

THE CONSTITUTION
OF
LIGHT OF GOD INCORPORATED

HEAVEN CITIZENS

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INTRODUCTION

We the members of Heaven Citizens, determined to live the most excellent Christian life, having the understanding that this is aided by a well ordered Church organization, and conscious of the need to preserve the true Christian tradition, and determined to exhibit the Christian potentials to the fullest, Pursuant to these objectives, do make and ordain the set of rules and principles contained herein, as the Constitution of Light of God Incorporated – **HEAVEN CITIZENS**

CHAPTER ONE SUPREMACY OF THE WORD OF GOD

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1. 1 This constitution is supreme. The rules contained therein shall have binding force on all authorities within the church system of LIGHT OF GOD INCOPORATED – **HEAVEN CITIZENS**.
 - 2 The final authority of this constitution is only guaranteed to the extent that it is consistent with the word of God (II TIM 3:16).
 - 3 Where this constitution is inconsistent with the word of God, the doctrines of the latter shall prevail (Peter. 1:20).

NAME OF THE CHURCH

2. 1 Whereas the church is incorporated as **LIGHT OF GOD INCOPORATED - HEAVEN CITIZENS**, the church shall in all communications be referred to as **HEAVEN CITIZENS** (Phil.3:20).
 - 2 HEAVEN CITIZENS shall comprise of its headquarters congregation in Benin and any other congregation situated in any part of the world.

CHAPTER TWO LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS

3. 1 The legislative power of the church shall be vested in the congregation-in-council, the council of elders, the council of ministers, and board of trustees respectively in that order. The final authority shall be:
 - a. council of ministers where the matter is classified as spiritual;&
 - b. board of trustees where the matter is classified as administrative
 - c. in case of controversy, the council of elders shall meet to determine the status of a matter.
4. Voting in these forum shall be by simple majority on 'ordinary' issues and two-thirds majority on special issues.
 - a. this is subject to a quorum being formed
 - b. in the case of the council of elders, council of ministers, and board of trustees (Act .15:1:31) , quorum shall be by all members in attendance for 'special' issues;

- c. two third of members of the council of ministers may form a quorum in the consideration of ordinary issues.
 - d. For the congregation in council a substantive proportion of the congregation shall form a quorum.
5. 1 the board of trustees shall be as constituted at the time of inauguration this constitution.
- a. replacement of members shall be carried out by members of the board in line with the provision of scriptures.
2. the council of ministers shall comprises all ordained ministers.
- 3the council of elders shall comprises of all elders i .e., ministers, deacons and board of trustees.
6. An ordinary issue shall be issues that do not bother on scriptural interpretation.
7. A special issue shall be any issue that bothers on scriptural interpretation.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

8. The executive power of the church shall be vested in all ordained and appointed functionaries of the church.

CHAPTER III

9. Pastors, Elders, and Deacons shall be ordained for the church
10. Any preference for a title by any ordained persons, besides those mentioned in section 9, shall be subject to the rectification of the council of ministers.
11. Advance notice of all ordination shall be given during Sunday services for at least four weeks to afford members the opportunity of accepting or raising objection in writing through the Pastor to the appropriate church organ.
12. Where an objection is made on any basis other than Christian character, the matter shall be referred to a joint meeting of the council of ministers and board of trustees for consideration, in accordance with the provision of section 3 (b) of this constitution.
13. Where it bothers on Christian character, the council of ministers shall consider the matter.
14. The recognition of any ordained minister from another ministry/church shall be finalized in accordance with the procedure of section 10 of this constitution.
- a. subject to the condition that the minister has proved his ministry in an un recognized status for a minimum period of twelve (12) months.
 - b. The minister can be assigned a higher or lower status as it is deemed fit
15. Any person to be ordained must meet the scriptural requirement stated in I Tim 3:1-7, and Titus 1:6-9.

DUTIES OF ORDAINED OFFICERS

16. The head of the ministry shall be the spiritual and administrative head of the church. Eph: 5:23.

1. The order of protocol shall be followed in the discharge of their functions in any branch.
2. They shall be responsible for the spiritual growth of the church

CHAPTER IV

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

17. The church is established to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk.16:15)

MEMBERSHIP

18. A member shall be anyone who confesses Christ, experiences baptism where possible, and identifies with HEAVEN CITIZENS (Acts:2:41; Luk:23:43).

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT

19.1. The administration of the church shall be exercised on the basis of the committee and sub-group system (Eph :4:11-13).

2. Committees and sub- groups shall be established as and at when necessary in the consideration of the head pastor

- a. the head pastors shall supervise the committee functions
- b. the assisting pastor shall supervise sub-group functions

3. a. no sub-group shall be established for evangelism purpose

b. a branch shall constitute an evangelism group with the pastor as the head.

20. The administrative officer(s) for the highest body in a branch shall double as the same officer for that rank in a branch.

- a. the departmental head at the international, national, state or zonal headquarters shall serve as the departmental head at that level.

TENURE OF OFFICE

21.1. All officers of all committees and sub-groups shall hold office for two years.

- a. a committee group leader may not serve his term if his stewardship is inadequate for spiritual growth

2. Officers of associations shall hold office as prescribed by their constitutions

3. Any ordained officers shall hold for life except spiritual conditions determine otherwise.

4. Out going officers can be reelected or re- appointed as the case may so far they remain active, loyal, useful, and spirit filled.

DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

22. A committee or group can be dissolved by the spiritual head of a branch as he deems necessary

REMUNERATION

23.1. All full-time officers shall be entitled to an agreed monthly salary as determined by the board of trustees.

2. Conditions of service will aspire to equal circular standards

3. Branch pastors shall be encouraged to serve in associate status.

a. associate ministers shall enjoy allowance (s) as appropriate.

CHURCH ASSOCIATION

24.1. HEAVEN CITIZENS shall encourage the growth of association such as youth, men/ women, and house fellowships.

2. The branch pastor shall supervise such associations

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

25.1. No person shall share any function of HEAVEN CITIZENS except Jesus Christ

2. Special guest may be invited to such functions

CHAPTER V

FINANCE

26. HEAVEN CITIZENS shall device their income from tithes, offerings, and any other godly source of income.

27. The church shall operate deposit account with credible banks.

28. A branch pastor, Treasurer and financial secretary, who shall be deacons, shall be signatories to the church account with the treasurer and financial secretary as alternate.

29. A statement of account shall be presented to the congregation annually.

CHAPTER VI

INTERPRETATION

30. The appropriate legislative organ shall interpret the constitution.

AMENDMENT

31. this constitution shall be amended if :

1. A member shall in writing, notify his pastor of the need for an amendment.
2. The matter is discussed and approved by the congregational meeting
3. The legislative order as contained in this constitution is followed up to the board of trustees where it is a spiritual issue.