

The following article(s) reflect(s) an Amendment from the document posted in 2018 that was approved by the Constitution Committee. Change(s) are reflected in RED:

Article I Governance Section 2 D

Article VI Governance Section E

BY-LAWS
CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH, INC.

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH, INC. (herein referred to as “Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”)

Section 2. Location

The principal office will be located in the County of New York, State of New York.

Section 3. Membership

The membership of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall consist of the members of each church established by and/or chartered in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Section 4. Purpose

The purposes of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. are to teach the Holy Bible, the doctrines and beliefs of the Apostolic Faith, and to establish, own, and maintain churches, clinics, and schools within the United States and abroad.

ARTICLE I
GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Governing Body

Board of Apostles

- A. The Board of Apostles shall serve as the executive board of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. They shall execute the constitution, by-laws and policies of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, as adopted and ratified by the General Assembly.
- B. The Board of Apostles shall apprise the International Board of Bishops and the International Board of Presbyters on matters concerning the vision, goals, objectives, and operation of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ for review prior to finalizing. After review is complete the Board of Apostles shall take into consideration the documented review comments and recommendations; however, as the elected leaders of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, they shall reserve the power of executive decision-making for the well-being and good of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. The Board of Apostles shall also present to the International Board of Bishops and the International Board of Presbyters any legislation that shall have a direct impact on the local

churches that comprise the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- D. The Board of Apostles shall present an annual budget draft to the International Board of Bishops and the International Board of Presbyters for review. After review the joint boards shall meet to discuss rationale for recommended adjustments and/or changes. Upon final approval by the Board of Apostles, the budget shall be presented to the General Assembly and approved by voice vote.

Section 2.

- A. The International Board of Bishops and the International Board of Presbyters of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ continues to labor for the spirituality, vitality, solvency and destiny of our organization. Following and supporting the leadership of the Board of Apostles and providing leadership and support to our respective dioceses, constituent pastors, member churches, and international auxiliaries, the International Boards of Bishops and Presbyters remain committed to the strength and health of this institution at the local church, diocesan, regional and international levels.
- B. The Board of Bishops and Ordained Presbyters, representing the churches and dioceses of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall work with the Board of Apostles to resolve any dissension arising from unilateral executive actions of the Board of Apostles.
- C. When an unilateral executive action disagreement is not resolved, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Bishops and Ordained Presbyters shall veto the executive action, document its disputes and return it to the Board of Apostles for revision and resubmission. The Board of Apostles shall convene a joint session to share the rationale of the executive action and to hear discussion from the bishops and presbyters in an effort to reach consensus.
- D. If after discussion, a consensus is not reached, the matter shall be referred to a joint committee appointed by the Presiding Apostle of apostles, bishops, and presbyters that shall address the unresolved concern(s) and bring a recommendation for final disposition by the joint boards through a 2/3 majority vote.

Section 3. Legislation

- A. All legislation passed by any board, department, auxiliary or committee having a direct or financial impact at the local church level, shall be presented to the Boards of Bishops and Presbyters.
- B. If the two joint boards approve the submitted legislation it shall be submitted to the Board of Apostles for final approval. If the two joint boards disapprove the legislation they shall return it, with their documented objections to the respective body, in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large in their minutes, and proceed to reconsider it.
- C. If after such reconsideration two thirds of that body shall agree to pass the legislation, the submitting entity may appeal to the Board of Apostles.
- D. If the Board of Apostles rejects the appeal it shall be returned to the originating entity disapproved. If the Board of Apostles approves the appeal they will convene a joint session with the Boards of Bishops and Presbyters for a final review and can be passed by a majority vote in this joint session.

- E. Once the legislation is approved the Presiding Apostle shall sign it and it will be presented to the Convocation for adoption.

Section 4. Electoral Process

A. Presiding Apostle

The Presiding Apostle shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the ecclesiastical overseer and spiritual leader of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and works in conjunction with the Board of Apostles, the Executive Secretary, and the Board of Trustees in managing the business affairs of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

B.

1. The election of the Presiding Apostle shall take place at the Annual Convocation, in the last year of the three-year term of the current Presiding Apostle.
2. Nominations:

The candidate for the office of Presiding Apostle must be a duly elected Apostle and have held such office for a minimum of three (3) years. The candidate must have demonstrated leadership ability and have been nominated by the International Board of Bishops and ordained clergy of the Board of Presbyters at the Annual Leadership Seminar. No board may nominate more than two candidates.

Election: The Presiding Apostle

Tenure: The tenure of office for the Presiding Apostle shall be a period of three years, and if re-elected, he may succeed himself for one term. However, if an Apostle is out of office for one full term, he is eligible for election for the office of Presiding Apostle for another three-year tenure and may succeed himself for one term.

In order for an Apostle to be chosen as the presider on the first ballot, he must receive a two-third (2/3) majority of all votes cast by the Board of Apostles, the International Board of Bishops, and the ordained clergy of the International Board of Presbyters. When there are three or more candidates for the Presider office, the two candidates receiving the most votes, shall face each other in a run-off election, providing no candidate concedes. The candidate receiving the majority vote shall be declared the winner of the election. If there are only two candidates and no candidate concedes, another election shall be held and the candidate receiving the majority vote shall be declared the winner of the election.

Vacancy:

In the event that the office of the Presiding Apostle becomes vacant due to death, resignation, or for cause, the election for the next Presiding Apostle shall take place at the next the Annual Convocation.

If the Presiding Apostle is unable to serve for any reason, the Vice Presiding Apostle shall preside over the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ until the Presiding Apostle is able to resume service or until a new Presiding Apostle is duly elected.

Removal

An Apostle may be removed or retired with good cause by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the

Board of Apostles, International Board of Bishops, and ordained clergy of the International Board of Presbyters when an Apostle is found to have acted in a manner seriously detrimental to or in a manner that is inconsistent with the Holy Scripture and/or with the purposes and goals of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. However, before such removal can occur, the Apostle must be afforded due process proceedings.

Section 5. Voting

- A. Each ordained clergy must be a registered delegate at the Annual Convocation, in good standing with his respective board and the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and present a current Church of Our Lord Credential Card in order to participate in the nominating and voting process.
- B. Voting for a Presiding Apostle and/or a Board of Apostle member shall be by ballot. Each clergy shall have one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Section 6. Tenure of Office

- A. An Apostle shall hold his office for life, or for as long as his life is in fitness and harmony with the Word of God.
- B. In the event that an apostle's physical and/or medically documented cognitive capabilities prevent his continued and active service, The Board of Apostles can be respectfully retire him from active service. The retired apostle shall receive no less than 50% of the current amount of financial support from his region at the time of his retirement.
- C. Resignation: An Apostle may resign from office at any time, upon presenting a written letter to the Board of Apostles and the Executive Secretary. His resignation becomes official once documented as an approved letter from the Presiding Apostle.
- D. Any vacancies on the Board of Apostles will be filled through the election process.

Article II

VICE PRESIDING APOSTLE

Appointment

- A. The Vice Presiding Apostle shall be recommended for appointment by the Presiding Apostle and the Board of Apostles.
- B. The recommended candidate shall be screened and vetted by the International Boards of Bishops and Presbyters and,
- C. Any known objections of moral or improper conduct shall be documented and given to the Board of Apostles for review and assessment prior to the appointment

Article III

OFFICERS

Section 1. Qualifications of Officers

- A. All candidates for office must be baptized according to Acts 2:38 and be filled with the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4.
- B. They must be of good moral character and in good standing with the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ") and a member of an affiliated local church.

- C. Each candidate must have demonstrated relevant work experience for the office being considered and vetted by the respective nomination committee and/or the Board of Apostles before being appointed.
- D. Every candidate for Executive Office must be a member of a local church in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ for at least ten (10) consecutive years at the time of their election or appointment.
- E. No candidate elected to an office may hold two offices simultaneously. They must resign one of the offices.
- F. All officers for auxiliary positions shall be nominated by the auxiliaries' constituents, vetted by designated election committee members, and elected by ballots of eligible auxiliary members.

ARTICLE IV APOSTOLIC REGIONS

Section 1. Assignment of Apostolic Regions

The Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall be divided into geographic regions established by the Board of Apostles.

The Board of Apostles shall assign an apostle to preside over the spiritual and physical needs of each region.

Section 2. Duties

The Region Apostle shall encourage and perpetuate the growth of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ within his designated region. When necessary he shall recommend to the Boards of Apostles and Bishops the establishment of other dioceses, as well as the appointment of bishops in his region. He shall also receive recommendations from the diocesan bishop for appointments of district elders and pastors within the region.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Executive Officers shall consist of Auxiliary Presidents, Board Chairs, and Cabinet members appointed by the Presiding Apostle.

Section 1. Presiding Apostle

- A. The Presiding Apostle shall preside at the Annual International Convocation (hereinafter referred to as "Annual Convocation"). He shall be an ex-official member of all special and standing committees, and shall in general, supervise and manage all of the business affairs of the Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with the Board of Apostles. He shall have the power to sign capital certificates and convention certificates of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He shall sign and execute all contracts and instruments of conveyance in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and shall affix his signature to all credentials, church charters, and other church documents. He shall sign duly approved minutes of each Annual Convocation.

- B. The Presiding Apostle shall, with the approval of the Board of Apostles, have power to appoint committees, diocesan bishops, district elders, and pastors. During the appointment process, the Board of Apostles shall give due consideration to the recommendations of the respective diocesan bishops when approving the appointments
- C. At the Annual Convocation, the Presiding Apostle shall give an annual report on the status of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ during the General Assembly, his vision for the organization, and the progress and forward actions toward achieving its goals. He shall also submit an annual written report, including the financial report of the previous year and the budget for the upcoming fiscal year to the Annual Convocation.
- D. He shall submit in writing a financial report showing executive treasure receipts and disbursements no more than sixty (60) days following the Annual Convocation.
- E. He shall give a copy of the Board of Apostles' proposed final executive budget and a proposed final organizational budget to the Board of Bishops and Board of Presbyters at the Annual Leadership Seminar, to be approved at the Annual Convocation.

Section 2. Vice Presiding Apostle

- A. The Vice Presiding Apostle shall serve as an advisor to the Presiding Apostle and assume responsibility for any role assigned by the Presiding Apostle.
- B. In the absence or disability of the Presiding Apostle, the Vice Presiding Apostle shall perform the duties of the Presiding Apostle until he returns, recovers, or is replaced at the Annual Convocation.
- C. He shall work on special organizational projects and chair special committees when requested by the Presiding Apostle.

Section 3. Board of Apostles

- A. The Board of Apostles shall advise and assist the Presiding Apostle in the administration, supervision, and management of all the business affairs of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. They shall sign credentials, church charters, and other documents, where appropriate.
- B. Each Apostle shall preside over a region as determined by the Board of Apostles. He shall provide spiritual leadership and exercise ecclesiastical control over his designated region in accordance with the Word of God and discipline of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. The Board of Apostles shall appoint directors to lead and manage the major initiatives of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle overseeing the initiative shall recommend candidates for these positions and they shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Apostles prior to appointment by the Presiding Apostle.
- D. Apostles shall develop, counsel, and support the leadership of bishops assigned to his region.
- E. All approved appointments by the Board of Apostles shall be announced through the Office of the Executive Secretary. The clergy boards can request information in reference to key appointments (i.e. Department Directors, Diocesan Bishops, etc.) and the Board of Apostles shall provide a summary of its findings excluding personal or confidential information.
- F. The Board shall establish grievance, resolution, and memorial committees as required to receive, review, and screen inputs, and recommend forward action.

Section 3. Executive Secretary

- A. The Executive Secretary shall maintain the records of the organization, including executive staff meetings, general assembly, joint meetings of the boards, and proceedings. They shall be the custodian of the records and of the seal. They shall sign, with the Presiding Apostle, when authorized by the Board of Apostles, in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and affix the seal when required. They shall sign all credentials and perform all duties incidental to the office of the Executive Secretary.
- B. They shall maintain records and files in a designated repository and provide data/information to the Board of Apostles, as required, relating to the needs of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. They shall work with the Board of Apostles and Trustee Board to establish a financial team, comprised of individuals with financial expertise, to develop, maintain, and provide oversight of the organization's budget
- D. Special Authority
For the expeditious functioning and business transaction affecting the organization, with the consent of the Board of Apostles, the Presiding Apostle may grant in writing the Executive Secretary special authority to conduct other business as is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 4. Recording Secretary

- A. The Recording Secretary shall make and keep an accurate record of the executive staff meetings, general assemblies, and joint clergy sessions. An original copy of all official records and minutes shall be filed with the Office of the Executive Secretary.
- B. He shall read publically all documents which may be ordered to be read.
- C. He shall notify the appointees of their respective appointment, provide a list of committee members and his/her duties. He shall call the roll of churches and the roll of ministers when necessary.

Section 5. Corresponding Secretary

- A. The Corresponding Secretary shall keep a record of all names, addresses (physical and email), telephone numbers, and any other pertinent contact information of all officers of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. The secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notices of all meetings that require that a notice be given.
- C. The secretary shall attend to all official correspondence, communications, and shall post all notices required to be posted.

Section 6. Financial Secretary

- A. The Financial Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all the finances of the executive treasure of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, including a record of all income, disbursements, and bank deposits. He shall hold copies of the financial statements of all boards, departments and committees of the Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. The Financial Secretary shall also prepare and submit a preliminary financial report of the executive treasure at the close of the Annual Convocation to the Treasure and to the

Board of Apostles. Within sixty (60) days following the close of the Annual Convocation a final report shall be submitted to the treasurer, Executive Secretary and to the Board of Apostles.

Section 7. Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall be the chairman of the Board of Trustees.
- B. The Treasurer shall receive funds from reports, credentials, charters, etc., and disburse funds according to the directions of the Presiding Apostle and in accordance with the approved budget.
- C. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for all the executive funds and securities of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Treasurer shall deposit all such funds in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in such banks, trust companies, or safe deposit vaults as the Presiding Apostle may designate.
- D. The Treasurer shall sign, make and endorse, in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, all checks, drafts, warrants and lawful orders for the payment of money when authorized by the Board of Apostles and/or the Presiding Apostle. The Treasurer shall perform all other duties incidental to the office.
- E. The authorized signatures are the treasurer, executive secretary, financial secretary, and the presiding apostle. All checks shall require two (2) of the authorized signatures.
- F. The Treasurer shall provide the Board of Apostles, Executive Secretary and the Financial Secretary with a detail breakdown of the executive treasure income and disbursements.

ARTICLE VI BOARDS AND AUXILIARIES

Section 1. Governance

- A. All boards, committees, and auxiliaries are subject to the discipline, rules, regulations and policies of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Each Board and Auxiliary may develop and maintain its rules governing its procedures and operations. However, where there is a conflict, the Discipline, Constitution, By-laws and Policies of the Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ take precedence.
- B. All elected board and auxiliary chairs and presidents shall be members of the organization's executive cabinet along with the appointed executive officers and staff.
- C. All elected board and auxiliary officers' tenure of office shall be three years. If re-elected they may succeed themselves for one term.
- D. A copy of governing rules for all committees, boards, and auxiliaries shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary for approval by the Board of Apostles and filing.
- E. **Annual Report**
Every Board and Auxiliary shall submit an annual written report at the Annual Convocation, and/or upon request to the Board of Apostles. The report shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary within sixty (60) days after the close of the Annual Convocation, International Women's Council, and International Congress and shall include a complete financial statement of income, disbursements, bank statements, and projected budgets for the next fiscal year (July 1st through **June 30th**), and all activities and accomplishments for the year.

ARTICLE VII INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF BISHOPS

Section 1. Membership

- A. The International Board of Bishops shall consist of the consecrated bishops, in good standing, in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Good Standing shall mean: the bishop has maintained a current credential card and has consistently paid his bishop assessments and his church's assessments.
- C. Qualified district elders shall be recommended for consecration to the office of bishop based on the following stipulations.
 - a. A vacancy for a diocesan bishop has occurred or a new diocese has been created by the Board of Apostles.
 - b. The Regional Apostle recommends this district elder for application and consideration.
 - c. The Board of Bishops vets the district elder and sanctions the appointment.
 - d. The Board of Apostles gives final approval to the consecration and appointment.
- D. All bishops shall be consecrated by ceremony during the International Annual Convocation with the exception of Global Mission Bishops approved by the Board of Apostles due to travel limitations/restrictions.

Section 2. Responsibilities

All bishops shall:

- a. Oversee and lead the diocese and pastors to which they are assigned ecclesiastical authority.
- b. Provide for the spiritual and temporal growth and development of their respective diocese, the churches and pastors that constitute their diocese.
- c. Hold at least one diocese meeting/convocation annually.
- d. Visit and support the churches of their diocese.
- e. Address and resolve the issues, concerns, grievances and biblical heresy within the diocese
- f. Maintain ecclesiastical authority over the churches over which they preside
- g. Constructively collaborate and remain subject to the leadership of the regional apostle to which they are assigned
- h. Actively participate and support the International Board of Bishops through their attendance, participation and payment of financial obligations.
- i. See to it that all churches, pastors and auxiliaries report to the International Convocation, maintain their respective credentials, and support their respective region.
- j. Create districts based on the growth of the diocese and recommend district elders for appointment
- k. Tithe to their respective regions
- l. Appoint or oversee the election of all diocese auxiliary leaders.
- m. Report annually to the International Church
- n. Ordain deacons
- o. Perform all other duties incidental to the office of bishop.

Section 3. Ecclesiastical Authority

No bishop shall perform any ecclesiastical authority function in the diocese of a duly consecrated bishop without the knowledge and consent of the sitting bishop unless assigned such a function by the Regional Apostle.

Section 4. Officers Election and Tenure

- A. The Board of Bishops shall elect a Chairman from its board during the Annual Convocation in the year that the Chairman's three-year term shall expire.
- B. The tenure of office for the Chairman of the Board of Bishops shall be three years. If re-elected, he may succeed himself for one term. However, if he is out of office for one full term, he is eligible for election to the office of the Chairman for another three-year term and may succeed himself for one term.

Section 5. Meetings

- A. The Board shall meet yearly at the Annual Leadership Seminar, the Annual Convocation, and the Bishops Council.
- B. A majority of members in good standing and registered at a meeting shall constitute a quorum and shall be sufficient for the transaction of business.

Section 6. Voting

Each bishop that is registered, in good standing, and present at the time of voting shall have one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Section 7. Confirmation

Any bishop transferring from another organization, or clergy formerly a member of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ who left or resigned for any reason and wishes to re-unite with the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ as a bishop, must first be recommended by the Regional Apostle and approved by the International Board of Bishops prior to appointment by the Board of Apostles.

ARTICLE VIII INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF PRESBYTERS

Section 1. Membership

- A. The Board of Presbyters shall consist of all District Elders, Elders, Pastors, and licensed Ministers of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Good standing with the organization and the Board of Presbyters shall mean the Presbyterian must be current with a credential card and presbyters assessment (dues). Licensed Ministers must be in good standing with the organization and participate with the Board of Presbyters.
- C. No Presbyterian shall be eligible national office, national position, nor be used to preach or teach at national meetings without being a member of the organization and the Board of Presbyterian in good standing for three consecutive years

Section 2. Officers Election and Tenure

- A. The ordained clergy of the Board of Presbyters shall elect new officers from its board during the Annual Convocation in the year that the three year term shall expire.
- B. The tenure of all officers of the Board of Presbyters shall be a term of three years, if re-elected he may succeed himself one term.
- C. The officers of the Board of Presbyters shall be: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain.

Section 3. Meetings

The Board of Presbyters shall convene at the Annual Convocation and at the Annual Leadership Seminar. District Elders are invited to convene with the Board of Bishops for training during the Bishop's Council in October.

Section 4. Voting

- A. Only ordained members of the Board that are registered, in good standing and present at the time of voting, shall have one vote for the Presiding Apostle, a new member of the Board of Apostles, the Chairman and the officers of the Board of Presbyters. Voting by Proxy is not permitted.
- B. Any District Elder of Elder who is nominated or is seeking to hold an office within the Board of Presbyters shall have been a member in good standing with the Board of Presbyters for at least three consecutive years.

ARTICLE IX INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DEACONS

The International Board of Deacons in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall consist of two classes of membership:

- a. Regular Members that are ordained Deacons and maintain a current credential card.
- b. Deacons in Training that are not ordained, but are in good standing with a local church in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Section 1. Meetings

The Board of Deacons shall meet during the Annual Leadership Seminar and Annual Convocation to transact business.

Section 2. Communion

The Board of Deacons shall prepare Holy Communion and coordinate its serving during the Annual Convocation.

ARTICLE X DEPARTMENT OF HOME MISSIONS

Section 1. Membership

The Department of Home Missions shall be headed by the Apostle of Home Missions. He shall appoint a committee that shall also include members from the International Board of Presbyters to serve and support the Department. The Home Missions Apostle shall give leadership to the committee.

Section 2. Purpose

The committee shall act to fulfill the goals and missions of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The committee shall also raise funds and develop policies and procedures to financially assist those churches in need of assistance.

Section 3. Treasury

The Committee shall maintain a Church Extension Treasury. The Church Extension Treasury shall be separate from other Home Mission funds and used solely for Home Mission purposes. A financial report including all funds shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary's office annually within 60 days after the close of the Annual Convocation.

Section 5. Purchasing Name

All properties or furnishings purchased with Church Extension Funds shall be held in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XI NEW CHURCH AFFILIATION

Section 1. Membership in the Organization

All new churches desiring to affiliate with the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ must formally apply for and be granted a charter in the organization. The applicant church must agree to adhere to the Constitution and By-laws of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Application shall be made to the diocesan bishop. In the absence of a diocesan bishop, application may be made to a Region Apostle.

Section 2. Subordination

Any church receiving a charter from the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ must agree in writing to be subordinate to the Discipline, Constitution, Bylaws, rules, regulations and policies of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XII GLOBAL MISSIONS

Section 1. Administration

There shall be a Board of Global Missions which shall be responsible for supporting the foreign mission work of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It shall be the duty of the Board to work with, support, and assist the diocesan bishops to perpetuate the work outside the United States.

Section 2. Membership

The Board of Apostles shall appoint members to the Board of Global Missions. The Board shall include a director and an assistant director. Global Mission Board appointments shall be made by the close of business of the Annual Convocation.

Section 3. Tenure

The officers of the Board of Global Missions shall retain their office until the next Annual Convocation or until their successors are appointed.

Section 4. Subordination

The Board of Global Missions shall be subject to the Board of Apostles, the Discipline, the Constitution, the By-laws, and Policies of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 5. Authority of the Board

The Board of Global Missions shall determine policies and procedures for itself. It shall also set up committees and engage in global mission activities that are in conformity with the Discipline of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It shall see that all boards and committees under its control do the same.

Section 6. Field Workers

The Board of Global Missions may recommend ministers, missionaries, and workers to the Diocesan Bishop and Regional Apostle for appointments to the global field. The Board shall determine the requirements of the global field workers, which shall be in conformity with the Discipline of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and approved by the Board of Apostles.

Section 7. Director

The Director of Global Missions shall supervise all of the work of the Board. The Director shall see that the Board of Global Missions and all officials perform their tasks. The Director shall ensure that the decisions of the Board are executed and shall make reports of its activities to the Board at each meeting, to the General Body at the Annual Convocation, and to the Board of Apostles upon request.

Section 8. Treasury

The Board of Global Missions shall maintain a church support treasure apart from other Global Mission operating funds. A financial report including all funds shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary's office annually.

ARTICLE XIII DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

There shall be a Department of Education that shall be responsible for the educational efforts of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 1. Membership

- a. The Apostle of Education will appoint a Director to oversee the Department of Education of the Church of Our Jesus Christ.

- b. The Director of the Department of Education will recommend to the Apostle of Education individuals to serve as officers of the Department of Education.
- c. Those recommended to serve will have a background in Education and have the necessary skills to add value to the Department of Education.
- d. An effort will be made to include representation from the various boards and departments of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
The officers will be appointed by the Apostle of Education.

Section 2. Tenure

The Chairperson and members of the Board of Education will serve until their successors are appointed.

Section 3. Authority

- a. The Department of Education shall determine its own business, policies, and procedures.
- b. The Department of Education shall establish committees to engage in educational activities that are in conformity with the discipline of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- c. The Department of Education will develop workshop(s) for the Annual Convocation and the Annual Leadership of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. The Department of Education shall maintain a treasury. It shall, in addition to funds appropriated, be authorized to raise additional funds to meet the needs of education for the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 4. Church of Christ Bible Institute

The Department of Education of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ will provide consultation, guidance, and financial support to the Church of Christ Bible Institute located in New York City.

Section 5. W.L. Bonner College

The Department of Education shall provide assistance as requested and feasible to the W.L. Bonner College Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XIV INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Membership

The Department shall be comprised of all Missionaries in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of the International Missionary Department is to provide opportunity for the missionary woman to be helpers together with the ministers and pastors to bring souls to Christ and to comfort those in need. The International Missionary Department shall also assist in the support of missionaries who are sent out by the Annual Convocation to serve the organization. There shall be four levels of Missionaries: Senior, Social, Aspiring, and Junior.

ARTICLE XV
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Section 1. Membership

The International Women's Council shall be comprised of all females in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. Annual Convention

The Council shall host a convention annually in the month of October.

ARTICLE XVI
INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS AND DEACONS WIVES' GUILD

Section 1. Meetings

The International Ministers and Deacons Wives' Guild shall meet during the allocated time at the Annual Convocation.

ARTICLE XVII
YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Youth Department shall be overseen by the Apostle to the Youth who shall be designated by the Board of the Apostles. The Apostle to the Youth shall be assisted by the Advisor to the Youth/Executive Assistant, who shall be recommended by the Apostle to the Youth and duly appointed by the Board of Apostles and who shall be responsible for consultation, oversight and supervision of the auxiliaries and leaders that comprise the Youth Department. He/she shall be a leader with proven experience in leading the ISSA, IABYPU and/or International Congress. The Advisor to the Youth shall report to the Apostle to the Youth, the Presiding Apostle and the Board of Apostles as directed. He/she shall serve until their successor is appointed.

ARTICLE XVIII
INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Membership

The International Sunday School Association (ISSA) consists of all local Sunday School Associations in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XIX
INTERNATIONAL ARMOR BEARERS YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION

Section 1. Membership

The International Armor Bearers Young People's Union (IABYPU) consists of all local Armor Bearers Young People's Unions in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XX
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Section 1. Membership

The International Congress shall be comprised of the International Sunday School Association (ISSA) and the Armor Bearers Young Peoples' Union (IABYPU).

Section 1. Meetings

The International Congress shall host an annual convention during the week following Easter Sunday. The dates of the meeting may be changed from time to time, with the approval of the Board of Apostles and cabinet.

XXI

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF EVANGELISM

There shall be an International Board of Evangelism. The director of evangelism shall appoint required staff and recruit volunteers to implement the organization's evangelism objectives.

Board of Evangelism shall conduct missional outreach, provide evangelistic outreach during international meetings, and to mentor new converts in their integration into local Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ's churches.

XXII

SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC, AND RACIAL EQUALITY COMMISSION

There shall be a Social Justice, Economic, and Racial Equality Commission (SJEREC) of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Commission is to initiate and maintain programs and activities throughout the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ consistent with its mission to "engage those problems that confront the communities we have been called to serve".

ARTICLE XXIII

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Section 1. Duties

- A. The International Convention Committee (ICC) shall seek out suitable geographical locations with adequate accommodations to host the four major annual meetings of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Committee will perform due diligence and recommend acceptable sites for the International Congress, Annual Leadership Seminar, Annual Convocation and International Women's Council.
- B. Under the leadership of the Presiding Apostle or an Apostle assigned to the oversight of the ICC, the ICC will gather inputs from the International Cabinet and shall plan the logistics of the Annual Convocation. Also, the ICC shall be responsible for advertising, and have general oversight of the Annual Convocation under the direction of the Presiding Apostle and the board of Apostles.
- C. All contracts in excess of \$500.00 relating to the four major annual convocations binding the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ must be approved and signed by the

Presiding Apostle or such other representative that the Board of Apostles may authorize. A copy of all approved and signed contracts shall be given to the Executive Secretary for filing.

Section 2. International Convention Chairman

- A. The Presiding Apostle, after consultation with the Board of Apostles, shall appoint an International Convention Committee Chairman.
- B. The chairman of the International Convention Committee shall be responsible for serving as the liaison between the Committee and the Board of Apostles. The chairman shall have the authority to negotiate hotels and facilities required to host on behalf of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Chairman shall recommend the location and accommodations for the annual meetings to the affected department and subsequently to the Board of Apostles for approval.

Section 3. Registration

- A. The International Convention Committee shall ensure that appropriate procedures are established and implemented to register delegates attending the International Annual Convocation.
- B. All delegates must register with the Annual Convocation in order to have an active voice in any business matters presented at the International Convocation.

ARTICLE XXIV TRUSTEES

Section 1. Membership

The Board of Trustees of the Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall consist of at least seven members including the Treasurer and Financial Secretary of the Executive Office. The Board shall have three ordained clergy and four lay members. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Apostles and the term of office of each member shall be three years.

Initial Board. The initial board of directors shall be stated in the Certificate of Incorporation, who shall serve as initial directors until the first meeting of the Board. The Initial Board of Trustees, after approving these Bylaws, shall call the first meeting of the Board, and shall serve until the first elected Board of Board has been seated upon the completion of the First Annual Meeting.

Members; Number. The Board shall be composed of a range of seven to nine (9) directors. The number of trustees may be increased or decreased by action of the board of Apostles, provided that the number of trustees shall not be decreased to a number less than seven (7), and any action by the board of trustees to effect such increase or decrease shall require the vote of a majority of the board of trustees.

Election; Term. Each Director shall hold office for a term of three years or until a successor is duly appointed. The initial Board members shall be divided into three approximately equal groups, one-third (1/3) of the members to serve for an initial term of one (1) year, one-third (1/3) to serve for an initial term of two (2) years, and one-third (1/3) for an

initial **term** of three (3) years. No person shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms on the Board of Trustees. Persons serving an initial term of less than three (3) years may serve for two (2) additional full three-year terms.

At each annual meeting, the Trustees to serve for the ensuing year shall be appointed by the Board of Apostles. The Board of Apostles may fill vacancies occurring between annual meetings for the balance of the term.

Duties:

The Board of Trustees duties shall include holding in trust for the benefit of the Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ donations, bequests, gifts, grants, or properties owned by the Church.

ARTICLE XXV SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. Memorial

- A. There shall be a Memorial Committee appointed to receive names of members of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ that have transitioned from life to eternity since the last report at the Annual Convocation.
- B. The committee shall assure names are recorded and announced at the memorial service.

Section 2. Resolution

- A. There shall be a Resolution Committee appointed as necessary to receive, review, and resolve issues, if possible. If the committee is unable to resolve the issue, it shall be given to the appropriate party for resolution along with the committee's findings and recommendations.
- B. The committee shall inform the submitter of the resolution in writing of its deliberations and actions in a timely manner.

Section 3. Grievance

- A. There shall be a Grievance Committee appointed as necessary to receive, review, and resolve grievances, if possible. If the committee is unable to resolve the grievance, it shall be given to the appropriate party for resolution along with the committee's findings and recommendations.
- B. The committee shall inform the submitter of the resolution in writing of its deliberations and action in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE XXVI PUBLICATIONS AND PERIODICALS

Section 1. Contender for the Faith

The "Contender For The Faith" shall be the official publication of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This publication shall be supported through purchases from the general membership and

other interested parties. Literary article may be submitted by local congregations, clergy, and departments and auxiliaries for review and possible inclusion in the Contender.

Section 2. Minute Book

- A. The “Minute Book” shall be the official journal of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and contain executive minutes and financial reports.
- B. The cost of the Minute Book shall be subsidized by the national auxiliaries.
- C. All international/national secretaries must forward their full reports to the Executive Secretary’s office no later than sixty (60) days following the close of the close of their respective convention (i.e. Annual Convocation, the International Women’s Council, and the International Congress).

Section 3. Discipline Book

The Discipline Book shall contain the Constitution and By-Laws, official rules, regulations, and disciplines of the organization.

ARTICLE XXVII FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 1.

Each church shall pay an assessment to the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the support of the international organization as adopted by the joint Boards of Apostles, Bishops, and Presbyters.

Section 2.

Assessments can be paid throughout the year, at the Leadership Seminar, or at the Annual Convocation.

Section 3.

Each district elder shall submit a district elder’s report to the Annual Convocation. The report shall be accompanied by a financial representation.

Section 4.

The diocesan bishop shall be responsible for reporting twenty-five percent (25%) of the finances raised in the Diocesan Convocation to the Annual Convocation.

Section 5.

Each apostle, bishop, district elder, pastor, elder, local minister, exhorter, deacon, and missionary shall pay the required amount for an annual Credential Card. Failure to renew the Credential Card shall void the credentials issued by the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XXVIII TITHES

In order to comply with Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) requirements, all tithes must be paid to a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization in order for the payer to claim as a tax deduction. Also, any tithe, stipend, or offering given directly to an individual should be filed as income with the IRS by the recipient.

Section 1.

The Apostles shall pay tithes to the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ designated for the Presiding Apostle and the Presiding Apostle shall pay tithes to the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2.

All diocesan bishops shall pay their tithes to their respective Region.

Section 3.

All pastors shall pay tithes to their respective diocese.

Section 4.

All elders, evangelists, licentiates, deacons, missionaries, and members shall pay tithes to their respective local church.

Each level stated in Sections 1-4 above shall be a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt or covered under the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ's 501(c)3 group tax-exemption.

ARTICLE XXIX

MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE POLICIES

Section 1.

The International Organization shall develop and maintain Marriage and Sexual Misconduct Policies in the Executive Secretary's Office.

Section 2.

These policies shall govern the conduct and behavior of all church members, clergy, deacons, teachers, missionaries, employees, and volunteers working in, with, and for the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 3.

Policies shall be designed to comply with insurance requirements and maintain the integrity of the ministerial, employment, and professional relationships at all times.

ARTICLE XXX

CREDENTIALS FOR ORDAINED ELDERS

Section 1. Membership

Ordained Elders desiring to hold credentials with the Church must have the one baptism as prescribed in Acts 2:4, 38; Acts 10:44; Acts 19:6, and believe in, teach, and preach the same.

Section 2. Sacred Duties

Ordained Elders must be capable of conducting religious services. They must be capable of officiating at a marriage ceremony, funeral service, baptismal service, and the Lord's Supper.

Section 3. Requirement for Ordained Elders

- A. No person shall be ordained or receive credentials who has divorced his wife and remarried as long as his ex-wife is alive. Neither shall any person receive ordination or license who is married to a divorced person with a living ex-spouse.
- B. No person's life style that is not in compliance with The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ theology and doctrine shall be licensed or ordained in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 5. Prerequisite

- A. All ministers applying for ordination must hold a local license and successful past the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ's catechism examination. The exhorter's license may be waived by pastoral recommendation or by the diocesan bishop.
- B. Ministers may take the catechism examination at the Leadership Seminar or the Annual Convocation. Applications for catechism must be submitted to the Office of The Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the month they desire to take the examination. Exception to the catechism process may be granted in writing to the Executive Secretary's Office for candidates in the Global Missions field that cannot attend one of the designated examination times.
- C. Any pastor who is not ordained and whose labor as a pastor is commendable in the opinion of the Board of Apostles shall receive due credit for such labor toward his ordination examination.

Section 6. Training

At least thirty (30) hours of coursework through the Church of Christ Bible Institute or the W.L. Bonner College (or equivalent institution accepted by the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ catechism committee) are required prior to a new minister's ordination.

Section 7. Ordination

Ordination may be had and given by three or more bishops, elders, or members of the Annual Convocation, after the candidate has met the requirements. Ordinations are to take place only at the end of the business transaction at the Annual Convocation. If it is impossible for a candidate to attend the Annual Convocation, the pastor of the candidate must certify the candidate's inability. This certification must consider the recommendation of the Region Apostle and Bishop of the Diocese and be forwarded by the pastor to the Board of Apostles for appropriate action. For approved exceptions ordination may be had and given by three or more bishops, elders

Section 8. Elders from Other Organizations

Clergy coming into the fellowship of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ from other organizations shall be under the supervision and doctrinal teaching of the Regional Apostle, diocesan bishop, district elder, or pastor, and shall not be given a church for at least one year, unless he brings a church into the organization and he remains as pastor.

ARTICLE XXXI CREDENTIAL FEES

Section 1. Credential Fee

A fee shall accompany application for church charters and for credentials of apostles, bishops, elders, ministers, exhorters, deacons, and missionaries. Fees will be determined by the Board of Apostles and the Executive Secretary.

Section 2. Credential Card

An annual Credential Card fee shall be established by the Board of Apostles and the Executive Secretary.

Section 3. Requirements for Licensing

Any person desiring to be licensed as a worker in this body may obtain such a license by complying with the following requirements:

- A. Must have the one baptism as prescribed in Acts 2:4, 38;
- B. Believe in the same;
- C. Must be recommended by their pastor.

ARTICLE XXXII LEGISLATIVE DELINEATION

Any ecclesiastical, doctrinal issues, or legislation shall be reviewed, discussed, and resolved by the joint Boards of Apostles, Bishops, and Ordained Presbyters.

ARTICLE XXXIII SPECIAL RULES

Section 1. Founder's Day

The Board of Bishops shall appoint a Founder's Day Planning Committee to develop and execute plans for Founder's Day celebration.

ARTICLE XXXIV SUBORDINATION

Section 1. Subordination to the Governing Body

All auxiliaries shall be subordinate to the Discipline, Constitution, and By-laws of the Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as to the Board of Apostles and leadership appointed by the Board of Apostles to oversee auxiliaries or departments.

Section 2. Auxiliary Leadership Requirements

- A. All clergy, ministers, deacons, missionaries, officers, and youth workers seeking positions in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ must undergo a screening process and successfully pass a background check.
- B. All prospective department and auxiliary leaders must undergo a screening process and successfully pass a background check before being authorized to seek office.
- C. All persons aspiring to leadership positions, especially those working with children and youth, must undergo a screening process and successfully pass a background check before being allowed to serve.
- D. All auxiliary leaders shall abide by the written by-laws of their respective auxiliaries.
- E. Auxiliary leaders must comply with requests of the office of the executive secretary in reference to financial reporting, budgetary information, and remittance of finances authorized by the Board of Apostles.
- F. All auxiliary leaders must comply with requests made by leadership appointed by the Board of Apostles to provide oversight to auxiliaries.

Section 3. Non-Compliance

Any auxiliary leader who fails to comply with the aforementioned requirements or is found responsible for an uncorrected moral lapse or insubordination to their local pastor, department head, diocese bishop, or region apostle shall be subject to due process proceeding and removal according to the following steps:

- A. The auxiliary leader shall be contacted by the Apostle over his/her department or his designee in order to raise the concern and allow the matter to be resolved or to answer to an accusation.
- B. The auxiliary leader shall have seven (7) calendar days to respond by written letter or electronic mail. If the Apostle over the department is satisfied with the explanation or the remedy, then the matter shall be documented and closed.
- C. If the auxiliary leader fails to comply with the directive by the Apostle (or his designee) or the Apostle is not satisfied with the response of the auxiliary leader, the Apostle will convene a meeting with the auxiliary leader at the earliest possible opportunity. The minutes of this meeting shall be recorded. Based on this meeting, the matter will be settled, or the Apostle will make a recommendation for the suspension or removal of the auxiliary leader.
- D. If the Apostle recommends the removal of the auxiliary leader, the following steps are:
 - 1. The auxiliary leader will be notified in writing of the issue justifying the recommendation for removal along with the steps taken to remedy the concern.
 - 2. The Apostle will provide the Board of Apostles a copy of the letter along with all other information concerning this case.
 - 3. The Board of Apostles will meet, consider the information provided, and vote to uphold or overturn the recommendation of the Apostle.
 - 4. The auxiliary leader shall be given the opportunity to meet with the Board of Apostles and shall be given due process.

5. The Executive Secretary shall notify the auxiliary leader, the next highest elected official of the auxiliary, as well as the chairman of the ministerial boards of the action taken and the appointment of the replacement of the aforementioned auxiliary leader.
6. The auxiliary leader will submit all documents, files, and proprietary information with respect to their auxiliary.

ARTICLE XXXV PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall be referred to for decision and acceptance whenever consistent with the Holy Ghost and the Church.

ARTICLE XXXVI DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Trial of Apostles and Bishops

Apostles and Bishops will be tried by the Board of Apostles' and International Board of Bishops'. If an Apostle or Bishop be accused of improper conduct, a Committee of Investigation composed of five members shall be elected by the Apostles' Board and the International Board of Bishops'. The first one elected to the Committee shall be the Chairman. They shall carefully examine the case. If, in the opinion of this Committee, there is reasonable ground for such accusation, they shall prepare the proper charges. A copy of the charges shall be sent to the one charged and at the earliest convenience of the committee, the Board of Apostles', and Board of Bishops' written notice is given to each diocese of the specific proposed change to the by-laws at the Annual Leadership Seminar. Notice must be given in writing and may be disseminated via fax, email; or other electronic means.

- A. Written notice is given to each diocese of the specific proposed change to the by-laws at the Annual Leadership Seminar. Notice must be given in writing and may be disseminated via fax, email; or other electronic means.
- B. The Presiding Apostle shall preside at the trial of a Bishop.
- C. The Chairman of the International Board of Bishops shall preside at the trial of an Apostle.
- D. The Board of Apostles and the International Board of Bishops shall constitute the Court and shall have full power to try the one charged. The decision shall be a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. As a result of this decision, the accused shall be exonerated or suspended from the functions of his office; or from the Church. The Secretary of the Board of Bishops shall notify the churches of the trial results.

Section 2. Trial of Elders and Licentiates

Elders and Licentiates shall be subject to the authority of the Pastor of the church which holds their membership. If discord or insubordination arises and cannot be settled amicably by the pastor, then the elder or licentiate may be tried by a committee composed of the diocesan bishop,

two district elders, and two other elders of good report among the Saints. An appeal may be taken from this decision to the Grievance Committee or Board of Apostles in the Annual Convocation.

Section 3. Criticism of a Pastor

In case of a majority complaint against a Pastor for his removal, the Board of Apostles' shall investigate the complaint, and if no violation of Doctrine Rules, Regulations or Moral Laws can be sustained, that said Board shall maintain and confirm the Pastor in office as long as he desires or lives.

Section 4. Form of Complaint against a Pastor

Any member of any congregation of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., can bring a charge against the Pastor that is in charge of the said congregation in writing to the Regional Apostle or Presiding Apostle and signed by all parties making the charge, requesting the presence of the Regional Apostle to settle said matter. If the complaint cannot be resolved at the Region level it shall be escalated to the Presiding Apostle and the Board of Apostles for dispositioning.

Section 5. Removal of a Pastor

A pastor may be relieved of their pastoral duties and terminated:

- 1) For cause for one or more of the following:
 - a. Commission of theft or embezzlement during the course of his employment at the church.
 - b. Convicted of a felony whether or not such offense is committed in the course of his employment with the church.
 - c. Immoral or reprehensible conduct which would make the Pastor's continual employment prejudiced to the interest of the church.
 - d. Gross neglect of duty.
 - e. Doctrinal apostasy
- 2) Without cause by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of faithful and active members.

Section 6. Filling a Pastoral Vacancy

Upon a pastoral vacancy, the Diocese Bishop shall appoint the interim pastor. Due consideration shall be given to the members of the local church's current ministerial staff. If there is no qualified clergy, the Diocese Bishop shall assume the pastoral assignment until a replacement is formally appointed by the Board of Apostles.

- a) The Diocese Bishop will collaborate with the Boards of Deacons and Trustees to form a Pastoral Search and Screening Committee to search for a successor. The committee shall convene within fifteen (15) days to develop strategy and criteria and initiate the search.

- b) The Pastoral Search and Screening Committee shall consist of no less than five (5) active and faithful members, with no more than one (1) trustee and one (1) deacon along with the laity.
- c) Nominations for pastoral candidates may be made to the Pastoral Search and Screening Committee by the Regional Apostle, Diocesan Bishop, and active members.
- d) The Pastoral Search and Screening Committee shall make its report to the Diocese Bishop for review upon completion.
- e) The Pastoral Search and Screening will present its final report to within forty-five (45) days after its initial meeting; first to the Boards of Deacons and Trustees, and then to the local congregation. The active and faithful members of the congregation shall vote on the Pastoral recommendation findings, moving forward with a majority vote.
- f) Following the vote, the Diocese Bishop shall be notified by the committee and the deacons of the outcome. He, in turn, following consultation with the Regional Apostle, shall make a recommendation to the Board of Apostle for the permanent assignment of the selected pastor.
- g) In the event that the Diocese Bishop is unable or unwilling to conduct this process or if the vacancy is in a bishop's church, the Regional Apostle will lead the process in lieu of the bishop.

Section 7. Authority Disregard

Any person holding credentials in this body, who is found in error either spiritually or temporally and will not receive correction shall be deprived of their credentials.

Section 8. Heresy or Controversy

All doctrinal controversies shall come before the three ecclesiastical boards for consideration and final settlement as recorded in Acts 15th Chapter.

Section 9. Missionary Conduct

All missionaries must be subject to the authority of their Pastor. All missionaries working on the field without an immediate pastor must be subject to the Diocesan Bishop, Regional Apostle or the Board of Apostles.

Section 9. Leadership Appreciation

No Minister, Deacon or Missionary shall be allowed to hold credentials in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ who teaches against tithing, obedience and esteem to leadership.

Section 10. Suspension

A Diocesan Bishop may suspend Ministers as the Discipline directs. The suspended Minister may appeal to the Board of Apostles within thirty days.

ARTICLE XXXVII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Bylaws

Any By-Law exceptions or changes must be circulated through the International Boards of Bishops and Presbyters for review and approval prior to being presented for ratification.

These by-laws may be amended or repealed and new by-laws adopted at any General Assembly Annual Convocation, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present that are members of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, registered and voting; provided written notice is given to each diocese of the specific proposed change to the by-laws at the Annual Leadership Seminar. Notice must be given in writing and may be disseminated via fax, email; or other electronic means.

Section 2. Effective Date of Amendments

The amendment becomes effective at the close of the Annual Convocation at which it was approved.