

**CONSTITUTION
CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH, INC.**

**ARTICLE I
ORGANIZATION**

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

All churches established and/or chartered in the name of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. are members of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the organization is 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 III
ARTICLE OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH**

Section 1. Definition

The “Apostolic Faith is that set of doctrines believed in and practiced by the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ as found in the Holy Scriptures.

Section 2. Description

The Apostolic Faith includes, but is not limited to, such beliefs and doctrines as: the infallibility of the scriptures; the Oneness of God, namely that Jehovah God of the Old Testament is Jesus Christ of the New Testament; water baptism by immersion in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; the reception of the Holy Ghost by every believer with the initial sign of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:4); the living of a holy life; the rapture of the church; and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE

Section 1. 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 reviewing the joint boards shall meet to discuss the 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 a 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. The Board of Apostles shall possess the veto power of all legislation of the General Assembly and shall also be the Board of Appeal. However, all legislation vetoed by the Board of Apostles can be overridden by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of both the Board of Bishops and Board of Presbyters deliberating together to bring said legislation to the reconsideration of the General Assembly.

Section 3. Board of Apostles

A. Board Members

The Board of Apostles shall consist of twelve bishops duly elected by the members of the Board of Apostles, International Board of Bishops, and ordained clergy of the International Board of Presbyters.

B. Tenure of an Apostle

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.

C. Removal

An Apostle may be removed with good cause by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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 substantially 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.

D. Presiding Apostle

The Presiding Apostle is the Chief Executive Officer of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He must be a member of the Board of Apostles and be duly elected by the International Board of Bishops, and ordained clergy of the International Board of Presbyters. The Presiding Apostle, with the consent and approval of the Board of Apostles, shall appoint the Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Financial Secretary.

E. Tenure of the Presiding Apostle

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.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

The Officers of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall consist of the Board of Apostles, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Financial Secretary and such other officers that may be deemed appropriate by the Board of Apostles to effectively run the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION

Section 1. Purpose

There shall be an Annual International Convocation of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., (herein referred to as "Annual Convocation") for the purpose of

conducting the business of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ; including raising, receiving and allocating funds; passing and ratifying new legislation; teaching the Apostles' doctrines and beliefs; preaching and propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, and fellowshiping one with another.

Section 2. Participants in the Annual Convocation

The Annual Convocation shall include all members of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, including the Board of Apostles, the International Board of Bishops, the International Board of Presbyters, all auxiliaries, and departments.

Section 3. All elected and appointed officers shall be installed in a consecration ceremony on the last day of the convocation at which they were elected or appointed.

Section 4. Dates of the Annual Convocation

The Annual Convocation shall convene each year, for at least five (5) days, at a date and a time to be set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII SPECIAL MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Leadership Seminar

A. Date, Time, and Location

The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall conduct an annual three-day seminar at a date, time, and place that shall be designated by the Board of Apostles and the International Boards of Bishops and Presbyters.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Leadership Seminar is as follows: to plan and conduct the business of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to provide workshops, to disseminate information regarding the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the upcoming Annual Convocation, and for fellowship with one another.

ARTICLE VIII INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF BISHOPS

There shall be an International Board of Bishops consisting of all consecrated bishops in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the International Board of Bishops is to facilitate the work of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with the vision and direction set forth by the Board of Apostles, Constitution and By-Laws of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The International Board of Bishops shall identify, and document, incidents of non-compliance of the Constitution and By-laws of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleged non-compliance that are not corrected or corrective actions established shall be reported to the Board of Apostles for investigation and disposition.

ARTICLE IX

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF PRESBYTERS

There shall be an International Board of Presbyters consisting of all ordained District Elders, Elders, and licensed Ministers in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the International Board of Presbyters is to facilitate the work of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in accordance with the leadership of the Board of Apostles, the International Board of Bishops, Constitution and By-Laws of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE X INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DEACONS

There shall be an International Board of Deacons consisting of all ordained deacons in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of this department is to develop and administer programs of spiritual and educational value in the areas of witness, sacraments of baptism and communion, evangelism, stewardship, counseling, service delivery, and administration.

ARTICLE XI INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

There shall be an International Missionary Department consisting of all missionaries in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of this department is to labor with the brethren in establishing churches and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XII INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL

There shall be an International Women's Council consisting of all women in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the International Women's Council is to promulgate and extend the Gospel through evangelism, both Christian, and secular education; to address the social and health concerns of all women; to create a sisterhood of women through friendship, fellowship, and stewardship; to support Home Missions, Global Missions, and the financial goals of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XIII INTERNATIONAL MINISTERS' AND DEACONS' WIVES' GUILD

There shall be an International Ministers' and Deacons' Wives' Guild consisting of the wives and widows of the clergy and deacons of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Guild is to address the unique needs of wives and widows of the clergy and deacons.

ARTICLE XIV GLOBAL MISSIONS

There shall be a Board of Global Missions. The Board of Global Missions shall assist with, and support, the spiritual and physical needs of the ministries and churches of the Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ outside the continental United States and perpetuate, support, assist, and

supervise the global mission work.

The Board of Apostles shall appoint duly consecrated bishops to oversee all foreign dioceses and churches.

**ARTICLE XV
YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

There shall be a Youth Department that shall be responsible for the spiritual, academic, and social development of the youth of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Youth Department shall be comprised of the International Sunday School Association, the International Armor Bearers Young People's Union, and the International Congress.

**ARTICLE XVI
INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

There shall be an International Sunday School Association (ISSA) consisting of all local Sunday Schools in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the ISSA is to promote Christian education through the devout and diligent study of the Word of God and to support the educational programs of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The ISSA shall research religious literature to ensure quality education and foster the highest ideals of Christian character and dedication.

**ARTICLE XVII
INTERNATIONAL ARMOR BEARERS YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION**

There shall be an International Armor Bearers Young People's Union (IABYPU) consisting of all local Armor Bearers Young People's Unions in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the IABYPU is to promote spiritual growth and heighten devotion among young people; to provide instruction and training in biblical doctrine and secular living; to enhance fellowship among the members; and to support the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the attainment of its national and international goals.

All elected officers of the IABYPU shall be under the age of thirty-five (35). In the event an elected officer turns thirty-five during their term of office, they may complete the term but cannot be re-elected.

**ARTICLE XVIII
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**

There shall be an International Congress which shall consist of the International Sunday School Association (ISSA) and the Armor Bearers Young Peoples' Union (IABYPU). The Congress shall provide a collaborative structure for the coordination and administration of joint ISSA and IABYPU programs/activities in identifying and providing training for potential and current leaders, personal development, and devising and implementing programs in support of the goals of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**ARTICLE XIX
DEPARTMENT OF HOME MISSIONS**

There shall be a Department of Home Missions to provide assistance, to the churches of The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ within the continental United States. The Department of Home Missions shall perpetuate, support, assist, and provide supervision, where directed by the Board of Apostles, for its mission work in the United States.

**ARTICLE XX
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF EVANGELISM**

There shall be an International Board of Evangelism. The purpose of the board is to assist in the evangelistic outreach initiatives of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, including missional outreach; sharing the Gospel during international meetings; and to support the growth of converts as they integrate into the local church of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**ARTICLE XXI
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. This department shall serve as a resource in assisting all auxiliaries with research and development of educational initiatives.

**ARTICLE XXII
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT**

There shall be an International Brotherhood Department consisting of all the men in the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Brotherhood Department is to address the educational and unique needs of the brothers.

**ARTICLE XXIII
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 XXIV
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

There shall be a Memorial Committee to receive, coordinate, and assure communications and remembrance of deceased members of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XXV

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ shall consist of a minimum of seven members which shall include the Treasurer and Financial Secretary of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, three ordained clergy and two laypersons.

The Presiding Apostle shall appoint each member of the Board.

The Board of Trustees shall represent the interest of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XXVI DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall:

- A. Pay or make provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation.
- B. Dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)3 of the Code as the Board of Trustees shall determine or to federal, state, or local governments to be used exclusively for public purposes.
- C. Any assets not disposed by the Board of Trustees shall be disposed by the Superior Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, such as the court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes, or to such governments for such purposes.

ARTICLE XXVII AMENDMENTS

Constitutional changes must be circulated through the International Boards of Bishops and Presbyters for review and approval prior to being presented for ratification.

No alteration or amendment of this Constitution shall be made unless the same be first proposed at the Annual Convocation; a resolve thereof be sent to every church proposing adoption in the next Annual Convocation. Notice must be given in writing and may be disseminated via fax, U.S. mail, email, or other electronic means. Each Regional Apostle shall be given a copy of the proposed change and share with the bishops in the region with instructions to share with the churches in the diocese.

The Executive Office shall email a copy to churches with an email address in the online system.

The proposed alteration or amendment must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present, qualified, and voting.

Each duly adopted amendment of this Constitution, unless otherwise expressly stated therein, shall take effect following the adjournment of the Annual Convocation at which it was adopted.