



THE

CONSTITUTION

OF

EAGLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

– 2022 –

Table of Contents

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	1
THE CONSTITUTION ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS	2
PART 1: THE CHURCH	2
PREAMBLE.....	2
THE CONSTITUTION	2
CHAPTER 1: TITLE	2
CHAPTER 2: DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION	3
CHAPTER 3: OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH.....	4
CHAPTER 4: STATEMENT OF FAITH	5
CHAPTER 5: OUR CORE VALUES.....	7
CHAPTER 6: OUR COMMITMENT	8
CHAPTER 7: SACRAMENTS PRACTISED BY THE CHURCH	9
CHAPTER 8: PRE-REQUISITES.....	10
CHAPTER 9: KNOWING YOUR CHURCH.....	10
CHAPTER 10: PROPERTY.....	10
CHAPTER 11: CHURCH GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT....	11
PART-2: MEMBERSHIP	12
CHAPTER 12: MEMBERSHIP	12
CHAPTER 13: DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM.....	14
CHAPTER 14: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.....	14
CHAPTER 15: WAIVER OF CLAIM.....	15
PART-3: OFFICE BEARERS	16
CHAPTER 16: OFFICE BEARERS.....	16
CHAPTER 17: DUTIES OF THE OFFICE BEARERS.....	16
CHAPTER 18: REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL	17
PART-4: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.....	18
CHAPTER 19: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.....	18
CHAPTER 20: THE BISHOPRIC.....	18
CHAPTER 21: DEPUTY PRESIDING BISHOP	21
CHAPTER 22: PASTORAL OFFICE	23
PART-5: THE CHURCH MINISTERIAL TEAM.....	23
CHAPTER 23: THE CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM	23
PART-6: THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM	26
CHAPTER 25 THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM	26
PART-7: FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCH MINISTERS.....	28
CHAPTER 26: FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCH MINISTERS.....	28

PART-8: THE SENIOR PASTORS FORUM.....	29
CHAPTER 27: THE SENIOR PASTORS FORUM.....	29
CHAPTER 28: FUNCTIONS OF THE SENIOR PASTORS FORUM	29
PART-9: GENERAL MEETINGS.....	30
CHAPTER 29: GENERAL MEETINGS	30
CHAPTER 30: THE AUDITOR.....	32
CHAPTER 31: THE CHURCH FUNDS.....	32
CHAPTER 32: TRUSTEES	33
CHAPTER 33: REGISTRATION AND CUSTODY OF CHURCH PROPERTY	34
CHAPTER 34: BRANCH ASSEMBLIES.....	34
CHAPTER 35: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS	34
CHAPTER 36: BY-LAWS.....	35
CHAPTER 37: AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION	35
CHAPTER 38: DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH	35

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CMT	Church Ministry Team
ECC	Eagles Christian Church
LAMT	Local Assembly Ministry Team
MAT	Ministry Advisory Team
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
SGM	Special General Meeting

THE CONSTITUTION

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART 1: THE CHURCH

PREAMBLE

This Constitution shall be the governing document for Eagles Christian Church

EAGLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Is:

AN Interdenominational Pentecostal Charismatic Independent Church that is submitted totally to the one true God Almighty who eternally exists in three Persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

A multi-lingual Church, targeting the urban and peri-urban populace.

A Spirit-filled Purpose Driven Church.

An all-inclusive and diverse community of believers targeting people of all tribes, races, colour and social status.

Committed to reaching out to the whole person with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ through a holistic ministry approach.

A society registered under the Societies Act of Kenya.

THE CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER 1: TITLE

1. The name of the Society shall be “**EAGLES CHRISTIAN CHURCH**” (hereby referred to as “the Church”)

CHAPTER 2: DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION

In this Constitution, where the context so admits, words and expressions shall have the following meanings:

- a) **Branches:** The Church will open branches within Kenya, Africa and World-wide
- b) **Church Ministry Team:** There shall be established a Church Ministry Team, herein referred to as CMT, whose overall responsibility shall be to provide leadership and oversight. They shall also have fiduciary responsibility.
- c) **Eagles Christian Church:** An Inter-denominational Pentecostal Charismatic Independent Church that is totally submitted to the One True God who eternally exists in three persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, herein referred to ECC.
- d) **Executive Team:** This shall comprise of the Presiding Bishop, the Presiding Deputy Bishop, the Secretary, the Treasurer and three trustees.
- e) **God:** There is one Sovereign God, Creator of all things, Infinitely Perfect and Eternally existing in three manifestations: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.
- f) **Local Assembly Ministry Team:** There shall be established office of the Local Assembly Ministry Team, hereby referred to as LAMT, whose responsibility is to oversee spiritual and administrative matters of the local assembly.
- g) **Ministry Advisory Team:** The Ministry Advisory Team, hereby referred to as MAT, shall be responsible for advising the Bishop on strategic matters.
- h) **Mission Statement:** Equipping the saints with the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, so that they can be effective in their calling; by discipling them to discover, develop and deploy the gifts, treasures and potentials that God has placed within them for His own Glory.
- i) **Motto:** Mounting with wings like eagles.

- j) **Slogan:** Soaring higher and higher.
- k) **Representatives' Council:** The Representatives' Council shall be a forum where every campus, branch, assembly and ministry will be represented and all matters relating to the Church, regions, and branches discussed extensively for the approval and or, ratification by the Annual General Meeting.
- l) **Vision:** To be a Church founded on sound Biblical principles, serving in the spirit of excellence with integrity and compassion for Communities, Nations, and the World.
- m) **Ministry:** The Church and her institutions
- n) **Bishopric:** Rank or office of the bishop
- o) **Founding Bishop:** The first vision bearer of the Ministry
- p) **Presiding Bishop:** The seating overseer of the Ministry
- q) **Regional Overseer:** The superintendent of a defined zone
- r) **Deputy Bishop:** The assistant to the Presiding Bishop
- s) **Senior Pastor:** The Minister in-charge of the Local Assembly
- t) **Mission Center:** The headquarters of the Ministry

CHAPTER 3: OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH

The Church objectives are as follows:

- a) To share the good news of Jesus Christ
- b) To intentionally grow membership into our church family

- c) To be a disciple-oriented Church
- d) To deliberately reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- e) To plant and grow churches around the world
- f) To be a caring and nurturing Church
- g) To equip every believer to discover, develop and deploy the gifts and talents God gave them
- h) To be a Church that empowers believers to impact the seven spheres of influence
- i) To be a prophetic Church
- j) To edify and perfect the body of Jesus Christ

CHAPTER 4: STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible, the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings and are the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of mankind, and divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

Our Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places*

4.1 GOD - There is one God, Creator of all things, Infinitely Perfect, and Eternally existing in three manifestations: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

4.2 JESUS CHRIST - Jesus Christ is the True God and the true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, the complete and final sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.

4.3 THE HOLY SPIRIT - The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and during this age, to convict men of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

4.4 MAN - Man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.

4.5 BIBLE - We believe in the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament scriptures as the infallible Word of God with power to accomplish His purpose of salvation.

4.6 SALVATION - The shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provides the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.

4.7 THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST - The personal, pre-millennial, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ is our hope and has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

4.8 FUTURE EVENTS - There will be a bodily resurrection of all the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

4.9 THE CHURCH - The true Church is composed of all such persons, who through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the head.

4.10 WATER BAPTISM - We believe in water baptism by immersion of believers as a public declaration of a believer's identity with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; and as a public declaration of the initiation into the body of Christ (the Church) (Romans 6:3-4).

4.11 HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM - We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4)

CHAPTER 5: OUR CORE VALUES

We guided by the following core values:

1. **P**rophetic Voice
2. **I**ntegrity
3. **C**aring, Loving and Serving
4. **T**ruthfulness
5. **U**pright and Holy living
6. **R**esponsible
7. **E**xcellence
8. **S**acredness of Life
9. **L**oyalty

5.1 PROPHETIC VOICE

We strive to be inspired by the Holy Spirit in being a Prophetic Voice to the World.

5.2 INTEGRITY

We are committed to personal integrity and holiness. We believe in holistic consistency and are committed to teaching and practicing sound biblical doctrine and living an honest and morally upright life.

5.3 CARING, LOVING AND SERVING

We believe that we are saved to serve. We nurture caring relationships and are concerned about the well-being of all members.

5.4 TRUTHFULNESS

We are transparent, honest, dependable and truthful with each other as Him who called us is the Truth.

5.4 UPRIGHT AND HOLY LIVING

We encourage every believer to live an upright and holy life and to be at peace with everyone.

5.5 RESPONSIVE

We are a responsible church that is genuinely learning from and growing in Christ. We encourage the spiritual formation of each member and be able to bring into being and equip disciples.

5.6 EXCELLENCE

We are committed to a culture of excellence in all our services and ministry.

5.7 LOYALTY

We honor, respect and esteem others whom we live and work with, both in public and in private life. We believe in being loyal to God and to His servants at all times.

5.8 SACREDNESS OF LIFE

We are pro-life. We uphold and respect the sacredness and sanctity of life from conception to death.

CHAPTER 6: OUR COMMITMENT

We are:

6.1 A God-centred Church

6.2 A church where everyone is valued

- 6.3 A Church where every Member is a Worker
- 6.4 A Church where everyone is a Soul winner
- 6.5 A church where every member is an Intercessor
- 6.6 A Church where everyone is treated special
- 6.7 A Church of excellence in every way
- 6.8 A church where the members are spirit-filled and excited about their daily walk with God
- 6.9 A Missional Church touching the four corners of the earth.
- 6.10 A transformative Church
- 6.11 A family-oriented Church

CHAPTER 7: SACRAMENTS PRACTISED BY THE CHURCH

7.1 BAPTISM – We believe in water baptism by immersion soon after one has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior, it is a testimony of death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

7.2 HOLY COMMUNION – The Lord's Supper is a memorial service setting forth in sacred and symbolic manner the death of the Lord Jesus Christ; all true believers and only born-again believers should share in it. The ordinance of the Holy Communion shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

7.3 ORDINATION – We believe in ordination as set forth in the scriptures. Men and women who qualify for commissioning, ordination and consecration shall be treated equally. We ordain the office bearers of the 5-fold ministry, we commission Ministers and other workers, we ordain Pastors and consecrate Bishops.

7.4 HOLY MATRIMONY – We join a man and a woman in holy matrimony. - We believe that marriage is between a man and a woman as ordained by God. We conduct Christian marriage in consistence with the Church's statement of faith and core values.

7.5 BABY DEDICATION – Children are a blessing from God. We dedicate them back to the Lord just as Jesus and Samuel were dedicated back to the Lord.

7.6 BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT – We are committed to pray for those willing and ready to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. We are Pentecostals in persuasion and strongly believe in the empowerment of the Holy Spirit upon all believers.

CHAPTER 8: PRE-REQUISITES

- 8.1 The Church brings together Christian believers subscribing to the teaching of the Holy Bible and more particularly, to the doctrines detailed out in the statement of faith
- 8.2 Eagles Christian Church shall be non-political and non-partisan
- 8.3 The Church shall be centrally governed. However, the operations of the ministry shall be decentralized.

CHAPTER 9: KNOWING YOUR CHURCH

We are a Purpose Driven Church committed to:

- 9.1 Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry and Fellowship
- 9.2 Capacity building of members for maximum deployment of gifts, talents and abilities
- 9.3 A Sustainable, Transformative Community Outreach Programs in fulfillment of the great commission
- 9.4 Principles of good governance
- 9.5 Respectful and dignified resource mobilization.

CHAPTER 10: PROPERTY

In continuance of her Vision and Mission, the Church will:

- 10.1 Purchase, take, receive, lease, take by gift, devise, or bequest, or otherwise acquire, and to own, hold, use, and otherwise deal in and with any real or personal property, or any interest therein situated in or out of Kenya

- 10.2 Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, and otherwise dispose of all or any part of its property and assets
- 10.3 Purchase, take, receive, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, use or employ shares or other interests in or obligations to societies in Kenya or foreign countries whether for profit, associations, partnerships or individual
- 10.4 Enter into contracts and incur liabilities; to borrow money; to issue its notes, bonds, and other obligations by mortgage, pledge, or deed of trust of all or any of its property, franchises, and income, as appropriate, to enable it to accomplish any or all of its purposes as guided by the Church's financial policy
- 10.5 Invest its funds from time to time in any real and or personal property; to lend or borrow money for its purposes and to take and hold real and or personal property as security for the payment of funds so invested, borrowed or lent
- 10.6 The Church's assets shall not be used or mortgaged for any personal gain

CHAPTER 11: CHURCH GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The Church shall have the right to govern itself according to the biblical principles.

- 11.1 The Annual General Meeting, herein referred to as AGM, shall be the supreme organ of the Church
- 11.2 The Church Secretary in consultation with the Presiding Bishop shall prepare the agenda for approval and ratification by the AGM as appropriate
- 11.3 The Bishop, herein referred to as the Presiding Bishop, shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Church, providing leadership for the Church, and is accountable to the AGM
- 11.4 The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chairperson of the AGM and any other committee meetings as deemed necessary

11.5 The Deputy Bishop shall deputize the Presiding Bishop as appropriate

11.6 The Church Ministry Team shall oversee the administrative and legal matters of the Church. The CMT shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the AGM. They shall take responsibility for safeguarding the vision and mission of the Church. They shall recruit, and deploy staff, and manage all staff disciplinary matters

PART-2: MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTER 12: MEMBERSHIP

12.1 The Church is open for membership, upon fulfilling the following mandatory requirements:

- a) Have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ
- b) Willingly subscribe to the practices and beliefs of the Church
- c) Have regularly attended the Church services in any Branch or Assembly for at least three months
- d) Are willing to be regular financial supporters of the Church
- e) Have undergone the basic orientation such as the discovery class and connection forum
- f) Have gone through the waters of baptism

12.2 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

12.2.1 FULL MEMBERSHIP: This is open to all persons who are born again and have regularly attended the church for a period of at least three months and have completed the Church membership class and its requirements. They should be over 18 years old and who wish to fully commit themselves to the Church and accept all the duties, responsibilities, and rights of membership. This category has the privilege of voting rights.

12.2.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: This is open to all who are over 18 years old but are members of other non-localized churches and wish to fully fellowship with the Church. These members have no voting rights at meetings but may attend all such

meetings. Associate membership shall be valid for a period of one year by which time one may apply for full membership.

12.2.3 JUNIOR MEMBERS: All persons between the ages of 12 and 18 who fulfill the requirements of membership shall be eligible for junior membership. Such members do not qualify for voting rights at any business meetings. Children below 12 years old shall enjoy the privileges of Sunday school.

12.2.4 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP: These are members who are temporarily out of the local congregation and are associated with the Church. They continue to enjoy the privileges of their membership category.

12.3 MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES: All members shall be received into the Church and shall be included in the Church's register. It shall be the privilege of those who are members to receive ministry from the Church. A member shall also take part in all the activities of the Church and may fill official positions if eligible.

12.4 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP: All applicants shall duly fill the Church membership application form. The applicant shall be interviewed, and appropriate recommendations made in accordance with the Membership Policy. Application for membership shall be made in the assembly where the applicant has been a regular attendee.

12.5 REJECTION OF APPLICATION: If for any reason, an application is rejected, the applicant shall be notified accordingly.

12.6 TRANSFER OF MEMBERS: The Church shall allow membership transfers in accordance with the membership policy. Members transferring from one assembly to another shall fill a transfer form which shall be duly signed by the Senior Pastor of the assembly that he/she is transferring from.

12.7 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A person may cease to be a member on any of the following grounds:

12.7.1 Voluntary resignation or withdrawal from membership

12.7.2 Continuous absence from the regular services of the Church

for three consecutive months without a valid reason

12.7.3 Any proven immoral act, theft, or unchristian conduct

12.7.4 Transfer to another Church other than ECC assembly

12.7.5 The spread of false doctrines and practices contrary to those set out in the ECC Statement of Faith

12.7.6 Open defiance to the Church governance and disciplinary measures

12.7.7 Upon exhaustion of all means of corrective, disciplinary and restoration measures.

CHAPTER 13: DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM

13.1 In case of unresolved disputes between members of any assembly, the affected parties shall refer their dispute to the local assembly's CMT for resolution. Any dissatisfied party shall have the right to appeal to the Ministry Advisory Team whose decision shall be final.

13.2 In the event of a dispute between members of different local assemblies, the case of the affected parties shall be referred to the ad hoc committee by the Senior Pastor. The membership of ad hoc committee shall be drawn from their respective assemblies. Any dissatisfied party shall have the right to appeal to the MAT.

CHAPTER 14: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

14.1 Where a member is alleged to have contravened the statement of faith or doctrine or accused of misconduct or an act justifying suspension or termination of membership, the local assembly MAT may use their discretion to commence investigation.

14.2 Before any complaint or personal charge against a church member formally proceeds, the MAT must satisfy themselves that the matter has been dealt with privately, confidentially and in a brotherly manner, according to Matthew 18:15-17.

14.3 Upon establishment of guilt by the local assembly CMT, a

member is at liberty to appeal, in writing, against the verdict to the MAT.

- 14.4 Where the person charged is a member of the CMT or MAT, the charge shall be brought before an ad hoc committee created by the respective Senior Pastor. The adhoc committee shall exhaust the mechanism envisaged in Matthew 18:15-17 before proceeding further, if necessary, with disciplinary measures.
- 14.5 Where the person affected is not satisfied with the decision of the adhoc committee, he or she shall lodge an appeal to a Special Appeals Board chaired by the presiding Bishop.
- 14.6 If at the Assembly level guilt is established and the member is repentant, he/she may be warned, counseled, and restored. If the member is found guilty, contrition, sorrow and repentance are not evident, he/she shall be suspended, and the matter referred to the MAT for a decision as to whether or not he/she should be expelled in accordance with relevant clauses of the Constitution.

CHAPTER 15: WAIVER OF CLAIM

- 15.1 In accepting membership in the Church, each member agrees that in the event of withdrawal of his or her membership, on suspension and/or termination for reasons ascertained by the Ministry Advisory Team, no member disciplined, suspended, terminated, and publicly so announced shall take legal action against the Presiding Bishop, Pastors, Ministry Advisory Team, Church Ministry Team, the Senior Pastors Council, the Church or any other member taking part in the disciplinary proceedings.
- 15.2 Acceptance of membership in the Church shall be evidence of a waiver by the member of all rights of action, causes of action and all claims and demands against the Church, or any officer of the Church, or against any member or her Pastors or Presiding Bishop by virtue of disciplinary proceedings and withdrawal of membership. All disciplinary matters and proceedings shall be dealt with exhaustively, internally and by the members only.

15.3 In the event that a member resigns or is terminated, he or she cannot claim any gifts or contributions made to the Church.

PART-3: OFFICE BEARERS

CHAPTER 16: OFFICE BEARERS

16.1 THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team shall be composed of:

- I. The Chairperson – Presiding Bishop
- II. The Vice Chairperson – Deputy Bishop
- III. The Secretary
- IV. The Treasurer
- V. Three Trustees

16.1 The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the members from amongst the CMT

16.2 The Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office from the date of appointment for a renewable term of two years

16.3 For one to be appointed as the Secretary or Treasurer, he/she shall have served as a member of CMT for at least one term

CHAPTER 17: DUTIES OF THE OFFICE BEARERS

17.1 THE EXECUTIVE TEAM: The Executive Team shall be responsible for oversight of the business affairs of the Church.

17.1.1 Church Secretary

- a) The Church Secretary shall deal with all the statutory and legal matters of the Church
- b) The Church Secretary shall be responsible for preparing statutory reports and keeping official records
- c) The Church Secretary in consultation with the Presiding Bishop shall be responsible for convening board and general meetings and keeping and preserving records of such meetings.

17.1.2 Church Treasurer

- a) The Church Treasurer shall receive and shall also disburse, under the direction of the CMT, all moneys belonging to the Church and preserve financial records for all moneys paid out.
- b) The Church Treasurer shall be accountable to the CMT and responsible for keeping proper books of accounts
- c) The Church Treasurer shall ensure that financial records are up to date, preserved and made available for inspection.

A member of the Church may inspect the book of accounts upon giving seven days' notice in writing to the Church Secretary.

17.2 Any office bearer who ceases to be a member of the Church shall automatically cease to be an office bearer.

17.3 Should any office bearer resign or be called upon by the CMT to resign, shall surrender all official documents.

CHAPTER 18: REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL

18.1 There shall be established a Representatives' Council whose responsibility shall be to provide general guidance on the Vision and Mission of the ministry.

18.2 STRUCTURE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL

18.2.1 The Representatives' Council shall comprise of ECC members only. Non-member representatives may however attend on invitation as ex-officio. Ex-officio members shall have no voting rights.

18.2.2 The members of the Representatives' Council shall be:

- a) Representatives of Local Assemblies and Regions as stipulated in the by-laws
- b) The Senior Pastors and Pastors-in-charge
- c) Fellowship of retired Pastors and Bishops
- d) Fellowship of retired MAT and CMT
- e) All seating members of the MAT, CMT and Trustees
- f) Representatives of the ECC Institutions

18.3 MEETINGS

- 18.3.1 The Representatives' Council shall meet once a year before the Annual General Meeting
- 18.3.2 The Presiding Bishop shall set the agenda
- 18.3.3 Voting shall be by a simple majority

PART-4: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

CHAPTER 19: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

- 19.1 The Presiding Bishop and the Deputy Presiding Bishop, with the assistance of the Senior Pastors and the pastoral team, shall provide the Spiritual leadership for the Church.
- 19.2 There shall be established the administrative office of-
 - a) Founding Bishop
 - b) Presiding Bishop
 - c) Deputy Presiding Bishop
 - d) Regional Overseer
 - e) Senior Pastor
 - f) Pastor incharge

CHAPTER 20: THE BISHOPRIC

20.1 THE FOUNDING BISHOP

- a) The **Founding Bishop**
 - He will serve the ECC ministry till 75 years after which he will become Bishop Emeritus
 - After 75 years, the Founding Bishop will continue serving the ministry, and if by strength he is able, he will serve in the capacity of Ministry Patron and Advisor. He will continue to receive his monthly remuneration as long as he is alive.
 - All the other incoming bishops after the Founding Bishop will be called Presiding Bishops.

Only the first ministry Bishop will hold the title of “Founding Bishop”.

b) The **Founding Deputy Bishop**

The founding deputy bishop will retire at the age of 70 years. After retirement, she will continue to be the patron and advisor to the ministry. She will continue to receive her monthly remuneration as long as she is alive.

Only the first ministry deputy Bishop will hold the title of “Founding Deputy Bishop”.

20.2 THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Seat of the presiding Bishop shall be at the designated Mission Centre.

20.2.1 The presiding Bishop must have a Christian testimony in line with the Biblical teachings of 1Tim 3:1-7; and Titus 1:7-9

20.2.2 Must have served previously, with distinction, in the leadership of ECC either as a Deputy Bishop, a Senior Pastor or its equivalent for five years

20.2.3 Must have proven academic, leadership skills and capabilities.

20.3 THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING THE PRESIDING BISHOP

20.3.1 The Representatives’ Council shall prayerfully select the Presiding Bishop through a secret ballot

20.3.2 The Representatives’ Council shall appoint a Selection Panel of seven (7) members who will receive the applications, assess and vet them accordingly

20.3.3 The selection panel shall present three (3) candidates to the retiring Presiding Bishop for consideration. In the event, however, that only one person qualifies for the position, the name shall be forwarded to the Presiding Bishop with an explanation of the exception.

20.3.4 The recommended candidates shall be interviewed by the Executive Team following which, the successful person

shall be appointed. The decision of this Council shall be final.

20.3.5 The Council shall present the appointed person referred to as the Bishop designate for ratification by the AGM

20.3.6 In the event there is no scheduled AGM within two months of the appointment of a Bishop, a Special General Meeting shall be convened for the purpose of ratifying the appointment

20.3.7 Following the ratification, the Presiding Bishop designate shall be consecrated in a duly convened public ceremony, within two months of the ratification by the AGM.

20.3 DUTIES OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

20.3.1 The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Executive and shall preside over all the affairs of the Church

20.3.2 The Presiding Bishop shall chair the AGM, Special General Meeting (SGM), MAT, the Representatives' Council, the Fellowship of Senior Pastors meetings, and any other major meeting as he deems it fit to chair

20.3.3 The Presiding Bishop shall be the Church spokesperson and represent the Church in National and International forums.

20.4 END OF TENURE

20.4.1 THE PRESIDING BISHOP

a) The Presiding Bishop shall serve for a maximum of two consecutive contract term of five years each or until attainment of retirement age of 65 years whichever comes earlier

b) The contract renewal procedure shall be as set out in the ECC human resource policy

c) The Presiding Bishop, who has served the full two terms of five years contract and has not reached the retirement age, may be deployed to other duties within the ministry

- d) In case the Presiding Bishop wants to resign voluntarily before the expiry of his term, he or she should give at least six months' notice
- e) The Presiding Bishop may have his services terminated on non-performance disciplinary grounds under the Human Resource policy
- f) There shall be a maximum of six (6) months transition period between the appointment and consecration of the Presiding Bishop designate, during which period the presiding Bishop shall continue in office until the Consecration ceremony
- g) The Consecration of the designate Bishop shall be carried out in accordance with the Ordination Policy.

20.5 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

20.5.1 Upon the position of Presiding Bishop falling vacant for whatever reason, the Deputy Bishop shall act as the Bishop for a maximum of six (6) months, within which period, the Representative Council shall select a Presiding Bishop in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

CHAPTER 21: DEPUTY PRESIDING BISHOP

There shall be established the office of the Deputy Presiding Bishop who shall deputize the Presiding Bishop and shall have a seat at a designated assembly.

21.1 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDING BISHOP

- a) The Deputy Presiding Bishop shall have a consistent Christian testimony in line with biblical position of 1Tim 3 and Titus 1: 7-9
- b) Shall have served with distinction, as a Senior Pastor or its equivalent, for a period of not less than five (5) years
- c) Shall have proven leadership skills and capabilities

21.2 THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING A DEPUTY PRESIDING BISHOP

- a) The Representative's Council shall appoint a Selection Panel of seven (7) members who will receive the applications, assess and vet them accordingly
- b) The selection panel shall present three (3) candidates to the Executive Team for consideration. In the event, however, that only one person qualifies for the position, the name shall be forwarded to the Executive Team with a justification
- c) The recommended candidates shall be interviewed by the Executive Team following which, the successful person shall be approved and presented to the AGM for ratification. The decision of AGM shall be final
- d) In the event there is no scheduled AGM within six months of the appointment of the Deputy Presiding Bishop, a Special GM shall be convened for the purpose of ratifying the appointment
- e) Following the ratification, the Deputy Presiding Bishop designate shall be consecrated in a duly convened public ceremony, within two (2) months.

21.3 END OF TENURE FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDING BISHOP

- a) The Deputy Presiding Bishop shall serve for a maximum of two consecutive contract terms of five (5) years each, or retire at the age of 65 years, whichever comes first
- b) The contract renewal and or termination procedure shall be as set out in the ECC Human Resource policy.
- c) The Deputy Presiding Bishop who has served two terms and has not attained the retirement age of 65 years, may be deployed to other duties within the ministry
- d) The Deputy Presiding Bishop may resign voluntarily before the expiry of his/her term by giving six (6) months' notice.
- e) In the event that the office of the Deputy Presiding Bishop falls vacant for whatever reason, the Presiding Bishop shall appoint an acting Deputy Presiding Bishop for a period of ninety (90) days.

CHAPTER 22: PASTORAL OFFICE

22.1 Senior Pastor

There shall be established an office of the Senior Pastor to oversee a designated Local Assembly.

22.1 Every Local Assembly with a minimum of three (3) pastoral staff shall be led by a Senior Pastor. Assemblies with less than three Pastors shall be led by a Pastor-in-Charge

22.2 The Senior Pastor shall be nominated by the Presiding Bishop and ratified by the MAT, from among the serving Pastors in the ministry with five (5) distinguished years of service

22.3 A pastor of a Branch Assembly who has steered it to growth and expansion may be nominated by the Presiding Bishop and ratified by MAT to be the Senior Pastor subject to clause 22.1.

22.2 The Pastor

There shall be established an office of the Pastor in a designated Local Assembly.

The MAT shall appoint men and women, with a call of God upon their lives, who shall possess relevant theological training with a minimum of Diploma, first degree or its equivalent. They shall be deployed to serve as Pastors at the Local Assembly and in respective ministries. The pastor will serve under the leadership of a Senior Pastor or pastor in-charge.

PART-5: THE CHURCH MINISTERIAL TEAM

CHAPTER 23: THE CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

There shall be established a Church Ministry Team (hereinafter referred to as CMT) whose overall responsibility will be to provide leadership in administrative and legal matters, effective governance and fiduciary responsibility.

24.1 FUNCTIONS OF THE CMT

- a) The CMT shall oversee the execution of all statutory and other legal instruments required in conformity with the State laws
- b) To oversee the Ministry in all matters pertaining to its administrative, financial, Human Resources, and business affairs
- c) To acquire, manage, upkeep, maintain and dispose the Church assets in consultation with the Presiding Bishop and Trustees. The process shall be ratified by the AGM
- d) To oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Representatives' Council and General Meetings
- e) To formulate and implement the Strategic Plan of the Church

24. 2 COMPOSITION OF THE CMT

The composition of the CMT shall be as follows:

- a) The Presiding Bishop and the Deputy Presiding Bishop as the chairperson and deputy chairperson respectively
- b) The Presiding Bishop in consultation with MAT shall nominate twelve (12) CMT members for ratification by the AGM
- c) Where necessary, the CMT may co-opt a maximum of three (3) members who meet the qualifications of a leader and or may appoint an ad hoc committee(s) as deemed necessary
- d) Co-opted members shall serve within the specified period as determined by the CMT
- e) The Church Administrator shall sit in as “ex-officio”.

24.3 QUALIFICATIONS

The Church Ministry Team shall be composed of men and women with diverse competencies and skills, who meet qualifications for deacons as stipulated in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3: 8-13.

A member who is above 21 years of age is eligible for nomination or appointment to the CMT provided that he or she: -

- a) Has been a member and a regular attendant of the Church for not less than three years
- b) Has served in a ministry of the Church where his or her commitment and leadership qualities have been demonstrated
- c) Meets minimum academic qualification of a diploma or its equivalent
- d) Has desired competencies and is available to discharge the functions
- e) Has a good testimony, wisdom, integrity, courage, faith and full of the Holy Spirit
- f) Consistent tither

24.4 NOMINATION, APPOINTMENT AND RATIFICATION

Nomination or appointment to the CMT shall take place annually to replace and or renew those whose terms have expired. The details of the nomination and appointment process are contained in the Church by-laws.

The nominated or appointed members will be presented to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.

24. 5 MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

24.5.1 The Presiding Bishop shall convene and chair the CMT meetings

24.5.2 In the absence of the Presiding Bishop, the Deputy Presiding Bishop shall chair the meetings and in the absence of the Deputy Bishop the Team shall appoint one from among them as the Chairperson

24.5.3 The CMT Secretary shall, in consultation with the Presiding Bishop, set the agenda, issue notices of meetings, and record the proceedings of the meetings

24.5.4 In the absence of the CMT secretary, the Team Members shall

appoint a secretary to record the minutes of meetings

24.5.5 The meetings of the CMT shall be held at least once every month. Seven (7) days' notice for such meetings shall be given to all the members

24.5.6 On matters requiring urgent attention, a meeting may be held in less than seven (7) days' notice provided that a quorum of two-thirds is present

24.5.7 The CMT shall constitute committees to handle specific delegated duties such as Finance, Audit, Human Resource, Legal and Ministry Development.

24.6 SEPARATION FROM THE CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM

A member of the CMT shall cease to hold office if he or she: -

- a) Resigns from office
- b) Becomes bankrupt
- c) Becomes incapacitated
- d) Is requested to resign
- e) Ceases to be a member of the Church
- f) No longer meets the stated qualifications
- g) Fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without apology

PART-6: THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM

CHAPTER 25 THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM

There shall be established an office of the Local Assembly Ministry Team, herein referred to as LAMT, to cater for the spiritual and administrative matters of the Local Assembly.

25.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM

A member of the Local Assembly Ministry Team, shall meet the following requirements:

- a) Has been a regular member in the assembly for at least two (2) years

- b) Mature spiritual judgment
- c) Has offered valuable service in the assembly
- d) Highly respected within and without the congregation
- e) Meets the scriptural standards as outlined in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3: 8-13
- f) Consistent tither
- g) Has minimum basic education
- h) Diverse competencies and skills.

25.2 THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS OF THE LAMT

The Senior Pastor or Pastor-in-Charge shall carry out due diligence and nominate twelve Local Assembly Ministry Team members for approval by the Regional Overseer.

25.3 TENURE AND SEPARATION OF A LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM MEMBER

The tenure of a Local Assembly Ministry Team member shall be a term of two years and eligible for renewal once.

A member of the LAMT shall cease to hold office as such if he or she: -

- a) Resigns from office
- b) Becomes bankrupt
- c) Becomes incapacitated
- d) Is requested to resign
- e) Ceases to be a member of the Church
- f) No longer meets the stated qualifications
- g) Fails to attend three consecutive meetings without apology

25.4 FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY MINISTRY TEAM

The Local Assembly Ministry team shall:

- a) Ensure the execution of all statutory and other legal instruments pertaining to the Local Assembly is in conformity with the applicable laws
- b) Oversee the Local Assembly Ministry in all matters pertaining to its administrative, financial, audit, human resources and Ministry Development
- c) To formulate and implement the Strategic Plan of the Local Assembly in consultation with the Regional Overseer.

PART-7: FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCH MINISTERS

CHAPTER 26: FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCH MINISTERS

There shall be established a Fellowship of Church ministers composed of:

- a) The Presiding Bishop as the Chairperson
- b) The Deputy Presiding Bishop
- c) The Regional Overseer
- d) Senior Pastors, Pastors incharge, and the Pastoral team

The fellowship shall have the power to co-opt not more than three persons as shall be deemed necessary.

26.1 FUNCTIONS OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERS

The functions of the members of the fellowship of ministers shall be as follows:

- a) Provide spiritual strategic direction of the Church
- b) Provide a forum for fellowship and interaction
- c) Handle other spiritual matters.

26.2 MEETINGS OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERS

Meetings for the Fellowship of Ministers shall be convened by the Presiding Bishop, who shall set the agenda. The fellowship shall take place quarterly.

PART-8: THE SENIOR PASTORS FORUM

CHAPTER 27: THE SENIOR PASTORS FORUM

There shall be established a Senior Pastors' Forum within the Ministry.

- 27.1** The membership to the Senior Pastors' Forum shall be Senior Pastors, Pastors incharge and Ministry Functional Heads
- 27.2** The forum shall hold meetings at the Mission Centre and or at the Regional Centers at least once a month
- 27.3** The Senior Pastors' Forum shall be chaired by the Presiding Bishop or his or her appointee

CHAPTER 28: FUNCTIONS OF THE SENIOR PASTORS FORUM

The Senior Pastors' forum shall perform the following functions:

- a) Provide progress updates on the implementation of the Strategic plan and develop action plans
- b) Develop holistic programs for the ministries in line with the vision and mission of the Church
- c) Institute systems of mutual accountability aimed at enabling the pastoral staff to offer maximum pastoral care and quality ministry
- d) Implementation of the Church decisions
- e) Establish and manage strategic networks and relationships with other churches and organizations locally and internationally

- f) Provide spiritual leadership through clear direction, strong pastoral care and effective performance management
- g) Create a platform for benchmarking and learning.

PART-9: GENERAL MEETINGS

CHAPTER 29: GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) There shall be two categories of general meetings: Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting.
- b) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th March following the end of the Financial Year.
- c) Notice in writing of AGM and Special GM shall be sent to all members not less than 21 and 14 days respectively before the date of the meetings
- d) The Financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December, of each calendar year
- e) An announcement or notice of the General Meetings shall be communicated at each church service held in the Assemblies on the three Sundays preceding such meetings.
- f) A copy of the notice and agenda shall be displayed on the church assembly noticeboards, 21 days for AGM and 14 days for SGM prior to the meeting
- g) A statement of accounts shall be made available for inspection upon request in writing, 7 (seven) days prior to the meeting.

29.1 THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The agenda for Annual General Meeting Shall Consist of the following:

- Prayer and Devotion
- Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
- Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

- Chairperson's Report and its Adoption
- Consideration and adaption of the Treasurer's report
- Appointment of the Auditor
- Confirmation of office bearers
- Any other business

29.2 A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 29.2.1 This may be called for any special purpose by the CMT. An announcement of such special general meeting shall be given at each Church service held in the assemblies two Sundays preceding such a meeting. A copy of the agenda shall be displayed on the Church notice board for fourteen days prior to the meeting.
- 29.2.2 A special general meeting may also be requisitioned in writing to the Church Secretary, signed by not less than 75 members as stipulated in this constitution and such meeting shall be held within fourteen days of the date for the request.
- 29.2.3 The notice for such meeting shall be as per the appropriate rule and no other matter shall be discussed other than that stated in the request.
- 29.2.4 The quorum for any general meeting shall be 75 members drawn from at least a third of the Church assemblies. In the alternative, quorum shall be drawn when attendance is assessed to represent one third of representatives from at least half of the Assemblies of the Church.

29.3 PROCEDURES AT MEETINGS

- 29.3.1 The Chairperson shall preside over the Annual General Meeting of the Church. In the absence of the Presiding Bishop, the Deputy Presiding Bishop shall chair the meeting
- 29.3.2 The Chairperson may at his or her discretion limit the number of persons permitted to speak in favor of and or against any motion
- 29.3.4 Resolutions, other than resolutions to alter the constitution or to dissolve the Church in accordance with the articles on the amendment of the constitution and dissolution of the

Church, shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. In case of a tie in votes, the chairperson shall have a second casting of vote.

CHAPTER 30: THE AUDITOR

- 30.1** The Annual General Meeting shall appoint external auditor to serve for one year, renewable not more than five consecutive years
- 30.2** Church accounts, records and documents shall be accessible to the Auditor for inspection at any time. The Church Treasurer shall produce an annual Statement of Accounts containing a summary of the receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for the financial year preceding the AGM
- 30.3** The Auditor shall examine the financial records and either certify that it is correct or incorrect, duly vouched and in accordance with the law and report the findings to the CMT
- 30.4** Auditor's report and the annual Statement of Accounts shall be presented to the AGM for ratification and endorsement
- 30.5** The AGM shall propose at least three (3) External Audit firms. After the vote, the audit firm with the majority vote will carry the day and the Auditor firm for the next year will be informed accordingly.
- 30.6** A member of the Church may be appointed as an Auditor upon declaring conflict of interest
- 30.7** The Auditor may be removed or may resign from office by giving twenty-eight (28) days' notice. This shall be ratified by the AGM.

CHAPTER 31: THE CHURCH FUNDS

- a) The Church funds shall be used for such purposes as shall be determined by the CMT who are authorized to disburse the funds as per the approved budget
- b) All Church funds received shall be deposited in the Church bank account approved by the CMT

- c) No payment shall be made without the authority of the approved signatories. The signatories shall be approved by the CMT
- d) All cheques drawn on the Church bank account shall be signed by any two of the authorized signatories who shall be the Chairperson of the CMT, the Church Treasurer, the Church Secretary, or the Church Administrator
- e) No funds shall be distributed among the members of the Church for personal gain.

CHAPTER 32: TRUSTEES

Trustees shall be appointed under the Trust for a 5 (five) year term by a resolution at a general meeting of the Church. Upon the expiry of the first term, they may be re-appointed for a further term of 5 (five) years.

32.1 A Trustee shall serve for a maximum term of 10 (ten) years

32.2 There shall be a minimum of 3 (three) and a maximum of 5 (five) Trustees

32.3 Three Trustees shall sign for any given legal transaction

32.4 The Trustees shall remit to the Church treasurer all income from property vested in the Trust

32.5 Any expenditure in respect of such property shall be approved by the CMT and ratified by the AGM

32.6 The Trustees shall be registered under the prevailing Land Act (Perpetual Succession)

32.7 The Trustees shall always act in the best interest of the Church and in accordance with directives given to them by the General Meetings

32.8 The Trustees shall oversee all property including land, buildings and any other immovable property and all investments and securities acquired by the Church shall be vested in trustees in trust of the Church.

CHAPTER 33: REGISTRATION AND CUSTODY OF CHURCH PROPERTY

- a) All Eagles Christian Church property shall be registered in the name of the Church and appropriate legal documents retained in safe custody by the Presiding Bishop.
- b) In case of co-ownership of any property, there shall be an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stipulating the terms.

CHAPTER 34: BRANCH ASSEMBLIES

Branch Assemblies may be established with the approval of the CMT and the other relevant bodies of the ministry.

- a) Branches shall be semi-autonomous in approach and shall operate under the oversight of Presiding Bishop
- b) Branches shall mobilize resources for development of their local assemblies and adhere to the provision of the Church Financial Policy
- c) Properties acquired by Branch assemblies shall be registered in the name of Eagles Christian Church and the inventory kept up-to-date
- d) All Branch assemblies shall prepare financial accounts and submit for audit by the ministry's external Auditor who shall consolidate and present for ratification by the AGM
- e) Branches and local assemblies may plant other churches and fellowships.

CHAPTER 35: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Eagles Christian Church shall identify and fellowship with likeminded individuals, institutions, churches and ministries both locally and internationally.

Whilst accepting the inherent rights to independence in the conduct of her own affairs, this Church agrees to voluntarily establish

strategic partnerships and collaborations with other likeminded entities. The Church shall share in the privileges, and assume the responsibilities enjoined by such affiliation.

CHAPTER 36: BY-LAWS

For efficient administration and operation of the Church affairs and her related ministries, the CMT in consultation with the MAT shall develop, and or amend by-laws which shall be ratified by the AGM.

CHAPTER 37: AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall only be within a period of not less than 2 (two) years from the effective date.

The amendments shall be proposed in writing to the Church Secretary and signed by not less than the number required by quorum as stipulated in this Constitution. Amendments shall be approved by at least a two-third majority of members present at a general meeting.

CHAPTER 38: DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

In the unlikely event of dissolution of the Church:

- a. The Church may be dissolved by a resolution passed at a general meeting by at least a two-thirds majority of the total registered membership.
- b. If no quorum is obtained, the proposal to dissolve the Church shall be submitted to a further general meeting which shall be held thirty days later with two thirds majority of the registered members present.
- c. Notice of this meeting shall be displayed on the Church notice boards at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.
- d. No dissolution shall be effected without prior approval in writing from the Registrar of Societies.
- e. When the dissolution of the Church has been approved by the Registrar of Societies, no further action shall be taken by the

office bearers of the Church in connection with the objects of the Church. The office bearers and trustees shall liquidate all the assets of the Church.

- f. Subject to settlement of all liabilities of the Church, the balance of the monies and or unliquidated property shall be distributed to such similar entities only for purposes consistent with the Vision and Mission of the Church as shall be identified in the meeting at which the resolution for dissolution is passed.