, which wields the sword of justice and authority, for this will be in obedience to God from whom all authority is derived
 - (c) It is the firm belief of the church that our Lord Jesus the King and Head of the Church gives His body, a government quite distinct from that of the State.

SCHEDULE TWO BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

In 1904-5, Wales experienced an outbreak of a revival which had tremendous effects on many parts of the British Isles. This was followed by a MIGHTY VISITATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, which fell simultaneously on many parts of the world, during which many received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with signs following.

As a result, there sprung up Pentecostal groups worldwide which also believed that the gifts of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers of Ephesians 4:11 should operate in the church together with the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit spelt out in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. The Apostolic Church was therefore born in 1915 in Penygroes, South Wales, United Kingdom.

It was a vision of Apostolic doctrine that gripped the first leader of the Fellowship, Daniel Powell Williams, who in 1913, was ordained an Apostle in the Body of Christ and later became the first President of the Apostolic Church Council and remained so until his death in 1947. The Lord also called his brother, William Jones Williams, as a prophet in the Body of Christ. In 1913, he was ordained into full-time ministry of the Church. Thus they were called together with others to demonstrate the New Testament offices of Apostle and Prophet in the United Kingdom. Subsequently these ministries were exercised in other countries and Continents of the World.

With time, the Lord in a remarkable way brought many groups to link with the Church in Penygroes under the name of the Apostolic Church, and Ghana was no exception. The Gold Coast, now Ghana saw the emergence of Christians in the country who were seeking spiritual awakening in their hearts and lives. This desire to know more about spiritual truths drove many to write for literature from various missions abroad. Through contacts with the Faith Tabernacle of Nigeria, a group of Christians at the small town of Asamankese were introduced to The Apostolic Church, which had started a missionary work in Nigeria.

The Asamankese group then requested The Apostolic Church in Bradford, England, that a delegation should visit them. As a result in 1935, Pastor George Perfect, a British Missionary who had been posted to Nigeria was directed by the Missionary Office in Bradford, to visit the Christian group at Asamankese.

This group of believers experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit and needed instructions and guidance. Pastor George Perfect met the Asamakese group led by the late Apostle Peter Newman Anim.

Eventually, the Asamakese group accepted to become members of The Apostolic Church and wholeheartedly embraced the Tenets of the Church. Pastor George Perfect formally ordained the leader of the group, Pastor Peter Newman Anim as the first African Minister of The Apostolic Church, Gold Coast.

In 1936, Pastor Vivian Wellings, the then Missionary Secretary of the Church in Bradford visited the infant Apostolic Church at Asamakese. On his return to Bradford, England, he recommended that a resident Missionary should be sent to Asamakese because the new Church was growing at a fast rate.

On 2nd March 1937, Pastor James Mckeown arrived in the then Gold Coast to take up the mantle as the first resident Missionary. His wife, Sophia arrived later in September, the same year to support her husband. Barely six months after his arrival, Pastor James Mckeown was taken ill with malaria fever. A controversy broke out over his being taken to the Ridge Hospital by an English District Commissioner.

The Faith Tabernacle Church members who had joined The Apostolic Church still held in a fanatic way, the doctrine of divine healing. During a Christmas convention at Asamakese, Pastor Mckeown's belief in medication was questioned by Pastor Anim and some of the Elders. This led to a split in the infant Church with Pastor Anim leading a breakaway and formed Christ Apostolic Church.

The members from Akroso led by the late Pastor R. S. Asomaning, together with Brother C. K. Frimpong, (Odoom), J. S. Gyima, J. A. Bimpong, K. Nyarko, R. H. Gyima, Philip Anor, Kwaku Asare and J. W. Amoako accepted Pastor Mckeown's leadership and remained in The Apostolic Church. They arranged for him to move from Asamakese to Akroso and later to Winneba where there were some brethren who also accepted to continue with The Apostolic Church.

Three years later the headquarters of the Apostolic Church was transferred to Cape Coast where a Church had been planted. The Apostolic Church however flourished rapidly throughout the country with Pastor Mckeown as the Superintendent Missionary. He was supported by Pastor R. S. Asomaning, J. A. C. Anaman, J. A. Bimpong, D. K. Boateng, S. K. Frimpong and others.

In 1944 some Christian believers including Pastor Lartey Adotey, Pastor A. S. Mallet, Elder Q. A. L. Quarshie, (all deceased) and Pastor C. K. Diaba and others invited The Apostolic Church from Cape Coast to establish the Church in Accra. The Church in Accra under the leadership of the late Pastor Anaman flourished so quickly that in 1948 the headquarters of the Church was transferred to Accra.

More Missionaries were later posted from England to strengthen the work in the then Gold Coast. Pastor C. B. Sercombe arrived in 1943 to be the Vice Superintendent. Pastor Adams Mckeown, Brother of Pastor James Mckeown as a Prophet arrived in December 1944. Pastor Albert Seaborne came in 1946, followed by Pastor S. M. Hammond in 1948. Others were Pastor H. L. Copp in 1953 and Pastor C. H. Rosser in 1962. Pastor F. Johnson arrived in 1966, and Pastor P. W. Cawthorne in 1971. Then Pastor E. H. Williams also arrived in 1973.

After many years of difficulties dating back to 1953, a large section of the Church finally followed Pastor James Mckeown to form the Gold Coast Apostolic Church, then Ghana Apostolic Church. And in 1962 the name was changed to the Church of Pentecost. Other Churches like the Divine Healers Church, The Apostolic Reformed Church, and The New Covenant Apostolic Church are all off shoots of The Apostolic Church.

However, the Lord has continued to bless His Church in a wonderful way, and today there are more than one thousand five hundred local Churches in Ghana. The Church has also been instrumental in establishing the glorious vision and the seed of truth in Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, La Cote D'Ivoire, United Kingdom and North America. The Apostolic Church, Ghana celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1985.

In 1985, the Church in Ghana attained Autonomy, and the First Ghanaian President Pastor A. Ofori-Addo was appointed who served from 1985 to 1986. Pastor P. Attah Antwi followed from 1986 to 1996.

The Administrative Management Committee performed the functions of the Presidency from 1996 to 1997, followed by the Presidential Board from 1997 to 1998. Pastor Joseph Anim was appointed the President in July 1998 during the National Council Meeting. After two successive terms of office, Pastor Joseph Anim handed over the presidency to Pastor John Annan Adotey on 8th July 2006.



.....
APOSTLE J. A. ADOTEY
(PRESIDENT)



.....
APOSTLE K. B. DENSON
(GENERAL SECRETARY)

Dated: 14th day of March, 2007

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH,
GHANA
2007

The Apostolic Church is a world-wide Church with its international headquarters at Penygroes, South Wales, England.

The Apostolic Church International is the North American branch of the Apostolic Church of Ghana.

www.theapostolicchurch.org

The Apostolic Church, Ghana

P.O. Box 633

Accra

Ghana

Tel: 011-233-21-226478