



New Testament Christian Churches of America, Inc.

Article I: Name

The name of this corporation is New Testament Christian Churches of America, Inc.

Article II: Purpose

The purposes for which said corporation is formed, and for which it shall exist are as follows:

- A. To preach the Gospel and further the cause of the Kingdom of God in the United States of America and foreign lands.
- B. To promote and maintain churches and missions in the United States of America and foreign lands, to provide fellowship and means of cooperation between churches of similar faiths and doctrines, and to promote, establish and maintain certain districts therein, which shall be self-governing in so far as same do not conflict with the objects and purposes of this corporation, subject to the jurisdiction and control of this corporation.
- C. To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression, within the limits of its own statement of faith and doctrine, among its own churches, ministers and members.
- D. To ordain, license, and otherwise qualify ministers to preach the Gospel and provide credentials for the same.
- E. To establish and maintain Bible and training schools, inaugurate and maintain charitable institutions, such as homes for the aged, rest homes for ministers and missionaries, orphanages, cemeteries and kindred institutions. Said institution to be governed by administrative officers of said institute with directors or trustees of same to hold responsibility and to hold properties in both institute and incorporation jointly.
- F. To own, operate and maintain such printing and publishing plants, to include websites, social media, etc., as may, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, be necessary to print and publish Bibles, books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other religious literature as may be required for its own use; and to sell, give away, or otherwise dispose of same in the furtherance of the work of said corporation without pecuniary profits to any member of said corporation.
- G. To buy, rent, acquire by gift or otherwise, and to own, operate, maintain and use, such real estate, personal and mixed property as shall be necessary for the maintenance, operation and carrying on of the business of the corporation; and to lease, sub-rent, sell, assign, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of said properties upon such terms and conditions and at such times as in the opinion of the Board of Directors may be advantageous to the interests of the Corporation.

- H. To borrow money for the purpose of purchasing such real estate, personal and mixed property as, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, may be necessary to properly and adequately carry on the objects and purposes of the corporation business and undertakings, and to execute notes, deeds of trust, mortgages, and other evidences of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation, for the re-payment thereof; and to satisfy and release notes, deeds of trust, mortgages, and other evidences of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation. For clarification purposes in connection with corporation business affecting church owned properties, and respective interest in properties, both real, personal, and mixed, owned in whole or in part by the New Testament Christian Churches of America, Incorporated, a Missouri Corporation, or any of its districts, shall be construed to be interests in fee simple.
- I. The corporation shall not engage in any business of a kind ordinarily carried on for profit, and nothing in the Articles of Incorporation or in the Bylaws shall authorize the corporation to, and the corporation shall not, enter into any transaction, carry on any activity, or engage in any business for pecuniary profit.
- J. The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- K. Dissolution Clause: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.
- L. The duration and number of years the corporation is to continue shall be perpetual.

Article III: Offices

A. Principal Office

The principal office of the denomination is located at 13304 210th St E Graham, WA 98338.

B. Change of Address

The designation of the county or state of the denomination's principle office may be changed by amendment of these Bylaws. The Board may change the principal office from one location to another within the named county by noting the date below, and such changes of address shall not be deemed, or require, an amendment of these Bylaws:

_____ Dated: _____, 20__
 _____ Dated: _____, 20__

C. Other Offices

The corporation may also have offices at such other places, within or without its state of incorporation, where it is qualified to do business, as its business and activities may require, and as the Board may, from time to time, designate.

Article IV: Declaration of Faith

As Christian believers of the New Testament Christian Churches of America, Incorporated, we make the following declaration of the things which are "believed among us" (Luke 1:1), so as there will be no division or differences among us, and that all our churches preach, teach, and proclaim the following in love, and by the direction of the Holy Spirit.

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and should be taught and believed in its entirety (II Timothy 3:15; II Peter 1:20-21). That the Scriptures give us a complete revelation of God's plan of Salvation and his will toward man, and that this is to constitute the complete rule of Christian faith and the practice of the same.

THE GODHEAD

We believe that our God is a Trinity – God manifested in three distinct persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; coexistent, coequal, and coeternal (Genesis 1:1, 26; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 17:5; John 1:1; 5:31-37; 14:24-26; I Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:18-19; Hebrews 1:4-9; I John 5:6-9; II John 1:9).

SALVATION

We believe that salvation for man, who through Adam is fallen from his perfect and sinless state, is only attained by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ his Son, by his death upon the cross, repentance, and the new birth (Luke 24:47; John 3:5-6; Romans 10:13; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; I Peter 1:23).

THE CHURCH

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, his body of believers on the earth (I Corinthians 12:27-28; Ephesians 4:15-16).

To the church is delegated authority, instructions, offices, and rules to govern it and its members, so as to allow it to fulfill its mission in the fulfillment of Christ's great commission (Mark 16:15-20; Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18-19).

MINISTRY

We believe that God definitely calls and sets aside such as he desires to serve in ministerial offices, as ordained by the scriptures. Only those distinctly and evidently called of God should be ordained to any office (I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:1; Hebrews 5:4).

WATER BAPTISM

We believe that water baptism is by immersion and is a direct commandment of our Lord to believers (Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; I Peter 3:21).

Water baptism does not take away sins, and is not the same as the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-48; 11:16; 19:1-5).

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was promised by the Father and confirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers, even in this dispensation. (Matthew 3:11-12; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 2:38-39).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance; and is received subsequent to the new birth. The baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers believers to live a sanctified life and be a personal witness (John 14:24-26; Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; I Corinthians 14:5, 14-15, 39).

SANCTIFICATION

We believe the bible teaches that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. We believe the doctrine of sanctification to be a definite yet progressive work of grace in the believer's life, starting at the time of the born again experience (John 17:17; I Corinthians 6:11; II Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:26-27; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 12:14; 13:12).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the ordinance of The Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Saviour, and that its time or frequency of observance is left to the discretion of each congregation (Luke 22:17-20; I Corinthians 11:26-32).

DIVINE HEALING

We believe that divine healing of the human body is wrought by God through the laying on of hands, by prayer, and by faith (Isaiah 53:5; Mark 16:17-18; I Corinthians 12:1-11; James 5:14-15; I Peter 2:24). We believe that all spiritual gifts are wrought by the Holy Spirit and divided to men severally as he wills (I Corinthians 12:11).

RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the rapture is imminent and is the blessed hope of the Church.

We also hold that the rapture is to occur prior to the tribulation (I Corinthians 15:50-55; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:3-7).

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD

We believe that the second coming of the Lord follows the Great Tribulation and includes the angelic host and ALL SAINTS. We believe that this event will fulfill all prophecies regarding Christ's victory at Armageddon and the setting up of his kingdom for 1000 years (Zechariah 14; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14-15; Revelation 19:11-21).

RESURRECTION

We believe that there are two resurrections (Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:5-7). The first resurrection is the resurrection of the just and consists of five parts; Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18), Old Testament Saints (Matthew 27:52-53), Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:14), Manchild, 144,000 Jews (Revelation 12:5-6; 14:1), two witnesses and tribulation saints (Revelation 11:3-12; 19:1, 14). The second resurrection is the resurrection of the unjust to the great white throne of judgement (Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:11-15).

HELL

We believe that when one dies in his sins without Christ, he is hopelessly and eternally lost and therefore has no more opportunity of receiving Christ as Saviour (Hebrews 9:27). We believe that the lost literally reside in hell, until the great white throne judgement after the second resurrection. We believe that after judgement all the lost shall be cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Matthew 10:28; Luke 16:22-25; Acts 2:27; II Peter 2:4; Revelation 19:10, 14-15, 20; 20:13-14).

RELATION TO WAR

We believe that our government was established by God and whereas we are thankful to the government of the United States of America for the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and whereas we understand and believe that the Word of God does not command or teach, either by example or statement, that we should not protect or defend our way of life; be it resolved that, during time of war or necessity, we will serve our government, bear arms, protect our citizens from enemies who try to overthrow our government and our country, and serve in whatever role is necessary.

TITHES

We believe the scriptural duty of all people as well as ministers, to pay tithe unto the Lord. Tithe should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord, and are not to be given to charity or used for other purposes (Malachi 3:7-11; Luke 11:42; I Corinthians 9:6-13; 16:2; Hebrews 7:2, 8).

MARRIAGE

We believe that marriage has been instituted by God. This church defines marriage as the exclusive covenantal union of a man and a woman in which such union is a lifetime

commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it remains consistent with the definition of marriage found in these Articles (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-9; Ephesians 5:31-33).

HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual relations outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as “porneia” - - πορνεία) including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation, distribution or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7-23; 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-28; 15:19; Romans 1:26-31; I Corinthians 6:9-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 3:5; I Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4).

Article V: Qualifications for Officers, Employees, Clergy, and Members

Every officer of the denomination, corporate employee, ordained or licensed member of the clergy and member of a local New Testament Christian Churches of America congregation shall affirm their agreement with the Doctrinal Statement and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith. This shall be a prerequisite, and continual condition, for these positions.

Article VI: Ecclesiastical Authority

- A. The General Board serves as the spiritual authority for New Testament Christian Churches of America, Inc.
- B. The Board shall be the final authority for the interpretation of Scriptures, doctrine and theology for New Testament Christian Churches of America, Inc.
- C. Lawsuits between believers are prohibited. Therefore, the Board shall act as the highest tribunal regarding the matters as follows:
 1. Church discipline of clergy or members of local congregations
 2. Disputes within the denomination, including, but not by way of limitation,
 - a. Employment matters
 - b. Licensing and ordination
 - c. Institutions organized by the denomination, including, but not limited to, educational, medical, missions, and social services
 - d. Disputes between churches within the denomination

Article VII: Board Meetings

- A. Quorum
A quorum shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Board plus one.

B. Notice

The General Board shall meet at a designated place and time, twice a year. Each meeting is to be set at the one prior. Notice shall be by any means calculated to provide actual notice and may include, email, telephone, U.S. Mail, text, or facsimile transmission and no further notice of such meetings shall be given.

C. Special meetings shall be held upon three (3) days notice, but may be held in less time in the event of exigent circumstances.

D. Waiver of Notice

Whenever any notice of a meeting is required to be given to any member of the Board under provisions of the Bylaws, or the law of this state, a waiver or notice in writing signed by the member, whether before or after the time of the meeting, shall be equivalent to the giving of such notice.

E. Majority Vote

Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the members of the Board present at a meeting duly held, at which a quorum is present, is the act of the Board, unless these Bylaws, or provisions of law, require a greater percentage or different voting rules for approval of a matter by the Board.

F. Rules of Order

All meetings shall be conducted under the parliamentary authority of the most recent edition of Roberts's Rules of Order but in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Article VIII: Duties and Requirements of Executives, General Board and Officers

A. Designation

The officers of the denomination shall be a President and Secretary, as required by Missouri State law, and those other officers with such titles and duties as determined by the Board as may be necessary. Any number of offices may be held by the same person, except that the office of President and Secretary may not be held by the same individual.

B. Chairman of the Board (COB)

1. The Chairman of the Board shall be elected to an indefinite term of office by the incorporators.
2. This term shall begin immediately upon election and expire upon the decision of the Chairman or his demise.
3. He shall be ex officio member of all standing committees.
4. He shall have supervision, direction and management over all undertakings and operations of the organization, to which he shall devote the amount of time required.
5. He shall act as Chairman at all General Conventions and Executive Board Meetings.

6. He is required to give his final approval to all matters, operational, appointments or any new bylaws or financial obligations or appointments or duties that are designated to officers or workers of the organization, before they can be passed or put into effect.

C. President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

1. The President/CEO shall work under the COB. He shall give general supervision, direction and management over the undertakings and operations of the organization to which he shall devote the amount of time required by such and for which he shall receive a stipulated remuneration.
2. All officers of the organization shall be appointed by the President/CEO.
3. He shall perform such duties as may be required of him as President of the Corporation and shall report his activities to the COB and Executive Board.
4. He shall be requested to represent our organization to other functions at which we should have a voice and to the government when necessary.
5. He shall be on call to the districts when needed. When his services are requested in a district, they are expected to take care of his expenses involved in the trip.
6. He shall be a member of the Executive Board.

D. Administrative Officer

1. The Administrative Officer shall work under the President/CEO. He shall give administrative supervision, direction and management over the undertakings and operations of the offices and the relative functions of the business of the organization; to which he shall devote the amount of time required by such and for which he shall receive a stipulated remuneration.
2. He shall perform such duties as may be required of him as Administrative Officer of the organization and shall report his activities to the President/CEO and to the Executive Board when requested.
3. He shall be a member of the Executive Board.

E. General Overseer

1. The General Overseer's duties are to assist the President/CEO in the work of the organization.
2. He is to act instead of the President/CEO when he is unavailable to attend a required function.
3. He is to devote the amount of time required to the discharge of his duties as are assigned or required of his office, for which he shall receive a stipulated remuneration.
4. He shall promote the organization, its policies and procedures, as an active officer of such.
5. He shall render to the President/CEO and COB a weekly report of his activities.
6. He shall be a member of the Executive Board.

F. General Secretary

1. The General Secretary shall keep a clear record of the minutes of all meetings of the General Board and conventions which shall be read at such meetings.
2. He shall have custody of the Corporate Seal, and shall maintain and keep up-to-date such records as shall fully and truly reflect the status of the corporation business at all times, which shall be subject to inspection by the Executive Board.

3. He shall maintain records of all ministers and missionaries, and shall issue the necessary credentials and carry on such correspondence as may be required by his office.
4. He shall devote the amount of time required by such and for which he shall receive a stipulated remuneration.
5. He shall be a member of the Executive Board.

G. Director of Operations

1. He shall ensure organizational policies align with and advance the organization's objectives.
2. He shall analyze and maintain operational data.
3. He is responsible for developing improved business functionality that increases results.
4. He is to confirm to the President/CEO and the COB the execution of company processes.
5. He shall train ministers in the policies and procedures of the organization.
6. He is to maintain compliance with best business practices and implement improved operational measures and policies that promote efficiency throughout the organization.
7. He is to devote the amount of time required to the discharge of his duties as are assigned or required of his office, for which he shall receive a stipulated remuneration.
8. He shall be a member of the General Board.

H. Assistant General Overseer

1. The Assistant General Overseer's duties are to assist the General Overseer in the work of the organization.
2. He is to act instead of the General Overseer when the General Overseer is not available for some function at which the General Overseer would be required.
3. He is to devote the amount of time required to the discharge of his duties as are assigned or required of his office, for which he shall receive a stipulated remuneration.
4. He shall promote the organization, its policies and procedures, as an active officer of such.
5. He shall render to the GO a weekly report of his activities.
6. He shall be a member of the General Board.

I. Overseer of World Missions

1. The Overseer of World Missions shall have general supervision, direction and operation of the Missionary Department within the United States and in all foreign countries, subject to the President/CEO and the General Board.
2. He shall devote his time to the work of his office for the purpose of promoting greater interest in, and the support of World Missions. He shall receive a stipulated remuneration from the Missionary funds.
3. He may employ such assistance, with the approval of the President/CEO, as may be necessary to perform such duties and requirements of his office.
4. He shall be a member of the General Board.

J. District Overseer

1. The District Overseer shall have general supervision over his district. He shall be a member of the General Board and shall represent his district at General Conventions. He shall receive remuneration from his district as set forth in financial policy of organization.
2. Boundaries of the Districts are to be set by the General Board.

3. In order to become a district there must be at least five churches or affiliate churches within the area of fellowship.
4. All ministers living or having residence within the boundaries of an established district shall be members of that district. Where there is no established district, ministers shall work under the national office until such time as there is a district formed that will take in his area, at which time he will immediately become a member of that district.
5. No district shall be divided until such time as is necessary for the welfare of that district. This is to be done by the General Board after proper investigation to assure that this will be advisable for the welfare of the churches as a whole.
6. All churches shall be pastored by a person holding credentials with the organization and must abide by the Bylaws of the organization.
7. All Executive and General Board members are to pay all of their tithe into the General Tithes Fund.
8. All ministers shall pay their tithe according to the financial policy of the organization. Tithe to be governed by financial policy which is to be explained when licenses are issued. All ministers must keep an up-to-date tithing record.
9. Financial policy is to be set by the Executive Committee and is to govern all districts and the General Offices.

K. Automobile Ownership

1. The New Testament Christian Churches of America may furnish an automobile to any General Official, at the discretion of said official, approved by the Executive Board.
2. The New Testament Christian Churches of America may grant said official full and exclusive use of the automobile; however, it is understood and agreed that sole ownership of the automobile shall vest in the organization, which shall maintain full jurisdiction over said automobile and its use.
3. Credit cards for gasoline, in the name of the organization, may be given to any authorized personnel. All mileage, along with invoices, on official business, will be reported to the secretary of the department for which the business was handled.

Article IX: General Conventions

- A. The General Board shall be authorized to decide the location and dates for General Convention.
- B. The schedule of services and activities are to be determined by the General Board.

Article X: Indemnification

- A. Board members and the officers of the denomination shall be indemnified by the denomination to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of the state of Missouri.
- B. Board members shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the denomination.

Article XI: Execution of Instruments, Deposits, and Funds

A. Execution of Instruments

The Board, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, may by resolution authorize any officer or agent of the denomination to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the denomination, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the denomination by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable monetarily for any purpose or in any amount.

B. Deposits

All funds of the denomination shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the denomination in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board may select.

C. Gifts

The Board may accept on behalf of the denomination any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the nonprofit purposes of this denomination.

D. Designated Contributions

The denomination may establish various funds in order to carry out the ministry. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory.

E. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE XII: Ministerial Relations

A. Our ministers shall cultivate mutual fellowship and work in harmony. Our pastors or evangelists shall not lend themselves to any disgruntled element in any of our churches for the purpose of deposing the present pastor, or causing dissension or strife. Those doing such things are liable to drastic discipline.

B. Ministers and workers are advised not to interfere with others who may have charge of a church or mission, whether it be by contacting the members without consent of the one in charge, or by corresponding with the members of the church, so as to affect the influence of the leaders. All inquiries or correspondence which concerns the church, such as visiting the field, conducting meetings, etc; should be addressed to the pastor, or where there is no pastor, the correspondence should be addressed to the Assistant General Overseer.

C. No pastor or minister is to borrow money from any member or attendee of their church or the church to which they are assigned without it first being cleared through the General or Executive Board of New Testament Christian Churches of America, Inc.

D. The renewal of Fellowship Certificates shall be made through the General Office.

- E. We shall not be confined in our fellowship and cooperation with those that are affiliated with us, and we shall not discriminate against any other member of the body of Christ.
- F. Any minister, or his companion, holding credentials with the New Testament Christian Churches of America cannot hold credentials, nor hold an office, in any other church organization or religious fellowship that issues credentials to preach the Gospel.
- G. The place of women in the church: The gifts and callings of God are without repentance, and the Holy Spirit divideth upon each as He will. "In the last days our sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18). When called of God and anointed by the Spirit, our women may freely serve as helpers, but in order to fulfill the admonition of the Apostle Paul in I Timothy 2:12, all executive positions in the districts and the national movement shall be occupied by men.
- H. Whereas, the Bible teaches that we should not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, and, whereas a Christian's effectiveness in witnessing would be drastically impaired, if not entirely destroyed, by maintaining membership in a lodge, secret order or secret society; no minister, on any level of the New Testament Christian Churches of America shall be permitted to carry credentials with this organization and belong at the same time to a lodge, secret order or society.
 - 1. This shall not refer to trade unions, where membership is necessary for employment.
 - 2. Each district's constitution and bylaws shall carry this provision.
 - 3. Should any of our ministers currently hold membership in a lodge, secret order or secret society, he shall cancel said membership or forfeit his membership and credentials in this association.

ARTICLE XIII: Discipline

- A. All ministers are amenable to the General Board in all matters of conduct and doctrine.
- B. Anyone carrying credentials with New Testament Christian Churches of America, Inc., who commits the act of adultery and/or fornication will have their credentials revoked. Reinstatement of ministers to depend upon the situation involved and subject to a probationary period and that at the determination of the General Board.
- C. In actions, other than those taken directly by the General Board, to whom each minister must remain amenable, the following procedure shall be strictly adhered to: All charges against a minister shall be made in writing, in triplicate, and signed by two or more accusers. The original and one copy thereof shall be filed with the General Overseer, who shall send one copy to the accused minister, and one copy shall be retained by the accusers; and the General Overseer shall designate a suitable time and place for a hearing of the charges, and shall give all interested parties ten (10) days or more written notice thereof. Said notice is to be mailed to the last known address of the accused.
- D. A Court of Inquiry, shall hear and pass upon all such charges, so made. The Board of Inquiry shall consist of the Appointed Overseer, and such other District and/or General Officers as

may desire to be present, whose decision shall be final; except in cases involving ordained ministers and/or chartered churches, which may be appealed to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final in those cases; and the accused shall be considered innocent until proven guilty to the satisfaction of a majority vote. However, in the event of an appeal to the Executive Board from the decision of the Court of Inquiry, the ordained minister, who has been found guilty by the Court of Inquiry, shall be suspended, or otherwise dealt with according to the decision of the Court of Inquiry, pending the outcome of the appeal, and said ordained minister shall not be accorded the privileges in either a District or a General Convention.

- E. No testimony or evidence shall be admissible at such hearings, except that which directly bears the charges made in writing, as aforesaid; which rule shall be enforced by the chairman of the meeting.
- F. If the accused confesses and truly repents, and shows a contrite heart, he should be given reasonable consideration and leniency; and, if possible, full restoration, after a suitable and proper probationary period of time. We should not unjustly persecute anyone.
- G. If the charges are against an Overseer, the procedure shall be the same, except the President/CEO or General Overseer shall act as Chairman. The accused shall have the right of appeal to the complete General Board.
- H. If the charges are sustained and considered of sufficient import, the accused's name may be ordered removed from the ministerial list, or otherwise dropped, and his connection with the organization fully and finally severed.
- I. If the charges are not sustained, the accusers shall be deemed guilty of malicious slander, troublemaking, and causing division, and may be disciplined, even to the extent of removal of their names from the ministerial list, if considered of sufficient import.
- J. We desire to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, therefore, no minister under charges, or having been dismissed from the New Testament Christian Churches of America, Incorporated, shall be granted the privilege of having his or her articles published in any of the publications of the organization, until exonerated or reinstated.
- K. When a minister moves from one district to another, he shall be required to present to the district entered a clearance, of good standing and conduct from his former district office. Any minister who has withdrawn or been dropped from fellowship shall be required to give a letter stating his standing while in the movement.
- L. A roster containing the names of all ministers of the organization shall be kept by the General Secretary.
- M. Whereas the Scriptures enjoin us against delinquent indebtedness, and whereas all delinquent debts are a disgrace to anybody, a reproach to the ministry, causing undue hardship to those who follow, any minister of the New Testament Christian Churches of America who has

unpaid debts for a period of as much as ninety days without making satisfactory arrangements with his or her creditors shall be brought before the General Board for appropriate action and admonition. If reasonable and satisfactory arrangements are not made within a period of sixty days following, his or her credentials shall be revoked by the General Office. Any credential carrying minister of the New Testament Christian Churches of America who leaves his or her place of ministry without satisfactory arrangements concerning all outstanding debts shall expect to have such credentials similarly revoked.

Article XIV: Local Churches

- A. So as to protect the churches and their local congregations, all property shall be held in the name of the Organization.
- B. Local church pastors are to be appointed by the Executive Board or by the President/CEO.
- C. Pastors and workers are to be reviewed every two years.

Article XV: Amendments to Bylaws are to correspond with the Incorporation Articles

They may be amended and added to by the General Board.

Article XVI: Age Requirement for Board Members

All General Board members must be at least thirty-five years old. They must have been in the ministry at least ten years.

Article XVII: Severability

Should any of the provisions or portions of these Bylaws be held unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions and portions of these Bylaws shall be unaffected by such holding.