

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 Nonfeasance in office:
- (c) Conviction of a felony of 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 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 all 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.
- (e) 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 Bishop's 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 its 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.