The OAC

OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE OF APOSTLES

MAY 2021

(For implementation with effect from 31 May 2021)

The original text, in English, duly signed and executed, is kept at the office of the secretary of the Conference of Apostles. Copies and/or translations, where applicable, are kept at all provincial and district head offices of THE CHURCH.

THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH
CONSTITUTION
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THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

1.1 The name of THE CHURCH is in the English language:

THE OLD APOSTOLIC CHURCH (the name of the country may be inserted in brackets after the name of THE CHURCH where required)

(in abbreviated form known as "The OAC")

and is hereinafter referred to as "THE CHURCH".

1.2 In every country where THE CHURCH is established, its name may be translated into the official language(s) applicable to that country.

1.3 The name of THE CHURCH is used only with the permission of the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.7.3.

2. Head and Establishment

2.1 The HEAD OF THE CHURCH is JESUS CHRIST, the eternal Saviour of souls, the author and finisher of our faith.

2.2 THE CHURCH, established by JESUS CHRIST according to the Holy Scriptures, revived in Europe in the 19th century and was established in South Africa in 1889 and thereafter in other countries.

2.3 In every country where THE CHURCH is established, it shall function in accordance with the provisions of this *Constitution* and its objects. Funds and property of THE CHURCH in any specific country shall, subject to the legislation of such country, be applied primarily within that country for promoting the aims of THE CHURCH in such country.

3. Objects

3.1 The objects of THE CHURCH are to -

3.1.1 promote the gospel of JESUS CHRIST in the doctrine of THE CHURCH; and

3.1.2 establish ecclesiastical congregations and promote the said doctrine of THE CHURCH through family and congregational activities, including the–

3.1.2.1 establishment of Sunday school and youth programmes, having for their objects the instruction and tuition of children and young members; and

3.1.2.2 promoting the participation and wellbeing of elderly, and vulnerable members as valued contributors in THE CHURCH.

3.2 In pursuance of its objects THE CHURCH may -

3.2.1 establish and conduct welfare-related services for the benefit of its members; and

3.2.2 make donations to institutions that operate in the country of registration or in another country on condition that the receiving institution has similar objects and a similar tax-exempt status as the donating institution.

3.3 THE CHURCH has the power regarding its objects and activities to -

3.3.1 purchase, sell, dispose of, lease, hire or in any other manner acquire movable and immovable property and other assets, to mortgage, hypothecate or otherwise alienate the same in such manner as may be requisite or necessary;

3.3.2 construct, demolish, renovate and alter buildings for the purposes of THE CHURCH;

3.3.3 invest and deal with funds of THE CHURCH upon such securities and in such manner as may be determined from time to time; to borrow money on such terms as may be deemed expedient with the prior approval of the Conference of Apostles; to subscribe for preference shares, building society shares, debentures and government or municipal stock; and to undertake and execute trusts;

3.3.4 guarantee the fulfilment of any obligations and to secure such guarantees by mortgage or pledge of THE CHURCH'S assets; and to secure, by way of suretyship, the performance of any contract;

3.3.5 grant options over, improve, develop, exchange, lease or otherwise deal with any of the assets of THE CHURCH;

3.3.6 employ such staff as may be necessary and determine their conditions of service; and

3.3.7 do all such things and to acquire all such other rights and privileges as may be necessary for, conducive to or consonant with the attainment of the above objects.

3.4 The objects and activities of THE CHURCH shall be carried on in a non-profit manner and with ecclesiastic, altruistic, and philanthropic intent. No activity of THE CHURCH shall directly or indirectly promote the economic self-interest of any fiduciary or employee of THE CHURCH other than by way of reasonable and market-related remuneration that shall not be excessive for the duties that are performed.

Without prejudice to the afore-mentioned provision, the ongoing involvement, across generations, of members and officers, of their own free will in both ecclesiastical and temporal duties, without any form of monetary reward, is the lifeblood of THE CHURCH. It stems from profound personal conviction and Biblical belief and is a lifelong calling in the doctrine of JESUS CHRIST.

3.5 THE CHURCH shall at all levels operate within a strong governance framework that is aimed at -

3.5.1 compliance with its *Constitution* and the laws of the countries where it functions;

3.5.2 sound, effective, and efficient administration;

3.5.3 good corporate governance through sound business practices and business processes; and

3.5.4 standardised reporting and combined assurance mechanisms.

4. Membership

4.1 Any person without regard to nationality, race, gender, or colour, may become a member of THE CHURCH.

4.2 Membership is the privilege of those who have been baptised/taken-up and who have been sealed by the Apostle.

4.3 Personal sacramental information as provided for in the *Privacy and Protection of Personal Information Regulations* shall be recorded in the membership register of THE CHURCH.

4.4 Persons who claim to be members of THE CHURCH may be asked to provide proof of membership in the form of a baptism/taking-up certificate or their claim to membership will be tested against THE CHURCH'S membership register, failing which they shall be regarded as not being members of THE CHURCH and the directives for baptism/taking up shall apply should they desire to become members of THE CHURCH.

4.5 Membership of THE CHURCH as defined in clauses 4.1 and 4.2 is to be distinguished from membership of a legal entity in cases where THE CHURCH by virtue of country specific laws has to be registered as a company limited by guarantee, incorporated associations and other similar bodies in terms of clause 20 and where the word "member" is assigned the legal meaning of a "statutory member" under prevailing laws.

4.6 Membership does not entail the payment of a fee or subscription. In the event of any member losing his or her right of membership, whether by resignation, suspension or otherwise, he or she shall have no claim of any kind against THE CHURCH or any of its members or officers whether in respect of its property or in respect of monies contributed or donated by him or her during the period of his or her membership, or any other claim whatsoever.

5. Officers

5.1 The following officers shall be recognised by THE CHURCH:

5.1.1 Apostle, Prophet/Evangelist/Overseer (collectively known as Fourfold Officers), Elder, Priest and Underdeacon, in seniority from the highest to the lowest.

5.1.2 Officers and their wives are appointed and subscribe to a joint, shared, and interdependent calling that involves all Church-related activities, including congregational and pastoral visitations.

5.1.3 All officers in clause 5.1.1 shall be appointed, ordained, and anointed as prescribed in clause 14.1 or 14.2.4 and/or per resolution of the Conference of Apostles.

5.2 Apostles serve at the behest of the Apostolate and all other officers serve at the behest of the Apostle for an indefinite period.

5.3 A certificate of appointment, signed by the Apostle, shall be issued to every anointed officer. This certificate shall remain the property of THE CHURCH and shall be surrendered to THE CHURCH upon demand by the Apostle or an officer duly authorised to do so by the Apostle.

5.4 Every officer shall have the power to administer, act, and perform all duties conferred upon him by the Apostle, in conformity with the policies, formularies, regulations, *Officers Code of Conduct and Declaration*, precepts, rules and directives approved from time to time by the Conference of Apostles or the Apostolate.

5.5 Subject to civil laws and regulations in countries where THE CHURCH functions, Priests and higher officers may be nominated, with the approval of the Forum of Apostles, for appointment as marriage officers by the relevant governmental authorities.

5.6 The appointment or ordainment of an officer, or any other office-bearer in THE CHURCH, shall not in itself create or bring into being a contract of service or employment between such individual and THE CHURCH.

6. Congregational Structure and Composition

6.1 Members of THE CHURCH serve in congregations established with the approval of the Forum of Apostles, with due regard to the location, composition, and language of the local populace, the size and needs of the local following, and the prevailing laws of the country in which the congregation is situated.

6.2 Members in congregations serve in Priestships under the care of Priests and Underdeacons.

6.3 Priestships are grouped into Elderships and function under the care of an Elder.

6.4 Elderships are grouped into Overseerships and function under the care of Fourfold Officers.

6.5 Overseerships are grouped into Apostleships and function under the care of Apostles.

7. Apostleships

7.1 An Apostleship is established within a province per resolution of the Apostolate of that province in terms of clause 12.7.1 and shall consist of such congregations and regions as determined by the Forum of Apostles of the province or district, as the case may be.

7.2 An Apostleship need not be a geographical unit.

8. Regions

8.1 A region may be established in an independent country, or grouping of independent countries, in accordance with the provisions of clause 10.2.2, and such region shall function as provided for in the *Constitution*.

8.2 A region need not form a geographical unit, but its component parts must be clearly defined geographical areas.

8.3 A region shall be known as "The Old Apostolic Church (name of the region)" as contemplated in clause 1.1.

9. Districts

9.1 Two or more Apostleships of a province may be structured as a district in accordance with a resolution of the Apostolate of that province in terms of clause 12.7.1.

9.2 A district, as defined and structured by the Apostolate as referred to in clause 9.1, need not form a geographical unit but its component parts must be clearly defined geographical areas.

10. Provinces

10.1 THE CHURCH is established in independent countries in accordance with a decision of the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.7.2.

10.2 With due regard to the location, affiliation, membership, and interests of THE CHURCH in independent countries, such countries shall in accordance with a decision of the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.7.4:

10.2.1 Be structured into provinces of THE CHURCH with -

10.2.1.1 districts provided for in clause 9.1; or

10.2.1.2 Apostleships where countries or states are affiliated as a union, commonwealth, or other geographic or economic grouping;

or

10.2.2 Where it is expedient for an independent country or grouping of independent countries to function autonomously from an administrative and temporal governance point of view, such country or grouping of countries be structured as a region allocated to a province established in terms of clause 10.2 -

10.2.2.1 under the control of one or more Apostles of such province or a district of such province; or

10.2.2.2 functioning with one or more Apostleships as established for such region by the Apostolate of the province in terms of clause 12.7.1;

or

10.2.3 Where the membership, activities, and interests of THE CHURCH in an independent country of grouping of independent countries do not justify the establishment of a region in terms of clause 10.2.2, or an Apostleship, THE CHURCH in such country/countries be allocated to a province and the Apostolate of such province shall make it part of a district/region/ Apostleship.

10.3 Every province of THE CHURCH shall be governed by an Apostolate constituted in accordance with clause 12.1 and, where applicable, clause 12.2.

11. Conference of Apostles: Composition, Functioning, and Powers

11.1 The Conference of Apostles is the co-ordinating and oversight body of THE CHURCH and consists of all the Apostles ordained in terms of clause 14.1 and serving in the Apostolates of the provinces.

11.2 The Conference of Apostles shall dedicate itself to -

11.2.1 establishing and maintaining the unity of the faith and promoting the interests of the brotherhood of the faith;

11.2.2 developing the abilities and expertise of the officers of THE CHURCH;

11.2.3 procuring the involvement of all Apostles in addressing matters/problems with which THE CHURCH in general is confronted;

11.2.4 communicating matters of general importance and interest to the members of THE CHURCH in all provinces; and

11.2.5 keeping Apostles informed of matters of general importance regarding the employees of THE CHURCH.

11.3 The Conference of Apostles elects a chairman from its ranks who shall serve in this capacity in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Conference of Apostles*, issued in terms of clause 11.7.6.

11.4 At the demise or demission of the chairman, the remaining members of the Conference of Apostles shall elect a new chairman from their ranks.

11.5 If the Conference of Apostles decides that a chairman has become incapable of performing his functions as chairman, for any reason whatsoever, the remaining members shall elect a new chairman from their ranks.

11.6 The Conference of Apostles appoints a secretary and deputy secretary from its ranks who shall respectively be known as the secretary and deputy secretary of the Conference of Apostles, in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Conference of Apostles*, issued in terms of clause 11.7.6.

11.7 The Conference of Apostles shall have the following powers relating to THE CHURCH:

11.7.1 To approve and amend the *Constitution* as it deems necessary from time to time.

11.7.2 To approve the establishment of THE CHURCH in independent countries.

11.7.3 To approve the use of the name of THE CHURCH.

11.7.4 To approve the establishment, structuring, restructuring or disestablishment of provinces and regions.

11.7.5 To issue and amend rules, policies, directives, regulations, and formularies deemed necessary to be prescribed for implementation in Church provinces for the promotion of the unity of the faith and the achievement of the objects of THE CHURCH.

11.7.6 To issue and amend such regulations as it deems necessary to regulate and discipline its own meetings and actions, to formulate the responsibilities of its officials and members and to ensure that its decisions are properly executed and/or implemented.

11.7.7 To put measures in place to ensure that THE CHURCH at all levels operates within a strong governance framework that is aimed at compliance with its *Constitution* and the laws of the countries where it functions, as well as sound, effective, and efficient administration.

11.7.8 To appoint standing committees with charters approved by the Conference of Apostles to -

11.7.8.1 be of assistance to the Conference of Apostles, Apostolates, Forums of Apostles, Apostles: Head Office Administration and provincial/district/regional head offices in establishing and maintaining effective governance structures in provincial/ district/regional head offices regarding -

11.7.8.1.1 audit, risk, and compliance *(COA ARC Committee)*;

11.7.8.1.2 legal matters *(COA Legal Committee)*;

11.7.8.1.3 publications and officer empowerment *(COA Publications Committee);*

11.7.8.1.4 information and communication technology *(COA ICT Committee)*; and

11.7.8.1.5 health and safety and the protection of personal information *(COA Health, Safety, and Privacy Committee);*

and

11.7.8.2 monitor and report to the Conference of Apostles on -

11.7.8.2.1 compliance by Apostolates, Forums of Apostles, Apostles and provincial/district/regional head offices with THE CHURCH'S *Constitution*, formularies, regulations and rules and the resolutions of the Conference of Apostles and Apostolates, as well as applicable country-specific legislative and regulatory provisions;

11.7.8.2.2 administrative and temporal governance practices, processes, procedures, and reporting mechanisms; and

11.7.8.2.3 any matter referred to them by the Conference of Apostles and/or Apostolates.

11.8 Subject to the provisions of clause 11.8.2, the resolutions of the Conference of Apostles shall be made by majority vote:

11.8.1 The chairman shall have no casting vote and in the event of an equality of votes, the matter under consideration shall be postponed until a resolution by majority vote or by the prescribed percentage majority vote or by unanimous vote, as the case may be, is achieved.

11.8.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the *Constitution* or any regulations issued by the Conference of Apostles, no resolution shall be passed and be binding in respect of the following matters unless such resolution is passed by at least a 90% majority or unanimous vote as indicated below:

11.8.2.1 For the approval, revocation, or amendment of the *Constitution* - a unanimous vote is required.

11.8.2.2 For any resolution which may have financial implications for or any effect on the finances of a province or a district and/or a region in a province, provided that the provisions of this clause shall not restrict or prevent the convening or attendance of any meeting of the Conference of Apostles - a unanimous vote is required.

11.8.2.3 For the issue, amendment or repeal of regulations, rules, and formularies – at least a 90% majority vote is required.

11.8.2.4 For the establishment, structuring, restructuring or disestablishment of provinces – at least a 90% majority vote is required.

11.9 The Conference of Apostles shall determine its methods and frequency of communication for proper management of the affairs of THE CHURCH according to prevailing circumstances and shall incorporate its decisions in this regard into routines and programmes as it deems necessary.

11.10 Meetings shall be held as often as necessary to attend to the matters of THE CHURCH, provided that:

11.10.1 At least one (1) ordinary meeting shall be held in every twelve (12) months and that notice of such ordinary meeting shall be given at least three (3) months in advance.

11.10.2 Special meetings shall be convened by the chairman and secretary of the Conference of Apostles and notice of such meetings shall be given in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Conference of Apostles*, issued in terms of clause 11.7.6.

11.10.3 Meetings in terms of clauses 11.10.1 and 11.10.2 may be held in person or by electronic/digital means.

11.10.4 Apostles who cannot physically attend a meeting that is scheduled to take place in person, may, with the prior approval of the chairman, attend such meeting by electronic/digital means.

11.10.5 In the case of meetings by electronic/digital means, the chairman shall ensure that -

11.10.5.1 the method of communication is sufficiently secure, and the deliberations can take place in a confidential environment;

11.10.5.2 Apostles are personally identified, and their attendance recorded by the secretary; and

11.10.5.3 votes are registered by individual Apostles in an audible or visible manner and recorded by the secretary.

11.10.6 In circumstances where it is not possible for the Conference of Apostles to meet as provided for in terms of clause 11.10.3, a resolution may be taken by email or facsimile, and such resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting duly convened and held in terms of clauses 11.10.1 and 11.10.2, provided that -

11.10.6.1 a copy of the proposed resolution together with the relevant particulars thereof are sent or submitted to all Apostles;

11.10.6.2 the majority of Apostles as prescribed in clauses 11.8.2.1 to 11.8.2.4 have signed their agreement to such resolution in an authenticated document or documents or facsimiles, or confirmed their approval by email, within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the circulation date or such other period as determined by the Conference of Apostles on a case-by-case basis; and

11.10.6.3 such resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more Apostles have signified their agreement.

11.10.7 Minutes of meetings and resolutions passed at meetings held in terms of clauses 11.10.2 and 11.10.6 shall be formally ratified at an ordinary meeting of the Conference of Apostles.

11.10.8 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Conference of Apostles mentioned in clauses 11.10.1 and 11.10.2 hereinbefore, unless a quorum of 90% of the members of the Conference of Apostles who are entitled to vote, is present at such meeting, provided that if any member has been granted leave of absence from a meeting in terms of clause 11.10.9, and the members present at such meeting are at least 90% or more of the remaining members of the Conference of Apostles, the Conference of Apostles shall be entitled to conduct its business, provided that Apostles who attend a meeting in terms of the provisions of clause 11.10.4 are regarded as being present.

11.10.9 An Apostle may be granted leave of absence from a meeting of the Conference of Apostles in the discretion of the chairman of the Conference of Apostles or the chairman of the Apostolate of the province in which he serves. An Apostle who is absent from a meeting shall not have the authority to nominate a substitute with power of attorney on his behalf.

11.10.10 Motions or proposals may be submitted by an Apostle, Forum of Apostles, Apostolates, a standing committee, or any other appointed committee of the Conference of Apostles, which motions, or proposals shall be in writing, or by electronic mail, and shall be directed to the secretary of the Conference of Apostles for inclusion in the agenda of the impending meeting. Motions or proposals must reach the secretary of the Conference of Apostles -

11.10.10.1 at least six (6) weeks before the date of an ordinary meeting;

11.10.10.2 at least four (4) weeks in the case of pre-planned special meetings; and

11.10.10.3 as circumstances dictate in matters that require more immediate attention.

11.10.11 The secretary of the Conference of Apostles shall disseminate the agendas of meetings to reach Apostles -

11.10.11.1 at least three (3) weeks before the date of an ordinary meeting;

11.10.11.2 at least three (3) weeks before the date of a pre-planned special meeting; and

11.10.11.3 as circumstances may dictate in urgent matters.

11.10.12 Every decision of the Conference of Apostles shall be recorded in written minutes which shall be disseminated to Apostles as provided for in the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Conference of Apostles* issued by the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.7.6.

11.10.13 The minutes of ordinary and special meetings shall be signed by the chairman and secretary after confirmation thereof at an ordinary meeting held in terms of clause 11.10.1.

11.10.14 Every decision of the Conference of Apostles shall be communicated to officers and members as determined by the Conference of Apostles and shall be final and binding on all officers and members of THE CHURCH.

12. Apostolate: Composition, Functioning, and Powers

12.1 An Apostolate is constituted for each province established in terms of clause 10.2.1 as the governing body of the province and consists of all the Apostles ordained in terms of clause 14.1 and serving in such province.

12.2 Where a country or a number of countries that are grouped together, is declared a province in terms of clause 10.2.1 and the province consists of fewer than five (5) Apostles appointed in terms of clause 14.1, the Apostolate of that province shall comprise the Apostles of that province and Apostles from other provinces that are designated by the Conference of Apostles in order for the Apostolate to consist of a minimum of five (5) Apostles.

12.3 The Apostolate elects a chairman from its ranks, who shall serve in this capacity in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Apostolate*, issued in terms of clause 12.7.6.

12.4 At the demise or demission of the chairman, the remaining members of the Apostolate shall elect a new chairman from their ranks.

12.5 If the Apostolate decides that a chairman has become incapable of performing his functions as chairman, for any reason whatsoever, the remaining members of the Apostolate shall elect a new chairman from their ranks.

12.6 The Apostolate appoints a secretary and a deputy secretary from its ranks who shall respectively be known as the secretary and deputy secretary of the Apostolate, in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Apostolate*, issued in terms of clause 12.7.6.

12.7 Save for the powers vested in the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.7, the Apostolate shall have supreme power in all matters, spiritual and temporal, relating to THE CHURCH in the province where it has jurisdiction, which includes the power to -

12.7.1 establish or disestablish Apostleships and districts;

12.7.2 appoint and ordain, transfer, and restrict the power of an Apostle (including the right to vote at meetings of the Forum of Apostles, the Apostolate and the Conference of Apostles because of incapacity), classify as Emeritus Apostle, or remove from office an Apostle, including an Apostle: Head Office Administration referred to in clauses 14.4, 14.5 and 14.6;

12.7.3 approve regulations for the appointment, ordainment or removal from office of a Fourfold Officer;

12.7.4 suspend from membership of THE CHURCH any member or officer in the province of its jurisdiction, subject to the provisions of the relevant disciplinary regulations issued by the Conference of Apostles;

12.7.5 issue and amend rules and regulations pertaining to any matter which is required or necessary to be prescribed in terms of the *Constitution* or pertaining to any other matter which it considers necessary or expedient to prescribe in order that the objects of THE CHURCH may be achieved in the province; and

12.7.6 issue and amend such regulations as it deems necessary to regulate and discipline its meetings, to formulate the responsibilities and activities of its officials and members and to ensure that its decisions are properly executed and/or implemented.

12.8 Subject to the provisions of clause 12.8.2, the decisions of the Apostolate shall be taken by majority vote:

12.8.1 The chairman shall not have a casting vote and in the event of an equality of votes, the matter under consideration shall be postponed until a resolution by majority vote or by the prescribed percentage majority vote or by unanimous vote, as the case may be, is achieved.

12.8.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the *Constitution* or any regulations issued by the Apostolate or Conference of Apostles, no resolution shall be passed and be binding in respect of the following matters unless such resolution is passed by at least an 80% majority or unanimous vote as indicated below:

12.8.2.1 The establishment or disestablishment of districts and/or Apostleships - a unanimous vote is required.

12.8.2.2 The appointment, transfer, restriction of power, classification as an Emeritus Apostle with retention of office, and/or removal from office of an Apostle - a unanimous vote is required, not counting the vote of the affected individual.

12.8.2.3 The appointment of an Apostle as Apostle: Head Office Administration, the restriction of powers conferred or imposed upon him in terms of the *Constitution* and regulations issued by the Apostolate, and his removal from such office - a unanimous vote is required, not counting the vote of the affected individual.

12.8.2.4 Any resolution which may have financial implications for a district or Apostleship or region in an Apostleship or may have an effect on the finances of a district or region, provided that the provisions of this clause shall not restrict or prevent the convening or attendance of any meeting of the Apostolate - a unanimous vote is required.

12.8.2.5 The issue, amendment or repeal of regulations and rules - at least an 80% majority vote is required.

12.9 The Apostolate shall determine its methods and frequency of communication for proper management of the affairs of THE CHURCH according to prevailing circumstances and shall incorporate its decisions in this regard into routines and programmes as it deems necessary. Meetings shall be held as often as necessary to attend to the matters of THE CHURCH, provided that:

12.9.1 At least one (1) ordinary meeting shall be held in every twelve (12) months and that such ordinary meeting shall be planned at least three (3) months in advance.

12.9.2 Special meetings shall be convened by the chairman and secretary of the Apostolate in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Apostolate*, issued in terms of clause 12.7.6.

12.9.3 Apostles are given notice of meetings in accordance with the *Regulations for the Functioning of the Apostolate* issued in terms of clause 12.7.6.

12.9.4 Meetings in terms of clauses 12.9.1 and 12.9.2 may be held in person or by electronic/digital means.

12.9.5 Apostles who cannot physically attend a meeting that is scheduled to take place in person, may with the prior approval of the chairman, attend such meeting by electronic/digital means.

12.9.6 In the case of meetings by electronic/digital means, the chairman shall ensure that -

12.9.6.1 the method of communication is sufficiently secure, and the deliberations can take place in a confidential environment;

12.9.6.2 Apostles are personally identified, and their attendance recorded by the secretary; and

12.9.6.3 votes are registered by individual Apostles in an audible or visible manner.

12.9.7 In circumstances where it is not possible for the Apostolate to meet as provided for in terms of clause 12.9.4, a resolution may be taken by email or facsimile, and such resolution shall be valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting duly convened and held in terms of clauses 12.9.1 and 12.9.2, provided that -

12.9.7.1 a copy of the proposed resolution together with the relevant particulars thereof are sent or submitted to all Apostles;

12.9.7.2 the majority of Apostles as prescribed in clauses 12.8.2.1 to 12.8.2.5, have signed their agreement to such resolution in an authenticated document or documents, or confirmed their approval by email, within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the circulation date, or such other period as determined by the Apostolate on a case-by-case basis; and

12.9.7.3 such resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more Apostles have signified their agreement.

12.9.8 Minutes of meetings and resolutions passed at meetings held in terms of clauses 12.9.2 and 12.9.7 shall be formally ratified at an ordinary meeting of the Apostolate.

12.9.9 No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Apostolate mentioned in clauses 12.9.1 and 12.9.2 hereinbefore, unless a quorum of 90% of the members of the Apostolate who are entitled to vote, is present at such meeting, provided that if any member has been granted leave of absence from a meeting in terms of clause 12.9.10, and the members present at such meeting are at least 90% or more of the remaining members of the Apostolate, the Apostolate shall be entitled to conduct its business, provided that Apostles who attend a meeting in terms of the provisions of clause 12.9.5 are regarded as being present.

12.9.10 An Apostle may be granted leave of absence from a meeting of the Apostolate in the discretion of the chairman of the Apostolate. An Apostle who is absent from a meeting shall not have the authority to nominate a substitute with power of attorney on his behalf.

12.9.11 Motions or proposals may be submitted by an Apostle, Forum of Apostles, standing committee of the Conference of Apostles, or any other committee appointed by the Apostolate, which motions, or proposals shall be in writing, or by electronic mail, and shall be directed to the secretary of the Apostolate for inclusion in the agenda of the impending meeting. Motions or proposals must reach the secretary of the Apostolate -

12.9.11.1 at least six (6) weeks before the date of an ordinary meeting;

12.9.11.2 at least four (4) weeks in the case of pre-planned special meetings; and

12.9.11.3 as circumstances may dictate in urgent matters that require more immediate attention.

12.9.12 The secretary of the Apostolate shall disseminate the agenda of an ordinary meeting to all Apostles to reach them at least three (3) weeks before the date of the meeting. Special arrangements will apply in the case of special meetings.

12.9.13 Every decision of the Apostolate shall be recorded in writing and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary after confirmation at an ordinary meeting held in terms of clause 12.9.1.

12.9.14 Every decision of the Apostolate shall be communicated to officers and members as determined by the Apostolate and shall be final and binding on all officers and members of THE CHURCH.

13. Forum of Apostles: Composition, Functioning and Powers

13.1 A Forum of Apostles is constituted for each district established in terms of clause 9 as the governing body of the district and consists of all the Apostles ordained in terms of clause 14.1 and serving in such district.

13.2 Where a province is not structured into districts, and Apostleships function as a province in terms of clause 10.2.1.2 of the *Constitution*, the powers, functions and duties of the Forum of Apostles conferred upon it by the *Constitution*, regulations or rules issued in terms of the *Constitution* or resolutions of the Conference of Apostles and/or the Apostolate, shall be exercised by the Apostolate of the province comprising all the Apostles serving on such Apostolate in terms of clauses 12.1 and 12.2.

13.3 The Forum of Apostles elects a chairman from its ranks, who shall not be the Apostle: Head Office Administration.

13.4 The Apostle: Head Office Administration shall be the secretary of the Forum of Apostles.

13.5 Save for the powers vested in the Conference of Apostles in terms of clause 11.7 and the powers vested in the Apostolate in terms of clause 12.7, the Forum of Apostles shall have supreme power in all matters, spiritual and temporal, relating to THE CHURCH in its jurisdiction, which includes the power to -

13.5.1 exercise oversight over all temporal governance matters of THE CHURCH in its jurisdiction;

13.5.2 establish or disestablish congregations in the province/district/region;

13.5.3 appoint and ordain, transfer, restrict (partially or totally) the powers of or classify as inactive with retention of office of an Elder;

13.5.4 approve the utilisation of Fourfold Officers as Evangelists, Overseers or Prophets and restrict (partially or totally) the powers of or classify as inactive with retention of office of a Fourfold Officer;

13.5.5 issue and amend directives regarding all matters required for the effective administration of the province/district/region; and

13.5.6 perform such duties as prescribed in THE CHURCH'S disciplinary and grievance regulations.

13.6 The Forum of Apostles shall meet as often as is necessary to attend to the matters of THE CHURCH but shall meet at least six (6) times per year.

13.7 The Forum of Apostles shall determine its methods and frequency of communication for proper management of the affairs of THE CHURCH according to prevailing circumstances and shall incorporate its decisions in this regard into routines and programmes as it deems necessary. Resolutions passed during voice or video conferences, or in writing by electronic mail, shall be formally ratified at an ordinary meeting of the Forum of Apostles.

13.8 The decisions of the Forum of Apostles shall be taken by majority vote, provided that an Apostle may refer any decision which in his opinion is not in keeping with

good governance or the execution of which will expose THE CHURCH in any temporal manner, to the Apostolate for its ruling and provided further that such referral shall be addressed to the Conference of Apostles in the case where the Forum of Apostles is also the Apostolate of a province.

13.9 Where a Forum of Apostles of a province/district fails to reach a decision on spiritual or temporal matters, it shall request the involvement of the Apostolate for the purpose of overcoming or resolving a specific impasse, provided that such referral shall be addressed to the Conference of Apostles in the case where the Forum of Apostles is also the Apostolate of a province.

13.10 The chairman shall not have a casting vote and in the event of an equality of votes, the matter under consideration shall be postponed until a resolution by majority vote is achieved or a ruling in terms of clause 13.8 is received or a decision in terms of clause 13.9 is achieved.

13.11 Every decision of the Forum of Apostles shall be recorded in writing and shall be signed by the chairman and secretary upon confirmation at the subsequent meeting.

13.12 Every decision of the Forum of Apostles shall be communicated to officers and members as determined by the Forum of Apostles and shall be final and binding on all officers and members of THE CHURCH in its jurisdiction.

13.13 The Forum of Apostles shall issue and amend directives as it deems necessary to regulate and discipline its meetings, to formulate the responsibilities and activities of its officials and members and to ensure that its decisions are properly executed and/or implemented.

14. Apostles: Functioning and Powers

14.1 An Apostle is appointed and ordained through CHRIST by the Apostolate of a province as the leader of THE CHURCH in a designated Apostleship. In addition to his duties in an Apostleship, an Apostle accepts the fiduciary responsibilities that go with his appointment as a member of the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate(s), Forum(s) of Apostles and any other body to which he has been appointed by THE CHURCH and discharges the temporal duties assigned to him by the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate(s), Forum(s) of Apostles and any other body to which he has been appointed. An Apostle automatically becomes an Emeritus Apostle on the first day following the end of the year in which he turns seventy (70) years of age and his duties as head of an Apostleship are handed over to his successor appointed by the Apostolate.

14.2 Every Apostle is subject to the authority of the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate and Forum of Apostles which has jurisdiction over him, and their decisions, ordinances, rules, policies, directives, and regulations are binding on him. Within the bounds of the freedom afforded an Apostle by the Apostolate of the province to perform the work of the ministry as an Ambassador of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, he shall have the specific powers set out below in the Apostleship in which he serves:

14.2.1 To exercise the power to perform the ceremony of sealing, which is the essential qualification for membership.

14.2.2 To establish congregations with the prior approval of the Forum of Apostles.

14.2.3 To structure his Apostleship in accordance with clause 6 with due regard to clauses 12.7.3, 13.5.3 and 14.2.4.

14.2.4 To appoint, ordain, and restrict (partially or totally) the powers of, classify inactive with retention of office, or remove from office any officer, save as provided for in clause 12.7.2 and provided that -

14.2.4.1 the appointment and ordainment or removal from office of a Fourfold Officer be approved by the Apostolate, upon recommendation by the Forum of Apostles. Such approval by the Apostolate shall be final and binding;

14.2.4.2 the appointment and ordainment or removal from office of an Elder be approved by the Forum of Apostles;

14.2.4.3 the restriction (partially or totally) of the powers of, classification as inactive with retention of office of an Elder or Fourfold Officer be approved by the Forum of Apostles of a province/district/ region. Such decision by the Forum of Apostles shall be final and binding;

14.2.4.4 the removal of any officer be dealt with in terms of the provisions of the *Disciplinary Regulations for Officers*; and

14.2.4.5 the provisions of clauses 14.2.4.1 to 14.2.4.4 shall not apply in the case where a Fourfold Officer and/or his wife or an Elder and/or his wife resigns of their own free will.

14.3 In addition to the powers referred to in clause 14.2, the Apostle shall be responsible and accountable for all spiritual and temporal affairs in his Apostleship in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and, where applicable, the Forum of Apostles.

14.4 Where Apostleships are structured as a district in terms of clause 9, one of the Apostles serving in the district shall be appointed Apostle: Head Office Administration of that district by the Apostolate of the province. In addition to his other responsibilities, he shall in respect of the district -

14.4.1 be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the district head office in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and the Forum of Apostles of the district and shall sign all documents pertaining to the legal and temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in that district over the title “Apostle: Head Office Administration”; and

14.4.2 appoint a district advisory committee and other committees or bodies as approved by the Apostolate and/or Forum of Apostles to assist him with his management functions and shall have the power to appoint and/or

substitute the members of such committees or bodies after consultation with the Forum of Apostles of the district.

14.5 Where the structure of a province does not include districts, one of the Apostles serving in the province shall be appointed Apostle: Head Office Administration for that province by the Apostolate of such province, and shall in respect of the province -

14.5.1 be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the provincial head office in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and the Forum of Apostles of the province and shall sign all documents pertaining to the legal and temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in that province over the title “Apostle: Head Office Administration”; and

14.5.2 appoint a provincial advisory committee and other committees or bodies as approved by the Apostolate and/or Forum of Apostles, to assist him with his management functions and shall have the power to appoint and/or substitute the members of such committees or bodies after consultation with the Forum of Apostles of the province.

14.6 Where an independent country, or grouping of independent countries, has been structured as a region in terms of clause 8, the Apostolate of the province shall appoint an Apostle of the province, or an Apostle of a district to which responsibility for a region has been allocated in terms of clause 10.2.2.1 as the Apostle: Head Office Administration of that region and shall in respect of the region -

14.6.1 be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the region in accordance with the directions of the Apostolate and the Forum of Apostles of the province/district and shall sign all documents pertaining to the legal and temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in that region over the title “Apostle: Head Office Administration”; and

14.6.2 appoint a regional advisory committee from the ranks of officers in in the region and/or the province/district to which the region has been allocated in terms of clause 10.2.2.1, and such other committees or bodies as approved by the Apostolate and/or Forum of Apostles, to assist him with his management functions and shall have the power to appoint and/or replace the members of such committees or bodies after consultation with the Forum of Apostles of the district.

14.7 Upon the death or removal from office for any reason whatsoever of a serving Apostle, and until a new Apostle is appointed by the Apostolate, all officers serving under and/or appointed by the outgoing Apostle shall, *ipso facto*, fall under the direct control and jurisdiction of another Apostle in the affected province/district, with the prior approval of the Apostolate of the province, and all his decisions shall be regarded as valid and all congregations of the Apostleship concerned shall, *ipso facto*, fall under his jurisdiction and spiritual power. The Apostolate shall, if applicable, appoint an Apostle from the relevant Forum of Apostles to take over the functions of the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the province/district/ region.

15. Temporal Management in Provinces/Districts/Regions

15.1 The Forum of Apostles of a province/district/region shall give effect to the provisions of clauses 3 and 16 by managing the temporal affairs of that province/ district/region through the Apostle: Head Office Administration.

15.2 The Forum of Apostles shall be assisted in its task by the provincial/district/ regional advisory committee which shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman, and no fewer than three (3) other officers of the province/district/region, representative of all the Apostleships in the province/district/region and shall be appointed in terms of clause 14.4.2 or 14.5.2 or 14.6.2 and shall be answerable to the Apostle: Head Office Administration for the tasks allotted to it.

15.3 Provincial/district/regional advisory committees shall be advisory bodies and execute the tasks allotted to them and conduct their meetings and affairs as laid down by the *Constitution*, regulations approved in terms of the *Constitution*, relevant resolutions of the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate and Forum of Apostles and the instructions of the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the province/district/region.

15.4 The Apostle: Head Office Administration of a province/district/region shall, in consultation with the Forum of Apostles, appoint a provincial/district/regional secretary, who shall also be the secretary of the provincial/district/regional advisory committee, and other paid officials of THE CHURCH, such as an accountant, treasurer, and manager of works, as the needs of the province/district/region dictate. No official employed by THE CHURCH shall be, *ex officio*, a member of the provincial/district/regional advisory committee.

15.5 At least three (3) persons who serve on a provincial/district/regional advisory committee as contemplated in clauses 14.4.2, 14.5.2 and 14.6.2, as well as the Apostle: Head Office Administration, shall not be connected persons or related parties.

16. Funds

16.1 The funds of THE CHURCH shall be used only and exclusively for the objects for which THE CHURCH was established and will be collected by means of tithes, contributions, and donations that are made on a voluntary basis and received from returns on investments and income from property sales or rental.

16.2 No monetary charge shall be levied or accepted for any blessing or service such as baptism, Holy Communion, wedding, burial, and the like.

16.3 No funds shall be accepted that are conditional or revocable at the instance of the giver and all funds that are received by THE CHURCH shall be regarded as irrevocable contributions. Donations from external sources will not be accepted from anonymous donors, donors who have a political affiliation or donors who seek to advance their commercial positioning.

16.4 Each province, district, and region, and each independent country included in a province or district or region in terms of clause 10, shall be financially autonomous but shall manage its funds within the policy approved by the responsible

Apostolate and remain subject to the rules, regulations, and resolutions of that Apostolate.

16.5 The Apostolate of each province shall approve and enforce regulations and rules setting out financial policy to ensure sound management and control of the funds of THE CHURCH in such province, its districts, and regions, as it deems necessary.

16.6 Central Operational Funds: Provinces, Districts, and Regions:

16.6.1 Subject to the provisions of clause 16.6.3 the Forum of Apostles shall authorise the opening, operating, and control of a central operational fund for the province/district/region which shall be used for the temporal management of the province/district/region, including its effective administration, future planning, and the execution of its objects in terms of clauses 3 and 16.

16.6.2 The fund shall consist of income received by the provincial/district/ regional head office from congregations in the province/district/region and other approved sources in terms of clause 16.1.

16.6.3 Where the jurisdiction of a province/district/region is spread over two (2) or more independent countries, a separate central operational fund as contemplated in clause 16.6.1 shall be established in respect of every independent country.

16.6.4 The Forum of Apostles shall authorise the opening and operating of bank accounts with financial institutions, approved by the Apostolate, in the name of THE CHURCH and in respect of the central operational fund for the province/district/region, provided that separate bank accounts will be opened for all independent countries under its jurisdiction.

16.7 Temporal Management of Congregations:

16.7.1 The temporal matters of every congregation shall be conducted and managed by a congregational management committee and shall consist of a chairman and deputy chairman who shall be officers of THE CHURCH as well as -

16.7.1.1 a secretary;

16.7.1.2 a treasurer;

16.7.1.3 at least two (2) internal auditors; and

16.7.1.4 at least one (1) health and safety representative,

who shall be appointed from the ranks of the members of the congregation by the responsible Apostle or a person or persons delegated by such Apostle to make such appointments.

The functions in clauses 16.7.1.1 to 16.7.1.4 may be combined in small congregations with the specific approval of the responsible Apostle.

16.7.2 Every Apostolate shall approve and enforce regulations setting out the duties and responsibilities of the officials referred to in clause 16.7.1 and the Apostle: Head Office Administration shall issue such additional

instructions and institute such measures as are dictated by local circumstances to ensure that these regulations are complied with.

16.7.3 A meeting open to all members of a congregation shall be held once every month for the purpose of discussing the temporal affairs of the congregation and proper minutes of such meetings shall be kept by the secretary of the congregation.

16.8 Audits:

16.8.1 All books of account shall be audited by internal auditors appointed by the Forum of Apostles.

16.8.2 Where required by legislative or regulatory authorities in specific countries, the Forum of Apostles with the approval of the Apostolate, shall appoint audit practitioners to perform statutory audits, reviews, or legislative equivalent as prescribed by such legislation or regulations.

16.8.3 In countries where there are no legislative or regulatory requirements as provided for in clause 16.8.2, the Apostolate, in consultation with the *COA ARC Committee*, shall appoint professionally qualified individuals from another Church jurisdiction to perform independent audits or reviews as directed by the Apostolate. Individuals selected for this purpose may be a-

16.8.3.1 functionary of THE CHURCH; or

16.8.3.2 independent member of the *COA ARC Committee*; or

16.8.3.3 professionally qualified individual who has been approved by the *COA ARC Committee*.

16.8.4 The Forum of Apostles shall appoint an independent audit, risk, and compliance (ARC) committee for the district, or province structured in terms of clause 10.2.1, provided that a separate ARC committee may be appointed for a region under its jurisdiction. The ARC committee will perform an oversight role and shall consist of independent and suitably qualified individuals.

16.8.5 The Apostolate may, in special circumstances, appoint an auditing company or an accredited external auditor to perform an independent audit or review in terms of clause 16.8.3.

16.8.6 Auditing duties in terms of clauses 16.8.2 and 16.8.3 may not be performed by any person or party connected or related to -

16.8.6.1 an Apostle of the Forum of Apostles;

16.8.6.2 the provincial/district/regional secretary; and

16.8.6.3 the provincial/district/regional accountant/treasurer.

16.9 Pecuniary Interest:

16.9.1 No officer, member or employee of THE CHURCH shall receive any pecuniary profit or gain from THE CHURCH, or any commission, grant, rebate, or other kind of personal benefit from any bank, insurer,

contractor, supplier, or any other institution relating to the business of THE CHURCH, save for -

16.9.1.1 the remuneration, emoluments, and fringe benefits payable by THE CHURCH to its employees as approved by the responsible Apostolate and/or the Forum of Apostles upon recommendation of a remuneration committee, appointed by the Apostolate/ Forum of Apostles;

16.9.1.2 the reimbursement for approved expenses properly incurred by an officer, member or employee concerning the affairs of THE CHURCH, in accordance with the policy, regulations and rules of the Apostolate and the further directives of the Forum of Apostles; and

16.9.1.3 the usual professional, business, or trade charges and other payments for services rendered in terms of a legitimate contract with THE CHURCH as recommended by the provincial/district/ regional advisory committee and approved by the Forum of Apostles.

16.9.2 An officer, member or employee shall not be present at, take part in or vote on any matter before the Conference of Apostles, the Apostolate, the Forum of Apostles, the provincial/district/regional advisory committee or any other appointed committee of THE CHURCH, in which he, his spouse or his child has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest, provided that this clause shall not be so construed as to prohibit such a person from being present at, taking part in and voting on any matter before the said bodies where the pecuniary interest of such person, his spouse or child -

16.9.2.1 is common to that of the other members of THE CHURCH; and

16.9.2.2 has been disclosed by such member beforehand and the Conference of Apostles, Apostolate, Forum of Apostles, or provincial/district/regional advisory committee, as the case may be, has resolved that the interest is so small or remote that a conflict of interest is improbable, provided that the person concerned shall not be present during discussion of and voting on the proposal so to resolve.

16.10 Funds for Welfare and other purposes:

The provisions of clauses 16.1 to 16.6, 16.8, 16.9 and 17 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to funds that are managed by a non-profit organisation approved in terms of clause 20.3.

17. Annual Reports

Provincial/district/regional secretaries, supported by provincial/district/regional accountants/treasurers and other responsible functionaries, shall annually submit detailed reports of the activities and financial affairs of each country, region and district to the responsible Forum of Apostles, Apostolate and the COA Audit, Risk and

Compliance Committee, as provided for in the *Accounting and Reporting Regulations* issued by the Conference of Apostles.

18. Discipline

Every member and officer shall be bound by, obey, and subject himself to the order, formularies, regulations, policies, directives, rules, doctrine, teachings, and precepts of THE CHURCH and at all times behave accordingly.

19. Property

19.1 All movable and immovable property and assets, and all funds, shall vest in the name of THE CHURCH and, in the case of immovable property and vehicles, be registered in the name of THE CHURCH.

19.2 Where it is prescribed by the laws of a country that property shall be registered in the name of the trustees of an unincorporated body, such property shall be registered in the name of the chairman and the secretary of the Apostolate responsible for THE CHURCH in such country, provided that they may delegate such power and authority to any person(s) to execute any such documents on their behalf.

19.3 All contracts, deeds, bonds, powers, and other instruments requiring to be executed in connection with any transaction relating to the property of THE CHURCH, shall be signed by the Apostle: Head Office Administration of the district (or province or region as the case may be) and the provincial/district/ regional secretary and where necessary such other officer(s) of the province/ district/region in which the property is located.

20. Companies Limited by Guarantee/Incorporated Associations/Bodies/ Trusts/Non-Profit Entities

20.1 Where the laws of a country dictate, or where legal advice requires that the temporal affairs of THE CHURCH in a country be managed and administered by a company limited by guarantee, an incorporated association/body or trustees of a trust incorporated as a trust board or similar body, such company limited by guarantee, incorporated association/body/trust be established and registered for THE CHURCH in such country, provided that -

20.1.1 the articles and/or memorandum of association/rules/deed of trust of the incorporated association/body/trust be approved by the Conference of Apostles beforehand and shall -

20.1.1.1 not be inconsistent with the *Constitution* of THE CHURCH, which *Constitution* shall be annexed to the said articles and/or memorandum of association/rules/deed of trust when submitted to the authorities of the country for approval; and

20.1.1.2 include the name “The Old Apostolic Church (name of country)”.

and

20.1.2 the founding statutory members/trustees of the company limited by guarantee/incorporated association/body/trust as well as the substitution of such statutory members/trustees or the appointment of new or additional statutory members/trustees, shall be those persons nominated by the Apostolate responsible for THE CHURCH in such country, and shall include Apostles of that Apostolate.

20.2 Where it is prescribed by the laws of a country that -

20.2.1 a statutory body such as a board, board of trustees or similar management entity be established, such body shall be appointed by the Apostolate and operate under the care or delegation of the Apostle: Head Office Administration and the advice of the provincial/district/regional advisory committee in terms of the *Constitution* of THE CHURCH and be responsible and accountable for the temporal affairs of the company limited by guarantee/incorporated association/body/trust; and

20.2.2 certain statutory officers such as a president, treasurer, secretary and/or any other statutory officers as may be required in terms of the legislation of the country concerned be appointed for the company limited by guarantee/incorporated association/body/trust, such appointments be provided for in the articles and/or memorandum of association/rules/deed of trust referred to in clause 20.1.1.

20.3 Where the laws of a country dictate that an additional tax-exempt body in the form of a non-profit organisation (NPO) be registered for preferential income tax treatment, or where the Apostolate approves the establishment of non-profit organisations for specific purposes, the following shall apply:

20.3.1 The founding documents, including the articles of association, memorandum of association, memorandum of incorporation, constitution, rules, and trust deeds of the non-profit entity must be approved by the Conference of Apostles beforehand and shall -

20.3.1.1 not be inconsistent with the *Constitution* of THE CHURCH; and

20.3.1.2 where appropriate, include the name “The Old Apostolic Church (name of country)”.

20.3.2 Where required, the statutory members of the non-profit entity as well as the substitution of such statutory members or the appointment of new or additional statutory members shall be those persons nominated by the Apostolate responsible for THE CHURCH in such country and shall include Apostles of that Apostolate.

20.4 All funds referred to in clause 16 and all properties and assets shall vest in, and in the case of immovable property and vehicles, be registered in the name of the company limited by guarantee/incorporated association/body/board of trustees and shall be managed and controlled by the said company limited by guarantee/incorporated association/body/board of trustees in accordance with the provisions of the articles and/or memorandum of association/memorandum of incorporation/rules/deed of trust referred to in clause 20.1.1.

20.5 Compliance with all legislative provisions by all entities that have been registered in terms of clause 20 is the responsibility of the responsible Apostolate which, through internal and external monitoring mechanisms, shall ensure that measures are in place to enable and monitor such compliance, including requirements that stem from founding documents, such as conducting general meetings, filing reports, and submitting such documentation as may be required or requested from time to time. Apostolates must maintain lists of all present and past statutory members of all entities registered in terms of clause 20. The Conference of Apostles which, through the *COA ARC Committee,* exercises oversight over all matters related to constitutional and legislative compliance in THE CHURCH, will include compliance reporting in its annual work programme.

21. Delegation of Powers

21.1 The Conference of Apostles and an Apostolate may delegate any power conferred upon it by or under the *Constitution* to an Apostle or Apostles of THE CHURCH, a subcommittee appointed by it, or to a standing committee appointed in terms of clause 11.7.8, subject to the provisions of clauses 11.8.2 and 12.8.2.

21.2 The Forum of Apostles and the Apostle: Head Office Administration of a province/district/region may delegate any power conferred upon it/him by or under the *Constitution* to officials of the provincial/district/regional head office, a committee or officers of THE CHURCH, or a management body in terms of clause 20.2.

22. Legal

THE CHURCH may sue or be sued or litigate in any other manner in its own name as an unincorporated association, company limited by guarantee, incorporated body/ society/trust, or non-profit entity, provided the necessary resolution to sue or defend or litigate be passed by the responsible Apostolate.

23. Politics

Officers and members shall refrain from involving THE CHURCH in politics or in discussions of a political nature but may vote for a political party or person according to their personal persuasion.

24. Language

The languages generally spoken by the local congregations shall be acknowledged and used in THE CHURCH. Interpreters may be used where necessary.

25. Dissolution

Upon dissolution or winding-up of THE CHURCH in any country where it is established, all its assets in such country remaining after the settling of all its debts and liabilities, shall per resolution of the Conference of Apostles be distributed to a non-profit entity

that is organised and operated exclusively for religious or similar purposes in such country, and has established an equivalent tax-exemption status in terms of the laws of such country.

26. Amendments

26.1 This *Constitution* encompasses and constitutes the 1927 *Constitution* of THE CHURCH as amended from time to time.

26.2 An amended *Constitution* will be submitted to governmental authorities as prescribed.

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