

AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

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DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PREAMBLE

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We, the members of the Church of God In Christ, hold the Holy Scriptures as contained in the Old and New Testaments of our Bible as a rule of our Faith and Practice. We believe that Governments are God-Given Institutions for the Benefit of mankind. We admonish and exhort our members to honor magistrates and civil authorities and to respect and obey civil laws.

We hereby declare our loyalty to the President of the United States of America and to the Constitution of the United States of America. We pledge allegiance and fidelity to the flag, and to the Republic for which it stands.

However, as God-fearing, peace-loving, and law-abiding people, we claim our heritage and natural right to worship God according to the dictates; of our own conscience. Therefore, we abhor war, for we believe that the shedding of human blood or the taking of human life is contrary to the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, And, as a body of Christian believers, we are adverse to war in all of its forms, and believe in the peaceful settlement of all International disputes.

With pride and gratitude we dedicate and commemorate this revision of the Charter, to the memory and honor of the beloved Pounder and Chief Apostle of our Church, the late Bishop C. H. Mason, whose vision and wisdom played an indispensable part in developing the principles and precepts upon which our great Church has been built.

And, in order to more effectively carry on the program and work of our Church, we do hereby amend and modify our Charter, as set out hereinafter, and repeal the provisions of all former Charters, Rules, Regulations, Practices, and Usages, inconsistent herewith.

ARTICLE I - NAME OF CORPORATION

The corporate name of the Church shall be

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

ARTICLE II - NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND  
PRINCIPAL OFFICES

The National Headquarters and Principal Offices of said Church shall be located at 958 Mason Street, in the city of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.

ARTICLE III - STRUCTURE OF CHURCH, CIVIL, AND  
ECCLESIASTICAL

Part I - Civil Structure

The civil officers of the corporation shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and such other officers as the corporation shall establish.

- a) The president shall preside at all meetings and shall have general supervision of the business affairs of the corporation and shall make an annual report of the status and condition of the corporation to its Board of Directors. The President shall sign all certificates, contracts, deeds and other instruments of the corporation. During the absence or disability of the president, the First Vice-President shall exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties of the President.
- b) The Second Vice-President shall exercise all the functions of the President in the absence or disability of the President and the First Vice-President.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings; shall have charge of the seal and corporate books and shall make such reports and perform such other duties as are required of him by the corporation, and shall sign all certificates, contracts, deeds, and other instruments of the corporation.

- (d) The Assistant Secretary shall perform the duties of the Secretary in his absence, or disability, as directed by the Corporation.
- (e) The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies and securities of the Corporation and shall keep regular books of account. He shall disburse the funds of the corporation in payment of the just demands against the corporation or as may be ordered by the corporation. From time to time as may be required of him he shall make an accounting of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation.
- (f) The Assistant Treasurer shall perform duties of the Treasurer in his absence, disability, or as directed by the corporation.
- (g) The officers of the corporation shall hold offices until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- (h) The Board of Directors shall meet at least once each year, but special meetings may be called if and when the same may become necessary.

#### PART II ECCLESTIASTICAL STRUCTURE

Ecclesiastically, the Church of God In Christ shall be composed of (A) the General Board, (B) General Assembly, (C) Board of Bishops, (D) Women's Department, (E) General Council, (F) Jurisdictional Assemblies, and Local Churches,

##### SECTION A. THE GENERAL BOARD, ITS ORGANIZATION, POWERS AND DUTIES.

1. The General Assembly shall elect from among the Jurisdictional Bishops, twelve Bishops who shall comprise and be designated as the General Board and they shall be Ex Officio Directors of the Corporation. From the twelve members of the General Board, the General Assembly shall elect a presiding Bishop. The Decisions of the General Board shall be final unless the same are overruled, amended, repealed, or modified, by the General Assembly.

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(a) The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Church of God In Christ. The Presiding Bishop shall preside over all sessions of the General Board and shall have the power and authority to conduct the executive functions of the Church of God In Christ when neither the General Board nor the General Assembly is in session; all such action taken by the Presiding Bishop shall be subject to the approval by a majority of the members of the General Board and subject to the will of the General Assembly.

(b) The Presiding Bishop shall select the First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops from among the elected members of the General Board, subject to the approval of the General Assembly. The First and second presiding Bishops shall hold their respective offices for the term for which they were elected.

(c) The First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops shall aid and assist the Presiding Bishop in discharging his Executive functions, and shall serve in their respective order if, for any reason, the Presiding Bishop does not serve, is unable to serve, until the position is filled by the General Assembly at one of its regular or special sessions.

(d) The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board and subject to the will of the General Assembly shall perform all executive duties and specifically shall perform the following duties:

(1) Take action upon petitions, requests, complaints, and other matters referred to him by the General Assembly, Jurisdictional Assembly, Departments of the Church of God In Christ, or members of the Church of God In Christ.

(2) Appoint all Departmental Heads and all National Officers in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Constitution.

(3) Appoint all Bishops of Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions and foreign jurisdictions from among the roster of qualified elders of the Church of God In Christ. Pastors of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction for which a Bishop shall be appointed can recommend to the General Board the name or names of elders to be considered for the position of Jurisdictional Bishop.

(4) Supervise and direct all departments of the Church.

(5) Execute the decisions of the General Board and the General Assembly.

(e) The General Board shall have the power to exercise all other powers, expressed or implied, which shall be necessary and proper to carry out the foregoing executive functions, and all other powers vested in it by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church Of God In Christ, and all actions taken shall be subject to the will of the General Assembly.

(f) A General Secretary shall be elected by the General Assembly. The General Secretary shall be the Secretary of the General Assembly and the Secretary of the General Church.

(1) The General Secretary shall be authorized to appoint the necessary assistants to aid and assist him in carrying out the proper functions of the office of the General Secretary.

(2) The General Secretary shall be authorized to appoint and/or establish a secretarial staff for the operation of the Office of the General Secretary.

(g) A Financial Secretary shall be elected by the General Assembly. The Financial Secretary shall maintain a record of all financial reports, funds taken in and disbursed, and he shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the General Assembly.

(1) The Financial Secretary shall be authorized to appoint a person to assist him in carrying out the duties and functions of his office.

(2) The Financial Secretary shall be authorized to establish a clerical staff to aid and assist in the duties and functions of the Office of the Financial Secretary.

(h) A Treasurer shall be elected by the General Assembly. The Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the General Assembly, and the Treasurer of the General Church. He shall have custody of all monies and securities of the church and shall make an accounting of all his transactions as Treasurer.

(1) The Treasurer shall be authorized to appoint a person to assist him in carrying out the duties and functions of his office.

(i) All assistants appointed by the General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer are subject to the approval of the Presiding Bishop and General Board.

(j) The term of office of the General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer shall run concurrently with that of the current administration.

2. The members of the General Board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years. The term shall be computed from the date of their election and qualification, and each member may hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualified.

3. In the event a vacancy in the General Board occurs while the General Assembly is not in session, the remaining members of the General Board shall fill such vacancy until such time as the General Assembly shall be convened in regular or special session, at which time the General Assembly shall fill such position in the manner as herein provided. A vacancy in the office of the General Secretary, Financial Secretary, or Treasurer shall be filled in the same manner.

SECTION B - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme legislative and judicial authority of the Church of God In Christ. It is the only tribunal which has power to express the doctrines and creeds of the Church, and its decisions shall be binding on all members of the Church Of God In Christ.

1. MEMBERSHIP. The following shall qualify as delegates to the General Assembly:

- (a) Members of the General Board;
  - (b) Jurisdictional Bishops;
  - (c) Jurisdictional Supervisors of Women's Work;
  - (d) Pastors of Local Churches and Ordained Elders;
- and;
- (e) Two (2) District Missionaries and One (1) Lay Delegate from each Jurisdictional Assembly; and
  - (f) Such foreign delegates as may be determined by the General Assembly in session.

2. ELECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF DELEGATES.

(a) Delegates to the General Assembly, except those designated in Section B, Subsection I, subdivisions a, b, and c, shall be elected by the Assemblies of their respective Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions.

(b) All delegates to the General Assembly except those designated in Section B, Subsection I, Subdivisions a, b, and c, shall be certified by their respective Jurisdictional Assemblies, and the secretaries thereof shall issue to them certificates of election. The secretary of each Jurisdictional Assembly shall send to the General Secretary a list of such certified delegates, which list shall be registered by the General Secretary, who shall then issue to the delegates certificates of registration.

(c) Delegates qualifying under Section B, Subsection I, Subdivision a, b, c, shall be issued certificates of registration by the General Secretary after he has verified their respective offices.

(d) Delegates to the General Assembly shall serve only for the session and time for which they were elected, or for only such time that they shall hold an office that qualifies them to serve as delegates to the General Assembly.

(e) If a delegate, who has been elected by his Jurisdictional Assembly or, has qualified under Section B, Subsection I, Subdivision a, b, and c, is refused a certificate of registration by the General Secretary, the delegate may appeal to the Committee on Credentials through the Chairman or any officer thereof. Upon the filing of such an appeal, the Chairman of the Credentials Committee shall forthwith convene a meeting of the Credentials Committee, which shall then act upon the delegate's claim. An adverse decision by the Credentials Committee may be appealed to the General Assembly, which is then in session, by filing an appeal with the presiding officer or assistant presiding officer thereof. Upon the filing of such appeal, the presiding officer of the General Assembly, shall convene a meeting of the General Assembly, which shall determine the issues presented by the delegate's appeal. The decision by majority vote of the members of the General Assembly present and voting shall be final and binding on all interested parties.

(f) The Secretary of the Credentials Committee shall keep a record of its proceedings and file certified copies thereof with the Chairman of the General Assembly and the General Secretary of the Church.

3. OFFICERS. The following shall be officers of the General Assembly:

(a) The first meeting, or session of the General Assembly, shall be called to order by a temporary chairman, who shall have been appointed by the General Board. A permanent chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates to the General Assembly, present and voting, and he shall hold office as chairman at all sessions of the General Assembly until its final adjournment.

However, the permanent chairman shall have the right to appoint a presiding officer in his place and stead, in the event he need be excused, or temporarily relieved of office.

(b) The Financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the Church Of God In Christ, shall be bonded, and in addition to duties set out hereinabove, perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the General Assembly.

(c) The General Assembly shall elect by majority vote of the members, present and voting, the following additional officers, to wit:

(a) Parliamentarian, who shall advise the Chairman as to points of parliamentary law and procedure;

(b) Chaplain, who shall conduct devotional services of the General Assembly;

(c) Sergeant at Arms, who shall keep and maintain order in all sessions of the General Assembly;

(d) Statistician, who shall supervise, count, and report on all matters voted on by the General Assembly.

4 MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(a) The General Assembly shall meet annually during the National Convocation of the Church Of God In Christ, not before Monday following the official Sunday, nor later than the Thursday following, unless approved by a majority of the delegates, present and voting, in the last regular session.

(b) Special sessions of the General Assembly shall be called by the General Board by giving notice thereof, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to such special sessions, to all members of the Church of God In Christ, qualified to be delegates to the General Assembly, as provided by subsection 1 of Section B hereinabove

Stating the purpose of such special sessions. A special session of the General Assembly shall be convened for only the purpose, or purposes, set forth in the Notice calling such special session.

(c) However, if the General Assembly is in session and has acted on any Constitutional Amendment, requiring a vacancy to be filled, the General Assembly, then in session, is authorized to fill such vacancy, or vacancies, without calling a special session thereof.

5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(a) The General Assembly shall adopt such rules of procedure and regulations governing the conduct of its business and its organization as it may deem necessary, proper, or expedient.

(b) There can be no appeal from the decisions and determinations of the General Assembly.

6. NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(a) The General Assembly shall elect from its membership and/or the membership of the Church Of God In Christ, a National Board of Trustees, which shall consist of not less than fifteen (15), and not more than thirty-one (31) members, and they shall hold office for four years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

(b) The National Board of Trustees shall have and perform the following duties, towit:

1. It shall hold in trust for the use and benefit of members of the Church of God In Christ property committed to it by the General Board, the Board of Directors of the Corporation, or the General Assembly;

2. It shall hold in trust for the use and benefit of the Church of God In Christ, Inc. any assets, which shall become property of the church with or without proper legal designation, either by gift, deed, will or otherwise;

3. It shall preserve, protect, secure, and maintain all property of the church, not otherwise provided for;

4. It shall determine and approve the budgetary needs of all national departments, units, auxiliaries, conventions and operations of the Church, which shall be submitted to the Financial Secretary, which shall require the approval of the General Board and shall be subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

5. It shall have the right and power to employ a maintenance superintendent and a custodial staff, who shall be under his supervision, to look after, maintain, and preserve, and protect the National Offices, buildings, and grounds of the Church of God In Christ, Inc., and the salaries of such employees' shall be approved by the General Assembly.

#### SECTION C. JURISDICTIONAL ASSEMBLIES

1. Jurisdictional Assemblies are bodies of the Church of God In Christ composed of the following members within, or affiliated with, designated Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, to wit:

- (a) Jurisdictional Bishops
- (b) Supervisor of Women's Department;
- (c) All Pastors of Local Churches;
- (d) Ordained Elders;
- (e) District missionaries;
- (f) Jurisdictional Department Heads; and
- (g) One lay delegate elected from each Jurisdictional district.

2. Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions shall be determined, established, and dissolved by the General Board, without regard to geographical areas or subdivisions, subject to review by the General Assembly.

3. Jurisdictional Assemblies shall be presided over by their respective Bishops. Jurisdictional Assemblies shall have the right to adopt such laws and rules for their government as may be deemed necessary and proper, but shall not adopt any law, rule, or regulation in conflict with, or repugnant to the Charter, Constitution, laws, rules, and regulations of the General Church.

4. No person shall be elected as an officer of any

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Jurisdictional Assembly who is not in good standing and fellowship with the Church Of God In Christ.

5. Jurisdictional Assemblies of the various Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions shall elect from their membership delegates to the General Assembly.

SECTION D - LOCAL CHURCHES

1. The Local Church is the basic unit of the structural organization of the Church Of God In Christ. Its membership shall consist of all who have been set in order as a Church by those authorized to do so after having first declared their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and declared their faith and belief in the doctrines of the Church of God In Christ, and their willingness to submit to and abide by the government of the Church Of God In Christ. The Pastor of a local church shall be appointed by the Jurisdictional Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church.

2. A local church may be established or set in order by the Jurisdictional Bishop or his designee.

3. No local Church shall have full status in the Church Of God In Christ until it has been registered by its Jurisdictional Bishop in the office of the General Secretary, who shall then issue to the Jurisdictional Bishop a certificate of membership for the local Church.

4. Neither a local Church, whose Jurisdictional Bishop has not received a Certificate of Membership from the General Secretary of the Church, nor any member thereof, shall be entitled to enjoy the rights, and privileges of membership In the Church Of God In Christ,

5. A local Church, which has been accepted by the Church of God In Christ and issued a Certificate of Membership, shall not have the legal right or privilege to withdraw or sever its relations with the General Church, except by and with the permission of the General Assembly.

6. A local Church in good standing and fellowship with the Church of God In Christ and whose certificate of Membership has not been suspended or revoked shall have the right to elect delegates to its Jurisdictional Assembly.

7. A local Church may establish its own constitution and By-laws, provided the same shall not be in conflict with or repugnant to, the Charter, Constitution, Laws and Doctrines of the Church of God In Christ.

8. All trustees of local churches shall be members of the Church of God In Christ. In all cases where the law requires a special mode of election of Church Trustees, that mode must be followed. Trustees of local unincorporated Churches and their successors in office shall hold title to all real and personal property, for the use and benefit of the members of the Church, as provided in subsection nine (9) hereinafter. Where, however, the law requires no particular mode of election of trustees, they shall be elected by a majority of the members of the congregation, present and voting, in a regular or special business meeting of the church. All special meetings of the Church shall be announced on a Sunday preceding the date of the meeting and shall state the purpose of the call and the time and place of the meeting.

9. Real estate or other property may be acquired by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise, by Local Churches. Where real or personal property is acquired by deed, the instrument of conveyance shall contain the following clause, to wit:

"The said property Is held in trust for the use and benefit of the members of the Church Of God In Christ with National Headquarters in the City of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, and subject to the Charter, Constitution, Laws, and Doctrines of said Church, now in full force and effect, or as they may be hereafter amended, changed, or modified by the General Assembly of said Church."

10. The Officers and Trustees of a Local Church shall not mortgage Church property in order to pay or meet current expenses of the Church.

11. No deed, conveyance, or mortgage of real estate of a local Church shall be binding on the Church Of God In Christ unless the execution of said instrument has been approved in writing by the Jurisdictional Bishop having Jurisdiction over said local church.

12. Trustees, Deacons, and other officers of a local church shall make an annual report to the congregation thereof.

13. A member of a local church may be licensed to preach by his Pastor.

14. A licensed Minister of a local Church shall be ordained by the following procedures:

(a) He must first be recommended by his Pastor to the Ordination Committee of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which his Church is an affiliate, and said Pastor shall present the credentials and qualifications of the candidate to said Committee.

(b) The credentials and qualifications of the candidate shall include his moral, spiritual fitness, and attested loyalty to the Church and he shall also be required to satisfactorily complete a prescribed course of study as recognized by the General Assembly

(c) If the Committee approves the application of the Candidate after examination and investigation of his credentials and qualification, the candidate shall be recommended for ordination to his Jurisdictional Bishop,

(d) If the Bishop approves, he shall thereupon ordain the applicant, who thereby becomes an Ordained Elder of the Church.

15. Only an ordained Elder may administer the Ordinances of the Church.

16. All credentials and certificates shall be uniform and shall be issued by the General Secretary to the Jurisdictional Bishops.

#### ARTICLE IV - JURISDICTIONAL BISHOPS

SECTION A. Jurisdictional Bishops, formerly known and referred to as Overseers or State Bishops, shall be appointed and removed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the following qualifications, powers and duties:

1. The qualifications of a Jurisdictional Bishop shall be as follows:

- (a) He must be an Ordained Elder of the Church.
- (b) He must be in good standing with the Church.
- (c) He must be a man of ability, honesty, and integrity, and he shall be dedicated to the work and service of the Church.

2. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the right to appoint and ordain Elders.

3. Each Jurisdictional Bishop shall be the representative of the Church of God In Christ in respect to all church matters in his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and shall have general supervision over all departments and Churches in his Jurisdiction.

4. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall preside over the Jurisdictional Assembly in his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and fix and determine the time and place of its meeting.

5. Each Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the right to appoint and/or remove District Superintendents, Departmental heads and all other State officials in his Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, unless otherwise provided for by this constitution.

6. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall hold office during good behavior and until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. However, if during his term of office, a Jurisdictional Bishop should die, or should become physically or mentally incapable of performing his duties as bishop, the Presiding Bishop of the Church, by and with the consent of the General Board, shall appoint his successor.

#### SECTION B - FOREIGN BISHOPS

Foreign Bishops shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop by and with consent of the General Board to preside over Churches of the Church of God In Christ located in geographical areas outside of the continental United States of America, and not designated as one of the several states of the United States. The qualifications, powers, and duties of a Foreign Bishop shall be fixed and determined by the General Board.

#### SECTION C - BOARD OF BISHOPS

All Bishops shall comprise and constitute the Board of Bishops.

1. The Board of Bishops shall elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer and other officers that the Board shall deem necessary and proper, and their term of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration.

2. The Board of Bishops shall aid and assist the General Board in matters referred to it by the General Board and report its findings to the General Board.

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3. The Board of Bishops shall establish such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Constitution, and By-Laws of the Church.

ARTICLE V - GENERAL COUNCIL

SECTION A. The General Council of the Church of God In Christ shall consist of all ordained elders who are in good standing with their local churches in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions of their respective Jurisdictional Assemblies, and the General Assembly, and it shall be organized and have the following duties, to wit:

1. The Officers of the General Council shall be as follows:

(a) Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and such other officers as it may deem necessary and proper, according to the provisions in the constitution; and the tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration.

2. It shall consider matters that are referred to it by the General Assembly, the General Board, Jurisdictional Assemblies, or by the Departments of the Church, and shall make a report of its findings to appropriate organs of the Church.

3. It shall serve as an Ecclesiastical Council to try, hear, and determine cases and all other matters referred to it under the Constitution or laws of the Church.

4. It shall establish such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Constitution or Laws of the Church.

5. It shall exercise all other powers and duties vested in it by the Charter, Constitution, and By-Laws of the Church.

ARTICLE VI - DEPARTMENTS OP THE CHUKCH

SECTION A. - WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Women's Department in the General Church and in each Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

1. The Women's Department shall be under the supervision and direction of a National Supervisor, appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board. Her tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration.

2. The National Supervisor shall have the power to appoint and remove a Jurisdictional Supervisor, who shall supervise the work of the Women's Department in the Jurisdiction of her appointment. No such appointment or removal shall be made unless the same is consented to and approved by the Bishop presiding in the Jurisdiction and by the presiding bishop of the General Church.

3. The Jurisdictional Supervisors shall have the power to appoint and remove District Missionaries in the Jurisdiction of their appointment. No such appointment or removal shall be made unless the same is consented to by the Bishop presiding in that Jurisdiction.

4. The Women's Department shall supervise the following Auxiliaries coming under its Jurisdiction:

- (a) THE PRAYER AND BIBLE BAND;
- (b) THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COUNCIL;
- (c) PURITY CLASS;
- (d) SUNSHINE BAND; and

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- (e) Any other auxiliary, National, State, or local, that the National Supervisor and/or General Board shall deem necessary for the operation of the Women's work.

5. The National Supervisor shall establish a National Executive office necessary for the operation and administration of the auxiliaries listed. She shall have the authority to appoint and remove the National Officers of, such auxiliaries by and with the approval of the General Board.

6. A Jurisdictional Supervisor with the consent of the Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the authority to appoint or remove Jurisdictional Officers from such auxiliaries.

7. The Appointment and Removal of Local Officers of such auxiliaries shall be exercised by the Local Pastor.

#### SECTION B - THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Sunday School Department for training and enlightening children and adults in the scriptural understanding and doctrines of the Church of God In Christ.

1. The Sunday School Department shall be under the supervision and direction of a National Superintendent appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of, the General Board. A Financial Secretary of the Sunday School Department shall also be appointed by the Presiding Bishop. Their tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration. The Presiding Bishop shall have the power to remove the National Superintendent and the Financial Secretary of the Sunday School Department with the approval of the majority of the General Board.

2. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the power to appoint or remove a Jurisdictional Superintendent of the Sunday School Department, who shall supervise the work of the Sunday School in the Jurisdiction of his appointment.

3. The Jurisdictional Superintendent of the Sunday School Department shall organize and set up the Sunday School Department at the Jurisdictional level by establishing Sunday School Districts therein, and shall supervise the Sunday School on the State and District levels.

4. Local Churches shall have local Superintendents of the Sunday Schools who shall be appointed by their respective Pastors. The removal of a local superintendent shall be by the procedure as that of any other local, officer or member of the local church.

#### SECTION C - THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Young People's Department which shall be called the Young People's Willing Workers.

1. The Young People's Department shall be under the supervision and direction of a National President. The National President shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board. A Financial Secretary of the Young People's Department shall also be appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board. Their term of office shall run concurrently with that of the Administration. The Presiding Bishop shall have the power to remove the National President and Financial Secretary of the Young People's Department with the approval of the majority of the General Board.

2. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the power to appoint and remove a State President of the Young People's Department.

3. The Jurisdictional President of the Young People's Department shall organize and set up the Young People's Department at the Jurisdictional level by establishing districts therein and shall establish the Young People's Department on the State and District level for the administration of the work of the Young People's Department on these levels, and shall supervise the work of the Young People's Willing Workers in the jurisdiction of his appointment.

4. Local Churches shall have local Presidents of The Young People's Department who shall be appointed by the respective Pastors. The removal of a local President shall be the same as that of any other local officer or member of the local Church.

SECTION D - HOME AID FOREIGN MISSIONS.

There shall be a Department of Home and Foreign Missions for the spiritual and doctrinal development of Missions in underdeveloped areas in both local and foreign territories.

1. There shall be a National President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors of said Department.

The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint or remove the National President. His tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the Administration.

2. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the power to appoint or remove the Jurisdictional officers of the Home and Foreign Missions in the Jurisdiction of his appointment.

3. Local Churches shall have a Home and Foreign Mission Department whose officers shall be appointed and removed by the Local Pastor.

SECTION E - DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

There shall be a Department of Evangelism to carry on the Evangelical work and program of the Church.

1. There shall be a National President, Executive Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors of said Department.

2. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of a majority of the members of the General Board shall appoint the officers of said Department, and shall have the right to remove any officer thereof by and with the approval of a majority of the members of the General Board.

3. Each Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the right to organize and set up a department of Evangelism in his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and to appoint or remove the officers thereof.

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SECTION F. - JURISDICTIONS AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

1. All Jurisdictional meetings shall consist of one convocation and one Spring Workers meeting, or conference annually. Within each Jurisdiction there shall be one District meeting per year, per district. All Jurisdictional District meetings and conventions shall convene and terminate at the discretion of the Jurisdictional Bishop.

2. All National Departments and Auxiliary Conventions shall begin no sooner than Monday and end not later than the Saturday before the following Sunday.

SECTION G. - BOARD OF EDUCATION

There shall be a Board of Education to carry on and further the educational work and program of the Church. There shall be a President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the said Board. The tenure of office of its members and officers shall run concurrently with that of the Administration.

1. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint members and officers of said Board, and shall have the right and authority to remove any member and officer thereof.

2. The removal of an officer of the Board of Education must be sustained by a majority vote of the General Board.

SECTION H. - BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

There shall be a Board of Publications which shall be responsible for and have supervisory control over the literature, pamphlets, books periodicals, notices, and all other printed matters of the Church. The term of office of the members of said Board shall run concurrently with that of the Administration.

1. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint the members and officers of said Board. The Presiding Bishop shall have the right to remove any officer or member thereof.

2. The removal of any officer or member of the Board of Publications must be sustained by a majority vote of the General Board.

SECTION I. - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

There shall be a Department of Public Relations, with an Executive Director to handle public relations of the Church of God In Christ as authorized by the Presiding Bishop and approved by the General Board. His term of office shall run concurrently with that of the Administration,

1. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint or remove the Executive Director.

2. The Executive Director shall select his staff, but the size of such staff must be approved by the General Board.

SECTION J. - PASTORS OF LOCAL CHURCHES

The Pastor is the chief executive officer of the local Church and shall have the general oversight and supervision thereof.

1. The Pastor shall have the right to appoint or remove officers, of the local church and to administer his office in accordance with the Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, of the Church of God In Christ.

2. The Pastor shall be responsible for the Spiritual and doctrinal guidance of the local church.

ARTICLE VII - DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The Church of God In Christ shall have the right and power to levy assessments and dues upon all of its members in such amounts, at such times and places, and upon such terms and conditions as the General Assembly shall determine.

SECTION A. The General Assembly shall adopt such rules of procedure for the payment and allocutions of all assessments and dues received, and the disbursements of the same, as may appear to it to be for the best interest of the Church.

SECTION B. The General Assembly shall have the right to require all departments to submit their budgets of their respective departments to the Board of Trustees for Examination and recommendation to it for each fiscal year at such times and places and under such circumstances as it may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH DISCIPLINE

SECTION A. TRIALS OP LOCAL CHURCHES

1. Offenses for which a Church may be tried are as follows:

- (a) Persistently violation the provisions of the Charter, Constitution and Rules, Laws and Regulations of the Church of God In Christ, or its Articles of Faith.
- (b) Sustaining and supporting a Pastor

who teaches or practices doctrines contrary or repugnant: to the Articles of Faith of the Church Of God In Christ.

(c) Sanctioning immoral practices of members and failing or refusing to take steps prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church for trial of members charged with the commission of the foregoing offenses.

2. Procedures for trial.

(a) Any member of a local Church, who has Just cause to believe that the Church of which he is a member has committed any or all of the offenses enumerated hereinabove, may file a charge against the Church specifically setting out the acts and things complained of. The original charge shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which the Church is a part, or with which it is affiliated, and copies thereof shall be filed with the Clerk or Secretary of the local Church and a copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the General Secretary.

(b) The Clerk of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction shall submit the charge to the Jurisdictional, Bishop, who shall

appoint an Investigating Committee of not less than three (3), nor more than five (5) members to examine the facts and ascertain whether there is reasonable grounds for having the Church brought to trial.

(c) The Investigating Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop. If the Investigating Committee determines that there is no merit to the charge and recommends that the charge be dismissed, the Jurisdictional Bishop shall there upon dismiss the charge and send copies of the letter or order of dismissal to the principal parties.

(d) If, however, the Investigating Committee determines that the Church should be tried, it shall submit its recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop, who shall appoint an Ecclesiastical Council consisting of five (5) Pastors of the Jurisdiction to determine the merits of the complaint. Said Council shall give written notice to all interested parties and to the General Secretary of the time and place of the hearing at least twenty (20) days prior to the time the Ecclesiastical Council sets the cause down for trial.

(e) The Parties shall have the right to be represented by Counsel, who shall be members of the Church Of God In Christ, but said Counsel may be advised by non-members of the Church.

(f) The majority decision of the Ecclesiastical Council shall be necessary to sustain the charges.

(g) In the event the charges are not sustained, the complaint shall be dismissed. But, if the charges are sustained, the Council shall render Its judgment or decision, as follows:

(1) It may order that the Church be placed on probation; or

(2) It may order or recommend that the Church be given an opportunity to repent of its evil ways and agree to conform to the government and faith of the Church, recognize the Constitutional, authorities of the Church, and specifically refrain from committing in the future, any of the acts embraced in the charges; or

(3) It may order that the Church be reorganized; or

(4) It may order that the Church be disorganized; or

(5) It may order that the Pastor be suspended or removed from office; or

(6) It may make such other orders or decisions as it may determine to be for the best interest of the Church Of God In Christ.

(h) The Jurisdictional Bishop shall execute the orders and decrees of the Ecclesiastical Council.

(i) If and in the event a Church is disorganized, its property, real and personal shall pass to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical Assembly and the officers of said Church, or Trustees thereof, who have the legal right to convey title, shall execute a Deed of Conveyance wherein the legal title to said property shall be vested in the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical Assembly, in trust, for the use and benefit of the members of the Church Of God In Christ in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church; but said Trustees shall not dispose of said property except by and with the written consent of the Jurisdictional Bishop and the Trustees of the General Church.

SECTION B. TRIALS OF PASTORS OF LOCAL CHURCHES.

1. A Pastor may be tried for the Commission of the following offenses, to-wit:

- (a) Repeated failure to abide by the laws, rules, and regulations of the Church Of God In Christ;
- (b) Misfeasance, Malfeasance or non-feasance, in office;
- (c) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor Involving moral turpitude in a Court of Law;
- (d) Espousing doctrines repugnant to the Articles of Faith of the Church Of God In Christ;

(e) Personal Misconduct;

(f) Mis-appropriation or misuse of the funds of the Church;

(g) Conduct unbecoming a Minister of the Gospel.

2. The procedure for the trial of a local Pastor shall be as follows:

(a) When a majority of the members of the Church Of God In Christ having documented evidence that a Pastor of a local church has committed any or all of the offenses enumerated hereinabove, may file charges against such Pastor specifically setting out the acts and thirds complained of. The original copy of the charges shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Assembly of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which the Church and Pastor are a part, or with which they are affiliated, and copies thereof shall be filed in the office of the General Secretary of the Church Of God In Christ at its National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.

(b) The Clerk of the Assembly of said Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction shall submit the charges to the Jurisdictional Bishop who shall appoint an Investigation Committee of not less than three (3), nor more than five (5) members, to examine the facts and ascertain whether there are reasonable grounds for having the Pastor brought to trial,

(c) The Investigation Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop, and if it reports that the charges are without merit, the same shall be dismissed by the Jurisdictional Bishop, and notice of the dismissal shall be sent to all interested parties -Including the General Secretary.

(d) If the Investigating Committee finds and determines that the Pastor should be tried, it shall submit its recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop, who shall refer the case to the Elders Council of the respective Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and the Secretary of the Elders Council shall give written notices to all.

principal parties and a copy of said notices shall also be filed in the office of the General Secretary at the National Headquarters, Memphis, Tennessee, and said notices shall be given at least twenty (20) days prior to the time the Elders Council shall set the matter down for trial.

(e) The parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel, who shall be members of the Church Of God In Christ, but said counsel may be advised by non members of the Church.

(f) Decisions of the members of the Elders Council by a majority vote shall be necessary to sustain the charges and find the Pastor guilty of committing the alleged offenses.

(g) In the event the charges are not sustained, the complaint shall be dismissed. But, if the charges are sustained, it shall render its decision or enter a Decree, as follows:

(1) It may order that the Pastor be placed on probation; or

(2) It may suspend the Pastor for a definite period of time; or

(3) It may remove him from office and declare the pulpit vacant; or

(4) It may render such other decisions or decrees as justice may demand or as it may determine to be for the best interest of the Church of God In Christ.

(h) In the event a Pastor is dissatisfied with the decision or decree of the Jurisdictional Elders Council, he may appeal to the General Council by filing notice of appeal with the Secretary thereof within thirty (30) days from the final decision of the Elders Council of the respective Jurisdiction.

(i) The General Council shall review the case and render its decision by a majority vote of the delegates and members present and voting.

(k) The Jurisdictional Bishop shall execute the orders and decrees of the General Council.

SECTION C - TRIALS OF JURISDICTIONAL OFFICERS.

1. The Trial of Jurisdictional Officers, except Jurisdictional Bishops, shall be the same in all respects as that of a Pastor. The decision of the Jurisdictional Assembly shall be final.

SECTION D - TRIAL OF ALL BISHOPS

1. Offenses for which a Bishop may be tried are as follows:

- (a) Failure to abide by the laws, rules, and regulations of the Church Of God In Christ;
- (b) Misfeasance, Malfeasance, or Non-Feasance in office;
- (c) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in any Court of Law;
- (d) Abuse of the powers and prerogatives of a Bishop;
- (e) Misuse of the funds or other property of the Church Of God In Christ or any department thereof;
- (f) Failure to make an accounting and report of the funds of the Church if willful or malicious;
- (g) Espousing doctrines contrary to the Articles of Faith, Precepts, and Tenets Of the Church Of God In Christ;
- (h) Conduct unbecoming a Bishop;
- (i) Willfully failing or refusing to use means at his command to protect the property, rights, and interests of the Church Of God In Christ.

2. Procedure for trial, of a Bishop.

- (a) Charges may be made in writing by the accusers specifically setting out the offenses complained of by a majority vote of the Board of Bishops or of the General Board.

(b) The General Secretary shall prepare the charges on order of the Board of Bishops or General Board and copies of the accusation shall be mailed by registered letters, to the Board of Bishops and a copy thereof to the accused Bishop.

(c) The time and place of the hearing shall be set by the Board of Bishops and notice thereof shall be given to the Bishops and to the accusing body at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the trial.

(d) Trial of the charges against the Bishop shall be by the Board of Bishops (his peers), and the Chairman thereof shall preside and the Secretary of the Board of Bishops shall take the minutes.

(s) The accusers shall select counsel who must be a member of the Church Of God In Christ to serve as prosecutor; prepare and submit the case before the Board of Bishops.

(f) The accused Bishop shall have the right to select Counsel to represent him, but such Counsel shall be a member of the Church Of God In Christ, but may be advised by a non member of the Church.

(g) The Board of Bishops shall have the right to establish such rules and procedure in the conduct of hearings as will give both parties a fair trial by providing for testimony of witnesses, depositions, documentary evidence and arguments of counsel representing the respective parties.

(h) After all proofs and arguments have been submitted to the Board of Bishops, the respective parties and their counsel shall withdraw from the Board of Bishops Chambers and shall not participate in the deliberations of the Board.

(i) It will take a vote of the majority of the members of the Board of Bishops, present and voting, to sustain the charges, or charge. If less than a majority, present and voting, fail to vote to sustain the Charges, the accused Bishop shall stand acquitted.

(j) If an accused Bishop is found guilty of the charge, or charges, against him

the Board of Bishops shall have the power to determine the punishment. It may reprimand the Bishop, or it may suspend him for a definite period of time upon such terms and conditions as it may determine or it may recommend his removal from his office as Bishop of the Church of God In Christ; or it may make such other decisions as may be determined by it to be for the best interest of the Church.

(K) The Board of Bishops shall not have the right to appeal the decisions; but the accused Bishop shall have the right to appeal an adverse decision to the General Assembly.

(L) Notice of Appeal by a Bishop to the General Assembly shall be in writing and shall be filed in the office of the General Secretary within thirty (30) days from the date of the decision of the Board of Bishops .

(M) A decision of the General Assembly on appeal of any case to it shall be by majority vote of the members thereof, present and voting, and its decisions shall be final.

(N) The trial of General Board members shall be the same as that of all Bishops.

#### ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER.

The provisions of this Charter may be modified, altered, or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all registered and certified delegates to a meeting of the General Assembly. As soon as the proposed alterations or amendments shall have been adopted as herein provided, the result of the vote shall be announced by the General Secretary and declared adopted by the Chairman, whereupon such alterations or amendments shall be in full force and effect.

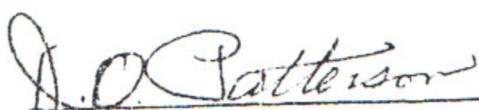
ARTICLE X. Any and all provisions of the Original Charter, and prior amendments, which are inconsistent with, or repugnant to, the provisions of this amendment, are hereby repealed.

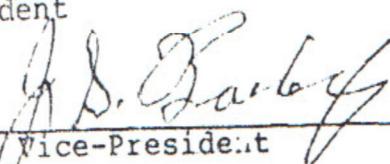
CERTIFICATE

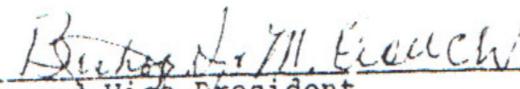
We, the Undersigned, Bishops J. O. Patterson, J. C. Bailey, S. M. Crouch, and D. A. Burton, President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Secretary of the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC., a corporation chartered, organized, and existing under the laws of the State of Tennessee, pursuant to direction of the Board of Directors of said Corporation, hereby certify that at a meeting of the General Assembly of said Corporation, legally called and held at the Offices of said Corporation in the city of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, on the 13th day of April, 1972, the within and foregoing amendments to the Charter ~~of said corporation~~ ~~By the laws~~ of said corporation were adopted by an affirmative vote of the members of and delegates to the General Assembly, representing more than Two-Thirds majority of all of the members of the General Assembly, present and voting, declaring the desire of the members of said General Assembly to amend the Charter ~~of said corporation~~ ~~as set out hereinabove~~ of said corporation, as set out hereinabove, and said amendments were duly entered in the minutes of said Corporation.

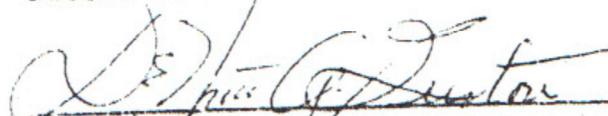
Now, therefore, we hereby certify the fact of the adoption of said amendments by the members of the General Assembly of said Corporation for the purposes set cut to the end that this certificate may be duly recorded in the office of the Secretary of State of Tennessee.

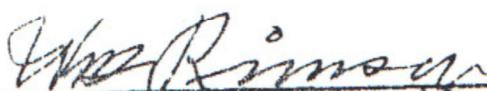
Witness our hands this 1st day of September, 1972.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
First Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Second Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of General Assembly

APPLICATION

We, the Undersigned, comprising a majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., do hereby apply to the State of Tennessee for an Amendment to the Charter ~~ewtt\*\*%t9IITxaiifxSf>&twi~~ of said Corporation for the purposes therein shown.

Witness our signatures this 1st day of September, 1972.

J. O. Patterson  
J. D. Bailey  
Bishop A. M. Crutch  
D. W. R. Denton  
F. W. White  
L. H. Jones  
J. A. Blake  
T. D. Washington  
Thommas Wells  
C. A. Keen  
J. G. Spiby

I, JOE C. CARR, Secretary of State, do hereby certify that this amendment to charter, with certificate attached, the foregoing of which is a true copy, was this day registered and certified to by me. This the 30th day of October, 1972.

JOE C. CARR,  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FEE: \$ 25.00