

**CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**MISSIONARY GOSPEL CHURCH**

4148 SUN JUAN AVE FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA  
Adopted by the membership on March 10, 2013  
Revised by the membership on December 15, 2013

## Contents:

Part I. General Standpoint	3
Part II. Goals and Objectives of the Church	3
Part III. Basis of the Teaching	4
Part IV. The Church Life	9
Part V. Church Membership	11
Part VI. Leadership of the Church	14
Part VII. Church Administration	22
Part VIII. Church Departments	25
Part IX. Miscellaneous	26
Part X. Conclusion	26

## **Part I: Standpoint**

**Section 1:** The name of the church is “Missionary Gospel Church”.

**Section 2:** “Missionary Gospel Church”, from now on referred to as «church», is a fellowship of Christians of Evangelical Faith willing to serve God in a corporate way.

**Section 3:** The church is in one accord with other churches of Evangelical Faith.

**Section 4:** In agreement with its members, the church can be a part of the Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith.

**Section 5:** The church is in a relationship with other churches in the USA (both Slavic and American), and oversees for a common goal – to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

## **Part II: Goals and Objectives of the Church**

### **Chapter 1: Praise and Worship.**

**Section 1:** While still on Earth, the church is called to praise God in words and actions, remaining in the fellowship with Him, and by producing fruit in serving Him.

**Section 2:** The church worships God at a church meeting as well as in its daily Christian walk by praising His holy Name.

### **Chapter 2: Missionary Work**

**Section 1:** Fulfilling a great commission of Jesus Christ to go and preach the Gospel to the whole World.

**Section 2:** Evangelism in cities and villages with a goal to lead individuals to Christ and for them to become members of the Church.

**Section 3:** Establishment and strengthening of new churches.

### **Chapter 3: Discipleship**

**Section 1:** Shepherding and work with new believers to strengthen them in the faith.

**Section 2:** Preaching of the teaching of Christ and its practical application in a daily life of every believer.

**Section 3:** Educating children, teens, youth, married couples, adults, and seniors about application of Scriptural principles.

**Section 4:** Educational programs such as: Sunday School, Bible School, courses for new believers and newly baptized members, home groups to study the Bible, leadership and preaching classes, church seminars.

## **Chapter 4: Fellowship**

**Section 1:** Fellowship and interdependence on other churches to exchange experience in structure and development of the church, as well as in stabilizing and adapting to a new cultural environment.

**Section 2:** Corporate planning and implementation of various missionary and educational programs to be equipped for spreading the Gospel.

**Section 3:** Active participation in spiritually-constructive conferences for youth, missionaries, ministers, and other evangelical and pastoral events that are held to strengthen the economy of the church of Christ.

**Section 4:** To keep the oneness among the Slavic Churches in the US and development of relationships with other local churches here in the US as well as overseas.

## **Part III: Basis of the Teaching**

The basis for teachings at the Missionary Gospel Church is the Bible (canon) – 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.

### **Chapter 1: God-inspired Scriptures**

**Section 1:** The Bible – is the Holy Scripture given by God as the only and absolutely complete source through which we know God and are saved. The Bible is inspired by God, has no mistakes, and is God’s revelation to people. It is an authoritative guide for our faith, life, and godliness. It is unacceptable to alter the Word of

God, by either adding anything to it or taking away from it. (2 Peter 1:21, 1 Thes. 2:13, 2 □i□. 3:15-17, Rev. 22:18-19).

## **Chapter 2: The only True God**

There is only one true God, Who revealed Himself in three Persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, thus being the Triune God. (Deut. 6:4, Is. 43:10-11, Mat. 28:19, John 17:3).

### **Section 1: God the Father**

God the Father is everlasting and is the Creator of heavens and earth, everything visible and invisible. He has a divine and holy nature. The Bible reveals all the qualities of God's character.

(Gen. 1:1, Deut. 6:4, Is. 43:10, Mat. 29:19, Luke 3:22, John 4:24, 17:3).

### **Section 2: God the Son**

Jesus Christ, the son of God – is the everlasting God, always existing, with no beginning nor end. He is the image of the invisible God. Was incarnated, having the divinity in His humanity. Was born of a virgin Mary, being conceived from the Holy Spirit. Had lived a perfect life, without sin, had performed many miracles, having been anointed by the Holy Spirit. To recover a fallen people, He died on the cross, as the offering for the sins of every man. Was buried and resurrected on the third day according to the Scriptures. Ascended to the heavens and sat to the right hand of the Father. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the human generation, Conciliator, the High Priest, and Intercessor of the New Testament. (Mat.1:23, 28:6, Acts 4:12, 10:38, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 5:20, 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 2 Cor. 5:21, Col. 1:17, Heb. 1:3, 7:26, Rev. 1:8).

### **Section 3: God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit – is everlasting, one with the Father and the Son, having all the divine attributes. He is the Spirit of truth, sent by the Father by the petition of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus, saves through regeneration to a new life, comforts, rebukes, teaches, sanctifies, intercedes, confirms sonship, performs miracles and reveals the future. The Holy Spirit also denounces sin. (Is. 48:16, Mat. 28:19, John 3:3-6, 14:26, 15:26,

16:8, 13, Acts 1:8, Cor. 2:10, 2 Cor. 13:13, Rom. 8:26-27, Gal. 4:6-7, Luke 3:22).

#### **Section 4: Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

Baptism in the Holy Spirit – was promised by Jesus Christ and the Father to all who believe. The first disciples had experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is followed by speaking in tongues and strengthens us to testify and serve. The baptism in the Spirit also provides the believers with special spiritual gifts for a more effective ministry. A human body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who we cannot quench or grieve. (John 16:13, Acts 1:8, 10:44-46, 19:6, 1 Cor. 12, 1 Cor. 14:30, 1 Cor. 6:19, 1 Thes. 5:19-20).

#### **Section 5: Man and Sin**

God created man as a perfect being in His own image and likeness, that he would have an eternal life and fellowship with God. A man is tripartite; and as a person, consists of a spirit, soul, and body. A man is intellectual (enabled to think), emotional (enabled to feel), and willful (enabled to make decisions). A man, given the freedom to choose, but seduced by devil, disobeyed God's command and sinned. The fall of man made him guilty and bear a consequence of sin - death. Sin is a transgression and violation of God's law. Not believing in God, lawlessness, and any kind of falsehood is a sin. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6-13, 5:2, Is. 24:5, 1 John 5:7, 3:4, Rom. 5:12-19).

#### **Section 6: Salvation of People**

Salvation – is to be freed from spiritual death and slavery of sin. The Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, is the only hope for people to be saved from the fallen human nature and have eternal life with God. The blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, cleanses us from every kind of sin. God gives salvation to those who believe in the redeeming death of Christ and accept His gift of forgiveness. People can receive salvation by repenting before God in their sins and by believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God regenerate a man to a new life. In this way we are being born from above and are justified by the grace. Assurance of salvation is from the inner testimony of the Spirit,

and also a life full of righteousness, holiness, and pleasing God. A man cannot be saved by doing good deeds or by his own righteousness. (Luke 24:47, John 3:3-7, 3:15-18, James 1:18, Ro. 3:22-25, 10:13, Eph. 2:8, Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).

### **Section 7: The Church**

Jesus Christ is the Builder and Head of the Church. The Church was born by the means of death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and by descending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The church – is a gathering of believers, redeemed by the blood of Christ from every tongue, nation, and generation; saved and called to serve the Lord. It is also the body of Christ, a living organism, which is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. The main goal of the Church is to proclaim the testimony of Christ. A church has a constitution, which has to do with how to live a practical church life.

(Mat. 16:18, Acts 1:4-8, ch.2, Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18, Heb. 12:23)

### **Section 8: Water Baptism**

Water baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ. Water baptism is for the ones regenerated from above, who have repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Water baptism is a visible act that confirms an inner regeneration process. It is promising God a pure conscience, which also symbolizes the death of our sinful nature with Christ through His death and resurrection for a new life in His resurrection. It is being done by a full submersion into water in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. The one who gets baptized becomes a member of a local church.

(Mat. 28:19, Mar.16:16, Act. 10:47-48, Ro. 6:4, 1Pet. 3:21).

### **Section 9: Communion**

Communion is a visible act commanded by Christ for the Church. It reminds us of sufferings and death of Jesus Christ and is composed of unleavened bread, which symbolizes the body of our Lord, and also of grape fruit, which symbolizes the blood of Christ. It can also be accompanied by washing of feet.

Participants can be members of a church, who test themselves and distinguish the Lord's body. By participating in the communion,

members of a church partake of Christ by becoming one Body to proclaim the Lord's death until He returns. An unworthy participation in the communion is followed by condemnation. (Luke 22:18-20, 1 Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-30).

### **Section 10: Service of Angels**

Angels are beings created by God, who have both similarities and differences to God's nature. The Scriptures reveal different ranks of angels and their service to both God and people. In regards to God's people – they are serving spirits, who are sent to help the believers.

The Bible also speaks of a fallen angel, the devil, who first opposed God and is now opposing the church and the kingdom of God along with his demons.

(Col.1:16, 1 Thes.4:16, Heb.1:14, Ezek. 28:1-19).

### **Section 11: Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separating ourselves from the evil and identifying ourselves with moral purity; it is the will of God for all the believers. It is a daily acknowledgement of our union with God through His Son Jesus Christ. The Scripture instructs us to be holy because God is holy. (1 Peter 1:16, Rom.12:1, Phil. 2:12, 1 Thes. 4:3, 5:23, Heb. 13:12)

### **Section 12: The Divine Healing**

Healing from sicknesses is a very vital matter in the Scriptures. It is promised to the believers in Christ's sufferings and death, and can be obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. (Is. 53:4-5, Mat. 8:16-17, James 5:14-16)

### **Section 13: Future Events**

#### **1. The second coming of Christ and rapture of the Church**

The Lord Jesus Christ will come back the second time for the Church. Those who have died in the Lord will be brought to life and along with the living believers will see the Lord coming back on the clouds. It will be the beginning of the Church dwelling with Christ for eternity.

(1 Cor. 15:51-52, 1 Thes. 4:16-17, Titus 2:13).

## **2. The Millennium Kingdom, The Last Judgment, The New Heavens and the Earth**

Christ will come back to Earth to establish the Millennium Kingdom. After the end of Millennium Kingdom, there will be the second resurrection and judgment at the white throne. Devil and all the sinners will get thrown into the lake of fire. The saved ones will inherit the new heaven and the new earth, where righteousness dwells. (Is.11:6-9, Zach.14:5, 2 Peter 3:13, Ro.11:26-27, Rev.19:11-14, 20:1-6,11-15, 21:8).

### **Chapter IV: The Church Life**

#### **Section 1: Prayer**

Prayer is our coming to God with petitions, intercessions, and thanksgivings. It can be done individually or corporately, standing or kneeling, in the mind or in the spirit being filled with the Holy Spirit. Praying to the Father, we come to Him in the name of Jesus Christ. The prayer «Our Heavenly Father» is usually said either at the beginning or the end of a meeting, according to what the church has decided. «Grace» is usually said at the end of a meeting. To better build up the church, there can also be prayer groups. (Mat.6:9-13, James 5:16, 1 Cor. 14:15, Eph. 6:18, 1 Thes. 5:17, 2 Cor. 13:13).

#### **Section 2: Bible Reading**

The indication of believers' adequate spiritual level is their love to study the Word of God. Daily reading, studying, and living according to the Scripture, makes a Christian live a life of sanctification and rejoicing. (Joshua 1:8, John 5:39, 1 Tim. 4:16)

#### **Section 3: Witnessing**

Witnessing Christ to others is a vital part of a Christian life. This is fulfilling the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to go and preach the Gospel to the whole world. (Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, 2 Tim. 2:2).

#### **Section 4: Fellowship**

Fellowship with other believers and attending church meetings helps the spiritual growth of every Christian. It enriches our personal experience of following Christ and helps others to grow spiritually. (1 Cor. 14:26, Heb. 10:25, 12:14).

## **Section 5: Fasting**

Fasting is one's humbling himself before God, which is accompanied by willfully abstaining from food for a certain period of time, reading the Word, and prayer. Fasting is followed by our sanctification.

Fasting needs to have a concrete goal, and can be done individually or corporately. A lengthy fasting, which lasts more than three days, can only be done after consulting with the leading brothers of the church. (Is. 58:6-7, Joel 1:14, Mark 9:29, Acts 13:3)

## **Section 6: Confession**

Confession of sins takes place when one repents, is about to get baptized, or has sinned. Denouncement from a cult or other sinful obsessions needs to take place in the presence of the leading brothers of a local church, who in return, will instruct and pray.

We need to confess our transgressions to those we have sinned against. The leading brothers need to keep what was confessed in secret, according to the requirements of the Holy Scripture. (Dan. 9:4, James 5:16, 1 John 1:9)

## **Section 7: Prayer for healing**

Is to be done by a minister with the laying of hands or anointing of oil; those who are ill need to have faith in the healing power of Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:18, James 5:14-15)

## **Section 8: Ordination**

The ordination process to ordinate (bishops, pastors, and deacons) is to be done by the ministers of a higher rank with a prayer of blessing and the laying of hands, either in a church meeting, a conference, or a regional gathering. (Acts 6:6, Heb 7:7, 1 Tim. 4:14, 2 Tim. 1:6).

## **Section 9: Blessing of children**

The prayer to bless children is to be done by the leading brothers in the church. It is done by holding children in their arms or laying hands on them; it also includes instructing the parents how to raise their children according to the Holy Scripture. (Mark 10:16).

## **Section 10: Marriage**

Marriage is a union of love between a man and a woman. It was first established by God. There shall be no divorce. We can only marry those who are in the Lord and are also members of the

church, with whom one will be joined till the death of one of the spouses. Marriage that takes place in the church will be blessed by God through the instructions given by a minister (bishop or a pastor), and the prayer of a church. Marriage is also a civil act which needs to be performed according to the laws and statutes of a local government. (Gen. 1:27, Ro 7:2-3, 1 Cor. 7:39, Eph. 5:31)

### **Section 11: The sanctity of life**

Only God alone has the right to either give or take away life. Everyone is responsible to care for their own life and for the life of others. A believer needs to protect the precious gift of life. Nobody has the right to infringe on their own or another's life. A conscious abortion is a killing. (Deut. 5:17, Mat. 19:18).

### **Section 12: Position in regards to other confessions**

In regards to believers of other confessions, we need to show brotherly love, respect, and seeking of peace. If possible, cooperate and seek spiritual closeness with all Christians. In regards to different kinds of heretical teachings, use only the Holy Scripture. (1 Cor. 14:26, Tit. 3:10, 2 John 1:9-11, Heb. 12:14).

## **Part V: Church Membership**

### **Chapter 1: Becoming members of the church:**

**Section 1:** In order to become a member, one needs to have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, has repented and confessed his sins, was regenerated, got baptized by a complete immersion, and who confesses the trinity of God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and who also confesses the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues.

**Section 2:** Those who would like to become members of a church need to provide a proof that they were previously members of another church;

**Section 3:** The decision whether to let one become a member is made at the Ministers Council according to the statute regarding new membership; as a result, the new members get introduced in front of the whole church meeting.

## **Chapter 2: Rights of the church members**

**Section 1:** All church members have equal rights;

**Section 2:** Church members have the right to participate in the Lord's Supper according to the church's teachings;

**Section 3:** Church members have the right to vote at the members meetings;

**Section 4:** Church members have the right to participate in the members meetings, express comments and proposals regarding various church matters to have them be reviewed;

**Section 5:** Church members have the right to address the Ministers Council with their questions and proposals;

**Section 6:** Church members have the right to review financial information in regards to church property if they either physically or financially participated in building up of the church;

**Section 7:** Church members have the right to elect and get elected themselves for various church ministries.

## **Chapter 3: Responsibilities of church members**

**Section 1.** Church members are responsible to regularly attend the church meetings and actively participate in church life;

**Section 2.** Church members are responsible to participate financially by tithing, giving offerings, which are necessary to sustain the church and to help other saints;

**Section 3.** Church members are responsible to obey ministers of the church according to the Scripture;

**Section 4.** Church members are responsible to be respectful and friendly to one another;

**Section 5.** Church members are responsible to keep the secretive things of the church to themselves and not make them public;

**Section 6.** Church members are responsible to obey the civil laws and statutes as long as they do not contradict the Holy Scripture;

**Section 7.** Church members are responsible to raise their children according to the Lord's teachings;

**Section 8.** Church members are responsible to have an outward appearance as those of the saints;

**Section 9.** Church members are responsible to live according to the membership statutes, as well as the statutes of the Church Committee and the Ministers Council;

**Section 10.** Church members are responsible to solve conflicts with the help of church ministers;

**Section 11.** Church members are responsible to conduct themselves according to the church constitution.

## **Chapter 4: Church enforcements**

### **Section 1:**

- 1. rebuke** (Jude v.23, 1 i. 5:20)
- 2. correction/exhortation** (at. 18:15-16, 1 Thes. 5:14, 2 Thes. 3:11-12)
- 3. restraints** (2 i. 4:2)
- 4. disassociation** (2 Thes. 3:14-15)
- 5. excommunication** (at. 18:17, 1 Cor. 5:11-13, 16:22, i. 3:10)

**Section 2.** The above will be done to those members of the church who:

- 1.** Do not participate in the Lord's Supper for more than six months;
- 2.** Live an ungodly life (drink alcohol, use narcotics, smoke, fornicate; are adulterous, homosexuals, or lascivious; steal, kill, talk evil, etc.);
- 3.** Are under influence of spiritual seduction, temptation, or heresy.

**Section 3.** If any of the above matters have been exposed, they are first discussed at the Ministers Council; then later, if needed, they are discussed at the members meeting.

**Section 4.** Those members who do not attend church meetings for more than six months without a valid reason can get excluded from the membership, if the Ministers Council has agreed to take such action.

## **Chapter 5: Rehabilitation and Renewal of Membership**

**Section 1.** If the one who has sinned has repented before God and people, the church will review the matter again at the Ministers Council, and possibly renew the membership.

## **Part VI: Leadership of the Church**

### **Jesus Christ – Head of the Church (□ph. 1:22)**

#### **Chapter 1: Members Meeting**

**Section 1:** The highest entity to decide on church matters is the members meeting.

**Section 2:** A members meeting can only be in force if at least 2/3 of all members are present.

**Section 3:** The matter is considered settled if at least 2/3 of the members have voted on it; for a deacon ministry, a brother needs to receive at least 50%+1 votes.

**Section 4:** Only members of the local church are allowed to be present at a members meeting; if invited, the ministers and members of other churches can be present as well.

**Section 5:** Members meetings are scheduled regularly, according to the needs of the church, in order for the church to grow and develop (at least twice a year).

#### **Chapter 2: Church Committee**

##### **Section 1: Definition**

Church Committee – is an entity that leads the church in planning and coordinating church events

##### **Section 2: Structure**

The Church Committee staff is composed of ministers, administrators, department leaders and other brothers that are active in the church life, and who have the needed experience and wisdom regarding church economy.

### **Section 3: Selection**

- 1.** The candidates for Church Committee are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the church at a members meeting;
- 2.** In order to become a member of the Church Committee, one needs to be approved by at least 2/3 of votes at the members meeting.
- 3.** The Church Committee membership is reviewed every four years and needs to be reapproved by the church at the members meeting;
- 4.** The head of the Church Committee is appointed by the church committee for a four-year term. The candidate has to be a pastor, an active member of the church committee, and needs to be approved by at least 2/3 of the votes;
- 5.** Both the head associate and the secretary of the church committee are appointed by the Church Committee.

### **Section 4: Rights and responsibilities**

- 1.** To do a church budget and oversee the usage of the church funds;
- 2.** Review of financial matters and those events that are sponsored by the church funds or church possessions;
- 3.** To decide on matters that have to do with either construction or remodeling of the church building or the church property;
- 4.** To decide on matters that have to do with acquiring or selling church property or other possessions (excluding real estate);
- 5.** Organization and planning of church events;
- 6.** Approval of church documentation;
- 7.** To develop and approve the church structure;
- 8.** Approves which candidates will be listed for voting at the members meeting.

**Section 5:** Church Committee meets at least four times a year. The Church Committee can only decide on a certain matter if at least 2/3 of its members are present. Only the resolutions approved by 51% of church committee votes can be enforced.\*

**\*Note:** candidates for the church pastor, head of church committee, corporation president, and church administrator, need to be approved by at least 2/3 of church committee votes.

## **Chapter 18: Ministers Council**

### **Section 1: Definition**

Ministers Council is an entity that is responsible for the spiritual condition and growth of the church, its departments, and every member.

### **Section 2: Structure**

The staff of Ministers Council is composed of: senior pastor, bishops, associate pastors, deacons and retired ministers. The senior pastor is the head of the Ministers Council, or an associate pastor if a senior pastor is absent.

### **Section 3: Responsibilities**

- 1.** Development of ideas, directions, and recommendations for the senior pastor; as well as development of goals, objectives, and strategies for various church ministries and departments;
- 2.** Development of a church calendar, meetings schedule, and plan of various events;
- 3.** Review, assessment, and recommendations for current and future ministries and church events;
- 4.** Analysis of church meetings, scheduling of preachers, invitations of guests (evangelicals, missionaries, teachers) for participation in church meetings;
- 5.** Review of all spiritual matters pertaining to life and ministry of the church;
- 6.** Planning of meetings that would help the children, teens, youth, married couples, and elderly to grow spiritually;
- 7.** Understanding believers' spiritual needs;
- 8.** The Ministers Council has the right to decide whether the senior pastor should continue holding his position if 52% of church ministers find his ministry inadequate or not according to the Scripture. The decision made by the Ministers Council also needs to be approved by the Church

Committee and made known to the whole church at the members meeting.

**9.** The Ministers Council has the right to make decision in accordance with the above responsibilities.

**10.** The Ministers Council meets once a month.

## **Chapter 4: Pastoral Council**

**Section 1:** Pastoral Council is the executive body of the church.

**Section 2:** Pastoral Council acts in accordance to the Bible, church constitution, and also by the decisions approved at the members meeting, Church Committees and Ministers Council

**Section 3:** The Pastoral Council of: senior pastor, associate pastor(s), corporate president, head of church committee, administrator, bishops, and the pastors of various church departments.

**Section 4:** Senior pastor is the chairman of the Pastoral Council

**Section 5:** Members of the Pastoral Council can hold their positions only as far as they remain in church ministries.

## **Chapter 5: Senior Pastor**

### **Section 1: Definition**

Senior Pastor – is a man called by God and appointed by Him to lead the church in spiritual matters, who is also approved by the members meeting as the one sent by God to lead them. Senior Pastor is in charge of general stewardship of both spiritual and administrative activities of the church.

### **Section 2: Characteristics**

Regenerated, baptized in the Holy Spirit, enlightened, tender and experienced in spiritual leadership, able for teaching sound Biblical doctrines, able to interact with people, departments, committees, and whole congregation.

### **Section 3: Responsibilities**

- 1.** Is responsible for the spiritual growth of church members and new believers; as well as consulting them in their personal issues and matters;
- 2.** Is responsible how the church meetings are conducted;

3. Is responsible for all church establishments and religious rites, such as: Communion, water baptism, prayer for the newborns and sick, believers' confessions of sins, conduct of marriage ceremonies and ordination of ministers;
4. Administers the church structure;
5. Sets goals and priorities for the church;
6. Seeks advice and consultation from other church ministers, Church Committee, and the Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith;
7. Seeks approval from Church and Ministers Council on important matters pertaining to life and activities of the church;
8. Analyzes the work and ministries of the leaders in spiritual and administrative departments of the church. Expresses his recommendations to Ministers Council and Church Committees.
9. Introduces church interests before the government and other organizations.

#### **Section 4: Election**

1. the candidacy of a senior pastor is initiated by the Ministers Council for approval by the Church Committee and then to be voted on by church members;
2. The candidate for a senior pastor cannot be older than 65 years old;
3. The candidate for a senior pastor needs to have at least 2/3 of anonymous votes of the present at the members meeting;
4. The senior pastor is elected to hold the office for no longer than 4 years;
5. The senior pastor can be re-elected for a longer term if so was proposed by the Church Committee;
6. In case of sickness, aging, or inability to perform religious rites, a senior pastor may leave the office in agreement with Ministers Council and Church Committees (in the above case, the pastor still keeps his pastoral rank)
7. The senior pastor is to give an annual account before the members meeting;

8. The senior pastor is to be ordained by the ministers of higher rank (bishops or pastors) in the presence of the church.

**Note:** If approved by the church, a pastor is allowed to be paid a salary.

## **Chapter 6: Bishops**

**Section 1:** The ministry of a bishop is more broader than that of a pastor. It can involve several churches of a county, state, or country. In their local church, the bishops are responsible to help the pastors in leading and teaching, including:

1. Counseling of church members, preachers, missionaries, teachers prophets, and ministers; sharing own spiritual experience and wisdom;
2. Give advice in reviewing cumbersome dogmatic matters and other various conflicts;
3. Participate in all religious rites of the church.

## **Chapter 7: Pastors**

### **Section 1: Definition**

Pastor – a man called by God and appointed by Him to spiritually lead a definite group of church members; who is also acknowledged by the church members as the one who is sent by God to do various ministries such as: evangelical and missionary work, work of spiritual education, youth and children ministries, educational and administrative work.

### **Section 2: Characteristics**

Regenerated, baptized in the Holy Spirit, enlightened, tender and experienced in spiritual leading; who is able to present sound Biblical teachings, and is able to interact with members of the church and the new believers.

### **Section 3: Responsibilities**

1. Assist the senior pastor in spiritual upbringing of the church members and the new believers;
2. Cooperate with the senior pastors, bishops, deacons, and the Church Committee to build and develop the church;

3. Be responsible for the work of a certain department or a group of members for the purpose of building up the church;
4. Execute all the establishment and religious rites;
5. All the associate pastors are accountable to senior pastor.

#### **Section 4: Selection**

1. candidates for an associate pastor are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee, to later be elected at a members meeting;
2. at the time of selection, a candidate cannot be older than 65 years old;
3. in order to become an associate pastor, a candidate needs to be elected by at least 2/3 of anonymous votes at the members meeting;
4. an associate pastor has to give an account of his ministry at the Ministers Council;
5. is to be ordained by the ministers of a higher rank (bishops or pastors) in the presence of the church.

### **Chapter 8: Deacons**

#### **Section 1: Definition**

Deacon – a man elected by the church to help pastors and to care for the daily needs of the believers of a local church.

#### **Section 2: Characteristics**

Regenerated, baptized in the Holy Spirit, tender and experienced in spiritual leading; who is able to interact with the members of the church; the one who serves, helps in the needs of the believers, and who also provides both spiritual and physical care for the church members.

#### **Section 3: Responsibilities**

1. acts under the leadership of a pastor in all matters of the church life; helps in development and work of various
2. helps in examining potential members of the church;
3. instructs new believers;
4. church departments;
5. cares for the daily needs of believers;

6. participates in conducting the Communion, water baptism, confession of sins, prayer for healing, and prayer for the children.

#### **Section 4: Selection**

1. candidates for deacons are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee, to later be elected at a members meeting;
2. at the time of selection, a candidate cannot be older than 65 years old;
3. in order to become a deacon, a candidate needs to be elected by at least 50%+1 of anonymous votes at the members meeting;
4. a deacon has to give an account of his ministry at the Ministers Council;
5. is to be ordained by the ministers of a higher rank in the presence of the church.

### **Chapter 9: Deaconesses**

#### **Section 1: Definition**

Deaconess is a sister chosen by the church to help pastors and deacons in matters concerning women ministries and other church ministries that involve participation of sisters.

Section

#### **Section 2: Characteristics**

Regenerated, baptized in the Holy Spirit; who is able to interact with members of the church; one who serves and takes care of both spiritual and physical needs of church members.

#### **Section 3 Responsibilities**

1. participates in preparing for the Communion ceremony;
2. organizes systematic visits of members who are sick as well as those who regularly attend church meetings;
3. coordinates charitable ministries with involvement of other sisters;
4. participates in various church events in accordance to her ministry;
5. organizes and leads special meetings for women, as well as seminars for women of all ages and status;

6. in certain circumstances can participate in confessions of sins and prayers, having first notified the senior pastor;
7. in certain cases, appointed by the senior pastor, can have conversations with those who went astray from the truth, are in temptation, are sick, or had been exhorted by the church;
8. with agreement of Church or Ministers Council, a deaconess can also participate in other various ministries not mentioned above.

#### **Section 4: Selection**

1. is selected for the ministry in accordance with the status of selecting a deacon;
2. is appointed by ministers of a higher rank in the presence of church;
3. a church can have several deaconesses.

**Note:** For living an ungodly life or teaching a heresy, a minister (senior pastor, bishop, pastor, deacon, or deaconess) will get excluded from any ministry, leading the church, or participating in any religious rites. The level of punishment of every minister is the same as for every other member of the church.

An ungodly conduct of a church minister is first to be reviewed at the Ministers Council with participation of higher-ranked ministers; only then, if necessary, it can be brought to attention of the Church Committee and the whole church.

## **Part VII: Church Administration**

### **Chapter 1: Corporate President**

#### **Section 1: Definition**

To be a corporate president one needs to be a senior pastor or an associate pastor, who is competent at managing people, responsible for managing the assets and professional operations of the church. A corporate president is trustworthy, who is officially appointed to be in charge of church property. Candidates for an associate pastor are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee.

## **Section 2: Responsibilities**

1. being an official owner of church property, needs to act according to the church constitution and decisions of the Church Committee;
2. sign all official documents in accordance with the church constitution and decisions of the Church Committee;
3. control the operations of church departments;
4. introduce the church as a corporation in various business institutions;
5. give an account to the Church Committee.

## **Chapter 2: Church Administrator – Associate Corporate President**

### **Section 1: Definition**

An administrator of the church is an associate president of the corporation, whose role is to oversee administrative functions of the church. All administrative branches and departments are accountable to the administrator of the church. Church administrator is trustworthy, who is officially appointed to be in charge of church property. Candidates for an administrator are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

1. To be in charge of administrative personnel;
2. To be in charge of the church facility and equipment;
3. To control transactions and the work of financial, administrative, housekeeping, IT, and usher departments;
4. To make sure that all church paperwork is up to date;
5. To consult and in timely manner notify all the church departments that are effected by any of the laws effecting the church property that have recently been changed;
6. To represent the church as a corporation in all governmental, financial and other business institutions;
7. To be accountable to the corporate president and the Church Committee.

## **Chapter 3: Church Secretary**

### **Section 1: Definition**

Church secretary is a minister with a good reputation who is able to converse with people both orally and in writing, which is also good in conducting business and has experience working in various church departments. Candidates for a church secretary are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

1. keeping membership data up to date;
2. providing help at a members meeting
3. serve as the secretary of the Ministers Council;
4. serve as the secretary of the Church Committee;
5. working on and providing timely church correspondence;
6. updating and filing church documentation;
7. is reportable to the senior pastor

**Note:** The full description of the church secretary responsibilities can be found in the Church Secretary Responsibilities section of this document.

## **Chapter 4: Corporate Secretary**

### **Section 1: Definition**

Corporate Secretary serves as an assistant to the President and as the Vice President of the Corporation. He should be competent with office and clerical work and has had experience doing the church work. Candidates for a Corporate Secretary are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

1. tracking and archiving legal corporate documents;
2. types of office documents such as those for Corporate President/Vice Corporate President approval;
3. archives all the incoming and outgoing documentation;
4. is accountable to the Corporate President and the Vice Corporate President.

## **Chapter 5: Treasurer**

### **Section 1: Definition**

A corporate treasurer has to be a person familiar with laws regarding church financial transactions. The same person can also be in charge of the church finance department. Candidates for a corporate treasurer are proposed by the Ministers Council and have to be approved by the Church Committee.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

1. conducts all financial operations;
2. makes sure that all financial documentation is kept safe;
3. consults other church departments and leading ones about the changes in laws that affect financial operations of the church;
4. by the order of the corporate president or the church committee, prepares and presents the financial accounting information;
5. is accountable to the president of corporation and his associate;

Corporate president, associate corporate president, corporate treasurer, church secretary and corporate secretary are elected by the Church Committee for a 4-year term

## **Chapter 6: Auditing Committee**

The auditing committee consisting of three members and elected for a 4-year term is in charge of controlling the church income and expenses. It conducts the audit of all church financial documentation. It then presents the results to the Church Committee and to all the members of the church. It also notifies appropriate departments of their violations.

## **Part VIII: Church Departments**

**Section 1:** The various departments that exist in the church are to provide an opportunity for all the church members to participate in its successful activities and development; following are the existing departments: Evangelism and Missionary work, Education, Youth,

Teen Ministries, Sunday School, Musical, Cell groups, Organization of Married Couples, Women Ministries, Charity, and Ushers.

**Section 2:** The task of church departments is to help the pastor and the Church Committee effectively attain their goals and complete their projects.

## **Part IX: Miscellaneous**

**Section 1:** The church celebrates Sundays and other Christian holidays such as: Proclamation of Good News, Christmas, Candlemas, Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and Thanksgiving.

**Section 2:** A church can have a library, musical studios, archives, topography, computers, transportation, etc.

**Section 3:** A church can have charities, bible schools, camps, rehabilitation centers, etc.

**Section 4:** A church can lease, buy, or build a building to have church meetings and other church events.

**Section 5:** A church can purchase assets and real estate, as well as sell or lease it.

**Section 6:** A church has its own emblem, seal and stamp.

## **Part X: Conclusion**

Exceptions, changes, and additions to the current constitution are made in agreement with a decision of church members. A matter is considered settled if at least 2/3 of those present have approved it. A members meeting can only be in force if at least 2/3 of all members are present.