

Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Constitutional Committee Recommendations

The **Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Constitutional Committee** met approximately three times a month for over six months and, **together with the Board of Apostles, Board of Bishops, and Board of Presbyters, agreed on the following recommendations.**

The Constitutional Committee recommends adopting the **July 17, 2024, draft Constitution** with two bylaw amendments—one on **governance/veto power** and one on **diocese**—and submitting it to the presiding apostle for the General Assembly at the 107th Holy Convocation.

- **Diocese bylaw:** Article 10 of the 1993 Constitution to be inserted into Article 2 of current bylaws; Article 2 retitled "**Apostolic Diocese and Regions.**"
- **Voting method confirmed:** Per existing bylaws Article 29, Section 4, voting at the General Convocation shall be by **uplifted hands or standing** — supersedes Robert's Rules.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. _

Executive Decisions and Legislative Veto Procedures

Recommendation

The Committee recommends adoption of the following provisions establishing uniform procedures governing executive decisions and legislative veto authority referenced in **Article IV – Governance, Sections C and D of the Constitution.**

The purpose of this amendment is to establish a fair, orderly, and transparent process for the exercise, review, and, when necessary, the override of constitutional authority while preserving appropriate checks and balances among the governing bodies of the Church.

The Committee further recommends inserting the following language into:

Chapter 7

Article XXIV – Special Rules

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as a new **Section 18**, entitled:

Section 18. Executive Decisions and Legislative Veto Procedures

Pursuant to **Article IV – Governance, Sections C and D of the Constitution**, whenever the Presiding Apostle and the Board of Apostles exercise unilateral executive authority or

constitutional authority with respect to legislation, and concerns are subsequently raised by the Joint Board of Bishops and the Board of Presbyters, a special joint session of the three boards shall be convened in the spirit of collaboration, unity, and mutual accountability.

The special joint session shall consist of the **Board of Apostles, the Board of Bishops, and the Board of Presbyters**. During this session, the Presiding Apostle and the Board of Apostles shall present the rationale for the executive decision or legislative action. The Board of Bishops and the Board of Presbyters shall then have the opportunity to ask questions, provide counsel, and discuss the matter with the objective of reaching consensus.

If consensus is reached, the executive decision or legislative action shall proceed in accordance with the agreement of the three boards. If consensus cannot be reached, the Joint Board of Bishops and the Board of Presbyters may veto the executive decision or legislative action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

The procedures governing the conduct of the vote shall be jointly established and approved by the Chair of the Board of Bishops and the Chair of the Board of Presbyters prior to the vote.

Dioceses and Apostolic Regions

Section 1. Designation

Dioceses may be formed with the consent of the General Convocation and under such conditions as prescribed in the Bylaws. A diocese shall consist of five or more churches within a territory in the United States and/or a foreign country.

Section 2. Subordination

Each diocese shall be subject to the rule and discipline of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Section 3. Foreign

Notwithstanding Article X, Section 1, a foreign diocese shall be established under the direction of the Board of Apostles and the Department of Foreign Missions. However, a foreign diocese may be formed when five or more churches exist within a foreign jurisdiction.

Section 4. Authority of the Diocesan Bishop

A bishop may perform episcopal acts in another diocese only if he is requested or authorized in writing to perform such acts by the Diocesan Bishop, the Regional Apostle or the Presiding Apostle.

Section 5. District Elders

- A. District Elders may be appointed by the Board of Apostles over one or more churches in the diocese.
- B. A Diocesan Bishop may recommend to the Board of Apostles an elder for appointment as a District Elder in his diocese.

Section 6. Apostolic Region

- A. The diocese of this church in the United States of America and the foreign field shall be divided into regions.
- B. Each region shall have an Apostle as administrator for its spiritual and temporal business.

Section 7. Presiding Apostle's Jurisdiction

- A. The Presiding Apostle shall supervise the Board of Apostles and the Church, except that the Presiding Apostle shall not supervise the Chief Apostle and shall not have a separate region as such, except for unassigned or non-designated regions.
- B. The home states or diocese of the Presiding Apostle and the Chief Apostle shall not be under any region.

Section 8. Foreign Dioceses

All dioceses and churches outside the territory of the United States of America shall be governed by the Director of Foreign Missions and the Board of Foreign Missions.

Section 9. Assignment of Regions

The Board of Apostles shall divide and/or assign the other regions.

I respectfully submit the following recommendations for consideration regarding the ongoing constitutional and bylaws revision process.

1. Adoption of the Current Constitution Draft

We recommend that the current draft of the Constitution, which has been made available online for review, be presented for approval and adoption. This draft represents the work completed to date and provides a solid foundation for the organization.

2. We recommend Article 10 for Apostolic Region and Diocese

We recommend that Article 10 be removed from the Constitution and incorporated into Article 2 of the Bylaws. This change would place operational and administrative provisions in the governing document most appropriate for such matters, while preserving the Constitution as a document of fundamental principles and structure.

3. Continuation: We recommend Governance/Veto

We recommend that if consensus cannot be reached, the Joint Board of Bishops and the Board of Presbyters may veto the executive decision or legislative action by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.

