

# **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH INTERNATIONAL–The Netherlands**

## **PREAMBLE**

The Apostolic Church International–The Netherlands is a branch of The Apostolic Church, Ghana, and its parent church in the United Kingdom, upholding the faith, morals, discipline, and worship of the Church International.

The Church is incorporated under the laws governing non-profit corporations of the State of the Netherlands as a separate and free corporation willingly and voluntarily submitting itself to the ecclesial leadership and supervision of The Apostolic Church - Ghana and retaining its name, property and freedom of association.

## **ARTICLE ONE: Name and Location**

- The name of this Non-Profit organization, by permission of the National Council of the Apostolic Church - Ghana shall be called The Apostolic Church International (Holland Mission).
- The registered office of the corporation is located at Bullewijkpad 51, 1102 LB Amsterdam.

## **ARTICLE TWO: Purpose**

The Corporation is organized exclusively for religious, religious-educational and charitable purposes, including in-kind purposes;

1. To encourage and promote evangelism for Jesus;
2. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like faith and to promote the fundamental concept that all persons as created in the image of God deserve respect irrespective of race, color or faith.
3. Organize conferences, seminars, workshops [among others] to enhance the progress and peace of members and the community;
4. To hold church services.

## **ARTICLE THREE: Standards of Faith, Doctrine and Discipline 2**

The standards of Faith, Doctrine and Discipline of this church shall be based on the tenets, rules of beliefs, the rules of conduct, and the stipulations for the Apostolic Church - Ghana's branches outside Ghana as enshrined in its constitution.

Acknowledging our baptism as the admission of us all as ministers of Christ. The lay ministry of this church which comprises of Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses shall be open to all members regardless of age, color, ethnic origin, or gender in accordance with the practice of The Apostolic Church - Ghana.

We acknowledge the traditional ordained ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists Pastors, Teacher, Elders and Deacons in the order of Succession as ordered by the Church's constitution.

## **ARTICLE FOUR: Affiliation**

This local church shall voluntarily submit itself to the Constitution and Tenets of The Apostolic Church - Ghana.

## **ARTICLE FIVE: Memberships**

The corporation shall have two classes of members:

- I. Presbytery, and
- II. Congregational members.

### **I. Church Presbytery**

1.1 The Presbytery shall be the governing, decision and policy making body of this local church as prescribed by the constitution

1.2 The Presbytery shall be the only voting members of the corporation.

1.3 The Local Presbytery shall be composed of;

- The District Pastor (who oversees more than one local church)
- The Local Pastor (where the local church has one)
- The elders in the Local Church
- All retired Apostles, Pastors and Elders in the Local Church
- Where the Local Church does not have the above composition, the Pastor shall have the right to form a leadership team whose function and authority shall be the same as the local presbytery until such a time that it is created.

There will be no limit to the number of members constituting the Local Presbytery; it shall only be at the discretion of the Local Pastor approved by the National Council of the National Apostolic Church under its jurisdiction.

### ***The Functions of the Local Presbytery 3***

- Be the policy and decision making body of the Local Church
- Exercise general oversight responsibilities over the activities of the Local Church

- Perform any other functions assigned to them by the District Pastor

## **II. Congregational Members**

2.1 Congregational Membership in this organization is open to any person, male or female, irrespective of race or national origin, economic status, age or other personal or economic attributes or status. However that person must have received a valid baptism and right hand of fellowship and adheres to the Articles of Incorporation, Bye-Laws, and the tenets of Faith of The Apostolic Church - Ghana.

2.2 Persons desiring to be members of this church shall be received into Fellowship by the Pastor on approval of the Presbytery through the following means:

- Confession of faith in Christ and Water Baptism by immersion in The Name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit (if not already validly baptized);
- They shall also be proven to be attending worship services regularly and contributes to the financial support of the church
- Receiving right hand of Fellowship by the Presbytery;
- Transfer from another Apostolic Church branch in any part of the world upon receipt of a letter of transfer from the former church testifying of the validity of the prospective member's faith.

2.3 No congregational member shall by virtue of such membership acquire any right, title, or interest in or to any property belonging to or used by this congregation.

2.4 A Member may be disciplined if he or she causes an offense which falls within the stipulations enshrined in the Church Constitution. This discipline shall be meted out in the spirit of love to restore the disciplined member into full membership.

2.5 Congregational membership may be terminated by the Pastor in agreement with the Presbytery for cause, and appeal in such cases shall stretch to the local Pentecostal Council of Churches in Amsterdam or the Ghana National Council whose decision shall be final.

2.6 A congregational member shall cease to be a member if he/she abandons Fellowship for consecutive period of three months without sufficient reason after at most three follows up.

2.7 There will be annual congregational members meeting with the presbytery to deliberate on any matter affecting the Church and its membership.

## **ARTICLE SIX: Members' Meeting**

1. All meetings of the membership shall be held at the official Church Auditorium or any other place within or outside Amsterdam, as may be designated for the purpose from time to time by the Presbytery. 4

2. The Annual Meeting of the congregation membership shall be held each year on a Sunday designated by the Presbytery.

3. Notice of all meetings, stating the place, day and hour of the meeting (and in the case of a special meeting, the purpose for which the meeting is called) shall be given by means applicable (writing/verbal etc.) to each member entitled to vote at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting.

4. Special meetings of the membership for any purpose or purposes whatsoever may be called at any time by the Pastor or, with the consent of the Pastor, by the Presiding Elder of the Presbytery, in writing to members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

5. One-half (1/2) of the members entitled to vote constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

6. The Pastor is the Chairman of the Meeting with voice and vote. No meeting of the Local Church can be legally held without his knowledge and, as a matter of courtesy, should not be conducted without his presence unless he is away from the Local Church for an extended period of time. In such an event, the Presiding Elder shall chair the meeting. The secretary of the Presbytery shall preside in the absence of Pastor and the Presiding Elder.

7. Emergency meetings may be called at the instance of the Pastor

## **ARTICLE SEVEN: Capital Stock**

This corporation shall have no capital stock and shall be composed of members rather than stockholders.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT: Finances**

1. The Church shall raise its funds mainly through the Church's belief on giving, which are tithes and freewill offerings.

2. The funds shall be administered according to the Church's laid down structure as enshrined in its constitution.

## **ARTICLE NINE: Prohibitions**

- No part of any earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons for any reason not authorized by the Board of Directors, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable, measurable and verifiable competitive compensation for services rendered to the corporation and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 2 hereof. 5

- No substantial part of the activities of The Apostolic Church International (Holland Mission) shall be dedicated to, or otherwise attempt to influence The Netherlands legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

**ARTICLE TEN: Term**

The term for which this corporation shall exist shall be perpetual.

**ARTICLE ELEVEN: Liabilities for Debts**

Neither the members nor the members of the Board of Directors or officers of the Corporation shall be liable for the debts of the Corporation.

**ARTICLE TWELVE: Amendments**

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any time in the manner provided by the laws adherent to the jurisdiction of the State of The Netherlands. Every amendment shall be approved by the Presbytery, and approved at a members meeting by a quorum of the Members as defined.

**ARTICLE THIRTEEN: Covenant not to Sue**

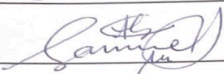
The Corporation agrees that it will never institute any action or suit at law or in equity against any director or officer of the Corporation, nor institute, prosecute, or in any way aid in the institution or prosecution of any claim, demand, action, or cause of action for damages, costs, loss of services, expenses, or compensation for or on account of any damage, loss or injury to person or property, or both, whether developed or undeveloped, resulting or to result, known or unknown, past, present, or future, arising out of a director or officer of the Corporation's service to the Corporation.

**ARTICLE FOURTEEN: Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed on the basis of the church constitution or for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or so disposed of shall be disposed of by Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal officer of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**ATTEST:**

Chair: Samuel Abeka Date: 10-05-2015

Sign: 

Secretary: Mark Bortier-Nank Date: 10-05-2015

Sign: 

Director (Finance) CLEMENT FINBL Date: 10-05-2015

Sign: 