THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

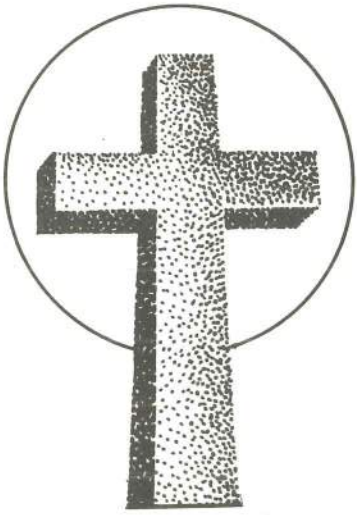


CONSTITUTION

"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God."
Psalm 68:31

ERIC TABULANI SIBEKO

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA



HOUSE NO. F 289 UMLAZI TOWNSHIP

CONSTITUTION

"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God."
Psalm 68:31

Published by
THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA
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FOREWORD

It is both my prayer and my hope that this booklet, setting out the new Constitution of this our Church, will be a help not only to the members of the Ethiopian Church of South Africa, but will also be of some assistance to all engaged in the service of God.

The compilation of this booklet has not been an easy task at all. The book had to contain a workable constitution for a church body that has been in existence since 1892, and in whose organisation a number of traditions had become entrenched, and carried down from generation to generation. It has also to contain agreed terms, which, while not very different from those of the old constitution, would, at the same time, take cognizance of the changes both in the size and growth of our congregations and in the habits of our followers. We had also to make provision for the future generations.

Now that this great task has been accomplished, I offer my thanks, first, to God the Almighty for His unfailing guidance at al times, and, secondly, to a number of men, both lay and clergy, who have helped me in this work. I cannot write down here all the names of people who have given me help, but I shall mention a few:-

(a) The members of our clergy who served with me in the Constitution Committee as stipulated in the "Matambo-Sishuba Deed of Peace" of 1960 – the Revd. Dr M.G. Sishuba, the Revd. N. Citashe and the Revd. A.C. Maile.

(b) The Revd. Z.C. Bhengu, Bros. S.B. Mzolo, M.D. Matta and P.J. Mayekiso. All these men rendered to me and the Church invaluable service towards the accomplishment of this task.

We also wish to record our gratitude to the men of the legal profession, without whose help and knowledge this constitution would not be what it is. Our thanks go to Mr Browde and Mr Alexander, both advocates in Johannesburg, and to Mr McGillewie, of Messrs. D.L. mcGillewie & Co. of Pietermaritzburg.

HARGREAVES J. MATAMBO

"Doorinkop Farm",
Ventersdorp,
Transvaal.
11th September 1962.

SECOND EDITION

The task of having this book in the present form has not been an easy task, I would like to thank the Executive for the help in compiling this book.

G.S. NDIMANDE
BISHOP

Orlando East
Johannesburg
30 November 1992.

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CHAPTER I

TENETS OF THE CHURCH

A. THE NAME.
B. THE WORD OF GOD.
C. THE ORDER OF PRAYER.
D. THE ARTICLE OF FAITH.

A.

THE NAME OF THE CHURCH

The name of the Church shall be the ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA (iBandhla lama Tiyopiya).

"Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God" – Psalm 68:31.

B.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE WORD OF GOD as is contained in the Old and the New Testaments is the supreme rule of faith and practice in this Church.

C.

THE ORDER OF PRAYER

The order of prayer shall be that contained in the abbreviated common prayer books.

D.

THE ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. There is but one living and true God, everlasting without body, parts or passions; of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, the Maker and Preserver of all things, both visible and invisible, and in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
2. Of the Word or Son of God which was made very man. The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlast-

ing of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin of her substance; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God, and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile His Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt but also for all actual sins of man.

3. Of the Resurrection of Christ

Christ did truly rise again from death and took again His body with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to Man's nature; wherewith he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth until He return to judge all men at the last day.

4. Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father, and the Son very and eternal God.

5. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therin nor may be proved thereby is not to be required of any man, that is, should be believed as an Article of Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those Canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

6. Of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being both God and Man.

Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the Old Fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching ceremonies and rites,

do not bind Christian men, nor the civic precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any common-wealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral.

7. Of Original or Birth Sin

Original Sin standeth not in the following of Adam. But it is the corruption of the nature of every man that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from the original righteousness and of his own nature inclined to evil and that continually.

8. Of Free Will

The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself by his own natural strength and good works, to faith and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the Grace of God by Christ preserving us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

9. Of the Jurisdiction of Man

We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works and deservings, wherefore, that we are justified by Faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

10. Of Works of Supererogation

Voluntary works, besides over and above God's Commandments, which they call works of Supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogance and impiety; for by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for His sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly, when ye have done all that are commanded to you, say we are unprofitable servants.

11. **Of Good Works**

Although good works, which are the fruits of Faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure severity of God's judgement, yet are the pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evident as a tree discerned by the fruit.

12. **Of Sin and Baptism**

Not every Sin willingly committed after justification is Sin against Holy Ghost, and unpardonable Wherefore the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received the Holy Ghost we may depart from grace of God we may rise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned which say they can no more sin as long as they live here or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

13. **Of the Church**

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the Pure Word of God is preached, and the sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

14. **Of Purgatory**

The Romish doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping and Adoration, as well as of Images as of Reliques, and also invocation of Saints, is a fond thing vainly invented to the Word of God. Of speaking in the congregation in such a tongue as the people understandeth. It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the primitive church to have public prayer in the church or to minister the sacraments in a tongue not understood of the people.

15. **Of the Sacraments**

Sacraments ordained of Christ be not only badges of token of Christian men's professions, but rather they be certain sure witnesses and effectual signs of Grace, and God's good will

towards us, by which he doth work invinsibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our Faith in Him.

16. **Of Baptism**

Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference, whereby Christian men are discerned from others that be not Christianised, but it is also a sign of regeneration of new birth, whereby as by an instrument they that receive baptism rightly are grafted into the church. The baptism of children is in any wise to be retained in the church, as most agreeable with the institution of Christ.

17. **Of the Lord's Supper**

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another; but rather it is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; in so much that to such as rightly worthily, and with faith, receive the same, the bread which we break is a parting of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a parting of the Blood of Christ.

18. **Of Both Kinds**

The Cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the Lord's Sacrament by Christ's Ordinance and Commandment, ought to be ministered to all Christian men alike.

19. **Of the One Oblation of Christ Finished upon the Cross**

The offering of Christ once made is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction, for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifices of masses, in which it is commonly said, that the Priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, were blasphemous fables, and dangerous deceit.

20. Of Marriage of the Priest

Ministers are not commanded by God's Law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage; therefore it is lawful also for them, as for all other Christian men to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve better to Godliness.

21. Of the Rites of the Church

It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies be in all places one, or utterly alike, for at all times they have been divers, and may be changed according to the diversities of countries, times and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word. Whosoever, through his private judgement, willingly and purposely, doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of church, which be not repugnant to the Word of God, and be ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly (that others may fear to do the like); as he that offendeth against the common order of the church and woundeth the consciences of the weak brethren. Every particular or national church hath authority to ordain, change and abolish ceremonies and rites of the church ordained only by man's authority so that all things be done to edifying.

22. Of the Rules of Authorities

Let every soul be subject to high powers for all powers are ordained of God; whosoever resisteth power resisteth the ordinance of God, for rulers are only terrors to evil. Will thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same; by this we are loyal and submissive to the governing powers.

23. Of Christian Men's Goods which are not Common

The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right title, and possessing of the same as certain do falsely boast. Notwithstanding every man ought of such things as he possesseth liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

24. Of a Christian Man's Oath

As we confess that cain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ, and James, His Apostle, so we judge that Christian religion does not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the Prophet's teaching, in justice, judgement, and truth.

CHAPTER II

MEMBERSHIP

A. PROBATIONERS.
B. CONFIRMATION OF PROBATIONERS.
C. EXEMPTION FROM PROBATION.
D. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP.

A.

PROBATIONERS

1. Any person desirous of becoming a Member of the Church shall apply to the Minister of the Parish where the applicant lives for admission as a probationer.
2. The Parish Minister shall read and explain to the applicant the following tenet of faith:-

   "The visible church of Christ was considered by the Fathers a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached and the sacrament duly administered. There was only one condition required of those who desired admission into the church; a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from sin."
3. The applicant shall then be asked by the Minister if he possesses such desire and upon his answering "yea" he shall be accepted as a probationer in the Church.
4. Probationers shall be placed by the Parish Minister wherever practicable in a separate class of their own under Class Leaders of experience.
5. It shall be the duty of the Probationer to attend such classes and to follow diligently and sincerely the instruction provided.
6. A Probationer shall attend such classes for a period not exceeding six months or for such lesser period as shall be determined by his Class Leader or Parish Minister.
7. Upun the expiry of such period as determined for instruction the Parish Minister shall examine the Probationer on his knowledge of church matters, discipline and devotion.

8. If in the opinion of the Parish Minister the Probationer has attained a sufficient standard of knowledge he shall cause the Probationer's name to be entered in a book to be kept for the purpose and shall advise his District Minister in writing of the names of alle such Probationers who have so satisfied him.
9. Until such time as the Probationer is confirmed by the District Minister he shall have the right to attend all religious meetings of the Church, but until Baptism shall not be permitted to partake of the Lord's Supper nor to hold any official position in the Church.

B.

CONFIRMATION OF PROBATIONERS

10. The District Minister shall fix a time and place for the examination of Probationers and it shall be the duty of the Probationer to attend at such time and place.
11. On the day so appointed the District Minister shall satisfy himself as to the Probationer's suitability and necessary knowledge of church matters.
12. If so satisfied the District Minister shall preach a sermon to all accepted Probationers in the Presence of all Members of the Church in the Parish.
13. The Sermon and affirmations by the Probationer shall be in the following form:-

"Dearly Beloved Brethren. – The Scriptures teach us that the church is the household of God, of which Christ is the Head, and that it is the design of the Gospel to bring together in one all who are Christ's. The fellowship of the church is the communion that its members enjoy one with another. The end of this fellowship is maintenance of sound doctrine and of the ordinances of Christian worship and exercise of that power of Godly admonition and discipline which Christ has committed to His church for the promotion of Holiness. It is the duty of all men to unite in this fellowship, for it is only to those that be planted in the house of the Lord, that shall flourish in the courts of our God. It's more particular duties are to promote peace and unity, to bear one another's burdens, to prevent each other stumbling to seek the intimacy of friendly society among themselves,

to continue steadfast in the faith and worship of the Gospel, and to pray and sympathise with others. Among its privileges are: Peculiar incitements to holiness from the hearing of God's Word, and sharing Christ's ordinances; he being placed under the watchful care of the Pastor, and the enjoyment of the blessings which are promised only to those which are of the household of Faith. Into this holy fellowship the persons before you, who have already received the sacrament of baptism, and have been under the care of proper leaders, six months on trial, come seeking admission. We now propose, in the fear of God, to question them as to their faith and purpose, that you may know that they are proper persons to be admitted into the church.

Dearly Beloved – You are come hither seeking the great privilege of union with the church, our Saviour has purchased with His Own Blood.

We rejoice in the grace of God vouchsafed to you in that He has called you to be His followers, and that thus far you have run well. You have heard how blessed are the privileges and how solemn are the duties of membership in Christ's Church, and before you are fully admitted thereto it is proper that you do here publicly renew your vows, confess your faith and decalre your purpose by answering the following:-

Question: Do you, here in the presence of God and of this congregation, renew the solemn promise contained in the Baptismal Covenant, ratifying and confirming the same, and acknowledging yourselves bound faithfully to observe and keep that covenant and all things contained therein?

Answer: I do.

Question: Have you saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer: I trust I have.

Question: Do you entertain friendly feelings towards all the members of this church?

Answer: I do.

Question: Do you believe in the doctrine of Holy Scripture as set forth in the Tenets of Faith of the Ethiopian Church?

Answer: I do.

Question: Will you carefully be governed by the discipline of the

Ethiopian Church, hold sacred the ordinances of God, and endeavour as much as in you lies to promote the welfare of your brethren and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom?

Answer: I will.

Question: Will you contribute of your earthly substance, according to your ability, to the support of the Gospel, Church, and poor and various benevolent enterprises of the Church?

Answer: I will.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Congregation: Who hath made Heaven and Earth.

Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Congregation: Henceforth, world without end.

Minister: Lord hear our prayers.

Congregation: And let our cry come unto Thee.

Minister: Brethren, you have heard the responses given to our enquiries. Have any of you any reason to allege why these persons should not be received into full membership in the Church? O Lord! defend thy child by Thy heavenly grace, that he may be received in Thy household flock and daily increase in the Holy Spirit until he is summoned to Thy everlasting Kingdom. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with Thy Spirit.

14. At the conclusion of the sermon and the Probationer having adhered to the required affirmations, the Parish Minister shall -

    (a) Enter the name of the Probationer as a full member of the Church in a book to be kept for such purpose.

    (b) Send the name of each such new member in writing to the General Secretary.

    (c) Issue to the new member a certificate of membership in the form contained in the Schedule to the Constitution. (see Form 1).

15. (a) The new member shall pay to the Class Leader appointed for such purpose by the General Board of Trustees an ad-

mission fee in the amount determined by the Executive Church Council and shall receive from the Class Leader a membership book in the form contained in the Schedule. (see Form 2).

(b) Upon payment to the Class Leader of the fee prescribed therefor by the Executive Church Council a member shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution.

C.

EXEMPTION FROM PROBATION

16. Notwithstanding the above provisions a person who is a member of an orthodox church recognised by the Executive Church Council may apply to the District Minister for admission to the Church as a full member.
17. In so applying such person shall be supported in his application by a member of the Church who can attest to his acceptability.
18. If the District Minister is satisfied that such person should be accepted as a member of the Church he shall advise such person accordingly and require his attendance at a Confirmation service.
19. The provisions relating to the Confirmation service shall apply equally in the case of such a person.

D.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

20. A person registered as a member of the Church in a parish who desires to move to another parish either temporarily or permanently shall advise the Parish Minister accordingly.
21. The Parish Minister shall thereupon issue such member with a removal notice in the form contained in the Schedule (see Form 3) which shall entitle such member to be enrolled as a member of such other parish into which he has moved.
22. It shall be the duty of the Minister of such other parish to enter the name of such transferred member into the book of membership for his parish and to advise in writing the General Secretary accordingly.

E.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS

23. Each member of the Church shall-

(a) faithfully and sincerely observe the Christian ideal as embodied in the Tenets of Faith;

(b) fulfil all duties required of him by this Constitution;

(c) Out of Christian charity contribute what he is able to afford to the plate collections as will be made from time to time by Ministers of the Church in terms of this Constitution;

(d) pay such subscriptions as are prescribed by the Executive Church Council in terms of this Constitution;

(e) abide by the discipline of the Church and accord respect to all officers of Conferences of the Church having authority over him;

(f) at all times conduct himself as a humble servant of God.

CHAPTER III

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHURCH

A. THE PARISH.
B. THE CIRCUIT.
C. THE DISTRICT.
D. JOINT DISTRICT CONFERENCES.
E. SUPERUMERARY OFFICERS.

THE PARISH

1. The Church shall be divided into such parishes as shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Church Council.
2. Each Parish shall be in the charge of a Parish Minister duly appointed to such Parish by the Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council.
3. In the administration of the Parish, the Parish Minister shall be assisted by-
   (a) A class leader or leaders.
   (b) A parish steward.
   (c) A church orderly.
   (d) A board of stewardesses.
   (e) Sunday school teachers and/or Sunday school superintendents.
   (f) Such exhorters as may have been appointed to the parish by the Circuit Conference or Missionaries by the District Minister concerned.
   (g) The Women's Mite Missionary Society.
   (h) The Juvenile Society.

THE PARISH MINISTER

4. The duties and function of the Parish Minister shall be-
   (a) to preach the Word of God;
   (b) to take charge of such work as may be delegated to him by his superior officers in the Church;
   (c) to implement such decisions as may be required of him by any superior officer or conference having authority over his parish;

(d) to carry out such duties as are specifically assigned to him in this Constitution;
(e) to recommend to the General Board of Trustees such members of his parish as are of sound judgement, honesty and devotion to the service of God for appointment as class leader;
(f) to group the members of his parish into classes for instruction, such classes wherever practicable to contain not more than 12 members;
(g) to supervise and administer the work of the class leaders;
(h) to recommend to the General Board of Trustees the removal from office of any class leader who in his opinion has failed to comply with the duties imposed on him in terms of Clause 5 of this Chapter;
(i) to promote the formation of a branch of the Women's Mite Missionary Society and Juvenile Society in his parish;
(j) to appoint a parish steward who shall be a member of the Church in good standing;
(k) to administer Sunday Schools in the manner provided for from time to time by the Executive Church Council and to appoint Sunday School Teachers and/or Superintendents as the case may be from members of the Church;
(l) to appoint if necessary assistant class leaders to assist class leaders in the discharge of their instructional duties.
(m) to examine probationers and generally to comply with the provisions relating to probationers set out in Chapter II of the Constitution;
(n) to open and maintain a book of membership of all members of the Church residing in the parish;
(o) to issue where necessary removal notices as provided for in Clause 21 of Chapter II of the Constitution;
(p) to convene meetings of the Parish Board monthly or more frequently of the circumstances require;
(q) to preside as Chairman of the Parish Tribunal;
(r) to convene a meeting of the Parish Conference every three months;
(s) To solemnize marriages of in possession of a Certificate of Appointment as a Marriage Officer according to law;
(t) to require members of the Parish out of Christian charity to contribute what they are able to afford to a plate collec-

tion which shall be made at every service conducted by him in the Parish and at the meetings of the Parish Conference and to retain all such monies as may be so collected for his own personal support without the need of accounting therefor to any other person in the Church.

CLASS LEADER

5. The functions and duties of a Class Leader shall be:-

(a) Upon appointment to office by the General Board of Trustees to collect from every member of his Parish at such times as he may be required to do so, the subscription or other fees decided upon from time to time by other fees decided upon from time to time by Executive Church Council.

(b) In collecting such monies he shall enter in the Membership Book of the member the amount so paid, the date thereof, the purpose of the payment and shall append his signature thereto.

(c) All monies so received by him shall forthwith be paid into the banking account indicated by the General Board of Trustees or in the absence of any such Bank to such person as may be specified to him by the General Board of Trustees for the purpose of collecting such monies.

(d) The name of each such member so paying a subscription and the date of payment shall be entered by the class leader on a list in the form contained inm the Schedule to the Constitution (see Form 4) which shall be completed by him in triplicate.

(e) The original form so completed shall be sent by post to the Chairman of the General Board of Trustees, the second copy to his Parish Minister, and the third copy he shall retain for his own records.

(f) He shall carry out such duties as a spiritual instructor as will be given to him by the Parish Minister and in particular shall enquire how every soul in his class prospers not only in outward observance of the rules of the Church but in the knowledge and love of God.

(g) To report to the Parish Minister any member who is sick, indigent or who has died.

(h) To reprove any member who walks in a disorderly fashion or who neglects to attend his classes and where necessary to report such member to the Minister.
(i) To report to the Minister any member who leaves the Parish without having obtained a removal notice.
(j) To keep a register of all members and/or probationers in his class.
(k) To participate in joint meetings with other class leaders so as to learn from each other's experience.
(l) To ensure that only members of the Church or pobationers attend class meetings.
(m) To furnish tickets for love feasts to members and probationers only.
(n) To recommend probationers for examination by the Parish Minister.
(o) To recommend suitable members for appointment as Exhorters by the Circuit Conference.
(p) To attend such meetings as he may be required to do in terms of the Constitution.
(q) To carry out such duties as are specifically assigned to him in this Constitution.

THE PARISH STEWARD

6. (a) The Parish Steward shall be appointed by the Parish Minister from the members residing in the Parish and shall hold office for one year.
(b) His duties shall be to see to the general welfare, health and care of the Parish Minister's home, family and guests.
(c) He shall assist the Parish Minister as a secretary, and shall convey to members such notices as he may be required to bring to their attention.
(d) He shall open and maintain a register of all marriages and Baptisms solemnised by his Parish Minister.

THE CHURCH ORDERLY

7. (a) The Parish Minister shall appoint a church orderly from the members of the parish who shall hold office for one year.
(b) His duty shall be to attend to the cleanliness and orderliness of the Church and its immediate surroundings.

(c) He shall ensure that the bells are rung on time.
(d) He shall act as an usher and ensure that order and discipline is maintained by the congregation during services.

BOARD OF STEWARDESSES

8. (a) The Parish Minister shall appoint as many lady members of the parish as he deems necessary to constitute a Board of Stewardesses and each shall hold office for one year.
(b) The function of this Board shall be to assist the Parish Minister in any matters pertaining to the parish which in his opinion are best capable of being carried out by women.
(c) The stewardesses so appointed shall appoint from their number a chairlady.

THE PARISH BOARD

9. In each Parish of the church there shall be constituted a Parish Board which shall consist of-
(a) the Parish Minister, who shall be its Chairman;
(b) as many class leaders as have been appointed but excluding assistant class leaders;
(c) such Sunday School teachers and/or Sunday School superintendents as may have been appointed in the parish;
(d) the parish steward;
(e) the church orderly;
(f) the chairlady of the Board of Stewardesses;
(g) such exhorters and/or missionaries as may have been appointed to the parish;
(h) two delegates elected by the Women's Mite Missionary Society in terms of their own Constitution;
(i) one delegate who shall be not less than 16 years of age elected by the Juvenile Society in terms of their own Constitution.

10. A meeting of the Parish Board shall be convened by the Parish Minister at least once a month or more often should he deem necessary.

11. The function of the Parish Board shall be:-
(a) To elect at its first meeting in each year a secretary who shall hold office for that year.

(b) To receive and consider reports on the work of class leaders, Sunday Schools and other organisations or individuals as may be carrying on the work of the Church in the Parish.
(c) To co-ordinate all work of the Church carried on in the Parish.
(d) To implement any dicisions as may have been conveyed to it by a superior officer or conference having authority over the Parish.
(e) to advise the Circuit of District Minister on any matters of concern to them.
(f) Generally to further the interests of the Church in the Parish.

12. The Secretary of the Parish Board shall keep a record of the Board's Minutes of all meetings and shall preserve such written reports as many be placed before the Board.
13. The conduct of meetings at the Parish Board shall follow the procedure laid down in Chapter VIII of this Constitution.

THE PARISH CONFERENCE

14. The Parish Minister shall convene a meeting of the parish conference at least once every three months or more often if he deems it necessary in the circumstances.
15. All members of the Church residing in the Parish shall be entitled and obliged, save for good cause, to attend the meetings of the Parish Quarterly Conference.
16. The Secretary of the Parish Board shall submit to the conference a summary of the work done by the Parish Board during the preceding three months.
17. The function of the Parish Conference shall be to discuss all matters pertaining to the work of the Church in the parish and to make such recommendations as thought necessary for the attention of the officers of the Church in the Parish or of superior officers or conference having authority over the Parish.
18. The conduct of meetings of the parish Conference shall follow the procedure laid down in Chapter VIII of the Constitution.

THE PARISH TRIBUNAL

19. In each Parish there shall be constituted a Parish Tribunal which shall consist of:-

(a) The Parish Minister who shall be its Chairman;
(b) the Parish Steward;
(c) each class leader as may have been appointed to the Parish.

20. The Parish Tribunal shall be convened by its Chairman whenever a complaint falling within the rules and procedure laid down in Chapter VI of this Constitution is brought against any member of the Church residing within the Parish.

21. The Parish Tribunal shall have authority in accordance with such procedure to adjudicate upon any such complaint, but shall have no authority in respect of complaints brought against members of the parish Tribunal itself or of any officer of the Church, superior in rank to such members, who may be residing within the parish.

22. The Parish Tribunal shall have all such powers as are vested in Tribunals of the Church in terms of Chapter VI of this Constitution.

B.

THE CIRCUIT

23. A Circuit of the Church shall comprise such number of Parishes as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Church Council.

24. Each Circuit shall be in the charge of a Circuit Minister duly appointed to such Circuit by the Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council.

25. In the administration of the Circuit the Circuit Minister shall be assisted by:-

(a) The Circuit Steward;
(b) The circuit Deacon.

THE CIRCUIT MINISTER

26. The duties and functions of the Circuit Minister shall be:-

(a) To preach the Word of God;
(b) to take charge of all Parish Ministers and other officials of the Church within the Parishes of his Circuit;
(c) to implement such decisions as may be required of him by any superior officer or conference having authority over his Circuit.

(d) to carry out such duties as are specifically assigned to him in this Constitution;
(e) to convene and preside at meetings of the Circuit Conference in terms of Clause 33 of this Chapter;
(f) to solemnise marriages if in possession of a Certificate of Appointment as a Marriage Officer according to Law;
(g) to require members attending Circuit Conferences to contribute out of Christian charity what they are able to afford to a plate collection which shall be made at every such Conference and to retain all such monies as may be so collected for his own personal support without the need for accounting therefor to any other person in the Church.

CIRCUIT STEWARD

27. A member of the Church residing within the Circuit shall be appointed as Circuit Steward by the Circuit Minister in consultation with the District Minister having authority over such Circuit, and such Circuit Steward shall hold office for one year.

28. (a) The Circuit Steward shall be the temporal officer of the Circuit and as such shall act as personal secretary to the Circuit Minister deriving his authority and instructions from the latter.
(b) He shall carry out such other duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the General Board of Trustees in connection with the administration of the Circuit Ministers's stipend and the upkeep of the Circuit Minister's house.
(c) He shall seek out the needy and distressed within the Circuit in order to relieve and comfort them.
(d) He shall provide the elements for the Lord's Supper.
(e) He shall open and maintain a register of all Marriages and Baptisms solemnised by his Circuit Minister.

THE CIRCUIT DEACON

29. There shall be appointed to each Circuit a Deacon who has satisfied the Ordination Committee of the Supreme Conference of his fitness to assume such office.

30. He shall receive his appointment from the Bishop in consultation with the Ministers of the District and Circuit in question,and shall hold office for one year.

31. His function shall be to assist his Circuit Minister in spiritual matters and he shall have the right-
    (i) to preach the Word of God;
    (ii) to assist the Circuit Minister in distributing the Communion; and
    (iii) in the absence of the Circuit Minister to administer the Sacrament of Baptism.
32. He shall derive his authority and instructions from his Circuit Minister.

THE CIRCUIT CONFERENCE

33. The Circuit Minister shall convene a meeting of the Circuit Conference at least once every three months or more often if he deems it necessary in the circumstances.
34. The following members shall be entitled and obliged, save for good cause, to attend meetings of the Circuit Conference:-
    (a) The Circuit Steward;
    (b) the Circuit Deacon;
    (c) the Minister of each Parish in the Circuit;
    (d) the class leader or leaders of each Parish in Circuit;
    (e) the Sunday School Teachers and/or Sunday School Superintendent of each Parish in the Circuit;
    (f) the Chairlady of the Board of Stewardesses of each Parish in the Circuit;
    (g) any Missionay and/or exhorter who may have been appointed to the Circuit;
    (h) retired Ministers residing within the Circuit;
    (i) two delegates from the Women's Mite Missionary Society of each Parish in the Circuit elected in terms of their own Constitution;
    (j) one delegate from the Juvenile Society of each Parish in the Circuit elected in terms of their own Constitution who shall be not less than 16 years of age;
    (k) such other members of the Church as may be specially nominated by the Bishop or by the District Minister having authority over the Circuit.
35. (a) The meetings of the Circuit Conference shall be convened by the Circuit Minister who shall preside at its deliberations,

or in his absence the Chairman shall be the most senior Parish Minister within the Circuit.

(b) Save as aforesaid the conduct of all meetings of the Circuit Conference shall be in accordance with the Rules of Procedure contained in Chapter VIII of the Constitution.

36. The functions and duties of the Circuit Conference shall be-

(a) to elect a Conference Secretary from the delegates present who shall hold office for one year;

(b) to receive and consider reports from the representatives of each Parish in the Circuit;

(c) to recommend to the District Conference persons of exemplary conduct, integrity and devotion who have attained an educational qualification of not less than Standard 6 for admission to study for the Ministry;

(d) to examine any member recommended by a Class Leader for the post of Exhorter and if satisfied as to such person's suitability to authorise the issue to him by the Circuit Minister of an Exhorter's Licene in the form set out in the Schedule. (see From 5);

(e) to implement such decisions as may be required by any superior officer or Conference having authority over the Circuit; to the Statistics Committee;

(f) to elect three members for delegates present

(g) to receive, consider and debate such reports as will be tabled from time to time by the Statistics Committee;

(h) to consider and debate any matters concerning the work of the Circuit;

(i) to make such recommendations as are throught necessary for the attention of the District Conference or of any superior officer or Conference of the Church;

(j) to make such rules as are necessary for the co-ordination of the work of the Church within the Circuit;

(k) to elect at the first meeting in each year as representatives of the Circuit at the District Conference-

(i) a Class Leader as represantative of the Class Leaders within the Circuit;

(ii) a Lady Steward as representative of the Boards of Stewardesses within the Circuit;

(iii) one member, not necessarily from amongst the

delegates present and not otherwise entitled to attend the District Conferences to serve as representative of the joint body of members within the Circuit.

THE STATISTICS COMMITTEE

37. The Statistics Committee shall consist of the Circuit Steward who shall be its Chairman, the Circuit Secretary and three other persons duly elected by the Circuit Conference.

38. Its work shall be to compile a report for presentation to meeting of the Circuit Conference with reference to the following matters:-

(1) Number of full members in the Circuit.
Number of probationers.
Number joining the Church.
Number of children of members.
Number who have left Circuit with Removal Notices.
Number who have left without Removal Notices.
Number of children baptised.
Number of adults baptised.
Number confirmed.

(2) Number of members of the Women Mite Missionary Society.
Number of members of the Juvenile Society.
Number of members of the Y.M.C.A.
Number of Sunday School children.
Number of members of the Independent Order of the True Templars (I.O.T.T.)

(3) Number of marriages solemnised.

(4) Number of ministers in the Circuit.
Number of Exhorters in the Circuit.
Number of Sunday School Teachers.

(5) Number and value of church buildings.
Number and value of parsonages.
Number and value of school buildings.
Number and value of vacant sites.

(6) Number of church buildings within municipal area.
Number of parsonages within municipal area.
Number of vacant stands within municipal area.

(7) The present indebtedness of the Circuit.

39. Whenever a report is compiled pertaining to Items 5, 6 and 7 above, the Circuit Secretary after such reports have been debated by the Circuit Conference shall send a copy thereof together with any addenda made by the Circuit Conference to the Secretary of the District Conference.

THE CIRCUIT TRIBUNAL

40. In each Circuit there shall be constituted a Circuit Tribunal which shall consist of-
    (a) The Circuit Minister who shall be its Chairman;
    (b) the Circuit Steward; and
    (c) the Circuit Deacon.
41. The Circuit Tribunal shall be convened by its Chairman whenever an appeal from a conviction by a Parish Tribunal within the Circuit, or a complaint against any member of a Parish Tribunal within the Circuit, is brought within the Rules of Procedure laid down in Chapter VI.
42. The Circuit Tribunal shall have authority in accordance with such procedure to adjudicate upon any such appeal or complaint, but shall have no authority in respect of complaints brought against members of the Circuit Tribunal itself, or against any officer of the Church, superior in rank to such members, who may be residing within the Circuit.
43. The Circuit Tribunal shall have all such powers as are vested in Tribunals of the Church in terms of Chapter VI.

C.

DISTRICTS

44.1 A District of the Church shall comprise such number of Circuits as may be determined from time to time by the Executive Church Council.

44.2 There shall be not more than two (2) Districts in each Province of the Republic of South Africa, and not more than one (1) in each of South West Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Transkei and others that can become Independent States.

45. (a) Each District shall be in charge of a District Minister duly approved to such District by the Supreme Conference.

(b) The District Minister shall hold office for five (5) years upon his nomination by the Bishop being approved by the Supreme Conference, save that should a new Bishop be elected during the said five (5) years, his office shall terminate on such election.

46. In the administration of the District the District Minister shall be assisted by a District Steward and the District Trustee.

THE DISTRICT MINISTER

47. The function and duties of the District Minister shall be:-

(a) To preach the Word of God;
(b) to take charge of all members of the Church both clerical and lay in his District, including such missionaries and exhorters as may have been appointed in his District;
(c) to travel through his District at large and to ensure that discipline and conformity to the Rules of the Church are enforced;
(d) to implement such dicisions as may be required of him by any superior officer or Conference having authority over his district;
(e) to carry out such duties as may be specifically assigned to him by this Constitution;
(f) to confirm probationers as provided for in Part B of Chapter II.
(g) to license Missionaries as provided for in Clause 67 (b) of this Chapter;
(h) to approve in his discretion applicants for membership to rely on the provisions of Part C of Chapter II;
(i) to consult with the Circuit Minister concerned in the appointment of the Circuit Steward;
(j) to consult with the Bishop and the Circuit Minister concerned in the appointment of the Circuit Deacon;
(k) to appoint as delegates to any Circuit Conference within his District such members as he thinks fit;
(l) to issue to all members of his District, who in terms of Clause of Chapter IV are entitled to attend the Supreme Conference as delegates, a Certificate in the form set out in the Schedule. (See Form 6 and 8);
(m) to solemnise marriages if in possession of a Certificate of Appointment as a Marriage Officer according to Law;

(n) to require members attending the District Conference to contribute out of Christian charity what they are able to afford to a plate collection which shall be made at every meeting of the District Conference, and to retain all such monies as may be so collected for his own personal support without the need of accounting therefor to any other person in the Church.

THE DISTRICT STEWARD

48. A member of the Church residing within the District shall be appointed as District Steward by the District Minister in consultation with the Bishop and shall hold office for one year.

49. (a) The District Steward shall be the temporal officer of the District and as such shall act as personal secretary to the District Minister, deriving his authority and instructions from the latter.

(b) He shall carry out such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Constitution and the General Board of Trustees in connection with the administration of the District Minister's stiped and the upkeep of the District Minister's house.

(c) He shall seek out the needy and distressed within the District in order to relieve and comfort them.

(d) He shall provide the elements for the Lord's Supper.

(e) He shall open and maintain a register for all Marriages and Baptisms solemnised by his District Minister.

THE DISTRICT TRUSTEE

50. The Executive Church Council shall appoint to each District a District Trustee who shall be a member residing within such District and known as a person of the highest integrity and versed in commercial matters.

51. A District Trustee shall hold office for five years, but may be removed at any time from office if in the opinion of the Executive Church Council in consultation with the General Board of Trustees he has become unfit to hold such office.

52. The District Trustee shall-

(a) give effect in his District to such decisions affecting finance

as will be required of him by the General Board of Trustees and/or the Executive Church Council,

(b) prepare a Memorandum for submission to the General Board of Trustees reflecting the Report of the Administrative Committee of the District Conference as adopted;

(c) act as a member of the District Tribunal;

(d) supervise generally in consultation with the District Minister all matter pertaining to the assets and income of the Church in the District;

(e) be entitled in consultation with the District Minister concerned to incur such expenditure as may be urgently required for the preservation of Church property.

THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

53. (a) The District Minister shall convene and preside at the Annual District Conference.

(b) Wherever possible such Conference shall not be held within one month of any Circuit Conference held within die District and should, wherever possible, be held at least six weeks prior to the date of the Supreme Conference.

(c) In so convening a meeting of the District Conference, the District Minister shall consult with the Bishop as to the suitability of the time and place for its session.

54. The following persons shall be entitled and obliged, save for good cause, to attend the District Conference:-

(a) The District Steward;

(b) the District Trustee;

(c) the Ministers of each Parish in the District;

(d) the Circuit Minister of each Circuit in the District;

(e) the Circuit Steward of each Circuit in the District;

(f) the Circuit Deacon of each Circuit in the District;

(g) all missionaries and/or exhorters duly appointed in the District;

(h) one Class Leader duly elected by a Circuit Conference;

(i) one Lady Steward duly elected by a Circuit Conference;

(j) one member of the Church duly elected by a Circuit Conference;

(k) one member of the Women's Mite Missionary Society from each Circuit within the District duly elected in terms of their own Constitution;

(l) a member of the Juvenile Society from each Circuit in the District duly elected in terms of their own Constitution, and who shall not be less than 16 years of age.

55. The duties and functions of the District Conference shall be:-

(a) to elect a Conference Secretary, who shall hold office for one year;

(b) to elect three Ministers from the delegates present to the Examining Committee;

(c) to appoint members from delegates present in such numbers as the Conference may decide to the following committees:-

(i) The Economic Committee;
(ii) Morals Committee;
(iii) Ecclesiastic Committee;
(iv) Sunday School Committee;
(v) Administrative Committee;
(vi) Youth Committee;

(d) to receive, consider and debate such reports may be tabled by the aforementioned Committees;

(e) to authorise the sending of the report of the Administrative Committee with such agenda as thought fit to the General Secretary.

(f) to implement such decisions as may be required of it by any superior officer or Conference having authority over the District.

(g) (i) to elect three delegates and three alternate delegates to the Supreme Conference from members of the Church residing within the District who are not otherwise entitled by virtue of their office in the Church to attend the Supreme Conference, and

(ii) to authorise the District Minister to issue to such delegates a Credentials Certificate in the form set out in the Schedule to the Constitution (See Form 6);

(h) to co-ordinate the work of the Church within the District;

(i) to make such recommendations as are throught necessary for the attention of any officer or Conference of the Church having authority over the District;

(j) The conduct of all meetings of the District Conference shall

be in accordance with the Rules of Meetings contained in Chapter VIII.

56. COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

(a) The Economic, Morals, Ecclesiastical, Sunday School and Youth Committees shall prepare reports for tabling at the District Conference on such matters as they may be required to do by the District Minister.

(b) The Administrative Committee shall under the Chairmanships of the District Trustees consider all reports required in terms of Clause 39 of this Chapter to be sent to the Secretary of the District Conference, and to table a comprehensive report of all matters pertaining to the administration of the Church in the District, with particular reference to its financial position.

(c) The Examining Committee.

(i) The most Senior Minister of the three Ministers duly elected to the Examining Committee shall be its Chairman.

(ii) The function of the Examining Committee shall be to test the suitability of aspirant candidates for the ministry recommended by the Circuit Conference.

(iii) The Committee shall decide the time and place for the examination of such aspirants and shall cause a notice of such meeting to be sent to them by the District Steward.

(iv) On the date so fixed for its meeting the Committee shall examine the aspirant by enquiring into his educational, moral and spiritual qualities, and if satisfied that he has attained a minimum educational qualification of Standard 6 and is of suitable character, shall recommend him for acceptance by the Ordination Committee of the Supreme Conference.

(v) The names of all recommended aspirants shall be sent by the District Steward to the General Secretary.

(vi) Should the Examining Committee refuse to make such recommendation, there shall be no right of appeal against such decision save that after the expiry of one year the aspirant shall have the right to present him-

self again to the Circuit Conference for recommendation.

(vii) Should the Examining Committee a second time refuse to recommend him, it shall then be obliged to state its full reason for so doing to the General Secretary, who shall advise the aspirant that he has the right to present himself directly for acceptance as a Minister by the Ordination Committee of the Supreme Conference.

THE DISTRICT TRIBUNAL

57. In each District there shall be constituted a District Tribunal, which shall consist of-

(a) The District Minister, who shall be its Chairman,
(b) The District Steward, and
(c) The District Trustee.

58. The District Tribunal shall be convened by its Chairman whenever an appeal from a conviction by a Circuit Tribunal within the District, or a complaint against any member of a Circuit Tribunal within the District, is brought within the Rules of Procedure laid down in Chapter VI.

59. The District Tribunal shall have authority in accordance with such procedure to adjudicate upon any such appeal or complaint, but shall have no authority in respect of complaints brought against members of the District Tribunal itself or against any officer of the Church, superior in rank to such members, who may be residing within the District.

60. The District Tribunal shall have all such powers as are vested in Tribunals of the Church by Chapter VI.

D.

JOINT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

61. Whenever two or more District Conferences resolve that it would be desirable for a Joint Conference of such District to be held, the Bishop shall convene such a Conference at a suitable time and place.

62. All delegates who in terms of this Chapter are entitled to attend a District Conference shall be obliged, save for good cause, to attend any such Joint District Conference.

Minister save that of administering the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper and of performing batisms.

(d) He shall hold office for one year, after which his licence may be renewed by the District Minister for a further year.

68. Retired Ministers

(a) Any Minister of the Church who has retired from office shall nevertheless be entitled to assume temporarily the powers of a Parish Minister where owing to illness, suspension or removal from office of such Parish Minister he is required to do so by the District Minister concerned.

(b) A retired Minister shall have his name inscribed in the Membership Book of the Parish where he resides.

(c) He shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Supreme Conference as a full delegate for which purpose he shall be issued by the parish Minister with a Credentials Certificate for Retired Ministers in the form set out in the Schedule. (See Form 8).

CHAPTER IV

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHURCH

A. THE SUPREME CONFERENCE.
B. THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.
C. THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL.
D. THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.
E. THE ORDINATION COMMITTEE.
F. RESEARCH COMMITTEES.

A.

THE SUPREME CONFERENCE

1. The supreme authority of the Church shall be vested in the Supreme Conference, which is an assembly representative of all members and organisations within the Church.

2. (a) The Supreme Conference shall meet once in each year at a time and place to be announced by the Bishop, after consultation with the Executive Church Council at the close of the proceding Supreme Conference.
   (b) A meeting of the Supreme Conference may be called at any other time during a given year if
      (i) in the opinion of the Executive Church Council extraordinary circumstances have arisen requiring a meeting of the Supreme Conference, or
      (ii) a majority of District Conferences resolve that a meeting of the Supreme Conference be held.

3. (a) Whenever an ordinary meeting of the Supreme Conference is required in terms of the Constitution, notices in writing of such meeting shall be sent to all persons entitled to attend under the hand of the General Secretary at least one month prior to the date of such meeting.
   (b) Whenever an extraordinary meeting of the Supreme Conference is called before any District Conference, notices of such meeting shall be sent to those delegates who in terms of the Constitution were entitled to represent such District at the Previous meeting of the Supreme Conference.

(c) The proceedings of the Supreme Conference shall not be vitiated by the non-receipt of any such notice by one or more delegates, provided that the General Secretary offers proof to the satisfaction of the Supreme Conference that all notices required to be sent were in fact duly despatched.

4. The following persons shall be entitled and obliged, save for good cause, to attend meetings of the Supreme Conference:
   (a) The Bishop.
   (b) The General Secretary.
   (c) The Treasurer General.
   (d) The Members of the General Board of Trustees, save that its Chairman may be excused from attending.
   (e) The District Minister of each District.
   (f) The District Steward of each District.
   (g) The Circuit Minister of each Circuit.
   (h) The Circuit Steward of each Circuit.
   (i) The Circuit Deacon of each Circuit.
   (j) The Minister of each Parish.
   (k) Three delegates, or their alternates, elected by each District Conference.
   (l) All missionaries and/or exhorters appointed in a District or Circuit.
   (m) All retired ministers of the Church.
   (n) Three delegates elected by The Women's Mite Missionary Society of each District in terms of their own Constitution.
   (o) One delegate from the Jevenile Society of each District elected in terms of their own Constitution, and who shall not be less than 18 years of age.

5. Only the persons mentioned in Clause 4 of this Chapter shall be entitled to vote on any matters raised in the Supreme Conference, provided that such persons are at the time of any such vote in possession of a document or symbol duly issued to them by the Credentials Committee of the Supreme Conference in terms of Clause 24 of this Chapter.

6. The Executive Church Council in its discretion may invite any person, whether or not a member of the Church, to attend the Supreme Conference, and such persons shall have the right to participate in any discussion but not the right to vote.

THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SUPREME CONFERENCE

7. The Supreme Conference shall elect the Bishop the Church in conformity with the procedure and rules laid down in Chapter V.
8. It shall have the right to confirm the position of General Secretary, Treasurer General, District Minister and the Chairman of the General Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Bishop, and such officers, if so confirmed shall hold office for five years.
9. It shall appoint a Judical Committee consisting of eleven delegates but excluding the Bishop, the General Secretary and Treasurer General, which Committee shall have the powers set out in Clause 18 of this Chapter.
10. It shall adjudicate upon any appeals which in terms of Chapter VI or Clause 28 of this Chapter may be placed before it.
11. It shall elect to the Supreme Tribunal two delegates, who shall hold office for one year.
12. It shall make rules for the due administration of the Church, save that such rules may not after the Article of Faith set out in Chapter I, nor may such rules prescribe new tenents of doctrine or dogma.
13. It shall receive and debate such reports of its sub-committees as are required to be tabled in terms of Clause 43 of this Chapter.
14. It shall discuss and decide upon all matters of general interest to the Church.
15. The conduct of meetings of the Supreme Conference shall follow the procedure laid down in Chapter VIII, save that the Executive Church Council may prescribe such ritual as it deems fit.

B.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

16. Upon its election by the Supreme Conference, the Judicial Committee shall proceed to elect a Chairman from amongst its members, who, together with the other members of the Committee, shall hold office until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Supreme Conference.
17. The Judical Committee shall be convened by its Chairman whenever a complaint against the Bishop, the General Secre-

tary of the Treasurer General is brought within the Rules of Procedure laid down in Chapter VI.

18. The Judical Committee shall have authority in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter VI to adjudicate upon any such complaint, save that the following special rules shall apply in case of trials before the Judicial Committee:-
    (a) When notice of the charge is sent to the accused he shall be informed of his right to be represented at the ensuing trial by a practising advocate or attorney, who need not be a member of the Church;
    (b) The accused shall have the right at his trial te bo represented by such practising advocate or attorney.
    (c) Should the accused be acquitted at his trial or at a subsequent appeal, the Judicial Committee shall be entitled to recommend to the General Board Trustees that all reasonable costs incurred by the accused in his defence shall be paid out of Church funds; and
    (d) The General Board of Trustees if satisfied as to the reasonable nature of the costs so incurred by the accused shall reimburse the accused accordingly.
    (e) A quorum for the Judicial Committee shall be at least seven.

C.

THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL

19. At the Supreme Conference there shall be constituted a Supreme tribunal comprising:
    (a) The Bishop who shall be its Chairman;
    (b) The General Secretary;
    (c) The Treasurer General; and
    (d) The District Ministers of the Church;
    (e) Two delegates elected by the Supreme Conference.

20. (a) The Supreme Tribunal shall be convened by its Chairman whenever an appeal from a conviction by a District Tribunal or a complaint against any member of a District Tribunal is brought within the Rules of Procedure laid down in Chapter VI.
    (b) Any District Minister or delegate member as may be involved in any way whatsoever in such complaint or appeal shall not sit as a member at the Tribunal.

21. (a) The Supreme Tribunal shall have authority in accordance with such procedure to adjudicate upon any such appeal or complaint, and shall also have authority to try any member of the Church who in terms of the Constitution may not be brought for trial before any lesser Tribunal.

(b) The Supreme Tribunal shall have no jurisdiction in respect of complaints brought against the Bishop, the General Secretary or the Treasurer General.

22. The Supreme Tribunal shall have such powers as are vested in Tribunals of the Church in terms of Chapter VI.

D.

THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

23. Prior to any meeting of the Supreme Conference, the Executive Church Council shall constitute a Credentials Committee, which shall consist of:-

(a) The General Secretary, who shall be its Chairman;
(b) The Assistant General Secretary, who in the absence of the General Secretary shall act as Chairman; and
(c) One other member of the Church who in the opinion of the Executive Church Council is qualified by reason of his experience of church matters to officiate on his Committee.

24. The function of the Credentials Committee shall be to ensure that all delegates to the Supreme Conference are entitled to attend and vote in its deliberations and to issue to such delegates a certificate and symbol in the forms set out in the schedule. (See Form 9 and 10).

25. On a date to be fixed by the Bishop, the Credentials Commitee shall assemble at some place suitable for the reception of delegates to the Supreme Conference.

26. (a) Each delegate to the Conference shall upon arrival present himself to the Committee and produce to it written authority of his appointment as a delegate to the Supreme Conference.

(b) Such written authroity shall be issued by the District Minister concerned whether the delegate attends ex officio or as an elected delegate, and shall be in the form set out in the Schedule. (See Form 6 and 8).

27. The Credentials Committee shall compile a list of names of all qualified delegates and a certified copy thereof signed by alle members of the Credentials Committee shall be handed to the General Secretary for tabling at the Supreme Conference.

28. (a) The decision of the Credentials Committee as to the qualification of any delegate shall be final and not subject to any appeal, save that with leave of the Bishop any member refused recognition by the Credentials Committee as a delegate shall have the right to appeal for recognition to the Supreme Conference as soon as the Conference has been convened for its first session.

    (b) Should the Supreme Conference decide that the delegate in question is entitled to participate in its deliberations as a delegate he shall be received into the Conference as a delegate, and be entitled to receive the requisite certificate and symbol.

E.

THE ORDINATION COMMITTEE

29. There shall be constituted by the Executive Church Council an Ordination Committee consisting of five ministers of the Church, of whom the most senior shall be its Chairman.

30. The function of the Ordination Committee shall be to examine all aspirants for the Ministry as have been recommended by the Examing Committee of a District Conference, or who apply in terms of Clause 54(c) (vii) of Chapter III, and if satisfied as to the suitability of the aspirant to refer him for ordination by the Bishop in plenary session of the Supreme Conference.

31. The Committee shall meet at a time and place deemed suitable for the examination of aspirant ministers and deacons and shall cause such aspirants to be notified accordingly by the General Secretary.

ASPIRANT MINISTERS

32. In the examination of the aspirant minister the Committee shall satisfy itself as to-

    (a) his knowledge of the doctrine, history and discipline of the Church;

(b) his educational qualifications, for which purpose the aspirant shall produce written proof of any examinations passed by him. If no such written proof can be produced by a candidate he shall submit himself to such educational test, oral or written, as may be devised by the Committee.

33. If satisfied that the aspirant has attained the required standard of knowledge and is a man devote to the service of God, the Committee shall pronounce him accepted as a Minister of the Church and refer hom for ordination by the Bishop.

34. The Committee shall from time to time draw up courses of study for candidates for the Ministry.

35. Notwithstanding the above provisions the Committee may also pronounce a candidate as a Minister of the Church if satisfied that he has been a minister of some other orthodox church recognised by the Executive Church Council and has become a member of the Church.

ASPIRANT DEACONS

36. Any member of the Church who has in terms of the Constitution attended the Supreme Conference as a delegate shall be entitled to be pronounced a Deacon upon satisfying the Committee that he has been a student at any Institution or college for the study of the Bible, recognised by the Ordination Committee, for at least two years and is a person of integrity and devotion to the service of God.

37. A member who has been pronounced a deacon and has acted in that capacity for at least two years shall be entitled thereafter to present himself to the Ordination Committee for acceptance as a Minister of the Church and shall be so accepted upon the Committee being statisfied by enquiry in terms of Clause 32 hereof.

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

38. The Bishop in consultation with the Ordination Committee shall devise a ritual suitable for the ordination of Ministers.

39. At such time as the Executive Church Council will decide the Bishop shall proceed with the ordination of ministers before the Supreme Conference in plenary session.

40. Upon the Minister being so ordained he shall receive a certificate of appointment under the hand of the Bishop and the General Secretary in the form set out in the Schedule. (See Form II7.

F.

RESEARCH COMMITTEES OF THE SUPREME CONFERENCE

41. It shall be the function and duty of all delegates appointed to Research Committees by the Bishop as provided for in Clause 33 of Chapter V to attend the meetings of such committees.
42. Each Committee shall elect a Chairman and Secretary from its members.
43. Each Committee shall compile and table such reports, or undertake such other work as my be required of it by the Bishop.
44. Without derogating from such other duties as may be assigned by the Bishop to the Finance Committee it shall be the specific duty of this Committee to compile a full statement of the financial affairs of the Church during the preceding year based on the reports submitted by the District Conferences in terms of Clause 58(e) of Chapter III and to send through the General Secretary a copy of such statement once it has been adopted in the Supreme Conference together with any addenda thereto to the Chairman of the General Board of Trustees.

CHAPTER V

THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH

A. THE BISHOP
B. THE EXECUTIVE CHURCH COUNCIL
C. THE GENERAL SECRETARY
D. THE TREASURER GENERAL

A.

THE BISHOP

ELIGIBILITY

1. The Bishop shall be elected only from the ranks of the Retiring Bishop, the District Ministers, and any Past Bishop, and shall hold office until death, resignation, retirement removed, or pensioned.
2. No person shall be eligible as Bishop if during the term of office he has been removed from his office or suspended from his office for a period exceeding six months.

THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP

3. (a) Whenever it becomes necessary to fill the office of Bishop either through expiry of his term of office, removal from office, or death, the Supreme Conference shall during its normal session enter into devotional prayer led by the outgoing Bishop of the last Saterday before the close of its proceedings, and shall supplicate for the help and guidance of God in the ensuing election.

   (b) In the event of the Bishop having died before the expiry of his term of office or having been removed or suspended from office such devotional prayer shall be conducted by the senior District Minister present.

4. (a) The proceedings for the election of Bishop shall be conducted under the chairmanship of a Returning Officer who shall be a duly qualified and Practising Attorney or Advocate but who need not be a member of the Church and who shall be nominated by the Executive Church Council for the position.

(b) At the commencement of the proceedings the General Secretary shall introduce to the Conference the Returning Officer who shall state his function and explain any procedural matters he thinks fit.

(c) The Returning Officer shall take sole charge of the ensuing proceedings and his rulings upon any points of order or procedure shall be final binding.

5. The General Secretary shall then call the Roll of all delegates to the Conference entitled to vote in terms of Clauses 4 and 5 of Chapter IV and shall record the names of all such persons present.

6. The Returning Officer shall satisfy himself by reference to the document or symbol handed to delegates by the Credentials Committee that all persons present are entitled to vote. Should any person not entitled to vote be present, the Returning Officer shall call upon him to leace.

7. The Returning Officer shall call for nominations for two scrutineers. Each such nomination shall be duly proposed and seconded and from those so nominated two shall be elected on a majority vote by show of hands.

8. (a) The Returning Officer shall call for nominations for position of Bishop.

(b) In so doing he shall explain to the Conference that such nominations may only be made from the ranks of the out-going Bishop, the District Ministers of the Church and any past Bishop if eligible in terms of Clauses 1 and 2 hereof.

10. Each candidate accepted for election shall be called upon by the Returning Officer to read out and adhere to a pledge in the fy himself that the persons accepted for nomination are willing and eligible to stand for election.

55. Each candidate accepted for election shall be called upon by the Returning Officer to read out and adhere to a pledge in the following form:-

"I, the undersigned,..... do hereby declare that I will abide by the result of the election for Bishop and hereby waive any right I may have to challenge or dispute the calidity of this election. Furthermore if defeated I pledge loyalty and support to the successful candidate."

11. The Returning Officer shall issue to each delegate entitled to vote a ballot paper which shall be in the form set out in the Schedule. (See Form 12).

12. (a) Voting shall take place by secret ballot.
    (b) The General Secretary shall call the names of delegates who shall come forward to the Returning Officer as called and shall hand to him their ballot paper on which they shall have written the name of their choice as Bishop. Such ballot paper shall be folded and placed by the delegate in a box kept for the purpose.
    (c) Should a delegate be illiterate the Returning Officer shall ask him in private the name of his choice and shall in the presence only of such delegate record such name on the ballot paper and thereupon fold and place it in the box.

13. (a) Upon all votes being cast the Returning Officer shall adjourn the meeting while he and the Scrutineers count the ballot papers.
    (b) Notwithstanding any error in a ballot paper in the spelling of the candidates' names, the Returning Officer if satisfied as to the identity of the candidate shall allocate such vote to that candidate.

14. (a) The candidate obtaining most votes shall be the successfull candidate.
    (b) Should two or more candidates top the poll with an eqaul number of votes, all other candidates shall be deemed to have been eliminated from the election.
    (c) In such event the Returning Officer shall reconstitute the Conference and new ballot papers shall be issued and the same procedure as above shall apply for the casting of votes save that in this case only those candidates who have topped the poll shall be eligible for election.
    (d) Should there still be a tie between the candidates in the second ballot, the same procedure as above shall apply until such time as one candidate has received more votes than any other.

15. The Returning Officer shall reconvene the Conference and shall announce the name of the successful candidate and in so doing declare him duly elected Bishop of the Ethiopian Church of South Africa.

16. The Conference shall then adjourn to permit the new Bishop to done his robes of office and to arrange for the induction service.
17. The Returning Officer may be excused from further attendance at the Conference.

INDUCTION OF THE BISHOP

18. Upon the entry of the Bishop Elect an Induction Service shall be conducted by the senior District Minister present.
19. Persons other than delegates who in the opinion of the Executive Church Council should be present at this service may be invited to attend, and should the wife of the new Bishop be present she shall be accorded a place of honour on the dais.
20. The Divine Induction Service shall follow the following order:-
    (a) The Te Deum, followed by a Bible lesson from the Old Testament, and the second lesson from the New Testament.
    (b) Hymn and prayer by the Senior District Minister present or by the retiring Bishop himself.
    (c) The Lord's Prayer.
    (d) Hymn and Retiring Bishop's sermon and exhortation.
    (e) Another hymn after which the new Bishop flanked by his General Secretary Designate and Treasurer General Designate shall be brought before the table to announce to the assembly the following declaration:-

        "I, ... elected Bishop of the Ethiopian Church of South Africa, do hereby declare that I shall administer this Body strictly in accordance with the Will of God and in agreement with the Rules and Regulations of the Ethiopian Church recorded in the Constitution.

        I further declare my faith in all the Ministers whom I shall appoint in Council, as well as other servants of the Church, and believe that by their help, I shall fulfill the high call of God Almighty. AMEN."
    (f) Another hymn follows after the Retiring Bishop or Senior District Minister present has handed over to the New Bishop the Church Chest saying as follows:-

        "Brother ..... I have pleasure to hand over to your Fatherly care this Chest of

Documents and Title Deeds and other historical documents for your safe keeping.

I bid you Fare thee well over the term of office and may God Almighty ever be your Guard and Guide. AMEN."

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE BISHOP

21. As the titular head of the Church it shall be the Bishop's duty at all times to strive for the attainment of the Christian ideal both in himself and in the members of the Church; to comfort himself with dignity, charity and forbearance, and never to allow himself to be drawn personally into any matter brought before him.

22. The Bishop is the highest official in the Church having authority over all members and officers and acts on behalf of the Supreme Conference to whom he is in the last resort accountable.

23. (a) The Bishop in his discretion shall nominate member from among the ranks of Circuit Ministers and past District Ministers for appointment by the Supreme Conference as District Ministers.

    (b) The Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council shall appoint a chairman of the General Board of Trustees from amongst position of trustees.

24. The Bishop in consultation with the District Ministers concerned shall appoint Circuit Ministers.

25. The Bishop in consultation with the District and Circuit Ministers concerned shall appoint Ministers of the Parish.

26. The Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council shall have the right to transfer to another area any Minister appointed as aforesaid.

27. The Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council have the right to fill any vacancy occurring amongst officers of the Church whether by death, resignation, suspension or removal until such time as the vacancy in question can be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

28. The Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council and the District Minister, Circuit Minister or Parish Minister con-

cerned shall have the right to assign to any District, Circuit or Parish, Deacons, who have been accepted by the Ordination Committee and Missionaries.

29. The Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council shall appoint the time and place for the Supreme Conference and in consultation with the District Minister concerned shall appoint or confirm the date and place for District Conferences, and convene Joint District Conferences when required in terms of Clause 62 of Chapter III.

30. The Bishop shall have the right to be present at all meetings and all conferences of the Church held in accordance with the Constitution and at such meetings where he himself is not the Chairman, shall be accorded full recognition and honour appropriate to his position.

31. The Bishop in his discretion shall nominate two members for appointment by the Supreme Conference as General Secretary and Treasurer General.

32. At meetings of the Supreme Conference, without derogation from his powers as Chairman as contained in Chapter VIII the Bishop shall in his discretion appoint Marshalls for the proper maintenance of order and discipline during the proceedings of the Supreme Conference and such Marshalls shall derive their authority and instructions from him.

33. The Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council shall appoint delegates to the Supreme Conference in such numbers as he may decide, to serve on the following Research Committees, there to do such work as required by him:-

    (i) Contingent Committe.
    (ii) Finance Committee.
    (iii) Committees of Studies from the first to the fourth year. Education Committee.
    (v) Sunday School Committe.
    (vi) Temperance Committee.
    (vii) Statistic Committee and
    (viii) Committee on the State of the Church.

34. The Bishop in the exercise of his spiritual office shall ordain such candidates for the ministry who have been accepted by the Ordination Committee of the Supreme Conference in accordance with the provisions of Clause 33 of Chapter IV.

35. The Bishop shall be entitled to invite any person to be present as an observer at any meeting or conference of the Church.
36. The Bishop may grant leave to any person disqualified by the Credentials Committee to appeal to the Supreme Conference in terms of Clause 28 (a) of Chapter IV if he thinks it just so to do.
37. The Bishop shall further fulfill all specific duties as may be assigned to him in terms of the Constitution.
38. The Bishop shall be entitled to require delegates attending the Supreme Conference to contribute out of Christian charity what they are able to afford to a plate collection which shall be made at such Conferences, and to retain all such monies as may be so collected for his own personal support without the need of accounting therefor to any other person in the Church.

B.

THE EXECUTIVE CHURCH COUNCIL

39. The Executive Church Council shall consist of:-
    (a) the Bishop;
    (b) the General Secretary;
    (c) the Treasurer General;
    (d) all District Ministers of the Church.
40. Its Chairman shall be the Bishop or in his absence the senior District Minister present.
41. The function of the Executive Church Council shall be:-
    (a) to implement all resolutions passed at the Supreme Conference;
    (b) to represent the Supreme Conference during its adjournment;
    (c) to assist the Bishop in the administration of his duties;
    (d) to consult with the Bishop on all matters as are assigned to the Bishop and the Executive Church Council by the Constitution;
    (e) to prepare the agenda, work, and ritual of the Supreme Conference;
    (f) to recommend to the Supreme Conference whatever is thought necessary for the proper administration of the Church;

(g) to determine the division of the Church into such Parishes, Circuits and Districts as it may deem fit;
(h) to prescribe the work of Sunday Schools;
(i) to ensure the appointment of duly qualified Ministers as Marriage Officers;
(j) to compile a list of orthodox Churches as required by Clause 16 of Chapter II and Clause 35 of Chapter IV;
(k) to appoint District Trustees as required by Clause 51 of Chapter III;
(l) to constitute a Credentials Committee as required by Clause 23 of Chapter IV;
(m) to constitute an Ordination Committee as required by Clause 29 of Chapter IV;
(n) to nominate a Returning Officer when required by Clause 4 (a) of Chapter V;
(o) to nominate a Presiding Officer when required by Clause 57 (a) of Chapter VI;
(p) to determine the stipends to be paid to Ministers of the Church, the remuneration to be paid to persons acting on behalf of the Church, to prescribe the admission fee payable by new members, the contributions to be made by all members, and generally to administer all finances of the Church in collaboration with the General Board of Trustees as provided for in Chapter VII.

41. The Executive Church Council shall meet at least once every three months or more often if the Bishop so deems necessary.

C.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY

42. The General Secretary shall be the senior temporal officer of the Church and as such shall ensure that all resolutions properly passed at meetings or conferences of the Church are duly put into effect.
43. He shall fulfill all further duties as may be specifically assigned to him by the Constitution.
44. He shall hold office for five years upon his nomination by the Bishop being approved by the Supreme Conference, save that

should a Bishop be elected during the said five years, his office shall terminate on such election.

45. In the course of his duties as Secretary he shall conform to the Rules pertaining to secretaries laid down in Chapter VIII, and in particular shall -

(a) compile and maintain a list of all duly admitted members;
(b) transmit to the Chairman of the Ordination Committee all names submitted in terms of Clause 57 of Chapter IV;
(c) record and faitfully preserve all business transacted at meetings of the Supreme Conference, the Executive Church Council and the Supreme Tribunal;
(d) preserve in place of safety all documents and papers belonging to the Church.

ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

46. He shall have the right in consultation with the Executive Church Council to appoint from members of the Church an Assistant Secretary, whose authority and instruction shall derive from the General Secretary and who shall hold office for the same period as the General Secretary himself, save that he may be removed from office at any time by a majority decision of the Executive Church Council, which shall be final, and there shall be no right of appeal against such decision.

D.

THE TREASURER GENERAL

47. The Treasurer General shall be the senior Finance Officer of the Church, and as such shall ensure that all resolutions pertaining to finance which in terms of this Constitution are laid before him are carried into effect.

48. He shall fulfill all duties as may be specially assigned to him by the Constitution.

49. He shall hold office for five years upon his nomination by the President being approved of by the Supreme Conference, save that should a new Bishop be elected during the said five years, his office shall terminate on such election.

50. He shall prepare in collaboration with the General Board of Trustees a statement of the financial position of the Church during the preceding year for tabling at the annual session of the Supreme Conference.

51. He shall keep and preserve all books of account as are requisite for the fulfilment of his duties and make such books available for inspection at any time at the request of the Executive Church Council or the General Board of Trustees.

CHAPTER VI

THE DISCIPLINARY CODE

A. MISCONDUCT.
B. AUTHORITY OF THE TRIBUNALS.
C. TRIALS.
D. APPEALS IN GENERAL.
E. APPEALS TO THE SUPREME CONFERENCE.
F. INCIDENTAL MATTERS.

A.

MISCONDUCT

1. Any member of the Church who: –
   (a) wrongfully appropriates to his own use Church funds or property; or
   (b) behaves in a sacrilegious manner or brings into redicule or contempt the accepted dogma of the Church; or
   (c) by his actions or conduct or words brings the Church into public contempt or ridicule; or
   (d) refuses without good cause to obey and comply with the lawful instructions endowed with authority in terms of the Constitution; or
   (e) behaves in a manner unbecoming to a good Christian; or
   (f) behaves in a manner inconsistent with the good order and discipline of the Church; or
   (g) fails without good cause to comply with any duty assigned to him by the Constitution

   shall be liable to be tried and sentenced if found guilty in accordance with the procedure contained herein.

B.

AUTHORITY OF THE TRIBUNALS

2. The Parish Tribunal shall have authority to adjudicate on any complaint alleging misconduct as hereinbefore stated as is conferred by clause 21 of Chapter III.
3. The Circuit Tribunal shall have authority to adjudicate: –

(a) in respect of any complaint alleging misconduct as hereinbefore stated as is conferred by Clause 42 of Chapter III; and

(b) upon appeals against any conviction and order imposed by a Parish Tribunal.

4. The District Tribunal shall have authority to adjudicate: –

(a) in respect of any complaint elleging misconduct as hereinbefore stated as is conferred by Clause 59 of Chapter III; and

(b) upon appeals against any conviction and order imposed by a Circuit Tribunal.

5. The Supreme Tribunal shall have authority to adjudicate: –

(a) in respect of any complaint alleging misconduct as hereinbefore stated as is conferred by Clause 21 of Chapter IV; and

(b) upon appeals against any conviction and order imposed by a District Tribunal.

6. The Judicial Committee shall have the authority conferred by Clause 17 of Chapter V to adjudicate only in respect of any complaint alleging misconduct as hereinbefore stated brought against the Bishop, the General Secretary or the Treasurer General.

7. The Supreme Conference shall have authority to adjudicate upon appeals brought in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter against convictions and order made by the Supreme Tribunal or by the Judicial Committee.

C.

TRIALS

COMPLAINTS

8. Any complaints brought against a member of the Church shall be in writing and shall state clearly and concisely the nature of the alleged misconduct; it shall also state the names of any witnesses who can depose to the facts giving rise to such complaint.

9. The complaint shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Tribunal having authority over the accused.

10. Upon receipt of the complaint the Chairman shall consult with other members of his Tribunal to arrange a time and place for the hearing of the complaint, and at least two weeks prior to such date shall cause written notice to be given
    (a) to the complaint, which notice shall advise him of the time and place for the hearing of the complaint and require him to be present together with such witnesses as he may have indicated in his complaint; and
    (b) to the accused, which notice shall advise him of the time and place for the hearing of the complaint and require him to be present together with any witnesses he may require to speak in his defence or in mitigation. The notice to the accused shall also state the nature of his alleged offence, the name of the complaint and of any witnesses as may be indicated by the complaint. The notice shall further require the accused to lodge with the Chairman at least one week before the indicated trial date a statement in writing indicating whether he is guilty of the misconduct alleged, and if so what excuse or other circumstance he can offer in mitigation thereof together with the names of any witnesses who can speak to such circumstances; or if he is not guilty hes reasons for maintaining so, together with the names of any witnesses who can speak in his defence.

THE TRIAL

11. Save in the case of proceedings before the Supreme Tribunal or Judicial Committee no complaint or accused shall have the right to legal representation.
12. Upon the date indicated for the trial the Tribunal shall: –
    (a) Dismiss the complaint if the complaint without good reason be not present; or
    (b) Hold the complaint proved if the accused without good reason be not present; or
    (c) If deemed expedient for the just decison of the matter adjourn the hearing until another date.
13. All members of the Church shall have the right to be present at any trial save that the Chairman in his discretion may direct that the proceedings be held in camera where allegations of indecency are in issue.

RECUSAL

14. (a) The Chairman shall ask the complaint and the accused whether they have any objection to the members of the tribunal adjudicating upon their complaint.
    (b) Objection may be validly taken by the complaint or accused if he can show that by reason of personal knowledge or partiality any member of the Tribunal will not be able to bring an unbiased mind to bear upon the issues.
    (c) If such proof is offered to the Chairman he shall order the recusal of the member of the Tribunal in question and shall proceed to try the matter together with the remaining members of the Tribunal.
    (d) Should more than one member of the Tribunal be so recused, the Chairman shall adjourn the proceedings and require the President to fill the vacancies so caused, which when done will enable the Tribunal as reconstituted to act in accordance with its authority, notwithstanding anything in the Constitution to be contrary contained.

THE ISSUES

15. Where both complainant and accused are present at the trial the Chairman shall formulate the issues between them according to their respective statements and inform them that all evidence as might be led shall be confined to these issues.

PLEA OF NOT GUILTY

16. The accused shall be called upon to plead to the complaint, and should he plead not guilty the trial shall proceed as follows: –
    (a) No oath may be administered to any witnesses, but each witness shall be admonished to tell the truth;
    (b) Evidence shall first be led by the complaint and his witnesses, and upon conclusion of their evidence in chief each witness shall be cross-examined by the accused if he so desires.
    (c) At the close of the evidence tendered by the complainant the Tribunal shall decide whether the complainant has substantially proved his case. If the tribunal decides that the complainant has not so proved his case by a majority of members, the accused shall forthwith be found not guilty.

(d) If by a majority vote of the members of the Tribunal it is held that the complaint has substantially proved his case, the Chairman shall call upon the accused to give evidence in his defence if he so wishes, and shall point out to him that should he fail to give evidence or to call witnesses on his behalf the case may be taken to be proved against him.

(e) Should the accused elect to give evidence, he shall commence and thereafter his witnesses, if any, shall give evidence, and upon conclusion of their evidence in chief the accused and his witnesses shall be cross-examined by the complainant if he so desires.

17. (a) The Chairman of the Tribunal shall have the right to ask any witness questions which will tend to explain any fact or clarify the issue, and a witness may be recalled by the Chairman for this purpose if the Tribunal so deems necessary.

(b) No witness shall be asked any question whether by his adversary or by the Tribunal, the answer to which would tend to incriminate the witness in respect of any issue not before the Tribunal and thereby expose him either to civil or criminal consequences.

18. Upon the conclusion of all evidence led the Chairman shall first call upon the complainant to address argument if he so desires. Save on questions of law or interpretation of the Constitution there shall be no right of reply given to the complainant.

VERDICT

19. (a) The Tribunal shall then retire to consider its verdict, and should it so deem necessary may adjourn the proceedings to a date to be announced.

(b) Decisions of the Tribunal shall be reached by majority vote of its members.

(c) The Tribunal shall not find the accused guilty unless satisfied of his guilt beyond reasonable doubt, that is to say, the Tribunal must be satisfied with moral certainty that the accused is in fact guilty as charged.

(d) The accused may only be found guilty of the specific complaint brought against him. It shall not be competent for the Tribunal to find him guilty of any other misconduct notwithstanding that the evidence led may have disclosed the com-

mission of such other misconduct, unless the accused prior to verdict shall have been specifically asked by the Chairman of the Tribunal whether he can advance any sufficient reason why he should not be found guilty of any such other misconduct.

(e) Upon such verdict being arrived at it shall be the duty of the Chairman to prepare a written judgement of the Tribunal in which he shall briefly state the issues and record the findings of the Tribunal on each fact which has persuaded the Tribunal to its verdict of guilty or not guilty as the case may be.

20. The verdict of the Tribunal shall be announced in open hearing before both the complainant and the accused or in the absence of either should he not be present for good cause.

ON A VERDICT OF GUILTY

21. (a) Should the Tribunal find the accused guilty, the Chairman shall announce such finding and call upon the accused to address any argument or to lead any evidence he may desire in mitigation of punishment.

(b) The accused shall have the right to address such argument and to lead such evidence if he so desires.

(c) The Tribunal shall take into account such argument and evidence together with other circumstances of the case and any other factors which to the Tribunal seem just in arriving at the punishment to be inflicted on the accused.

(d) The Tirbunal shall arrive at the punishment to be inflicted by a majority vote, save that where the Tribunal is not unanimous in its decision on the punishment to be inflicted, any minority member of the Tribunal shall have the right to require the Chairman to incorporate in the judgement his reasons for not so agreeing with the majority together with his opinion of what the punishment should be.

PUNISHMENT

22. In punishing the accused, the Tribunal shall have the right only to: –

(a) expel the accused from the Church, or

(b) suspend the accused from membership of the Church for a period not exceeding six months; or

(c) order his removal from any official position he may at the time hold in the Church provided that such order shall not be a bar to the accused's right to apply thereafter for re-appointment to such office after the expiry of six months; or
(d) recommend to the Bishop if the accused be a paid office-bearer in the Church his transfer to some other Parish, circuit or district of the Church;
(e) reprimand the accused; or
(f) caution and discharge the accused.

23. There shall be no power in a Tribunal to impose any fine or any punishment other than hereinbefore stated.

24. After announcing the punishment the Chairman shall explain to the accused such rights to appeal against such conviction and sentence as are provided for this Chapter.

PLEA OF GUILTY

25. Should the accused plead guilty, the trial shall nevertheless proceed in the manner provided for a plea of not guilty, save that: –
(a) the provisions of Clause 16(c) and 16(d) of this Chapter shall not apply; and
(b) in arriving at its verdict the fact that the accused has pleaded guilty shall be a factor to be taken into account.

THE RECORD

26. (a) It shall be the duty of the Chairman to ensure that a full record of the proceedings is kept by a member of the Tribunal, and in particular he shall ensure that the record of the testimony of each and every witness is adhered to as being correctly recorded at the conclusion of such testimony. Should a witness contend that his evidence has been incorrectly recorded, the Chairman, if so satisfied, shall correct the record accordingly.
(b) The record of the proceedings together with the judgement and punishment shall be prepared in duplicate. One copy shall be preserved by the Chairman, and the other copy, certified by him as being a true and correct record, shall be transmitted to the Chairman of the Tribunal having appellate authority immediately upon an appeal being noted by the accused as provided for in this Chapter.

D.

APPEALS IN GENERAL

FROM A PARISH TRIBUNAL

27. (a) Any member convicted by a Parish Tribunal shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Tribunal having authority, and the decision of such Circuit Tribunal shall be final in all cases save where the punishment imposed by the Parish Tribunal was: –

(i) Expulsion from the Church; or
(ii) Suspension from the Church; or
(iii) Removal from office in the Church; or
(iv) Recommendation of transfer to another area.

(b) In such cases only, a further apeal will lie to the District Tribunal, whose decision shall be final.

FROM A CIRCUIT TRIBUNAL

28. (a) Any member convicted by a Circuit Tribunal shall have the right to appeal to the District Tribunal having authority, and the decision of the District Tribunal shall be final in all cases save where the punishment imposed in the Circuit Tribunal was: –

(i) expulsion from the Church; or
(ii) suspension from the Church; or
(iii) removal from office in the Church; or
(iv) recommendation of transfer to another area.

(b) In such cases only, a further appeal will lie to the Supreme Tribunal, whose decision shall be final.

FROM A DISTRICT TRIBUNAL

29. (a) Any member convicted by a District Tribunal shall have the right to appeal to the Supreme Tribunal, and the decision of the Supreme Tribunal shall be final in all cases, save where the punishment imposed in the District Tribunal was: –

(i) expulsion from the Church; or
(ii) suspension from the Church; or

(iii) removal from office in the Church; or
(iv) recommendation of transfer to another area.

(b) In such cases only, a further appeal will lie to the Supreme Conference, whose decision in such cases shall be final.

FROM THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

30. (a) Any member convicted by the Judicial Committee shall have the right to appeal to the Supreme Conference if the punishment imposed was: –

(i) expulsion from the Church; or
(ii) suspension from the Church; or
(iii) removal from office in the Church.

(b) In such cases the decision of the Supreme Conference shall be final.

(c) No right of appeal from the Judicial Committee will lie to the Supreme Conference in respect of any other punishment save those enumerated herein.

PROCEDURE ON APPEALS IN GENERAL

NOTICE OF APPEAL

31. Within one week of the conviction and/or punishment sought to be appealed against, the accused shall lodge with the Chairman of the Tribunal convicting him a Notice of Appeal in which he shall state clearly the grounds for his appeal.

32. (a) Where the appeal is brought against the conviction the Notice of Appeal shall state in what respect it is contended that the findings of the Tribunal were wrong.

(b) In cases where an appeal is brought against the sentence the Notice of Appeal shall state in what respects the sentence is unjust and what facts the Tribunal either wrongly took into account or failed to take into account.

33. The Notice of Appeal shall refer exclusively to the evidence and judgement contained in the record of the proceedings and may not enter into new matter, save where it is contended that the record does not correctly reflect the proceedings, in which case full details thereof shall be given.

34. Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Chairman of the Tribunal appealed from shall forward to the Chairman of the

Tribunal appealed to: –

(a) the Notice of Appeal;
(b) a copy of the proceedings certified by him as correct; and
(c) such comments as his Tribunal may deem fit to add in respect of any new matter raised in the Notice of Appeal.

PROCEDURE PRELIMINARY TO APPEAL

35. Upon receiving the Notice of Appeal and other annexures hereinbefore mentioned, the Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal shall in consultation with the other members thereof forthwith fix a time and place for the hearing of the appeal provided one month at least shall elapse between the receipt of the Notice of Appeal and the time so fixed for the hearing of the Appeal.

36. The Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal shall give written notice of the time and place for the hearing of the appeal to the accused and to the complainant and shall call upon them to appear at the appeal personally or to indicate in good time the name of any member whom they desire to represent them at the appeal.

37. Prior to the hearing of the appeal the Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal shall ensure that all members of his Tribunal have read the record of the proceedings.

HEARING OF THE APPEAL

38. (a) It shall be the duty of each member of the Appeal Tribunal to attend at the hearing of the Appeal.
(b) Where two members of any Appeal Tribunal, cannot be present, the Chairman shall require the Bishop to fill such vacancies.

39. It shall be the duty of the accused or his representative to be present at the hearing of his appeal and should he or his representative fail to appeal, without good reason, his appeal shall be dismissed and the conviction and the punishment imposed by the Tribunal appealed from shall be confirmed.

40. Should the complainant or his representative fail to appear at the hearing of the appeal, the appeal shall nevertheless continue in his absence.

41. Whether or not the complainant or his representative is present the Chairman at the commencement of the appeal shall formulate the issues on appeal and shall read out any addenda as may have been attached to the record by the Chairman of the Tribunal appealed from.

42. The accused or his representative shall first argue his appeal and shall confine himself exclusively to the issues raised on the record, save where the appeal raises the question of whether the proceedings were correctly recorded. In such cases the Appeal Tribunal shall correct the record of the proceedings if it so deems fit and the argument shall thereupon proceed on the record as so amended.

43. The complainant or his representative where present shall have the right of reply which also shall be confined exclusively to the record of the proceedings.

44. The accused or his representative shall have no further right of reply unless the issue be one of law or the interpretation of the Constitution.

45. The Appeal Tribunal shall have the right to ask either party to the appeal such questions as may elucidate their arguments or explain any relevant matter.

46. (a) There shall be no power generally in the Appeal Tribunal to admit new evidence on appeal.
    (b) In cases where new evidence has been discovered only after the conviction, the Appeal Tribunal shall have the right, if it so deems fit, to admit such new evidence which shall be given verbally before it and be subject to the Rules for Trials contained in this Chapter.
    (c) Such right to admit further evidence shall be used in exceptional cases only where the Appeal Tribunal is of the opinion that but for such new evidence an unjust decision may have been arrived at by the Tribunal appealed from.

VERDICT ON APPEAL

47. After argument the Appellate Tribunal shall retire to consider its verdict which shall be arrived at by majority vote of its members.

48. The Appeal Tribunal shall have the right to: –
    (a) uphold the appeal and set aside the conviction and sentence: or
    (b) confirm the conviction; or
    (c) confirm the punishment; or
    (d) confirm the conviction but reduce the punishment if deemed just and equitable in the circumstances of the case.
49. Whatever verdict is arrived at by the Appeal Tribunal the Chairman shall prepare a written judgement in which the reasons persuading the Appeal Tribunal to its verdict shall be stated.
50. Upon the resumption of the hearing the Chairman shall read out to the parties the written reasons prepared for the verdict which shall be incorporated as part of the record of the proceedings.
51. Where the verdict on appeal either confirms the punishment appealed against, or substitutes another punishment, either of which would entitle the accused to further right of appeal, the Chairman shall expiain to the accused his rights to such further appeal as laid down in this Chapter.

FURTHER APPEAL

52. Where in terms of this Chapter an accused has a right of further appeal to another Tribunal the procedure hereinbefore stated shall apply equally to such further appeal.

E.

APPEALS TO THE SUPREME CONFERENCE

53. Where in terms of this Chapter an appeal lies to the Supreme Conference the following special rules shall apply: –
54. The provisions of Clause 31, 32, 33 and 34 of this Chapter shall apply in the case of such appeals, save that the Bishop is deemed Chairman of the Tribunal appealed to, or if he is the appellant, the General Secretary is deemed such Chairman.
55. Upon a Notice of Appeal being lodged the appeal shall be heard at the next annual Supreme Conference; but where the appellant is a member of the executive Church Council and his Notice of Appeal is lodged more than six months before the date set for the annual meeting of the Supreme Conference, his ap-

peal shall be heard by an extraordinary session of the Supreme Conference convened as in Chapter IV provided.

56. (a) At a meeting of the Supreme Conference, whether in normal or extraordinary session, the Appellant shall have the right if he so desires to be represented by a practising advocate or attorney; otherwise the Appellant shall appear in person to argue his appeal.
    (b) If for good cause the Appellant cannot be present he shall advise the Chairman which member if any is willing to represent him.
    (c) The Tirbunal last appealed from shall similarly have the right if it so desires to be represented by either a practising advocate or attorney; otherwise it shall be represented by its Chairman, where he is not the Bishop, or if he is, then the next senior member of the Tribunal.

57. (a) The appeal shall be heard under the Chairmanship of a Presiding Officer who need not be a member of the Church and who shall recieve his appointment from the Executive Church Council.
    (b) Where any member of the Executive Church Council is the appellant the Presiding Officer shall be a practising advocate or attorney who shall receive his appointment from the Executive Church Council.
    (c) The Bishop shall introduce the Presiding Officer to the Conference and explain his function to the delegates, but where the Bishop is the appellant this shall be done by the General Secretary.

58. The Presiding Officer shall comply with the procedure laid down for the qualification of delegates contained in Clause 4 and 5 of Chapter IV.

59. The Presiding Officer shall then cause the entire record of the proceedings appealed against to be read out and interpreted if necessary to the delegates.

60. (a) The Presiding Officer shall call upon the Appellant or his representative, as the case may be, to argue his appeal and this argument shall be addressed to the Presiding Officer.
    (b) Only the Presiding Officer shall be entitled to put questions and such questions shall only be to clarify matters raised in the argument.

61. (a) The Presiding Officer shall call upon the representative of the Tribunal appealed from to argue the appeal and this argument shall be addressed to the Presiding Officer.
    (b) Only the Presiding Officer shall be entitled to put questions and such questions shall only be to clarify matters raised in the argument.

62. The Appellant shall be entitled to a right of reply only in cases where a matter of law or the interpretation of the Constitution be in issue.

63. Whenever in the opinion of the Presiding Officer a ruling should be given on a matter of law or interpretation of the Constitution he shall be entitled to make such a ruling which shall be final and binding upon the Conference.

64. Delegates shall not be entitled to question either the Appellant or the representative of the Tribunal appealed from directly, but any question to clarify an issue may be addressed to the Presiding Officer who in his discretion shall be entitled to call upon either party to the appeal for elucidation.

65. (a) Upon the completion of the argument the Presiding Officer shall sum up on the issues raised and may in so doing add any comment which in his opinion is necessary for the clarification of the issue.
    (b) Having so summed up the Presiding Officer shall explain to the Conference that there are three questions on which delegates will be called upon to vote, namely: –
        (i) Should the conviction stand;
        (ii) If so, should the sentence stand;
        (iii) If the sentence should not stand, to what extent it should be reduced.

66. (a) The Presiding Officer shall then cause to be issued to delegates a ballot paper in the form set out in the Schedule. (See Form 13).
    (b) The Presiding Officer shall explain that in so far as delegates may vote for reduction of sentence they shall do so at a later stage by show of hands.

67. Voting on the issues so formulated by the Presiding Officer shall take place by secret ballot save that where a delegate is illiterate the Presiding Officer in private shall be entitled to assist such

delegate in the completion of his ballot paper and may call upon the assistance of a member of the Executive Church Council to act as an interpreter if such be necessary.

68. (a) The Presiding Officer shall call for nominations for two scrutineers. Each such nomination shall be duly proposed and seconded and from those so nominated two shall be elected on a majority vote by show of hands.
    (b) The Presiding Officer shall adjourn the proceedngs while he and the scrutineers count the ballot papers.
    (c) The issues shall be decided by a majority vote.
69. The Presiding Officer shall reconstitute the Conference and shall announce the result of the appeal.
70. If the result be that by majority vote it has been decided that the Appellant is wrong but that his punishment is too severe, the Presiding Officer shall require the Appellant to leave the meeting and shall then call upon delegates to propose what lesser punishment should be imposed.
71. The Presiding Officer shall explain that punishment in order of severity are as appear in Clause 22 (a) of the Chapter, and that no proposal to increase the punishment shall be in order.
72. All proposals and amendments thereto shall be seconded and shall spesially state what punishment the proposer deems fit.
73. The Presiding Officer shall then put the proposal and any amendments thereto to the meeting which shall proceed by show of hands to vote upon them.
74. The proposal or amendment receiving the majority of votes shall be the punishment to be imposed.
75. The Presiding Officer shall then recall the Appellant and announce the final result of the appeal.
76. The verdict so announced shall be final and binding upon the parties to the appeal and there shall be no further right to appeal thereafter.

F.

INCIDENTAL MATTERS

77. Any member convicted by any Tribunal of the Church and punished by expulsion or suspension of office shall suffer no

disability until such time as any appeal he may bring against such conviction and punishment shall have been disposed of.

78. No member of the Church may be tried twice for the same misconduct arising out of the same facts.

79. No member shall be entitled to take any case arising out of his membership of the Ethiopian Church to a Court of Law until he has exhausted all his remedies provided him by the Constitution.

80. The party to any proceedings shall be entitled to costs of his legal representation and be paid out of the funds of the Church save as is provided in Clause 18 (c) and (d) of Chapter IV.

CHAPTER VII

FINANCE

THE GENERAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Executive Church Council shall constitute a General Board of Trustees which shall consist of:
   (a) A chairman appointed from amongst position of Trustees by the Bishop in consultation with the Executive Church Council being approved by the Supreme Conference.
   (b) The District Trustees who have been apointed in terms of Clause 50 of Chapter III.

THE POWERS AND FUNCTION OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VESTING OF PROPERTY

2. (a) All the movable and the immovable property of the Church, whether already possessed or which may in the future be acquired by the Church shall be vested in the General Board of Trustees to be dealt with by them as they may in consultation with the Executive Church Council decide.
   (b) All immovable property which may in the future be acquired by the Church shall be registered in the name of the Trustees then in office, and wherever practicable, all immovable property presently owned by the Church shall be transferred to and registered in the name of the Trustees then in office.
   (c) The General Board of Trustees shall on resolution by the Executive Church Council be empowered to let, hire, or dispose of, sell, mortgage or hypothecate or in any manner whatsoever allienate lands, buildings, or other immovable property of which the Church is now or may at any time in the future become possessed.
   (d) Any resolution by the Executive Church Council required for the purposes of Clause 2 (a) hereof shall be under the hand of the Bishop and the General Secretary who shall certify it to be a true extract from the minutes of the Executive Church Council and if so certified shall be sufficient authority to the General Board of Trustees to act in terms thereof.

(e) All dealings with the immovable property of the Church shall be under the signature of two of the Trustees then in office, they being duly authorised thereto by the General Board of Trustees.

PERSONAL LIABILITY OF TRUSTEES

3. (a) The Trustees shall be indemnified by the Church against all personal loss or damage sustained by them in regard to any action taken on behalf of the Church and they shall not be obliged to furnish any security to the Master of the Supreme Court or any such other competent official for the due performance by them of their duties in office.

(b) The Trustees shall further be reimbursed by the Executive Church Council for all travelling expenses, expenditure and out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred in respect of services rendered on behalf of the Church by them.

TENURE OF OFFICE

4. The Trustees shall hold office for five years or until death or resignation, or removal from office in the case of District Trustees as provided for in Clause 51 of Chapter III.

COLLECTION OF MONEYS

5. (a) Whenever a report of the Finance Committee of the Supreme Conference has been received from the General Secretary by the Chairman of the General Board of Trustees in terms of Clause 44 of Chapter IV, he shall convene a joint meeting of the Trustees and the Executive Church Council for the formulation of a financial policy for the Church during the ensuing year.

(b) The Board at such meeting shall have the right to advise the Executive Church Council upon: –

(i) the admission fee to be paid by members on joining the Church; and

(ii) the subscription to be paid from time to time during the year by members; and

(iii) the stipends to be paid to Ministers and other office bearers of the Church; and

(iv) any other expenditure which may be warranted in the ensuing year.

(c) The Executive Church Council shall at such meeting determine the monies so to be expended during the ensuing year with particular reference to the moneys to be paid to individuals entitled thereto.

(d) The Board shall as soon as possible thereafter either appoint or confirm in office the Class Leaders recommended to them by Parish Ministers in terms of Clause 4 (e) of Chapter III.

(e) The Board shall open a banking account in the name of the Church at a Central Bank (i.e. in the place where the Chairman resides) and shall ensure that such Bank will transmit to it through its Branches such moneys as may be deposited in the Branches by Class Leaders.

(f) Where it is not possible for a Class Leader by reason of where he lives to deposit moneys in a Branch of such Bank, the Board shall in collaboration with the Executive Church Council decide on a suitable person for the collection of such moneys.

(g) The Board shall by written instruction require such Class Leader to collect from every member of his Parish at such times and in such amounts as have been determined by the Executive Church Council, the admission fee and/or subscription fee, and for this purpose shall issue to him Form 4, and indicate to which Bank or person such moneys as so collected shall be paid.

(h) It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Board to check the original of Form 4 when returned to him by a Class Leader in terms of Clause 5 (e) of Chapter III as against the moneys so deposited, and if not satisfied to call upon the Parish Minister concerned to investigate the matter and report thereon to the Board.

(i) A Class Leader may be removed by the Board from Office on recommendation by a Parish Minister in terms of Clause 4 (h) of Chapter III.

(j) If for any reason the Chairman of the Board is of the opinion that the procedure for collection of moneys requires alteration he shall be entitled to convene a joint meeting of the Board and the Executive Church Council for the purpose of affecting any necessary alterations.

DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS

6. STIPENDS

(a) Every person entitled to a stipend as determined in terms of Clause 5 (b) of this Chapter shall receive such stipend in monthly payments.

(b) It shall be the policy of the Board in collaboration with the Executive Church Council to devise a method: –

(i) for the transmission of the monthly stipend from the Central Bank to the person entitled thereto, either through the Bank itself, or the post office or through some other suitable method as will ensure timeous payment;

(ii) to ensure that proper receipts of all such payments are received by the Chairman of the Board.

MAINTENANCE

(c) The Board may require any District Trustee to incur such expenditure as may be authorised for the maintenance of Church property in the District and if necessary to advance funds to him for such purpose on being satisfied that the expenditure is reasonable.

(d) The Board may similarly advance funds to Parish, Circuit or District Stewards for the maintenance of Ministers' houses on being satisfied that the expenditure is reasonable.

(e) The Board shall reimburse any District Trustee who in terms of Clause 52 (e) of Chapter III has incurred expenditure, on being satisfied that he has acted reasonably in the matter. ter.

OTHER EXPENDITURE

(f) The Board shall reinburse an accused person in terms of Clause 18 (c) and (d) of Chapter IV if satisfied as to the reasonable nature of the costs incurred.

(g) To Chairman of the Board shall be entitled to receive a remuneration for his services payable annually in advance in such amount as will be decided on by the Executive Church Council.

(h) The Board shall be entitled to expend such moneys as may be reasonably necessary for the employment of any person required to render services for the proper management of the Church; the performance of professional services by advocates and attorneys where appointed in terms of Clause 4 (a) of Chapter V and Clause 57 (b) of Chapter VI; and the provision of transport where required by any officer of the Church for the due performance of his duties.

SIGNATORIES

7. All moneys to be paid out of Church funds by the Board in terms of this Chapter shall be by cheque drawn on the Central Bank and signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer General; or in the absence of the Chairman by a Trustee duly authorised by the Board for such purpose.

GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

8. The Board at all times may enquire into and supervise the carrying out of any duties assigned to members by the Constitution concerning the finances of the Church.
9. To this end the Board may delegate its powers to a District Trustee or Trustees.
10. The Board may give directions to Stewards of Parishes, Circuits and Districts to ensure the proper maintenance of Ministers' houses.
11. The Board shall compile annually in collaboration with the Treasurer General a statement of the financial position of the Church for tabling at the Supreme Conference.

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

12. (a) Notwithstanding any meetings required to be held in terms of this Chapter, the Chairman shall convene a joint meeting of the Board and the Executive Church Council at least once every three months (or more often if deemed necessary) for the purpose of putting into effect the requirement of this Chapter or of introducing such measures as will contribute to the efficient management of the Church property and finances.

(b) The procedure at meetings of the Board shall comply with the Rules of Procedure contained in Chapter VIII.

FINANCIAL YEAR

13. The financial year of the Church shall end on the 30th September in each year.

14. Annual Financial Statement:
The General Board of Trustees shall cause to be prepared a complete financial report, duly audited within three months of the end of the financial year.

15. Auditor:

The Executive Church Council shall appoint a qualified and Practising Chartered Accountant as Auditor.
The Auditor shall report fully on the annual accounts, the methods of handling and controlling Church funds and any other matters relating to finance. The Auditor may, if he considers it advisable or necessary, conduct an audit on the financial affairs of any District, Circuit or Parish or call for a report by an official of any District, Circuit or Parish.

CHAPTER VIII

RULES OF PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS

Save where otherwise provided in this Constitution, Meetings shall be convened and conducted in the manner following: –

CALLING OF MEETINGS

1. Whenever it is necessary in terms of this Constitution for a Meeting to be convened, notice of such meeting shall be given in writing to the persons entitled and obliged to attend such meeting.
2. The Notice shall be under the hand of the Chairman of the Meeting and shall be clear in its terms indicating: –
   (a) The venue of the Meeting.
   (b) The date of the Meeting and the time of the commencement thereof.
   (c) A brief summary of the proposed agenda of the meeting.
3. Such notice shall be sent to the persons entitled to receive it in terms of Paragraph 1 hereof so as to reach them at a reasonable time prior to the date of the meeting.

QUORUM

4. The word "Quorum" denotes the number of members of any body of persons whose presence is requisite in order that a meeting can validly carry out its business.

   For the purpose of this Constitution the quorum necessary for the meetings and conferences of the Church shall be 50% (Fifty per centum) of the persons obliged to attend such meetings and conferences.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

5. Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Chairman shall conduct the Religious Service or in his discretion call on some competent person to do so.
6. The Chairman shall then direct that the Secretary call the Roll of persons obliged to be present to ascertain whether a quorum has been obtained or not.

7. If a quorum is not present the Chairman shall postpone the Meeting until a date arranged by the Chairman in consultation with such members who are present and entitled to vote.
8. If a quorum is present the Chairman shall satisfy himself that all those present are entitled to attend, and shall ask any persons not entitled to attend to leave the meeting.
9. When the Chairman is satisfied that all persons present are entitled to attend, he shall announce the order of business on the agenda.
10. The first item on the agenda shall be the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting which shall be done by the Secretary.
11. (a) When the Secretary has completed the reading of the Minutes, the Chairman shall ask the meeting if the Minutes are in order, that is, they truly reflect the proceedings of the previous meeting.
    (b) If the answer is in the affirmative, the Chairman and the Secretary shall sign the Minutes and date them.
    (c) If the answer is in the negative the Chairman shall make such amendments as the Meeting may decide, and thereafter the minutes shall be signed as aforesaid.
12. After the signing of the Minutes in the manner set out, such matters as may arise from the Minutes of the previous meeting shall be discussed in the order in which such matters are raised at the Meeting.

RULES OF DEBATE

13. In the discussions at Meetings the Rules of Debate shall be: –
    (i) Those persons wishing to speak shall indicate their intention by raising their hand.
    (ii) The Chairman shall call upon the speakers in the order that their hands were raised.
    (iii) Only one person shall speak at a time and such person shall not speak until the Chairman has indicated that he might do so.
14. Any person rising to speak shall speak either: –
    (a) On a point of order; in which case he shall have precedence over other speakers; or

(b) On a point of information the precedence of which shall be decided by the Chairman; or
(c) On a Resolution which he shall state at the commencement of his speaking; or
(d) To support or oppose a Resolution put by another Speaker; or
(e) To move an amendment to any Resolution or proposal of an amendment to a Resolution.

15. (a) If any motion or proposition which is not of a contentious nature has been put to the Meeting and if there appears to be unanimity in connection therewith the Chairman may put it to the vote and if it be approved may declare the motion carried.
(b) The motion then becomes a Resolution of the Meeting.

16. There is no need for a motion to be seconded, but if any motion is not seconded after the Chairman has asked if there be a seconder, the Chairman may disallow discussion on such motion and put it to the vote without discussion.

17. Once a motion has been moved any amendment thereto must be moved in the interval between when the Chairman invites discussion on the question and before he puts it to the vote. When an amendment is moved, the amendment takes priority over the original motion and must be voted upon before the original motion can be put to the meeting.

18. The Chairman having put the amendment to the meeting in the form proposed will if a seconder is forthcoming invite discussion on it.

Procedurally the amendment is in the same position as the motion and should there be several amendments they must be considered in the order in which they affect the motion.

VOTING

19. (a) At any meeting or conference of the Church, voting on matters in issue shall, unless specifically otherwise laid down in this Constitution, be by show of hands.
(b) The Chairman shall, if he considers it necessary and when obliged to in terms of this Constitution, appoint two or more scrutineers in order to assist him to count the votes.

(c) The declaration of the Chairman of the result of the voting shall be final and conclusive.

20. Any motion shall be deemed to be carried if a simple majority of votes has been cast in favour of it unless otherwise laid down in this Constitution.

DUTIES OF A CHAIRMAN

21. In addition to the duties specifically referred to in this Consitution, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of any meeting to: –
    (i) Preserve order at meetings of the Church and ensure that proceedings are conducted in a proper manner.
    (ii) Bear in mind at all times that it is his duty to ascertain what the opinion of the meeting is in regard to any particular matter.
    (iii) Inform the Secretary to include such matters on the agenda as he may think require deliberation at the meeting.
    (iv) Sign the notice convening the meeting.
    (v) Conduct the Religious ceremony at the meeting or appoint someone competent to do so.
    (vi) Carry out the business of the meeting as laid down under the heading: ''PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS''.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY:

22. In addition to the duties specifically referred to in this Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
    (i) Consult with the Chairman on the agenda to be drawn up for the meeting.
    (ii) Draw up the agenda in the order in which it is intended to conduct the business of the meeting, but subject to the order laid down under the heading: ''PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS''.
    (iii) Send to all persons entitled thereto a notice of any meeting either by post or if this is not possible, by hand.
    (iv) Keep in a book designed for the purpose proper Minutes of all Meetings of the Committee of which he is Secretary. Such Minutes shall be typewritten or in a legible hand.
    (v) Sign the Minutes when they are approved of by the subsequent Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

(vi) Read all papers which he may be required to read by the Chairman.

(vii) Carefully preserve all the documents belonging to his Committee, and allow none to be removed from his posession without the authority of his Chairman.

(viii) Generally carry out such orders as the Chairman may give him for the proper management of the work entrusted to his Committee.

CHAPTER IX

GENERAL

A. ACTIONS BY OR AGAINST THE CHURCH
B. INDEMNITY FOR OFFICERS.
C. APPROVAL ORGANISATIONS.
D. ATTIRE OF VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS.
E. SPECIAL DAY.
F. AMENDMENTS.

A.

ACTIONS BY OR AGAINST THE CHURCH

1. In any legal proceedings, whether by action, application or other process, brought by or against the Church, the Bishop for the time being shall be the person empowered to institute or defend such proceedings (as the case may be) in his own name.
2. The Bishop shall only be empowered as aforesaid provided a Resolution of the Executive Church Council so empowering him be first had and obtained.

B.

INDEMNITY FOR OFFICERS

3. Every office-bearer of the Church shall be indemnified by the Church against, and it shall be the duty of the Executive Church Council out of the funds of the Church to pay, all costs, losses and expenses which any such office-bearer may incur or become liable for by reason of any contract entered into or any act of deed properly done by him as such office-bearer, or in any way in the discharge of his duties.

C.

APPROVED ORGANISATIONS

4. The following are approved organisations which members of the Church are encouraged to join or support: –
   (a) The Independent Order of the True Templars (I.O.T.T.).
   (b) The Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) (AmaDodana).

(c) The Women's Mite Missionary Society (Umanyano lo Mama).
(d) The Juvenile Society (Izi Ntombi).

D.

ATTIRE OF VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS

5. The following approved organisations of the Ethiopian Church of South Africa shall be attired as herein under stated: –

1. The Independent Order of the True Templars (I.O.T.T.) shall wear the uniform as indicated in their card.
2. The Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) (AmaDodana) shall wear the following uniforms: –
   (a) Sky-blue Waist Coat or Sky-blue belt (Umxwayiyo)
   (b) White shirt with black tie.
3. BISHOP:
   (a) Mitre (b) Cope (c) Purple cassock
   (d) Purple vestok (d) Preacher's gown
   (f) Gold Canterbury Cap
   (g) Gold girdle and Stole
   (h) White Preacher's tie
   (i) Gold Cross and Gold ring
   (j) White Collar (k) Identification pin
4. DISTRICT MINISTERS:
   (a) Canterbury Cap (b) Black Cope (Clock)
   (c) Black vestok with purple stripe
   (d) Black cassock (e) Preacher's gown
   (f) Purple girdle and Stole (g) White Preacher's tie
   (h) Priest Cross (i) White collar
   (j) Identification pin
5. CIRCUIT MINISTERS:
   (a) Black Canterbury (b) White collar
   (c) White Preacher's tie (d) Preacher's gown
   (e) Black vestok (f) Black cassock
   (g) Black rope (h) Priest Cross
   (i) Black cloak (j) Green stole
   (k) Identification pin

6. PARISH MINISTERS:
   (a) Black three corner Baret (if ordained Priest)
   (b) White collar
   (c) Preacher's gown
   (d) Black Cassock (if ordained Priest)
   (e) Black vestok ordained Priest)
   (f) Black rope
   (g) Priest Cross
   (h) Identification pin

7. DEACONS:
   (a) Preacher's gown (b) White collar
   (c) Black vestok

8. MISSIONARIES:
   (a) Black Manel (b) White collar facing front
   (c) Black vestok

THE WOMEN'S MITE MISSIONARY SOCIETY (UMANYANO LO MAMA)

9. LADY BISHOP:
   (a) Silver Coat or other colour
   (b) Otto skin hat (c) Maroon stripped collar
   (d) Sky-blue stole (e) Gold girdle
   (f) W.M.M.S. Badge (g) Black Blouse
   (h) Closed black shoes (front and back)
   (i) Black skirt (j) Black stockings
   (k) Identification pin

10. LADY DISTRICT MINISTER:
   (a) Black gown (b) Otto skin hat
   (c) Maroon collar (d) Sky-blue stole
   (e) Gold girdle (f) W.M.M.S. Badge
   (g) Black blouse (h) Black skirt
   (i) Closed black shoes (front and back) (j) Black stockings
   (k) Identification pin

11. LADY CIRCUIT MINISTER:
   (a) Otto skin hat (b) Sky-blue collar (Isiphika)
   (c) Black girdle
   (d) Black gown (e) W.M.M.S. Badge

(f) Black closed shoes
(g) Black blouse and skirt
(h) Black stockings
(i) Identification pin

12. LADY PARISH MINISTERS:
(a) Otto skin hat
(b) Sky-blue collar (Isiphika)
(c) Blue or White girdle
(d) Black coat
(e) W.M.M.S. Badge
(f) Black blouse and skirt
(g) Black closed shoes (Back and front)
(h) Black stockings
(i) Identification pin

13. ORDINARY W.M.M.S. MEMBERS:
(a) Otto skin hat
(b) Sky-blue collar (Isiphika)
(c) Black coat
(d) Black blouse and skirt
(e) Closed black shoes (front and back)
(f) Black stocking
(g) W.M.M.S. Badge

14. The Juvenile Society (Izintombi) shall wear the uniform as indicated by their card. The attire of the various organisations may be altered subject to the approval of the Executive Church Council and Annual Supreme Conference.

E.

SPECIAL DAYS

6. It is compulsory for all members of the Church to observe the following days as sacred days, when divine services shall be held: –

(a) Christmas Day.
(b) Good Friday.
(c) Ascension Day.
(d) The Day of the Pentecost.

F.

AMENDMENTS

7. The Constitution of this Church may be amended or modified from time to time by the vote of the majority of members of the Supreme Conference, when assembled in convention, but notice of such amendment must be lodged in the Supreme Conference not less than six months previous to its annual convention.

CHAPTER XI

SCHEDULE FORMS

1. Certificate of Membership.
2. Membership Book.
3. Removal Notice.
4. Subscription List.
5. Exhorter's Licence.
6. Credentials Certificate.
7. Missionary's Licence.
8. Retired Minister's Credential Certificate.
9. Delegate's Certificate.
10. Delegate's Symbol.
11. Ordination Certificate.
12. Ballot Paper for Election of Bishop.
13. Ballot Paper for the Appeals in the Supreme Conference.

Form 1

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify that

.....

has been accepted and received as a member of this Church and has acknowledged himself bound to fulfil his duties prescribed by the Constitution, to which end he has this

..... day of ..... 19.....

appended his signature hereto in pledge of his resolve to promote the welfare of his brethren and the advancement of the Kingdom of the Redeemer.

At .....

.....
Member

.....
Parish Minister

.....
District Minister

Form 2

MEMBERSHIP BOOK

Actual size (closed): 4 inches x 3 inches.

OUTSIDE COVER

ETHIOPIAN CHURCH
OF
SOUTH AFRICA

MEMBERSHIP BOOK
OF:

NUMBER .....

INSIDE PAGE

Date of Payment	Amount Paid	Purpose of Payment	Class Leader's Signature

Form 3

REMOVAL NOTICE

ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

REMOVAL NOTICE

To the Parish Minister of

.....

This is to certify that

.....

a member of the Church in my Parish, has decided to take up residence in your Parish. This serves as authority to you to enter his name in your Book of Membership.

.....
Parish Minister of

.....

Date .....

Form 4

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

ETHIOPIAN CHURCH
OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

In the Parish of .....

Class Leader's Name .....

Purpose of Payment	Date of Payment	Name of Member (CAPITALS)	Signature of Member	Amount Paid

Deposited on ..... TOTAL R.....

with .....

Signature of Class Leader .....

Form 5

EXHORTER'S LICENCE

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

EXHORTER'S LICENCE

This is to certify that

.....

has this day been appointed an EXHORTER by the Circuit Conference and as such is entitled to all rights and privileges of that office accorded by the Constitution.

.....
Circuit Minister of

the .....Circuit

Date .....

Form 6

CREDENTIALS CERTIFICATE

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

.....

is known to me, and is entitled to attend the Supreme Conference to be held at

.....

on the ..... 19.....
as a delegate –

By reason of his/her

office as ..... of the .....
Parish/Circuit/District;

OR

election as a delegate by the District Conference of the

..... District

held on ..... 19.....
(Delete whatever is inapplicable)

.....
District Minister

the ..... District

Date .....

Form 7

MISSIONARY'S LICENCE

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

MISSIONARY'S LICENCE

This is to certify that

.....

has this day been appointed

a Missionary in the .....
Parish/Circuit/District, and as such is entitled to all rights and privileges of that office accorded by the Constitution.

.....
District Minister of

the ..... District

Date .....

Form 8

RETIRED MINISTER'S CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATE

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

This is to certify that

.....

is a RETIRED MINISTER residing within my District and as such is entitled to attend the Supreme Conference to be held

at .....

on the ..... 19.....
as a delegate.

.....
District Minister of

the ..... District

Date .....

Form 9

DELEGATE'S CERTIFICATE

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF

THE SUPREME CONFERENCE

This certifies that

.....

has been recognised by this Committee as a delegate entitled to attend and vote at the Supreme Conference being held

at .....

on the ..... 19.....

.....
General Secretary

Date .....

Form 10

DELEGATE'S SYMBOL

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH

DELEGATE

SUPREME CONFERENCE

19.....

Ribbon

Form 11

ORDINATION CERTIFICATE

THE ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT

.....

having duly satisfied the Ordination Committee that he is a man learned in the Scriptures and devoted to the service of God through His servant, the Ethiopian Church of South Africa has this day, in the presence of the Brethren gathered together in Supreme Conference, been ordained by me a

MINISTER OF THE CHURCH

By this appointed he becomes vested with all the rights and obligations of a Minister of the Church, and he in turn has avowed his adherence to the doctrines of the Church and its Constitution.

Given under my hand at .....

this ..... day of ..... 19.....

.....
Bishop

.....
General Secretary

Form 12

BALLOT PAPER FOR ELECTION OF BISHOP

Actual size: 4 inches x 2 inches.

INSIDE:

ETHIOPIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AFRICA

My choice for Bishop is:

.....

OUTSIDE:

RUBBER
STAMP
OF
CHURCH

Number of Ballot Paper .....

Form 13

BALLOT PAPER FOR APPEALS

Actual size: 5 inches x 2 inches.

INSIDE:

An X is to be placed in the appropriate squares.	
The Appellant is right and goes free	
The Appellant is wrong and should be punished	
The punishment is correct	
The punishment is too severe and should be reduced	

OUTSIDE:

RUBBER
STAMP
OF
CHURCH

Number of ballot paper .....

Ethiopian Church of SA
Constitution.compressed(0).pdf