



Bible Life Fellowship

K E N Y A

**CONSTITUTION
AND VALUES**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS; it is the purpose of God our Father, to call out of the world a people who shall constitute the body, the church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, and WHEREAS; the members of the body, the church, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship and instruction in the Word of God, in the work of its ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, and WHEREAS according to God's word, the early Christians came together in such fellowship as a representative body of believers who cooperated with and sent-out, evangelists and missionaries under the leadership of the Holy spirit, therefore be it **RESOLVED THAT**, we recognize ourselves as a corporate Fellowship of Christians, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, into a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. [The Bible] The Divine Inspiration, Authority and Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 19:7-11.
2. [The Trinity] The Unity of the Godhead with the distinction of Persons in that Unity, namely the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal, to Whom equal honour is due: Deut. 6:4; Genesis 1:2,26; John 1:1,2; John 5:17,22,23; John 14:25,26; John 16:7,27,28; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 1:1-3,8.
3. [The Depravity of Man] That in consequence of the fall of Adam, man became "lost" and at "enmity against God"; that he is also "without strength" to do the will of God: Psalm 53:2,3; Luke 19:10; Romans 3:19; Romans 5:6,12-19; Romans 8:5-7.
4. [Concerning Jesus Christ, The Son of God]
 - a) That the Son of God truly became man being begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and His righteousness is imputed to all believers. John 14:3; Romans 4:22-24; Romans 8:3; Galatians 4:4; Mathew 1:20-25; Luke 1:35.
 - b) That His death was a sacrifice to God, and a propitiation for the remission of the sins of His people: Romans 4:25; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:24-28; Hebrews 10:12-14.
 - c) That He was raised from the dead: Matthew 28:5-7; 1 Corinthians 15:20.
 - d) That He ascended to the right hand of God, and is now the all-sufficient High Priest of His people: Mark 16:19,20; Luke 24:50,51; Acts 1:9; Ephesians 4:8-10; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 7:25.
 - e) That He will come again to receive His people unto Himself and to set up His Kingdom: John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18; Luke 1:32,33; Isaiah 9:6,7; Daniel 2:44,45; Daniel 7:13,14.

5. [Justification- being made right with God]
- a) That the justification of the sinner before God is by faith alone: Romans 3:21-26; Romans 4:4,5; Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16.
 - b) That every justified one is also born of God: John 1:12,13; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.
 - c) That such new birth should result in and be made evident by holiness of life and good works: Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:24; Titus 3:4-8.
6. [Sanctification-The continuing work of being made perfect]
- a) The need of the Holy Spirit's work in regeneration and sanctification: John 3:5-8; John 16:8-11; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; 1 Peter 1:2.
 - b) Sanctification is a state to be coveted, but the doctrine of perfection in the flesh is contrary to the teaching of Holy Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:21; 1 John 1:8.
7. [The Future of Man beyond Physical Death]
- a) That at death the spirit of man does not cease to exist or become unconscious. Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8.
 - b) That the dead will be raised either to life or to condemnation and that the blessedness of the righteous and the punishment of the unrighteous will be alike eternal: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:20,21; Romans 14:9,10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Daniel 12:2; Acts 17:31; Revelations 20:11-15.
8. [The Devil, Satan] That Satan is a real personality: he was created perfect by God and given power, but through pride he fell and became the father of sin, the arch-enemy of God and of the souls of men: Job 1:6-7; Ezekiel 28:14-15; Isaiah 14:12,13; 1 Peter 5:8.
9. [The Nature of the Church] The Church owns no denominational bonds but regards all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as members of the one Body of Christ in common with themselves and therefore welcome in the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit all believers in Christ irrespective of race provided, they are sound in the Faith and seeking to live godly lives in Christ Jesus.
10. The oversight of the Church shall be entrusted to the Elders who shall have the qualifications specified in scripture.

11. DEFINITION OF TERMS: -

In this Constitution where the context so admits, the following terms will have the meaning given below: -

- (1) Fellowship of Churches is the association of all churches affiliated to Bible Life Fellowship Kenya;

- (2) National Governing Council (NGC) means the body that governs the Fellowship of Churches as defined in Article 6 of this Constitution;
- (3) Local Church is any Church affiliated to the Fellowship of Churches and which is a member of the Fellowship of Churches, whether through its own corporate membership, or through individuals appointed to represent it at the Fellowship of Churches;
- (4) The National Pastoral Council is the body tasked with the executive management of the Fellowship of Churches as more particularly stipulated in Article 10(c) of this constitution;
- (5) Trustees are the persons appointed to hold any immovable property on behalf of the Fellowship of Churches as provided for in Article Twelve of this Constitution.

ARTICLE ONE

NAME

The name of the society shall be Bible Life Fellowship Kenya hereinafter referred to as "the Fellowship of Churches".

ARTICLE TWO

OBJECTIVES

1. To preach the Gospel and further the cause of the kingdom of God in and outside the Republic of Kenya;
2. To provide guidance and oversight over affiliated churches, as well as their Pastors and Ministers in consultation with the Elders Court of the respective church;
3. To establish, promote and maintain churches and missions and to promote fellowship and meaningful cooperation between churches of similar doctrine and aspirations and to promote, establish and maintain branches thereof, which shall be self-governing in so far as the same do not contradict the objectives of the Fellowship of churches;
4. To train, ordain, license and otherwise qualify ministers to preach the gospel and determine the credentials for the same;
5. To establish and maintain such organizations, programmes and centers as may be necessary for carrying out the objectives of the organization including but not limited to charitable organizations, feeding programmes, relief centers, Bible schools and colleges, Academic organizations, medical centers, Rehabilitation centers, village polytechnics, children's homes, homes for the aged and any other institutions that the organization feels are beneficial to society;
6. To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression, within the limits of its tenets, among its own churches, ministers and members;
7. To establish the framework for the conduct of its members of marriage ceremonies, burials, dedication of children and baptism of believers and any other related activities;

8. To hold outreach meetings, conferences, seminars and any such meeting as may promote the furtherance of the Gospel;
9. To promote, establish and maintain projects and programmes intended to empower the youth in the society;
10. To raise money or accept donations from the general public, local and national governments, international institutions, charitable organizations and any other persons whether corporate or otherwise for the fulfillment of the objects;
11. To borrow money whether on bank overdraft or otherwise against any land and building or other property of the organization which may be charged as security. The borrowing must be used exclusively for enhancing the objectives of the organization;
12. To buy, rent, acquire by gift or otherwise, and to own, operate, maintain and use, such real estate and any other moveable and immovable property as shall be necessary for the maintenance, operation and carrying out of the business of the church, and to lease, sub-let, sell, assign, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of the said properties upon such terms and conditions and at such times as, in the opinion of the National Governance Council (hereinafter defined), be deemed to be advantageous to the interest of the Fellowship of churches;
13. To enter into agreements with other institutions or persons in order to carry out the objectives of the organization;
14. To engage such employees, ministerial or otherwise as may be necessary to perform the duties involved in carrying out the business of the Fellowship of churches;
15. To make by-laws for the governance of the Fellowship of Churches, that are not inconsistent with the constitution and the Laws of the Republic of Kenya;
16. To be non-political and nonprofit making; and
17. To do all else that may be deemed necessary for the realization of the above objectives.

ARTICLE THREE

MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership of the Fellowship of Churches shall be two-fold; individual or corporate: -
 - i. Individual members are those nominated by the Local churches to represent them at meetings of the Fellowship of Churches and shall be adults who are eighteen (18) years and above.
 - ii. Corporate members: All registered churches affiliated to the Fellowship of Churches. Provided that such membership shall at all times be governed by the rules set out by the National Governance Council (hereinbefore defined).
 - iii. Only members of affiliated churches and Individual members as defined in (i) above shall be entitled to hold elective and official leadership positions;

- iv. There shall be a membership roll maintained by each corporate member of the Fellowship of Churches. The same shall be communicated to the Fellowship of Churches for records;
- v. Any member may be expelled or excommunicated from membership of the Fellowship of Churches if the local church pastor and its board so recommends and the National Governance Council Board consequently ratifies the decision by a majority vote. The General Overseer may, however, request for a review of such decisions;
- vi. A member may be expelled on the ground that his/her conduct becomes inconsistent with the beliefs and doctrine of the Fellowship of Churches. It shall be a serious misconduct to contradict, or display contempt towards the decisions of the National Governance Council;
- vii. The local pastor and Elders Board shall have the power to suspend a member from the Fellowship until the next National Governance Council meeting of the Fellowship of Churches. Notwithstanding the suspension, a member whose expulsion is proposed shall have the right to appeal to the National Governance Council for review of the decision of the affiliate church;
- viii. Any person who resigns or is removed from membership shall be required to surrender all identification and / or any other document issued to him/her by the Fellowship of churches. An Official announcement shall be made in all local church branches to that effect.

ARTICLE FOUR

OFFICE BEARERS

- a) The office bearers of the Fellowship of Churches shall be;
 1. Chairman;
 2. Vice-Chairman;
 3. General Overseer;
 4. Deputy General Overseer;
 5. Secretary;
 6. Assistant Secretary;
 7. Treasurer;
 8. Three ordinary members of the National Governing Council (NGC)

All of whom shall be members of good standing who shall be recommended by the member congregations through the National Governance Council to the Annual General Meeting for appointment. The General Overseer however, shall be required to possess apostolic leadership mandate and exceptional commitment to the welfare of the Fellowship of Churches. The Overseer shall be appointed to this office through secret ballot at a Special General Meeting (SGM) to serve in that office for a period of five (5) years, renewable once. The candidate for this office will be recommended to the SGM by the National Governance Council after prayerful consideration. Removal of the General Overseer shall be via a resolution at an SGM commenced for that specific purpose and attended by representatives of at least 66% of the voting representatives assigned and adopted by two thirds of the members in attendance.

- b) The Deputy General Overseer will be recommended by the NGC and appointed at a Special General Meeting (SGM). He will have the same qualifications as those of the General Overseer and will hold office for five (5) years renewable once for a similar period. Any removal from office shall follow the same procedure as the removal of the General Overseer;
- c) All other office bearers, shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of appointment. Each office bearer shall be eligible for re- election. All office bearers shall be recommended by the National Governance Council for re-election. All office bearers except the General Overseer, shall hold office for the term for which they have been appointed and subject to conditions contained in sub-paragraph (c) and (d) of this rule shall be eligible for re-election;
- d) Any office bearer who ceases to be a member of the Fellowship of Churches shall automatically cease to be an office bearer with immediate effect; and
- e) An office bearer may be removed from office after recommendation to the Annual General Meeting by a majority vote of the National Governance Council after three (3) warnings in writing and continues to display lack of repentance.

ARTICLE FIVE

DUTIES OF THE OFFICE BEARERS

- a) *The Chairman* – The Chairman of the Fellowship of Churches shall unless prevented by illness or other sufficient cause, preside over all meetings of the National Governance Council and at all General Meetings;
- b) *The Vice - Chairman* - The Vice - Chairman shall deputize the Chairman and shall perform all the duties of the Chairman in his absence;
- c) *The General Overseer* shall chair all National Pastoral Council meetings and shall be responsible for the executive leadership of the Fellowship of Churches;
- d) *The Deputy - General Overseer* shall deputize the General Overseer and perform all duties of the General Overseer in his absence;
- e) *The Secretary* - The Secretary shall deal with all the correspondence of the Fellowship of Churches under the supervision of the Chairman. In case of any urgent matters, where the Chairman is not available, he/she shall consult the Vice-Chairman and in the absence of the Vice-Chairman, any other senior member of the National Governance Council;
- f) *The Assistant Secretary* - In the absence of the Secretary the Assistant Secretary shall perform all the duties of the Secretary and all other duties as shall be assigned to him/her by the National Governance Council;

- g) *The Treasurer* - The Treasurer shall receive and also disburse under the direction of the National Governance Council all monies paid to him. The Treasurer is responsible to the National Governance Council and to the members that proper books of accounts are maintained and that all monies received and paid by the church are properly recorded and such records are preserved and available for inspection; and
- h) *Ordinary Members*: The three ordinary members shall participate in Governing Council meetings and may be assigned duties by the Governing Council.

ARTICLE SIX

THE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

- a) The National Governance Council shall consist of all the office bearers of the Fellowship of Churches mentioned above and three ordinary members chosen from the general membership of the Fellowship of Churches;
- b) Any vacancies for members of the National Governance Council caused by death or resignation shall be filled in an interim capacity by such persons as may be recommended by the National Governance Council until the next Annual General Meeting where a formal appointment shall be made;
- c) Quorum for resolutions at the National Governance Council shall be $\frac{2}{3}$, of the members; and
- d) Vacancies for members of the council removed from office will be dealt with as shown in Article Four (d) above.

ARTICLE SEVEN

DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

- a) The National Governance Council shall be responsible for the governance of the Fellowship of Churches and for that purpose may give directions to the office bearers as to the manner in which, within the law, they shall perform their duties. The National Governance Council shall have the power to appoint such working committees as it may deem desirable, to make reports to the National Governance Council upon which such action shall be taken as the Council finds appropriate;
- b) The National Governance Council shall also authorize all monies disbursed by the Fellowship of Churches except as specified in article 12(b);
- c) The quorum for the National Governance Council meeting shall not be less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Council members.

ARTICLE EIGHT

GENERAL MEETINGS

1. There shall be two (2) classes of general meetings, namely Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings;
 - i. The Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year, four months after the end of the financial year of the Fellowship of Churches; Notice in writing of such Annual General Meeting accompanied by (a) the statement from the Chairman, (b) Annual statement of accounts and (c) the agenda for the meeting shall be sent to all church delegates nominated by the local church Pastor to attend the meeting not less than fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting, and where practicable by press advertisement not less than seven (7) days before the date of the meeting;
 - ii. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall consist of the following;
 - a) Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
 - b) Consideration of accounts;
 - c) Appointment of office bearers of the Fellowship of Churches;
 - d) Appointment of Auditors;
 - e) Consideration of the Annual Budget;
 - f) Such other matter as the National Governance Council may decide or as to which notice shall have been given in writing by a registered member to the Secretary at least two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting;
 - g) Any other business with the approval of the Chairman;
2. A Special General Meeting may be called by the National Governance Council for any specific purpose (14) days before the date of the meeting;
3. Quorum for all General Meetings shall not be less than two thirds (2/3) of the registered members.
4. In the event an adjournment through lack of quorum for either the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, the National Governance Council will set a date for a second meeting to be held within eight (8) weeks of the earlier meeting at which there shall be no quorum requirements. Notice of such meeting shall be advertised as stipulated in Article 8 rule 1(1) for the Annual General Meeting and Article 8 rule (2) for the Special General Meeting.

ARTICLE NINE

PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS

- a) Every meeting shall be started and closed with a prayer;
- b) At all meetings of the Fellowship of Churches, the Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, or in the absence of both officers a member to whom that responsibility is delegated by the Chairman shall take the chair. The Chairman may at his discretion limit the number of persons permitted to speak in favor of and against a motion;

- c) A decision shall be determined by a simple majority by show of hands;
- d) In cases of complex disciplinary matters, the Chairman may defer the voting to give room for further consultations and prayer;
- e) In the event of an equality of vote, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

ARTICLE TEN

LOCAL CHURCHES, DEPARTMENTS MINISTRIES

- a) Local churches, shall be formed under the approval of the National Governance Council of the Fellowship of Churches. Such local churches must not conflict the interests of already existing congregations or the head office. A local church shall be required to have at least fifteen (15) active members and a trained pastor before it can be recognized as an independent local church;
- b) A Local Church may seek registration with the office of Registrar of Societies provided such application for registration is duly approved by the National Governance Council of the Fellowship of Churches;
- c) There shall be in the local church, departments and ministries which shall be established and guided by the lead Pastor and Elders/governing board of the church. Leadership and management of the said departments or ministries shall be as set out in the local church by-laws or as directed by the Lead Pastor or Governing Board;

There shall be a National Pastoral Council comprised of representatives drawn from the churches in the Fellowship of Churches. The members of this Council shall be appointed by the National Governance Council. The number of the members shall not be less than five. All meetings of the National Pastoral Council shall be chaired by the General Overseer and the quorum thereat shall be half of the members but the General Overseer shall have a casting vote should there be equality of votes.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

FUNDS

- a) The sources of funds for the Fellowship of Churches shall be: -
 - i. Tithes, offerings and free-will gifts from members;
 - ii. Loans, donations and grants;
 - iii. Fundraising activities;
 - iv. Subscriptions from the member churches/congregations;
 - v. Any other source as may be determined and/or approved by the National Governance Council of the Fellowship of Churches.
- b) The funds of the church may only be used for the following purposes: -
 - i. Administrative costs;
 - ii. Salaries, wages, commissions and professional fees;

- iii. Statutory remittances;
 - iv. Purchasing moveable and immoveable assets of the Fellowship of churches;
 - v. Any other purpose as may be approved by the National Governance Council of the Fellowship of Churches.
- c)** All monies and funds shall be received by the Treasurer and shall be deposited by him in the name of the Fellowship of Churches in any bank or banks approved by the National Governance Council.
- d)** No payments shall be made out of the bank account without a resolution of the National Governance Council authorizing such payments and all cheques or such bank accounts shall have seven (7) signatories, among them the Chairman, General Overseer, Deputy General Overseer, Secretary and Treasurer, and two additional who may be assigned by the NGC. A minimum of whom two (2) shall sign for every transaction whereby at least one Office Bearer shall be mandatory.
- e)** The National Governance Council shall have power to suspend any office bearer, except the General Overseer, who it has reasonable cause to believe is not properly accounting for any funds or property of the Fellowship of Churches and shall have power to recommend the appointment of another office holder in his/her place to the appointing authority. Such suspension shall be ratified at the subsequent Annual General Meeting;
- f)** The NGC will determine from time to time the amount of money that may be kept by the Treasurer for imprests and consumable disbursements of which proper accounts shall be kept;
- g)** The financial year of the Fellowship of Churches shall be 1st January to 31st December of every year.

ARTICLE TWELVE

TRUSTEES

All land, buildings and other immovable property and all investments and securities which shall be acquired by the Fellowship of Churches shall be vested in the names of not less than three Trustees who shall be members of the Fellowship of Churches and shall be appointed by the registered members at an Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of ten (10) years. On retirement, such Trustees shall be eligible for re-election for a similar period of time. A National Governance Council meeting shall have the power to recommend the removal of any Trustee to the Annual General Meeting whose position shall be filled at the same meeting.

The Trustees shall pay all income received from property invested in the Trustees to the Treasurer. Any expenditure in respect of such property which in the opinion of the Trustees is necessary or desirable shall be reported by the Trustees to the National Governance Council which shall authorize expenditure of such monies as it deems fit.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

AUDITORS

- a) An Auditor shall be appointed for the following year at the recommendation of the National Governance Council by the Annual General Meeting. All the Fellowship of Churches account records and documents shall be opened for Inspection by the Auditor at any time. The Auditor shall examine the annual accounts and statements after obtaining the same from the Treasurer and shall confirm that they are either correct, duly vouched and in accordance with the law or report to the Fellowship of Churches in what respects they are found to be incorrect, or not in accordance with the law;
- b) A copy of the Auditor's report on the accounts and statements for the last one (1) year shall be furnished to all registered members at the same time the notice covering the Annual General Meeting is sent out. An Auditor may be paid such honorarium for his duties as may be decided by the National Governance Council; and
- c) No Auditor shall be an office bearer or a member of the Fellowship of Churches.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS

The books of accounts and documents relating thereto and the membership roll shall be available for inspection at the Registered office of the Fellowship of Churches by any member of the church upon giving not less than seven (7) days' notice in writing to the Fellowship of Churches' Secretary.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

Amendments to the Constitution of the Fellowship of Churches must be approved by a two thirds (2/3) majority at a Special General Meeting. Such amendments cannot however be implemented without the prior consent of the office of the Registrar General of Societies which shall be sought through an application signed by three (3) officers of the Society.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN

DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES

- a) The Fellowship of Churches shall be dissolved through a resolution passed at a Special General Meeting by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the registered members of the Fellowship of Churches. The proposal for dissolution shall never originate from a splinter group or any such groups as may be harboring ill will against the well-being and existence of the Fellowship of Churches;

- b)** Dissolution of the Fellowship of Churches shall be an act of last resort whereby: -
 - i. The supreme laws of the land dictate such dissolution;
 - ii. The situation ultimately dictates dissolution for subsequent reconstitution.

- c)** No dissolution shall be effected without the permission of the Registrar General of Societies obtained upon application to him/her in writing and signed by 2/3 of the registered members of the Fellowship of Churches;

- d)** When the dissolution of the Fellowship of Churches has been approved by the Registrar General of Societies, no further action shall be taken by the National Governance Council or any of the office bearers thereof in connection with the objectives of the Fellowship of Churches other than to move in and liquidate for cash all the assets of the Fellowship of Churches, subject to payment of all the outstanding debts; and

- e)** The balance of the funds thereof shall be distributed in such manner as may be resolved by the meeting at which the resolution for dissolution is passed. However, such balance shall not be distributed amongst the Fellowship of Churches' members but shall be donated to any other registered institution or institutions that have objectives that are similar to those of the Fellowship of Churches.

VALUES:

- Promoting love for God as the central purpose of life, both individually and corporately. (Matthew 22: 37-38)
- Loving neighbours on the basis of, and in response to, the love of God. (Luke 10: 25-37)
- Enabling love within the family of God through life-giving small Christian communities. (John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:15-16)
- Helping people align their lives, values, and goals to the teaching of the Bible. (Romans 12:2)
- Equipping, enabling and empowering people to grow and serve as servants and leaders. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- Ministering in ways that are in keeping with contemporary culture yet always true to the gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
- Pursuing God-honouring integrity in governance and leadership of our member institutions (Psalm 101; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24)
- Actively encouraging and equipping individuals and member churches towards the formation of new communities of faith. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Walking in dependence on God for empowering and enablement for fruitful ministry. (John 14 -17; Romans 8:5-17; Philippians 2:13)

Tag-line: ***Empowering Churches, Transforming Communities, to the glory of God***

