

**CONSTITUTION & ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL
BAPTIST CHURCHES, GHANA**

PREAMBLE

Reposing our trust wholly on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation from the divine curse and penalty of Adamic sin;

Believing in the 66 books of the Bible as the verbal, inspired Word of God for daily living and direction in ministry;

Convicted that the ministry of the Word of God must be carried on by His servants home and abroad in decency and order

We, the undersigned hereby adopt this constitution.

ARTICLE ONE: (NAME AND NATURE)

SECTION 1: The name of the organization shall be the Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches, hereinafter referred to as 'The Association'.

SECTION 2: The Association shall be incorporated under the laws of Ghana as a Company Limited
by Guarantee.

ARTICLE 2: (PURPOSE)

SECTION 1: The purpose of The Association shall be as follows:

- a) To assist in the spread of the gospel of salvation through the conduct of evangelistic crusades;
- b) To promote missions at home and abroad;
- c) To encourage mutual fellowship between churches of like faith and practice;
- d) To embark upon Christian education programmes for the edification of the saints.

SECTION 2: The Association shall undertake projects, programmes and activities which are incidental to the realization of its purpose as states in Section 1.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: General Provisions

- (1) Full membership of The Association shall be open to all fundamental, independent and organized Baptist churches in Ghana who so desire it.

- (2) Associate membership of The Association shall be open to all fundamental, independent Baptist churches or fellowships which are yet to be organized or are incapable of meeting full membership requirements.

SECTION 2: Affiliate Bodies

- (1) Missions agencies, parachurch institutions, schools and other establishments of like faith and mission shall be eligible for membership as affiliate members.
- (2) All affiliate members shall be subject to such administrative procedures and requirements as specified by the Executive Committee of The Association.

SECTION 3: Membership Obligations

- (1) All categories of membership shall renew their standing with The Association annually by signing the Statement of Faith of The Association;
- (2) It shall be the duty of a member to settle any fee, levy or any form of financial contribution generally agreed for the furtherance of the mission of The Association;
- (3) All members shall endeavour to attend meetings of The Association as planned, published and held. Any member who is unable to attend a meeting or function shall state reasons in writing to the Executive Committee within 30 days after the occurrence of the said gathering.

SECTION 4: Privileges of Members

- (1) All members shall be entitled to reasonable notice of meetings, activities and projects of the Association;
- (2) All members shall be entitled to contribute to discussions of issues tabled at any meeting of the Association;
- (3) Every full member shall be entitled to a vote at any meeting of The Association called for the purpose.
- (4) All members in good standing shall be entitled to other special privileges as determined by the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 5: Ratification of Membership

- (1) All members on the roll of The Association shall be approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote at the Annual General Meeting annually.
- (2) Ratification shall only be done by the Annual General Meeting pursuant to the recommendation of the Executive Committee of The Association.

SECTION 6: Withdrawal of Membership

- (1) Any member shall be entitled to withdraw its membership by writing to the Executive Committee stating reasons for the intended withdrawal. Provided that such notice must be made thirty (30) days prior to the intended date of the said withdrawal.
- (2) Any withdrawn member shall be eligible for readmission into membership only upon satisfactory fulfillment of its qualifying obligations to The Association.

SECTION 7: Termination of Membership

- (1) Any member which ceases to function in its own right as a fundamental, independent Baptist church, mission agency, or school shall have its membership terminated by The Association.
- (2) Any member which fails to sign the annual doctrinal statement shall have its membership terminated. Provided that three written notices were issued to such member within a period of three months for the rendering of such document.

ARTICLE 4 (MEETINGS)

SECTION 1: Annual General Meetings

- (1) An Annual General Meeting shall be convened for all members not later than three calendar months after the end of the financial year of The Association.
- (2) The date, venue, time and agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be communicated to all members not less than three calendar months before the said meeting.
- (3) The Annual General Meeting shall be the highest decision-making forum of The Association.

SECTION 2: Extra-ordinary General Meeting

- (1) An Extra-ordinary General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee or one-fifth (20%) of the full membership of The Association.

- (2) Notice for an Extra-ordinary General Meeting shall be given to all members not less than thirty (30) days before the intended date for the said meeting with the details of date, venue, time and agenda sufficiently publicized.

SECTION 3: QUORUM

Two-thirds of all full members of The Association shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of The Association.

SECTION 4: VOTING

- (1) Every full member of the Association shall be entitled to a vote in any matter to be decided by The Association.
- (2) Voting may be carried out by secret ballot, roll call, 'ayes and nays', acclamation or by any other method which the presiding officer of the meeting shall deem appropriate on any matter.
- (3) In the case of a tie in voting on any matter, the presiding of the meeting shall exercise a casting vote.

SECTION 5: THE PRESIDING OFFICER

The President of The Association or any other person appointed by him shall preside over a meeting of The Association.

ARTICLE 5: (THE OFFICERS)

SECTION 1: ELECTABLE OFFICES

- (1) The electable officers of The Association shall be the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer who shall be elected for a three-year term.
- (2) The first runners-up in any election for offices shall be accorded the roles of associates to the elected officers. These persons shall assume the duties of the substantive elected officers in their absence. Where there are no runners-up, the Executive Committee shall present names of candidates for the approval of the Annual General Meeting.
- (3) All elected officers shall be limited to a two-term tenure of service only.

SECTION 2: The President

The President shall be the missional, administrative and administrative leader of The Association.

SECTION 3: The Secretary

- (1) The Secretary shall be the custodian of all administrative records of The Association, including the common seal and minutes of meetings.
- (2) The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Association, including but not limited to notice of meetings and arrangements incidental to the same.

SECTION 4: The Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer shall keep the books and financial records of the Association and prepare periodic reports as is required by The Association.
- (2) The Treasurer shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE 6: (ACCOUNTS)

SECTION 1: Annual Financial Reports

- (1) The Executive Committee shall present an audited account of the financial dealings of The Association on an annual basis to the Annual General Meeting for approval.
- (2) The auditors of The Association and their remuneration, if any, shall also be approved by the Annual General Meeting each year.

SECTION 2: Bank Accounts

- (1) The Association shall maintain bank accounts into which funds for the furtherance of its mission shall be lodged.
- (2) The signatories to the accounts of The Association shall be the President, The Secretary and the Treasurer.

SECTION 3: Annual Inventory

- (1) An inventory of all assets, movable and immovable shall be taken of all assets of The Association annually and presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- (2) The inventory report shall state the current value of the assets where applicable.

ARTICLE 7: (WORK COMMITTEES)

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee

- (1) There shall be an Executive Committee of The Association that shall comprise the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

- (2) The Executive Committee shall convene once every three months to deliberate on matter of the progress of The Association.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall be empowered to take major management decisions for the furtherance of the mission of The Association. Provided that such decisions are ratified by the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 2: The Missions Committee

- (1) There shall be a Missions committee that shall comprise of at least one member of the Executive Committee and other persons as the Annual General Meeting shall determine.
- (2) The Missions Committee shall be the planning arm of The Association for the fulfilment of its mission in the spread of the gospel that shall include but not limited to evangelistic outreaches and church-planting.

SECTION 3: The Finance Committee

- (1) There shall be a Finance Committee of The Association which shall comprise The Treasurer and at least two other members as the Annual General Meeting shall determine.
- (2) The Finance Committee shall be tasked with drawing up annual budgets and the raising of funds for The Association.
- (3) The Finance Committee shall issue, review and implement a written financial management policy for The Association.

SECTION 4: Other Committees

- (1) The Association shall establish, regulate and abolish committees for the furtherance of its objectives.
- (2) Subject to Section 4(1) all committees of The Association shall be approved by the Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE 8: (OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES)

SECTION 1: THE HIERARCHY OF VALUES

- (1) The Association, in the daily furtherance of its mission shall value the sound counsel of the 66 books of the Bible, its constitution, the direction of its leadership and the will of its members in order of preference.
- (2) Subject to Section 1(1), the hierarchy of values shall not be varied, reversed, amended or modified in the operations of The Association.

SECTION 2: BIBLICAL INTEGRITY

- (1) The Association shall seek to uphold biblical integrity in all its dealings with its members and its collaborators within and without Ghana.

- (2) The membership of the Association shall seek to adhere to the Bible in the running of their ministerial affairs, and but not limited to the resolution of conflicts.

SECTION 3: ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSPARENCY

- (1) As far as is practicable, The Association shall seek to be transparent in all its deliberations.
- (2) There shall be disclosures of personal interests of elected officers before, during and after their tenure of office.
- (3) All elected officers shall sign an undertaking to avoid a conflict of interests in their service to The Association. For the avoidance of doubt, no elected officer shall act in any manner as to his personal benefit, or to the benefit of his close acquaintances, relatives, heirs, assigns or other persons nominated by him or eligible to be nominated by him to carry on his economic interests or activities.

SECTION 4: PRAYER

- (1) The Association shall subscribe to regular prayer as a dependency tool on the power and grace of God in the furtherance of its mission.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), prayer meetings shall be encouraged in various churches and other locations periodically in order to access the grace and mercy of the Lord in the furtherance of The Association's mission.
- (3) The elected officers and other nominated, employed co-opted staff or personnel of The Association shall engage in regular prayer in the execution of their duties.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS

- (1) Any member may table a proposal for the amendment to this constitution to the Executive Committee of The Association and shall state reasons for this desired amendment.
- (2) Any such notice shall be circulated among all categories of members at least six months prior to the date on which a debate on the same shall be opened at the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 2: VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

- (1) Voting shall be required on a proposed amendment after the Executive Committee satisfies itself that the required notice has been given to all members.
- (2) Voting shall be called only after an extensive debate on the perceived merits and demerits of the proposed amendment.

- (3) For all amendments, a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of a properly constituted meeting of members of the Association shall carry a change.

SCHEDULE A

COVENANT ON THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I _____ having been duly elected as an officer of the Association of Fundamental Baptist Churches do hereby covenant to discharge my duties in the highest standard of integrity:

- (1) That I shall seek to execute my duties without seeking illicit personal gain therefrom;
- (2) That I shall desire to defer on the side of caution in matters where the clarity of interests and of propriety are seemingly unclear;
- (3) That I shall not seek to appropriate, acquire, transfer or in any way deal with the assets of The Association for my personal benefit or for the perceived benefit of persons related to me, including:
 - a. Close friends and acquaintances;
 - b. Persons related to me by blood or marriage;
 - c. My servants or economic assigns.
- (4) That I shall not seek an economic relationship with The Association through the supply of services or goods for economic gain or encourage persons related to me as defined in clause (3) to do so.
- (5) That I shall declare my interest in any transaction brought before a committee of The

Association or before a general meeting, and where necessary excuse myself from my official duties of The Association where my personal interests would conflict with those of The Association.

- (6) That I understand that this is for the maintenance of the integrity of the ministry which the Lord has called me into.

SIGNED:

DATE:

SCHEDULE B
ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article I—THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that "all Scripture (both the old and the New Testaments) is given by inspiration of God," and that the whole Bible is inspired of God (i.e. holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture). We also believe that the whole Bible as given in the original languages (i.e. Greek and Hebrew) is without error. Lastly, we believe that all the Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).

Article II—THE GODHEAD

We believe God eternally exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience (Matt. 28:18–19; Mark 12:29; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4–6).

Article III—JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, that He was begotten by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, that He was sinless in His life, and is true God and true man (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1, 18; Colossians 2:9; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:26; I John 5:20).

Article IV—THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the blessed Trinity, though omnipresent from all eternity, took up His abode in the world in a special sense on the day of Pentecost according to the divine promise, indwells in every believer, and by His baptism unites all to Christ in one body, and that He, as the Indwelling One, is the source of all power and all acceptable worship and service. We believe that He never takes His departure from the church, nor from the feeblest of the saints, but is ever present to testify of Christ; seeking to occupy believers with Him and not with themselves nor with their experiences. We believe that His abode in the world in this special sense will cease when Christ comes to receive His own at the completion of the Church Age (John 14:16–17; 16:7–15; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:22; 2 Thess. 2:7).

Article V—MAN

We believe that God created man in His own image and that man sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is conscious and eternal separation from God in Hell. We believe that all men are born with a sinful nature, evidenced by sinful acts; that man is totally depraved; and that if he is not born again he is eternally lost (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Luke 16:23; Romans 3:10-23, 5:12; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8).

Article VI—CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically or figuratively. (Genesis 1-2; John 1:1-3; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3)

Article VII—ANGELS, FALLEN AND UNFALLEN

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless, spiritual beings, known as angels; that one, "Lucifer, son of the morning"—the highest in rank—sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan; that a great company of the angels followed him in his moral fall, some of whom became demons and are active as his agents and associates in the prosecution of his unholy purposes, while others who fell are "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Isa. 14:12–17; Ezek. 28:11–19; 1 Tim. 3:6; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).

Article VIII—THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe that the period of great tribulation in the earth will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He went, in person on the clouds of heaven, and with power and great glory to introduce the millennial age, to bind Satan and place him in the abyss, to lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, to restore Israel to her own land and to give her the realization of God's covenant promises, and to bring the whole world to the knowledge of God (Matt. 24:15–25:46; Rom. 8:19–23; 11:25–27; 1 Tim. 4:1–3; 2 Tim.

3:1–5; Rev. 20:1–3).

Article IX—THE GREAT COMMISSION

We believe that it is the explicit message of our Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has saved that they are sent forth by Him into the world even as He was sent forth of His Father into the world. We believe that, after they are saved, they are divinely reckoned to be related to this world as strangers and pilgrims, ambassadors and witnesses, and that their primary purpose in life should be to make Christ known to the whole world (Matt. 28:18–19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)

Article X—SALVATION

We believe that Salvation is solely by grace through faith in the blood sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Son of God (I Corinth. 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). All who personally receive Jesus Christ are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are born again, becoming children of God (John 1:12, 3:1-7; Romans 8:14, 16; Ephesians 1:13-14; I Peter 1:2).

Article XI—THE CHRISTIAN'S SERVICE

We believe that divine, enabling gifts for service are bestowed by the Spirit upon all who are saved. While there is a diversity of gifts, each believer is energized by the same Spirit, and each is called to his own divinely appointed service as the Spirit may will. In the apostolic church there were certain gifted men—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers—who were appointed by God for the perfecting of the saints unto their work of the ministry. We believe also that today some men are especially called of God to be evangelists, pastors and teachers, and that it is to the fulfilling of His will and to His eternal glory that these shall be sustained and encouraged in their service for God (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:4–11; Eph. 4:11).