

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

ST JOHN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
of
THE WHOLE WORLD founded 1 June 1985

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this church shall be
ST JOHN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

ARTICLE II Foundation, Object and Priorities of Ministry

1. The foundation of this Church is the Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 3:11), and its code of guidance in all its affairs, the Word of God, and this Church does here affirm its faith that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of Almighty God (Mark 13:31).
2. The object of this Church shall be to worship God according to the teaching of His Word, to practice the precepts and examples of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament, to sustain its ordinances and doctrines and to preach and propagate among all peoples the Gospel of Salvation which is by personal faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
3. The priorities of ministry of this church is to preach the message of Jesus Christ flowing from God's word the Bible and the revelation of his word through modern day prophets in the church of Jesus Christ. We exist to serve God in worship (John 4:23, 1 Corinthians 14:26), and be co-workers with God in spreading the message of Jesus Christ and his vision in evangelism (Mathew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-18) praying and healing the sick and serving in loving deeds.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

I. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. John 1:1-14; II Timothy 3:16; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

II. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1,3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6

III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, the infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1,2; 2:5,6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6

IV. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. John 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26

VI. REGENERATION

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; Eccl. 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; II Thessalonians 1:9; Rev. 19:3,20; 20:10,14,15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1

VII. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25

VIII. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. I Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15,23-24; I John 2:3-6; II Corinthians 9:6-9; I Corinthians 4:2; Col. 1:9-10

IX. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26

X. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. I Timothy 2:5; Romans 14:7-9,12

XI. CHURCH COOPERATION

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Acts 15:36,41; 16:5; I Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelations 1:4,10,11.

XII. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgement, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:15; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 4:5; I Corinthians 15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6,11-15

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

2. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
3. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.
4. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

ARTICLE III Membership

The membership of this Church shall consist of persons who confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by living consistently with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church, who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of this Church.

ARTICLE IV Leadership and Organization

1. Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the Congregation of the Church is the final authority within this Church. This authority is normally exercised through the appointment of officers to govern the Church. However, the vote of the membership of this Church at a properly called meeting, as provided in the By-Laws, shall be required to effect the following actions:
 - a. Accept members into the Church, give letters of transfer or recommendation to members, or drop members from the Church roll;
 - b. Elect officers of the Church;
 - c. Discipline members by dismissing them and discipline officers by removing them from office;
 - d. Approve annual budgets of the Church, authorize any expenditure of the funds of the Church when such expenditure is not covered by an approved budget, and approve any transactions regarding real property;
 - e. Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the membership of the Church by the Council of Elders, or raised by motion at a business meeting;
 - f. Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or By-Laws of this church;
 - g. Approve the call, job description and initial salary of Vocational Pastors and Prophets.
2. The offices of the Church shall be Bishop, Elder (Secretary, Pastor (Muparidzi), and Deacon (Mutariri, Mutsigiri). The purpose of the officers of the Church is to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the membership to do the work of the ministry.
3. The leadership of the Church shall be vested in the Central Committee at the International level and the Council of Elders at the local who are responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church. The Central Committee members and Council members (respectively) shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.
4. Deacons shall assist the Council of Elders by performing services of advice, administration and implementation.

ARTICLE V The Church Property

1. The Church is empowered to acquire properties for the purposes of places of worship, offices, schools, accommodation, hospitals, farms, planes, vehicles, buses and as may from time to time be decided by the Council of Elders

2. In the event of a division of this Church, from which may God in His mercy save us, the property of this Church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of the Church membership before recognizing a division therein provided such group is loyal to this constitution; otherwise it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to this constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division. Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted to the **High Court of Zimbabwe** and their decision shall be final.

3. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason, the Church work cannot continue, the Church property shall be transferred to **Three Charities nominated by the Council of Elders**.

4. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Council of Elders shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of this Church is concerned.

ARTICLE VI Revisions, Additions and Amendments

1. Revisions, additions or amendments of this constitution may be made only in the following manner:

a. at the annual meeting; and

b. by a majority vote of the membership, or a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at such meeting, provided at least ten percent (10%) of the resident membership of the Church is present at such meeting; and

c. after presentation by written motion at a quarterly or special business meeting held at least three months before the annual meeting; and

d. if notice of the proposed change or addition has been given, in writing and from the pulpit on at least two Sundays in the interim period between said meetings.

2. Article II (1) and VI (2) of this constitution shall not be repealed, amended nor revised.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I Membership

Section 1 GENERAL PROCEDURE

All actions regarding membership, either of admission or dismissal, shall be by vote of the Church upon recommendation of the Council of Elders. At any of the regular meetings for worship, the Church may, without special notice, act upon the reception of members, or upon transfer of members to other churches. Reception of members may, without special notice, be acted on by groups, within the Church, more limited than the full membership of the Church, using procedures specifically authorized by vote of the Church at a regular business meeting upon recommendation of the Council of Elders.

Section 2 ADMISSION BY BAPTISM

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of change of heart, and having accepted the faith, aims and ideals of this Church as expressed in the affirmation of Faith and Church Covenant, may be received into membership by baptism, upon recommendation of the Council of Elders

(Watungamiri weMasowe)

Section 3 ADMISSION BY LETTER

Members from other Apostolic church branches holding like faith may be received as members with us upon presentation of letters of transfer from such churches, and upon acceptance of the faith, aims and ideals of this Church as expressed in the Affirmation of Faith and the Church Covenant. If such credentials be of older date than six months prior to their presentation, the applicant may be required to furnish additional information.

Section 4 ADMISSION BY EXPERIENCE OR RESTORATION

All applicants for membership other than by baptism or by letter of transfer, that is by Christian experience if previously baptized, or by restoration, shall be received into the church in the same way as those by baptism, except the ordinance shall not be administered.

Section 5 INSTRUCTION TO NEW MEMBERS

All persons uniting with this Church in any of the ways set forth in Sections 2 through 4 above shall previously, by the Council of Elders, be made acquainted with the Church Covenant and the Affirmation of Faith. New members shall pledge themselves to fulfill their stewardship obligations as to worship, service, and giving, when they make public profession of faith and join the church.

Section 6 DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

a. Members in good standing who have fulfilled their obligations to the Church, or satisfactorily arranged the same with the Elders, shall upon request be granted a letter of transfer to unite with such Churches as they may designate. Such letter of transfer shall be sent to the Pastor or the Clerk of the Church the member intends to join and shall be valid only for six months, but may be renewed after that time by vote of the Church upon recommendation of the Council of Elders if satisfactory reasons be given for the non-use. These limitations of time shall be included in the letter of transfer. Members who shall unite with another church without such letter shall be dropped from the Church roll.

Members in good standing who have fulfilled their obligations to the Church, or satisfactorily arranged the same with the Elders, and who desire to unite with a church of another denomination, shall receive a certificate of character and be dismissed.

b. Members who move from this city, shall supply the Church with their new address and apply for a letter of dismission within one year provided there be a church of the same faith and order in the place to which they move. If necessary, it shall be the duty of the Council of Elders to remind such member of their duties in this respect. In case there is no such church in the place, or there are circumstances which render it inadvisable to change membership, the member shall report to the Church as often as once a year at least, in person or by letter and by contribution. All non-resident members who do not so report shall be subject to dismissal by the Church after appropriate efforts have been made to contact the member and remind them of their duties.

ARTICLE II Church Government

Section 1

GENERAL STATEMENT

a. Officers.

The Officers of the Church shall be the Office of the Bishop , The Central Committee and a Council of Elders. Officers shall be called to office by vote of the membership of the Church with the exception of the Bishop and the Central Committee as provided for in Article II, Section 2 and Section 3 of these By-Laws. All officers of the Church shall be members of the Church in good and regular standing. The Council of Elders shall be composed of men Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) below, Central Committee and the office of the Bishop and the Council of Elders are the only bodies and positions created by these By-Laws.

b. Clerk, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary.

The Church, upon nomination by the Council of Elders in consultation with Central Committee shall elect at the annual meeting, members to the positions of Church Clerk, Treasurer and Financial Secretary. The functions of Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall not be performed by one member. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall be bonded by the Church in a suitable amount. The Elders shall provide a written description of duties to the Clerk, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary.

c. Committees and Appointees.

The Council of Elders and or Central Committee has the authority to create committees and positions to which it may delegate any specified aspect of its responsibility. The Council of Elders has the authority to dissolve any committee or position which it created. The Council of Elders also has the authority to appoint Elders, Deacons or other members of the Church to serve as members of such committees and to act as its agents in such positions. The Deacons may nominate candidates for any committee or position, with appointment by the Council of Elders . The Council of Elders may delegate to the Deacons authority to appoint Deacons or other members of the Church to serve as members of such committees and as agents of the Council of Elders in such positions. Every committee shall have a chairperson, responsible for the overall operation of the committee, who shall be appointed by the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders may delegate the responsibility for selecting the chairperson to the Deacons or to the committee. (For example, such committees and positions may include Evangelism Committee and a Christian Education Committee, among others.)

Section 2

BISHOP ,CENTRAL COMMITTEE, VOCATIONAL PASTORS AND PROPHETS

a. Definition.

Bishop

The Bishop is the Head of the church anointed by the Holy spirit.

Central Committee The Central Committee is the supreme governing body of the Church.

Vocational Pastors (Muparidzi) (1 Timothy 3 :1-10) are the ordained Elders (Vatungamiri) of the church, who in response to God's call, have devoted their vocational lives to the ministry of the Word and prayer in the service of the church of Christ.

Vocational Prophets are the ordained Prophets of the church who, in response to God's call, serve the church of Christ as their primary vocation. Both Vocational Pastors and Vocational Prophets are supported financially by the church in return for their vocational labours.

b. Duties.

In addition to the duties of their office as described in Sections 4 and 5 below, Vocational Pastors and Prophets shall perform the duties determined by the Central Committee and approved by the Bishop . The duties shall be in writing at the time of the call to service, and substantial changes shall be approved by the Bishop. The church's call of a Vocational Pastor is a call to the Eldership of the church. Therefore Vocational Pastors shall be members of the Council of Elders (Vatungamiri) and have all the Biblical qualifications of an Elder. Vocational Prophets are not necessarily called to the Eldership, but as assisting partners in the ministry. Therefore, Vocational Prophets shall be deacons. Vocational Prophets may, when appropriate, be called by the church to the Council of Elders.

c. Vocational Call by the Church. The members shall call Vocational Pastors (1) by ballot (2) by at least a two-thirds majority of those members voting at the meeting with at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Church present. Then recommend to the Central Committee for Final approval. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its object, shall be given from the pulpit on the next two successive Sundays preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail to the resident membership at least one week before the meeting. Vocational Pastors shall stand for reaffirmation not later than the third annual meeting following their call or previous reaffirmation. Reaffirmation of a Vocational Pastor shall be by two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the meeting.

d. Termination of Vocational Call by the Church.

1. By resignation. The question of terminating the vocational call of a Vocational Pastor or Prophet shall be considered at any time by the church upon the presentation of the Pastor's or Prophet's resignation.

2. Grievance. Where a grievance exists against a Pastor or Prophet, either due to his preaching or teaching or prophecies contrary to the beliefs of the Church as set forth in Article II of its Constitution or to alleged conduct on his part unfitting an Elder or Deacon or Prophet, such grievance may be brought before the Council of Elders by any two members in good standing, following the procedure prescribed in Article V of these By-Laws. If the Council, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the vocational call of the Pastor or Prophet may be terminated at any business meeting upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported by closed ballot of a majority of those members of the Church present and voting with at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the church present at such meeting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its object, shall be given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays next preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail to the resident membership at least one week before the meeting.

3. Lack of reaffirmation. If a Vocational Pastor or Prophet fails to be reaffirmed to the office of Elder or Deacon as provided in paragraph (c) above, a special business meeting shall be called to consider the question of terminating the vocational call with that Pastor or Minister. The vocational call shall be terminated only if supported by closed ballot of a majority of those members of the Church present and voting with at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the church present. Public notice of any such meeting, stating its object, shall be given on two successive Sundays next preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail to the membership at least one week before the meeting. Removal from office and termination of the vocational call by this means shall not be considered disciplinary action.

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Section 3 LAY OFFICERS

a. Definition.

Lay officers are the non-Vocational Elders and Deacons (Vatariri and Vatsigiri) of the Church.

b. Duties.

Lay Elders and Deacons shall have the duties of their offices as described in Sections 4 and 5 below.

c. Calling.

The Council of Elders shall recognize, interview, and investigate candidates for lay Elder and Deacon. The Council shall provide for individual members of the Church either to nominate candidates or to present themselves to the Council as candidates for office and for the Council's further investigation. In no instances shall any individual be considered a nominee for the office without the nominee's consent. In those cases where the Council of Elders concludes that a nominee is not qualified for office they shall so inform the nominee stating the reasons for this conclusion.

The Council of Elders shall present a ballot of candidates for calling or reaffirmation as Elders or Deacons to the congregation at the annual meeting. The Council of Elders may also nominate candidates for election to office at any quarterly or special meeting, provided that the written ballot of nominees is available for review in the church office at least ten days in advance of the meeting - and is announced publicly to the church by mail to its members or in the Sunday morning worship at least ten days in advance of the meeting.

Lay Elders and Deacons shall be called by the Church for a normal term of three years. They shall stand for reaffirmation not later than the third annual meeting of the church following their call or previous reaffirmation. Calling or reaffirmation of a lay Elder or Deacons shall be by two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the meeting. Lay Elders and Deacons shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. Following two consecutive terms the Elder or Deacon will not serve actively in office for a period of one year. Following this period they are again eligible for nomination as Elder or Deacon. For purposes of this provision a term during which an Elder or Deacon serves not more than one year shall not be considered a term in office.

d. Removal.

1. Resignation.

An officer may resign his office at any time if he finds he is no longer able to discharge the duties of the office.

2. Grievance.

Where a grievance exists against an officer of the Church either due to the adherence to and propagation of beliefs contrary to the beliefs of the Church as set forth in Article II, Sections 1 and 2 of its Constitution or to alleged conduct on his part unfitting an Elder or Deacon, such grievance may be brought before the Council of Elders by any two members in good standing, following the procedures prescribed in Article V of the By-Laws of this Church. If the Council, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the officer may be removed from office upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported by closed ballot of a majority of those members of the Church present and voting at any annual, quarterly, or special meeting with at least ten percent (10%) of the

membership of the church present at such meeting. Oral notice of any such meeting, stating its object, shall be given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays next preceding the meeting. Notice shall also be given by mail to the resident membership at least one week before the meeting.

3. Lack of reaffirmation.

If a Lay Elder or Deacon stands for reaffirmation and fails to be reaffirmed, the Elder or Deacon shall be removed from office. Removal from office by this means shall not be considered disciplinary action.

Section 4

BISHOP

The sitting Bishop, **Baba Mutungamiri Sydney Mabhiza** is the Founder of St Johns Apostolic Church. The Bishop was anointed by God and his Office Established by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Founder Bishop will remain in office until his voluntary resignation, incapacity or death.

On the vacation of office by the Founding Bishop **his position will be assumed by Pastor Augustine Muranganwa who has been anointed to be groomed for the position.** Thereafter all other Bishops will be appointed in the following manner:-

Calling

The Central Committee in consultation with the Council of Elders as led by the Holy Spirit will nominate a minimum of three and up to a maximum of six members from both the Council of Elders and or Central Committee to be elected to the position of Bishop. These Men must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. Each must manage his own family and see that his own children obey him with proper respect. He must not be a recent convert. From among these men the Council of Elder will elect the Bishop.

Qualifications.

The Bishop of the Church shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. Relevant texts include I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and I Peter 5:1-

c.Responsibilities.

The fundamental responsibility of the Bishop is to devote himself to prayer and the Word. The Bishop is responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

a. Composition, Term, and Calling.

The Central Committee shall be composed of men, Lay Elders, Vocational Pastors and Vocational Prophets. The Central Committee shall be composed of at least six members, with the number of Elders at any time determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church. The members of the Central Committee shall serve a maximum of 2 terms of 4 years each. There after such members will be elevated to the position of Senior Church Elders and will play an advisory role to both the Central Committee and the Bishop. Where members of the family of the founding Bishop (Baba S Mabhiza) are members of the Church, then one such member will be co-opted into the Central Committee provided such a member meets the qualification of being in the Central committee as in section B below.

b. Qualifications. The Central Committee Member and nominees for Central Committee shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. Relevant texts include I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and I Peter 5:1-

Central Committee members are also required to be in agreement with the St Johns Apostolic Church Elder (Mutungamiri) Affirmation of Faith. The St Johns Apostolic Church (Mutungamiri) Elder Affirmation of Faith shall only be amended by a recommendation of the Central Committee to the church, following the same procedure to amend the By-Laws.

c. Responsibilities.

The fundamental responsibility of the Central Committee is to devote themselves to prayer and the Word. The Central Committee members are responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church.

The responsibilities of the Central Committee members shall include: examining prospective members and acquainting them with the Affirmation of Faith and Church Covenant, overseeing the process of Church discipline, examining prospective candidates for office, scheduling and providing a moderator for business meetings, providing for reporting and recording of Prophecies and Church business, overseeing the work of the church.

COUNCIL OF ELDERS / Vatungamiri veMasowe

a. Composition, Term, and Calling.

The Council of Elders shall be composed of men, Lay Elders, Vocational Pastors(Vaparidzi) and Vocational Prophets. The Council of Elders shall be composed of at least five members, with the number of Elders at any time determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church. Each Elder shall be called by the membership of the Church to a term of three years. That call and any reaffirmation(s) shall be conducted as provided in Article II, Sections 2 and 3 of these By-Laws.

b. Qualifications.

Elders and nominees for Elder shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. Relevant texts include I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and I Peter 5:1-4. Elders are also required to be in agreement with the St Johns Apostolic Church Elder (Mutungamiri) Affirmation of Faith. The St Johns Apostolic Church (Mutungamiri) Elder Affirmation of Faith shall only be amended by a recommendation of the Central Committee to the church, following the same procedure to amend the By-Laws.

c. Responsibilities.

The fundamental responsibility of the Elders (Vatungamiri) is to devote themselves to prayer and the Word. The Elders (Vatungamiri) are responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church.

The responsibilities of the Elders (Vatungamiri) shall include: examining prospective members and acquainting them with the Affirmation of Faith and Church Covenant, overseeing the process of Church discipline, examining prospective candidates for office, scheduling and providing a moderator for business meetings, providing for reporting and recording of official Church business, overseeing the work of the

Deacons (Prophets and other church officers) and appointed church agents and committees, conducting worship services, administering the ordinances of the Gospel, equipping the membership of the Church for the work of the ministry, teaching the whole counsel of God both formally and informally, correcting error, overseeing, coordinating and promoting the ministries of the Church, and mobilizing the Church for world mission.

d. **Organization.** The Council of Elders shall organize itself however it determines to be best to achieve the mission of the Church. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function. The Elders (Vatungamiri) must meet at least once per month. Meetings of the Elders (Vatungamiri) may be held at any location and may be conducted by means of electronic communication through which the Elders (Vatungamiri) may simultaneously hear each other. Unless the Council provides otherwise, meetings of the Council may be held immediately upon notice. A quorum for meetings of the Elders is defined as at least one-half of the Lay Elders plus at least one-half of the Vocational Pastors and Prophets, except for matters on which only Lay Elders are entitled to vote in which case a majority of the Lay Elders shall constitute a quorum. The Council shall annually select its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its Lay Elders.

Section 5 DEACONS (VATARIRI AND VATSIGIRI)

a. Composition, Term, and Calling.

The Deacons shall be both men and women, The number of Deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men and women in the church. Each Deacon shall be called by the membership of the Church to a normal term of three years. The call and any reaffirmation shall be conducted as provided in Article II, Sections 2 and 3 of these By-Laws.

b. Qualifications.

Deacons and nominees for Deacon shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. Relevant texts include I Timothy 3:8-12.

c. Responsibilities.

The Deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the Elders (Vatungamiri) in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the members of the congregation. Their responsibilities may include:

1. administering a fund to assist the poor and needy and otherwise providing aid in times of crisis or distress;
2. the greeting and welcoming ministries of the church;
3. assisting in administering the ordinances of the Gospel;
4. assisting at fellowship gatherings of the church;
5. caring for and maintaining the Church properties;
6. administering the business affairs of the Church that pertain to its material assets.

d. **Organization.** The Deacons shall organize themselves however they determine to be best to achieve the mission of the church. The Elders or the Deacons may designate any specific Deacon or group of Deacons

to specialize in some particular Deaconal function. Meetings of the Deacons, or subcommittees thereof shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the Deacons.

ARTICLE III Church Employees

In addition to Vocational Pastors and Prophets, the church may employ additional personnel. The moneys for such personnel must be approved by the congregation at a properly called business meeting. The Council of Elders shall be responsible for determining the duties of and hiring such personnel.

ARTICLE IV Church Finances

Section 1 IN GENERAL

No method of raising funds shall be entertained which is in conflict with the Scriptural ideals of the Church.

All funds donated for missions by the societies and organizations of the Church shall pass through the Church Finance Secretary and the Treasurer in order that due record may be made and credit given to the Church. The Deacons shall provide assistants for the Financial Secretary in accounting for funds donated.

Section 2 CONTRIBUTIONS

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligations to support the Church and its causes with regular and proportionate giving. Each member shall be encouraged in Scriptural giving, with tithing as the ideal minimum.

Special offerings may be sought by the Church, or by any of its organizations, with the approval of the Council of Elders. This shall not preclude individuals from making special offerings or designated gifts at any time as the Spirit of God may move them.

Section 3 FINANCIAL PLANNING

The financial planning of the Church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for carrying out of the various programs of its work. Annual budgets shall be adopted by the Church upon recommendation of the Council of Elders, or, if authorized by the Council, the Deacons or other committee. Matters involving staff compensation shall be the responsibility of the lay members of the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders may delegate this responsibility provided such delegation is to lay Deacons or other lay members of the Church.

Section 4 ACCOUNTS

Financial receipts from all sources shall be accounted for by the Finance Secretary according to the purposes for which contributions are designated. The Treasurer of the Church shall disburse these funds promptly according to the financial program of the Church as detailed in the Budgets or other authorized designations. All moneys for missions shall be remitted in accordance with the Mission Budget of the Church or otherwise designated, preferably each month and not less than each quarter. **All branches of the**

Church (Masowe) shall pass 10% of all their collections to the Central Treasury for the purposes of futhering the Church mission. From time to time the branches may be directed to specific fund raising for National and International Church projects. Each Sowe will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Branch's Church property, Vocational Preachers and Prophets. The Church shall open and operate Banking accounts for the purposes of collecting and disbursing church funds.

Section 5 INDEBTEDNESS

No debt or contract exceeding 1% of the total annual budget whereby the credit of the Church is pledged shall be made except by recommendation of the Council of Elders and approved by the Church.

Section 6 AUTHORITY TO BIND THE CHURCH

The **Bishop**, Pastor /Muparidzi and Secretary of the Council of Elders are the only officers who have authority, in accordance with these By-Laws, the Church Constitution, and any applicable laws, to execute legal documents relating to real estate, church property, and church finances.

ARTICLE V Meetings

Section 1 FOR WORSHIP

Public services shall be held on the Lord's Day The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on Easter Friday of each Year during Passover (Deuteronomy 16 :1-8) or at such other times as the Council of Elders may determine. In the month of August a public service to Celebrate the Feast of the Tabernacles shall be held for the duration of Seven Days (Deuteronomy 16;13-15 . In the month of October a Public Service to Celebrate Pentecost will be held at a time and date appointed by the Council. Other religious services may be appointed as the advancement of the work of the Church may require.

Section 2 FOR BUSINESS

a. The Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting shall be held some time during the last month of the fiscal year of the Church for the purpose of calling and reaffirming the officers, reviewing proposed budgets and other business. Officers called at the annual meeting shall assume their duties at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

b. Quarterly Meetings.

Quarterly meetings of the Church shall be held within the first month of each quarter of the fiscal year.

c. Special Meetings.

The Council of Elders or any ten members in good standing, may call for a special meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit or by other notification, the particular object of such meeting being clearly stated in the notice. In the calling of special meetings for purposes where an interval after advance notice is required by provision in these By-Laws or according to law, such provisions shall be observed.

Notice shall be given at least one week in advance for meetings on specially important matters not otherwise provided for.

d. Quorum.

Any number of members shall constitute a quorum at any ordinary meeting of the Church. At meetings dealing with particular matters stipulated in these By-Laws, the quorums prescribed shall apply.

Seeking the Lord's wisdom and blessing through thankful prayer shall be a part of every meeting.

e. Notice Provisions. Unless specifically defined in other sections of these By-Laws or the Constitution, "resident membership" means those members who reside within 50 kilometers driving distance from the church building, "notice . . . in writing" means a written announcement sent by regular mail, and "notice . . . from the pulpit" means an oral announcement at each of the Sunday morning services.

ARTICLE VI Organization of Members for Ministry

Members of this church shall have the liberty to participate in and organize themselves for ministry, provided that such participation and organization does not conflict with Article II of the Constitution. Any such organization may seek church sanction from the Council of Elders as an official ministry of St Johns Apostolic Church. Such sanction shall be granted provided that 1) the object, purpose, belief and conduct of the organization and its members is consistent with Article II of the Constitution, and 2) the primary officers of the organization are: members of the church, or other regular attendees of the church who have been approved under guidelines established by the Council of Elders. Sanction by the Council of Elders does not necessarily imply support of the organization by the church with personnel, finances, or facilities. Such support may be requested as provided by the leadership of the church.

ARTICLE VII Discipline

The discipline of members shall be a responsibility of the Council of Elders under such rules and procedures as the Elders may from time to time establish on the basis of Scripture. All such proceedings shall be guided by a spirit of prayer mingling Christian kindness, forbearance, and holy firmness under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments

GENERAL.

Amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced through written motion at any quarterly meeting, but shall not be acted on until the following quarterly or annual meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership of the Church, or a two-thirds majority of those members present at the meeting and voting shall be required for acceptance; provided, however, that at least ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Church be present at such meeting, and that notice of the proposed change or amendment be given from the pulpit on at least two Sundays and in writing to the resident membership in the interim period between the meetings.