

Judiciary Board of the Church of God in Christ

DUTIES¹

1. The Judiciary Board shall determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Assembly upon the appeal of the majority of that Assembly.
2. The Judiciary Board shall determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Board upon the appeal of the majority of that Board.
- 3, The Judiciary Board shall determine the constitutionality of any act of a jurisdictional assembly or a jurisdictional bishop upon the appeal of the majority of the pastors of the jurisdiction.
4. The Judiciary Board shall decide any election dispute referred to it by the General Assembly.
5. The Judiciary Board shall be the final appeal court for all matters arising under the church discipline.
6. The Judiciary Board shall receive cases referred by the General Board, the Board of Bishops, the Council of Pastors and Elders or the General Assembly.
7. The Judiciary Board may hear and determine an appeal of a bishop when taken from a decision of the trial court in his case; provided a bishop must make known to the Board of Bishops and to the Judiciary Board in writing, within thirty (30) days after a decision, his intention to make such an appeal, and any decision made by the Board of Bishops shall not become effective unless the decision of the Board of Bishops is sustained by the Judiciary Board.
8. A district superintendent, pastor or elder shall have the right to appeal to the Judiciary Board in case of an adverse decision by the trial court only where he received punishment that includes suspension or removal from his office and/or church, provided that within thirty (30) days after said adverse decision, he notifies the secretary of the last body to hear his case and the secretary of the Judiciary Board of his intention to appeal. Any decision made by the trial court shall not be effective unless the trial court's decision is sustained by the Judiciary Board.

¹From Article VIII Judiciary Board: Ratified by the COGIC General Assembly on April 11, 1991

9. National officers shall have the right to appeal to the Judiciary Board in case of an adverse decision by the General Board only where he received punishment that includes suspension or removal from his office, provided that within thirty (30) days after said adverse decision, he notifies the secretary of the General Board and the secretary of the Judiciary Board of his intention to appeal. The decision of the General Board shall not become effective unless the General Board's decision is sustained by the Judiciary Board.
10. A General Board member shall have the right to appeal to the Judiciary Board from a decision of the trial court in his case provided he make known to the trial court in his case and to the Judiciary Board, in writing, within thirty (30) days after a decision, his intention to make such an appeal. The Judicial Council of the General Assembly shall be the trial court for the trial of any General Board member. The procedures for the trial of a General Board member shall be the same as the procedures for the trial of a Judiciary Board member. Any decision made by the Judicial Council shall not become effective unless the Judicial Council's decision is sustained by the Judiciary Board.
11. The chairman of the General Assembly shall have the right to appeal to the Judiciary Board in case of an adverse decision by the trial court in his case, provided he make known to the trial court and to the Judiciary Board, in writing, within thirty (30) days after the decision, his intention to make such an appeal. The Judicial council of the General Assembly shall be the trial court for the trial of the chairman, presided over by a temporary chairman elected by the General Assembly. The procedures for the trial of the General Assembly chairman shall be the same as the procedures for the trial of a Judiciary Board member. The decision of the Judicial Council shall not become effective unless the Council's decision is sustained by the Judiciary Board.
12. The Judiciary Board shall receive all referrals or petitions made to it by any authorized person or body in accordance with this Constitution, provided that it is in writing and which shall state the names and addresses of disputants, and have the signatures of the appellant or the presiding officers of the body making the referral.
13. The Judiciary Board, on all cases handled, shall file its written findings of facts and recommendations and/or decisions with the General Secretary and the presiding officer of the body who made the referral and copies of all shall be disseminated to all interested parties.

14. The findings of facts and conclusions of law will be made available to the public. However, for good cause shown, the Judiciary Board may limit the availability of any document in order to prevent disclosure of confidential information, or which justice requires to protect an individual from undue embarrassment or oppression.
15. The Judiciary Board members shall refrain from all conflicts of interest which shall affect their impartial conduct of duty.