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We, the ministers and members of the Church of God in Christ, who hold the Holy Scriptures as contained in the Old and New Testaments as our rule of faith and practice, in accordance with the principles of our faith and government, do hereby amend and modify our By-Laws and Constitution, to-wit: All former Articles and Constitution shall be modified to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1  
CHANGE OF NAME

That the Corporate name of this Corporation shall be "CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST," and that its headquarters shall be 958 South Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

ARTICLE 2  
SENIOR BISHOP

Nothing in this Constitution shall operate to deprive Bishop C. H. Mason, 1121 Mississippi Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, the present Chief Apostle, Founder and Senior Bishop, of the authority he now holds as Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ.

ARTICLE 3  
LOCAL CHURCHES

The membership of the Local Church shall consist of all who have been set in order as a church by those authorized to do so, after having declared their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and their belief in our doctrines, and their willingness to submit to our government. Local churches may be set in order by the overseer having jurisdiction, or an Elder authorized by him.

ARTICLE 4  
ORGANIZATION OF CHURCHES

When it seems clear to a State Overseer that a church set in order should not continue as such, it may be disorganized by him and his Board. In case a local church becomes disorganized, any such property that exists may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but shall pass to the control of the State Board for the use of the Church at large as the State Board shall direct, and the Trustees holding such property for the disorganized church, shall sell or dispose of the same only on order, and under the direction of the appointed agent or the State Board and turn over such funds to said agent.

No Board of Trustees may divert property from the use of the "Church of God in Christ," No Board of Trustees shall refuse the pulpit or the use of a local "Church of God in Christ," for religious or other purposes to a duly authorized officer of the General Assembly or his representative or representatives.

ARTICLE 5  
WITHDRAWAL OF CHURCHES

No local church may withdraw as a body from the "Church of God in Christ" or in any way sever its relation thereto, except by provision of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 6  
CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES

Secretaries of the several State Assemblies shall furnish certificates of elections of the delegates severally elected to the General Assembly, and shall also send a certificate of such election to the General Assembly, Secretary of the Church.

ARTICLE 7  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the only doctrine expressing, and law-making authority of the Church. The General Assembly shall be composed of a Chairman, Ordained Elders, Board of State Overseers, Board of Bishops, and such lay delegation as the General Assembly may prescribe.

The General Assembly shall meet annually at the time and place designated by the Board of Bishops. The General Assembly shall elect by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, two or more Bishops who shall hold office during good behavior, and shall have general supervision of the Church, and who shall compose the Board of Bishops; provided, however, that Bishop C. H. Mason, the present Senior Bishop, shall retain his present power and authority during his life-time, but upon his death said authority shall revert to the Board of Bishops.



The General Assembly shall elect a general Board composed of ten members or more who shall be trustees in trust for the Corporation, and shall compose the Board of Home and Foreign Missions, Publications, Church Extension, Education and Ministerial Relief. Said Board shall transact all business affairs of the Church, and any other matters that may properly come before it, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, provided, however that all policies and plans of operation must have the approval of the Board of Bishops.

Said Board shall be presided over by one of the Bishops. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the Bishops jointly and severally. The General Assembly shall elect its other officers, and organize itself for the transaction of its business according to its wisdom and pleasure.

The General Assembly shall elect a General Secretary, who shall hold office during good behavior, and who shall be the Secretary of the General Assembly, and the Board of Bishops. The General Assembly shall elect a General Treasurer, who shall hold office during good behavior. The General Assembly shall elect by lot from among the male elders of the Church, as many Bishops as it may deem necessary, who shall hold office during good behavior, and who shall constitute the Board of Bishops, provided, however, that they shall be appointed by the present Senior Bishop during his life-time, but upon his decease, they shall be elected by the General Assembly, as provided in this Constitution.

#### ARTICLE 8 EXTRA SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Board of Bishops or a majority thereof shall have the power to call an extra session of the General Assembly, in case of emergency, and to fix the time and place thereof.

#### ARTICLE 9 POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The power and authority of the General Assembly to legislate for the Church, to make such rules and regulations over all the departments as it may deem best, is limited by the following restrictions:

- (a) It shall not set aside or change any of our articles of faith, nor shall it establish any new doctrines contrary to the doctrines that now exist in the church.
- (b) The General Assembly shall not abolish our representative form of government nor the General Superintendency, nor deprive it of any of the authority given it by this Constitution.
- (c) No person shall be seated in the General Assembly who has not been duly elected as a delegate or an alternate by a recognized State Assembly of the Church of God in Christ.

The General Assembly shall not deprive our ministers or members of a fair orderly trial or an appeal in case of conviction.

#### ARTICLE 10 RULES OR ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly shall adopt rules of order governing its manner of organization, procedure, committees, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of its business. It shall be the judge of the elections qualifications of its own members.

#### ARTICLE 11 OVERSEERS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

The overseer will be appointed by the Senior Bishop and may be removed for cause, by the Senior Bishop or his appointees.

The overseers shall have general supervision of the Church of God in Christ, in their respective States. The overseers, jointly and severally shall appoint, ordain those who have been elected to be Elders. The Overseers may organize, re-organize local churches. The Overseer presiding over the State Assembly, shall assign Pastors to the several charges within the bounds of his jurisdiction.

The Overseers may appoint District Superintendents over the several districts within their jurisdiction. The overseer presiding over the State Assembly shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the General Assembly, but all questions of law shall be decided by the General Assembly.



Such articles shall further provide that such corporation shall have power to acquire, hold, sell and convey property both real and personal. When this is done, all property acquired shall be deeded directly to the Church in its corporate name. It is required that all deeds conveying church property shall contain the following clause:

"In Trust that said premises shall be maintained and disposed of as a place of worship for the ministry and membership of the "Church of God in Christ," subject to the doctrine, laws and usages of said Church as from time to time declared by the General Assembly of said Church."

In no case may the Trustees mortgage or encumber the real estate to meet the current expenses of the church, and they may in no case transfer the real estate of the church without the written consent of the Church, and the written consent of the Overseer, having jurisdiction, for their faithfulness to their trust they shall be amenable to the local church to which they shall make annual report.

#### ARTICLE 15 TRIALS

Deacons of the Local Church shall be appointed and removed by the Pastor. Local churches may be tried and disorganized in the manner as herein after set forth, when charged with any of the following offenses and found guilty:

Persistently violating the provisions of the law enacted by the General Assembly, or refusing to conform to the legal requirements of the constituted authorities of the Church:

Sustaining and supporting a Pastor who teaches doctrines contrary to the articles of Faith of our church:

Sanctioning immoral practices by members and refusing to take legal steps prescribed by the constitution for the trial of persons charged with the commission of such offenses:

When any local church by official act or declaration or by non-performance of any of the official duties imposed upon it by the government of this church as found in our constitution, by-laws, shall offend in any of the foregoing particulars, any member of such church, with the consent of the Bishop having jurisdiction, may file a complaint with the State Board, charging that such church has committed one or more of the foregoing offenses; thereupon, the State Overseer may appoint a court of five Elders to summon witnesses, to hear evidence on behalf of the prosecution and the defense, and to render judgment in the case.

Twenty days before the trial of such church, the time of which shall be fixed by the court, written notice shall be served upon the church board of the Church against which complaint is made; such notice shall give the time and place of such trial, and shall contain a correct copy of the complaint and other charges stated therein.

The Church so charged shall have the right to be represented by counsel at the trial, such counsel to be a member in good standing of the Church of God in Christ." The State Board shall appoint an Elder of the Church to conduct the prosecution.

In case the Church so charged shall be found guilty by the court it shall be disorganized by the State Overseer and Board, unless it satisfies the members of the Board that it repents of its evil way, and will conform to the government and faith of our Church, and recognize the constituted authorities of the Church.

All members of the churches convicted as above who repent or disclaim their guilt of the offenses for which said church may be disorganized, shall be entitled to letters in good standing by the Overseer and may unite with other churches of our faith and order.

Members of local churches shall be tried by the Pastor and the local church with the right appeal to the State Board, whose decision shall be final. An ordained Elder shall be tried by the State Board with the right of appeal to the General Council. A State Supervisor likewise will have the same right of appeal.

#### THE QUALITY OF ELDERS

The certificate of credentials of an Elder are valid only as long as his life adorns the Gospel of Christ, and his teachings are in harmony with the Church of God in Christ. Any Elder, Evangelist or member acting as pastor of a church, who teaches contrary doctrines, or causes dissension, or in any way proves his inability as a Pastor, may be removed by a State Overseer of a General Board, and another appointed in his place.



All charges against an Elder shall be in writing, signed by his accuser or accusers. He shall be allowed counsel which counsel shall be a member of the "Church of God in Christ". Should the counsel be guilty of improper conduct, the court may refuse to hear him, and also punish him. In case the Elder so accused by found guilty by the unanimous judgment of the Court, after having been tried, according to the rules of evidence, judgment of the court shall be pronounced; such judgment may take the form of expulsion from the church and ministry, or that suspension for a limited time from his membership and ministry.

The trial of an Overseer will be the same as an Elder with the exception, He shall be tried before the Board of Bishop with the right of an appeal to the General Assembly.

The trials of a bishop shall be that of an elder with these exceptions; He shall be tried before the General Counsel with the right of the General Assembly. All trials shall be held according to the following scriptures: Deut. 17:6; 1 Tim. 5:19; 2nd Cor. 13:1.

#### ARTICLE 16 LOCAL MINISTERS

A member of a local church to be licensed to preach must first be recommended to the Overseer having jurisdiction, by his pastor and the church. Only an ordained minister may administer water baptism, or the ordinances of the church.

A licensed minister shall be tried by the pastor and church of which he is a member, with the right of appeal to the Overseer or State Board.

#### ARTICLE 17

We believe that governments are God-given institutions for the benefit of mankind. We admonish and exhort our members to honor magistrates, and the powers that be, and to respect and obey the civil laws.

We hereby and herewith declare our loyalty to the President and the Constitution of the United States, and pledge fidelity to the flag for which the Republic stands but as God-fearing, peace-loving and law-abiding people, we claim only our inheritance as American citizens namely: to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

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, we are averse to war in all its forms.

#### ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this Constitution may be altered or amended by two-third majority vote of all the members of the General Assembly, present and voting, with the exception of Sections a, b, and c of Article 9 of this Constitution. As soon as alterations or amendments shall have been adopted as herein before provided, the result of the vote shall be announced by the General Secretary, whereupon, such alterations or amendments shall have full force and effect.

#### APPROVED:

C. H. Mason  
Elder C. H. Mason, Senior Bishop

U. E. Miller  
Overseer, U. E. Miller, Gen. Sec.

We, the undersigned, comprising the Board of Directors of the Church of God in Christ, apply to the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the General Laws of the land, for an Amendment to said Charter of incorporation:

C. H. Mason  
Bishop C. H. Mason, Senior Bishop

Bishop A. B. McEwen  
Bishop A. B. McEwen

Bishop J. S. Bailey  
Bishop J. S. Bailey

Bishop O. M. Kelly  
Bishop O. M. Kelly

Bishop O. T. Jones  
Bishop O. T. Jones

Elder J. O. Patterson  
Elder J. O. Patterson

Bishop S. M. Crouch  
Bishop S. M. Crouch

Bishop Chas. Pleas  
Bishop Chas. Pleas

Bishop V. M. Barker  
Bishop V. M. Barker

C. E. Bennett  
Bishop C. E. Bennett

Bishop D. Bostick  
Bishop D. Bostick

W. G. Shipman  
Overseer W. G. Shipman, Chairman, Elder's Council

A. M. Cohen  
Overseer A. M. Cohen, Treasurer

U. E. Miller  
Overseer U. E. Miller, General Secretary

(CORPORATE SEAL)

State of Tennessee:  
SS:  
COUNTY OF SHELBY

Personally appeared before me, N. W. Parham, Deputy Clerk of the County Court of said County, the within named U. E. Miller, the bargainer, with whom I am personally acquainted, and who acknowledges that he executed the within instrument for the purposes therein contained, and that the said U. E. Miller, subscribing witness to the signatures subscribed to the annexed instrument being duly sworn, deposed and said that he is personally acquainted with the within named C. H. Mason, A. B. McEwen, J. S. Bailey, O. M. Kelly, S. M. Crouch, O. T. Jones, V. M. Barker, C. E. Bennett, D. Bostick, C. Pleas, W. G. Shipman, A. M. Cohen, and J. O. Patterson, bargainors, and they acknowledged same in his presence to be their act and deed for the purposes therein contained.

Dated: 3rd day of  
December, 1952.

John W. McGoldrick  
County Court Clerk

BY: N. W. Parham  
Deputy Clerk

I, JAMES H. CUMMINGS, 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 5th day of December, 1952.

JAMES H. CUMMINGS,  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FEE: \$3.00