



TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL

The Constitution

*A constitutional framework that will guide
the affairs of the Ministry.*

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.”

ISAIAH 60:1

FROM THE TCI HANDBOOK (REFERENCE MANUAL) • VERSION 11.0 • CHAPTER THREE

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BEFORE THE SECTIONS

Preamble

The birth of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL in this dispensation has necessitated clarity on major issues that will affect the health of the organisation. We are convinced (from past experience), that it is very necessary to document a constitutional framework that will guide the affairs of the Ministry. The aim of this exercise is to put structure to this Ministry. As TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL continues to grow, and seasons change, this constitution will be reviewed. “Members,” whether born in the house or adopted, are those willing and able to abide by this constitution. Affiliates are not necessarily under the government of this Constitution.



SECTION 1

Name

The name and designation of this corporate body of Christians shall be TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL, which term shall embrace all spheres of Christian work and local congregations, which are administered by or come under the direction and authority of the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL Founder and Bishop, as well as the Board of TCI. However, country level and local congregations may append their own name and so maintain an individual identity.



SECTION 2

Place

The administrative centre of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL parent body shall be TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL Centre, Harare, or such other place as the Founder and Overseer may from time to time designate. Where-as the administrative centre of each local congregation shall be the responsibility of each local congregation, located at such place as the Local Council of the local congregation may from time to time designate, this will require vetting and approval of the Founder and Overseer to ensure that it conforms with the standards of TCI.

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SECTION 3

Mission Statement

The overall mission statement of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL is:

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To preach and reach out to the nations with the gospel and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

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SECTION 4

Purpose

- a. To propagate the Christian faith and the Testimony of Jesus Christ and to spread the gospel of Christ so that we can produce local congregations that are self-sustaining and self-propagating, in submission to this constitution and to the Board of TCI. Our local congregations, through The Board of TCI, will be inter-dependent for vision, mission, values, image, policy and direction.
- b. To produce leaders who will be relevant to all spheres of society. In addition to producing leaders in the church, we want Christians who will influence the political, economic and social fiber of the nation.

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SECTION 5

Statement of Faith

- a. We believe that the scriptures as originally given are plenary-verbal inspired, infallible and inerrant. They are the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- b. We believe in the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; three distinguishable Persons, but one indivisible God.
- c. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.
- d. We believe that Jesus died for our sins; was buried and on the third day He rose up from the dead.
- e. We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues as a real experience after salvation, leading to the sanctification of the believer through the inner

working of the same Holy Spirit.

- f. We believe that the gifts of the Spirit operate today in the same way that they were manifest in the early church.
- g. We believe that God created the world as recorded in Genesis. We believe that man was created by God; he was tested and fell, resulting in the total depravity of human nature.
- h. We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace through faith. There are four foundational elements for the Christian life. These are: one, repentance; two, faith in God (believing); three, baptism (by immersion) in water; four, being filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit.
- i. We believe in the table of the Lord (also called communion table, the Lord's supper or breaking of bread). This is an ordinance that we as believers should observe.
- j. We believe that the devil is real, has a personality and that his eventual destination is the lake of fire (hell) that was created for him and his angels (demons), and his followers.
- k. We believe in eternal life for believers and eternal punishment for unbelievers.
- l. We believe that there is one true church. This is also called the Body of Christ and is comprised of genuine believers from different races, tribes, languages and denominations.



SECTION 6

Structure



THE FOUNDER AND BISHOP OF TCI

The highest governing position (role) of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL shall be The Founder and Bishop, and shall be occupied by the founder of Testimony of Christ – International or his successor as determined by the Board of TCI. This role, shall serve as the primary trustee of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.

i. Functions of The Founder and Bishop will be as follows:

- a. To determine as well as uphold the Vision, Mission statement and Values of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- b. To determine the direction of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL in order to maintain its integrity as well as the health of its member bodies.
- c. To initiate, encourage and approve the planting of new congregations as well as receive into fellowship or release congregations from the corporate body of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL, as the case may be.
- d. To appoint leaders in TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- e. To be responsible for the entry criteria for individuals desiring membership of, as well as organizations desiring affiliation with TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL and its congregations.

- f. To carry out discipline where necessary to preserve the purity and unity of the body, and to give guidelines on disciplinary procedures to all TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL congregations.
- g. To determine and establish TCI programmes and service ministries, these being: Annual Camps Conference and Seminars, Leadership Development, as well as any other service ministry that may be birthed.
- h. To make all major decisions deemed necessary for the success of the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL’s vision, mission and goals.
- i. The Founder and Bishop shall be accountable in the first instance, through the Board of TCI and to the rest of the body of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL through the AGM of members.
- j. To receive counsel and advice from other such Christian bodies with which TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL is affiliated.
- k. To chair Board of TCI Meetings.

B THE BOARD OF TCI

The primary role of the Board of TCI is to implement the Vision, mission and values of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL. It shall be comprised of a minimum of two members and a maximum of twenty members and shall be chaired by The Founder and Bishop of TCI.

i. Qualifications of the members of the Board of TCI:

- a. Must be born again with evidence of a growing testimony in the things of the Lord. These shall include but not limited to tithing, soul winning, shepherding, prayer, holiness, knowledgeable in the word of God etc.
- b. Must be willing to sign and live by the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL Handbook (Reference Manual), Statement of Faith and Constitution.
- c. Must have an active leadership role in one of the arms of Ministry of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- d. Must demonstrate Ephesians 4 leadership qualities and Godliness (Fruits of the Spirit) according to Galatians 5:22, displaying a vision for the whole of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL and not just a part.
- e. Must be appointed as well as released by The Founder and Bishop in consultation with the existing members of the Board of TCI.

ii. Functions of the Board of TCI will be as follows:

- a. To implement as well as uphold the vision, mission, and values of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- b. The Board of TCI shall have the authority to implement an effective accounting and administration systems and oversee and examine the accounts of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL and its congregations.

- c. To administer all church finances through appropriate committees (eg Finance Committee) in a very transparent and above board manner, in compliance with section 8 of this constitution.
- d. To determine and prioritise Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) and Operating Expenditure (OPEX). OPEX will include but not limited to any allowances and wages that may be payable to full and part time staff.
- e. To oversee the acquisition and disposal of all fixed and movable assets of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL. The Board of TCI shall cause to be kept a proper register of these and shall ensure the safe deposit of title deeds with a proper bank with a memo of authorized signatories who can withdraw these title deeds.
- f. To carry out discipline where necessary to preserve the purity and unity of the body, and to implement guidelines on disciplinary procedures to all TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL congregations.
- g. To lead and manage the smooth operation of TCI service ministries, these being: Annual Camps Conference and Seminars, Leadership Development, as well as any other service ministry that may be birthed.
- h. The Board of TCI shall be accountable to the Pastoral Council and to the rest of the body of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL through the AGM of members.



THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Supporting the Board of TCI will be the Pastoral Council which comprises Pastors in charge of congregations of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL. The Pastors must meet the leadership qualifications prescribed in 1Timothy 3 and must also subscribe to the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL's values, statement of faith and Constitution. They shall endeavor to meet at least once in 3 months for the following purposes:

- i. Mutual fellowship, equipping for the task of leading as well as networking with other leaders within TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- ii. To represent the interests of their particular congregation before members of The Board of TCI, who shall govern these meetings.
- iii. To be accountable for their stewardship of their local congregations.



THE LOCAL COUNCILS

The Pastor(Deacon or Elder) in charge of each congregation, shall be the Chairperson of each Local Council, whose voice he shall represent at the Pastoral Council meetings. This group shall be appointed from the local congregation under the direction and supervision of the Board of TCI and must meet the criteria of 1Timothy 3 as well as subscribe to the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL's values, constitution and statement of faith, by being willing to sign the same. Their main function shall include the following:

- i. To implement the vision and direction of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL in their locality.

- ii. To ensure that the local body is self-sustaining, self-propagating, in submission to The Board of TCI and interdependent with the member congregations of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- iii. To ensure that the local body remains a part of the whole by actively representing and promoting the vision of TCI.
- iv. To contribute to the central administration fund such amounts and levies as will be determined from time to time by the Board of TCI, to support the furtherance of the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL missions and work.
- v. To ensure the health and welfare of any congregation planted out from the same.

E THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM shall provide the widest consultative forum for all decisions taken throughout TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.

a. Composition:

The Board of TCI shall be the governing body of the AGM. The Pastors in charge of Congregations and two delegates from each congregation shall also attend. Each congregation shall notify The Board of TCI of their official delegates in writing before the AGM. The same number of observers may attend although they may not vote. The AGM shall be held in the month of January and TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL shall use the calendar year for accounting purposes.

b. Function:

- i. To provide a forum where the member bodies through their selected representatives can contribute to the overall vision and running of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL as well as give account of the running of each local congregation.
- ii. To provide a forum where The Board of TCI can give account of its affairs to the local congregations. They shall cause to be presented at this meeting, the financial statements of Testimony of Christ International.
- iii. To provide a forum to debate TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL's family matters.
- iv. To determine together the calendar of the years activities as well as the accompanying budget to cover the same for approval by the AGM.
- v. To receive reports from the Service Ministries and to determine and approve the direction of these.

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SECTION 7

Individual Membership

The membership of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL shall be expressed in the following manner:

- a. Personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and a commitment to obey the scriptures in the areas of water baptism, participation in the Lord's Table and a lifestyle that is consistent with Christian conduct and doctrine.
- b. Agreement with the TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL statement of faith.
- c. Financial support of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL through tithes and regular offerings
- d. Submission to the spiritual authority of The Founder and Bishop, The Board of TCI and Church leadership and the discipline thereof.
- e. Participation in the activities of the church
- f. Duly completed membership form for inclusion in the membership database.

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SECTION 8

Finances

- a. All finances received by TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL congregations shall be accounted for in the best possible manner that speaks of transparency and accountability with reasonable documentation being kept. All tithes and offerings shall be deemed to be income to be expended on the Ministry's expenses in order of priority.
- b. All finances (tithes, offerings, donations or special pledges) will be received and appropriately receipted (for accountability and reporting purposes) and banked into banks account/s in line with laid down procedures.
- c. All funds shall be used for the purpose for which they were raised or intended. Departure from this will require the Board of TCI or Local Councils ratification and approval.
- d. All ministry expenditure (which is determined and prioritized by the Board of TCI) shall be paid from the bank account/s upon signatures of duly authorized signatories in line with the priority list. The Finance Committee chairperson must be one of the mandatory signatories to all accounts.
- e. As a guideline priority will be given to those elements that are prerequisite for the ministry to function such as Hall rent, PA system etc followed by allowances or wages for full time staff and finally other nice to have features as determined by the board.
- f. The upkeep of all full time staff (levites) shall be by way of a board-determined payroll and/or allowance system. The level of payroll and amounts payable will be determined by availability of funds, market trends and the requirements of one's position within the Ministry hierarchy.

Part time staff may be paid some allowances as feasible and as determined and approved by the board.

- g.** Books of account shall be open for inspection by congregation members at reasonable times. Statements of account shall be prepared and presented at least annually at the local level and/or at the AGM.
- h.** Bank account(s) will be opened for the purposes of depositing all monies received as well as withdrawing the same upon dual signatures of selected and duly authorized signatories.

NOTE

Each local congregation must forward 10% of its income (it's Tithe) to Central Administration and retain 90% for its own operations and budget in line with the above rules.

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SECTION 9

Property

- a.** All property which TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL's congregations shall acquire, whether movable or immovable, shall be held and administered solely for the furtherance of the aims and objectives and the propagation of the aims and objectives outlined in this constitution.
- b.** The Board of TCI shall oversee the acquisition and disposal of immovable property, which shall be registered in the name of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL, whether by sale, purchase, exchange, donation, lease or any other means.
- c.** The Board of TCI shall have power to borrow money on behalf of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL with or without security and to hypothecate its property whether movable or immovable as a security for such loans.
- d.** All immovable property shall vest in The Board of TCI.

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SECTION 10

Resolution of Conflicts and Disputes

The following steps shall be taken to resolve any conflict in TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL:

- a.** The Local Pastor shall be the first point of contact to resolve a conflict.
- b.** If the matter is not resolved then the Local Council must be called in.
- c.** If the matter is still not resolved, The Board of TCI will be the final court of appeal with a report being given to the AGM as necessary. Where necessary, those ministries and organizations to which TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL is affiliated may be asked to arbitrate.

- d. NOTE: All matters of a criminal nature will be handed over to the police and courts of the land.

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SECTION 11

Exit from Testimony of Christ International

Where an individual or congregation decides to leave TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL, the following shall apply: -

- a. The individual or congregation as the case may be, may no longer use the venue, name, title or assets of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL.
- b. The Board of TCI, together with the remaining Local Council members of the said congregation, shall determine the exit logistics and the disposal or transfer of any movable or immovable property involved.

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SECTION 12

Indemnity

- a. TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL shall not be liable for any lawsuit arising out of the negligence of individual members or leaders acting on its behalf.
- b. TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL shall not be held liable for any loss of property, injury or death arising from any accident that may occur during participation in any TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL activity

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SECTION 13

Dissolution of Ministry

Dissolution of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL will be determined by a unanimous decision of The Board of TCI, confirmed by a two thirds majority vote of the AGM. All assets of TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL would then be donated to an organization with similar objectives.

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SECTION 14

Amendment of Constitution

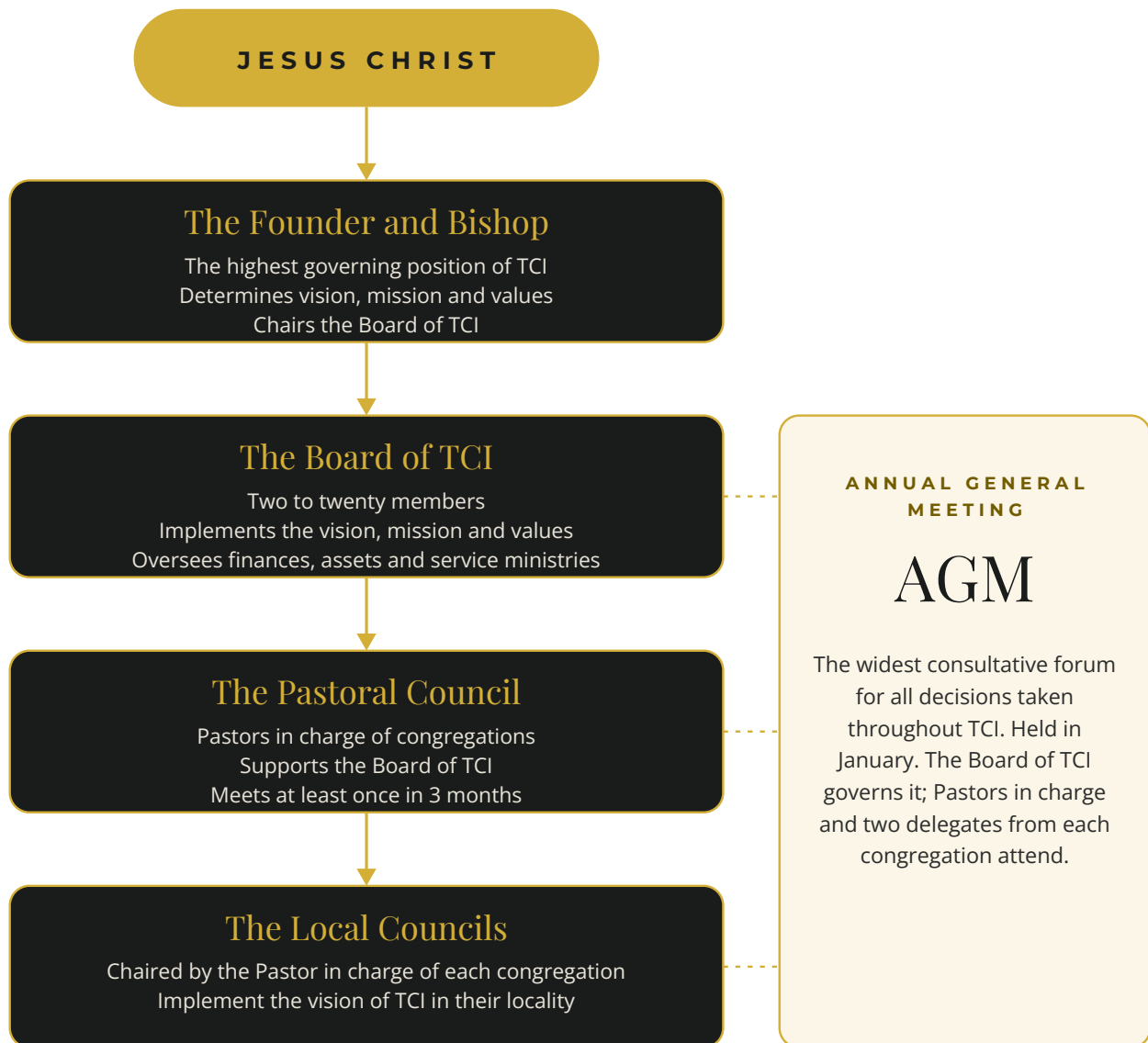
This constitution may be amended or altered with the approval of The Board of TCI and a two thirds majority of those present at the AGM, or those present at a general or special meeting convened for the purpose of amendment or alteration of the constitution.

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END OF CONSTITUTION

AT A GLANCE

How TCI Is Governed



A visual summary of Section 6 (Structure). Where wording differs, the text of the Constitution governs.



OUR VISION

*A world redeemed through the Gospel
and the Testimony of Jesus Christ*

TESTIMONY OF CHRIST – INTERNATIONAL

tcionline.org · testimonyofchristinternational@gmail.com

Arise and Shine – Isaiah 60