



*Delaware Jurisdiction  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.*

*P.O. Box 397  
Dover, DE 19901*

*Bishop Thomas L. Holsey, D. Th., Presiding Prelate  
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April 07, 2016

Superintendent Thomas Jackson  
Chief Justice- Judiciary Board  
Church Of God in Christ  
1750 East 78<sup>th</sup> St  
Chicago IL 60649

**RE: Official Request as to Constitutional Procedure Legitimacy  
of Local Church Jurisdictional Transfer**

**Chief Justice Jackson,**

**Per: Judiciary Board  
Article VIII  
PREAMBLE: THE JUDICIARY BOARD**

The establishment of the Judiciary Board of the Church of God in Christ, Incorporated shall bring into existence a third branch of church government, which shall exist in conjunction with the two present branches of government, the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. **This branch of government shall be established as both an ecclesiastical and appellate court, hearing disputes upon appeal from lower dispute resolution forums in the Church and serving as the ultimate authority on matters of constitutional interpretation.** All former articles and charters inconsistent with this amendment are modified, amended and hereby repealed Article VIII upon adoption shall be effective immediately.

***It is requested the Judiciary Branch of the Church of God in Christ, render an interpretation of the constitution:***

**ARTICLE III  
Part II  
SECTION D  
TRANSFER OF CHURCH  
CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE FOR  
LOCAL CHURCHES**

**Does Article state geographical guidelines?**

Your Servant in Christ,  
*Bishop Thomas L. Holsey, D. Th.*  
Prelate of the Delaware Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.  
(ADS)

C: Bishop E. Charles Connor – Secretary Judiciary Board (email 411161)



**Church of God in Christ, Inc.**  
International Headquarters  
Office of the General Secretary  
**ARTICLE III**  
**Transfer of Church**

CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR

SECTION D  
LOCAL CHURCHES

17. All vacancies that occur in the pastorate of a local church shall be filled by the Jurisdictional Bishop. The supervision and management of the church shall remain with the Jurisdictional Bishop or his designee until such time as a Pastor is appointed to fill such vacancy.

18. No local church shall be authorized to change or transfer its Jurisdictional affiliation unless at least two-thirds of the church's membership agree for such transfer.

Addendum to IS. - April 14, 1982. Two-Thirds of the membership must be present and voting after due notice, before authorization can be given to move the church from one Jurisdiction to another.

- a. The Pastor of the church shall notify in writing the General Secretary of the Church of God in Christ, the Jurisdictional Bishops where the church is affiliated, and the Jurisdictional Bishop where the church intends to transfer, of intent to transfer, which notice shall be given at least thirty (30) days before the local church's membership can act on said transfer. The notice shall include the following information:
1. Name of Pastor
  2. Name and location of the Church.
  3. Membership enrollment.
  4. Jurisdiction where Church is affiliated.
  5. Name and address of Jurisdictional Bishop.
  6. Jurisdiction where Church seeks to transfer and name of Bishop of such Jurisdiction.
- b. The respective Jurisdictional Bishops or their designee where the Church is affiliated and where the Church seeks to transfer shall be entitled to be present at the membership meeting convened for this purpose.
- c. The vote on the transfer shall be by secret written ballot. The respective Jurisdictional Bishops shall be authorized to have a representative present to observe the voting and the counting of the ballots.
- d. The respective Jurisdictional Bishops and the Pastors of the local church shall within seventy-two (72) hours notify the General Secretary of the Church of God in Christ of the results.

19. No local church shall be authorized to petition for a transfer of its Jurisdictional affiliations but for one time each twelve (12) month period.

20. A member of a local church shall not transfer membership to another local Church of God in Christ unless the local member has the written consent of the Pastor where the member is enrolled. The pastor should give the member who is in good standing a letter of consent upon request.