

THE HISTORY OF GOSPEL FAITH MINISTRY

BY ERASMUS ARYEE

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PAGE

Introduction

The founder

The Establishment of the church

The problem encountered by the church

The growth of the church

The teachings of the church

The practices of the church

The worship of the church

The organization of the church

The role of the lay people in the church

The constitutions and doctrinal statement

The church today

The new aims of the church

Conclusion

Biography

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Rev. M.K. Koomson for his willingness to make this project a reality; to Rev. J.S. Ocloo, who provided the data, to the founder of the Christ Foundation Ministry; Rev. E.Y. Bludo, who provided the financial support; to Mr. Thomas Oduro, the project instructor, who edited it; to Rev. S.Y. Bludo, who read through and made some useful suggestions and comments; to Bro. Kojo Paul who helped with prayers and encouragements and to Miss Awurama Agyapomaah who typed the project work.

THE HISTORY OF GOSPEL FAITH MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

The Gospel Faith Ministry is an independent church in Ghana. It was founded in 1966 at Kaneshie-Accra and later moved to Kwashieman-Accra of the motorway which is the present location.

The church presently has about two thousand members and has about five hundred people as its members in Accra, at the headquarters. The church has four other congregations at the Greater Accra Region. It has the Fadama district, North Kaneshie district, Anyaa district and Sowutuom district. It has another district at Gomoa Abonyi at the Central Region.

The present leader of the church is Rev. Martin Kwesi Koomsom.

I am writing this history purposely for the benefit of the present and future leaders and also the workers to know the history of the ministry. Because without its history, they will not know how and where the church has been, and so will have little knowledge of where it is going. Also my purpose of writing the maiden history of the Gospel Faith Ministry is to show how the past connects to the present and how it will lead into the future, to be a guide that would help future leaders and workers of the church and to be abreast with the struggles and problems that the church had encountered till now for them to improve on or avoid.

I believe that it would not only benefit my church alone but the church universal.

THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Martin K. Koomson, the founder of the Gospel Faith Ministry was born on 5th of February 1930 to his late parents Mr. Kwamen Koomson and Madam Philomena Adzew Kwame at Gomoa Abonyi in the Central Region of Ghana.

Rev. Koomsom had his early education at Agona Swedru Roman Catholic School. He had his education up to middle form four and completed in the year 1945. He could not further his education since his parents could not afford to pay his school fees. After his schooling, he did a little farm work with his parents since the parents were both farmers. They grew cash crops such as vegetables, cassava, maize and cocoa. Cocoa was their major product.

Since he attended a Roman Catholic School, he became a member and a singer of the singing group. Some years later, he became a panel machine operator and worked with Swedru Highways Company for about ten years before he had the call to the ministry in the year 1966.

A year before 1966, he left Abonyi Gomoa at Kaneshie-Accra to stay with his uncle. According to him, he had a dream and saw a man wearing a white gown. The man told him to open his palm and the man gave him a bible and asked him to establish a church. The man again told him to heal the sick and to pray for people whenever they are in need. Lastly, he was asked to fast and pray for some days. When he woke up from the sleep, he told his uncle about what he saw in the dream and the uncle encouraged him to do as he saw in the dream.

He later went to his hometown, stayed there in the bush for about a month, spent his time on prayer and fasting and after that, he returned to Kaneshie.

Rev. Koomson has a gift of preaching and teaching and so he considered himself as a pastor. The problem that he had for the first time was financial.

Rev. Koomson is not dead. He is still alive and acting as the founder of the church.

Rev. Koomson is married with four children, three girls and a boy. The first born is the boy called Dickson Kwabena Koomson, the second born is Hannah Koomson who is married to Mr. Daniel Nortei Brock. The third and the fourth born are called Martha Koomson and Georgina Koomson and they have all completed their secondary school education.

Rev. Koomson is married to Grace Hulchful in the year 1960. Grace Hulchful is a Fante from Ekomfi Dogo in the Central Region of Ghana. Rev. Koomson did not wed Grace when they got married but performed custom rites. He had two children with her before they had their wedding in 1977 at the Church of Jesus which is now Gospel Faith Ministry. The parents of Mrs. Grace Koomson are Mr. Joseph Hulchful and Mrs. Gladys Hulchful. They are both Fante from Ekomfi Dogo.

Mrs. Koomson is educated; she had her early primary school at Ekomfi Dogo Methodist. She later continued at Kaneshie Anglican School. After her education, she became a trader before she got married to Rev. Koomson. Because she has stopped her trading and now became a fulltime counsellor of the church. She is also a president of the women's fellowship. She is at times given the opportunity to preach. She is devoted and active in the church and contributes a lot to her husband's ministry.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

The Gospel Faith Ministry was established in October 1966. It was started with five people as a prayer group in the founder's house. The first group of people who started the church are Mr. and Mrs. Adjei, Mr. and Mrs. Amoah and Mr. P.K. Saah. Some of them are Akans, Fante and Ashanti's. They were all having their own churches which they are attending. Some were attending Roman Catholic Church, others Methodist church and Presbyterians. All of them have their own occupation.

The church at first started as a spiritual church which concentrated much on healing and spiritual aspects.

The early teachings of the church during its establishment are prayer, fasting, using of Florida water, burning incense and other practices and rituals.

THE PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY THE CHURCH

Since the church has not got her own piece of land to put up a chapel, it was operating in the founder's house. It could not assemble many people to stay in the house where the church used to meet. The founder and the elders, the first five who established the church came together to find the means of getting a piece of land to buy in order to build a chapel. By God's grace, they had a piece of land and put up a wooden structure as chapel for the church. When this was done, the number of people who came from different places all over Ghana increased. Most of the people came for prayer, healing and for others, spiritual matters.

When the landlord who gave the plot for the church to put up the chapel saw that the church was flourishing, he became envious. He started quarrelling with the founder and his elders. The landlord asked the Rev. M.K. Koomson to work as an employee so that he will be paying him. Meanwhile the landlord was not even a member of the church. The founder disagreed with the landlord. The landlord sent the case to Kaneshie police station. The church was asked to stop operating on the land. The founder and the elders have to find another land to buy so that they will have a place to worship. They later got one at Kwashieman off the motorway which is now the premises of the church, now Gospel Faith Ministry.

Before then, the church had to stop worshipping for about four months. This let the church lose some of its members. When the church was moved later to Kwashieman, she still continued with its practices and its teachings.

The church was known by the people in the area. People used to come to the church when they were in need, after they were able to meet their needs then they cancel their membership.

Another problem was that, because the church members removed their sandals before getting into the chapel, whenever new people visited the church, they felt shy to remove their sandals so when they go, they do not come back. Some also do not go to the church because of her practices which they considered not biblical.

The other churches around laughed at them. This caused most of the youth to stop going to fellowship and they went away to join other churches. Those who were left were discouraged.

Some people realized the problem and called the attention of the founder and the elders for a reformation but they refused this request and said the people wanted to spoil the church. This also brought misunderstanding among them. Later on the youth and some of the elders sat with the founder to discuss the issue and the founder agreed to the reformation in the church. The founder also tried to convince some of the elders but some disagreed with him. This problem led to the reformation of the church.

The church invited a pastor from the church of Pentecost to assist him for the work of reformation. The pastor is called Mr. Sarpong, he helped them a lot and changed the whole formal practices and style of worship into Pentecostalism. They did away with all their practices of rituals that do not have any sound biblical basis but the reformers did not have it easy to carry out their work. They faced opposition in the church. Those who disagreed with them said the new teaching and other things which was introduced are too hard for them to abide with so they stopped the church.

Pastor Sarpong taught the church who Jesus Christ is and led many to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. He also taught them how to evangelize. He started bible studies with them, prayer warriors group was formed to pray for people in adversity or sickness, members and non members seeking spiritual comfort and divine direction for peace and stability for the nation and the world at large and also for the growth of the church.

The first group of people who started as prayer warriors are Mr. Charles Annan, Daniel Brock, John Ocloo, Dickson Koomson, William Tetteh and many others.

An evangelistic team was formed to be responsible for outreach in soul winning, to conduct follow up programmes after every crusade, camp, meetings, revival meeting or any such activities as involved in evangelism.

THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

In the early 70's, the church started growth both in numbers and in faith. The number of members at the headquarters increased from 50 to hundred as the regular worshippers. Thought the congregation was small in size and not fully matured in Christ, it wanted to reach out to people in Accra and the rural areas.

In 1980, one of the elders with the evangelistic team went to his home town at Apowa in the Western Region to establish a congregation. This was the first congregation established by the church ever since it was founded. The congregation was established through a crusade programme. After that the evangelistic team made the follow up work. During the crusade about fifty people gave their lives to Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. The team went there because the elder was from the town and he wanted their souls to be saved. Between 1980 and 1989, the church adopted another method of bringing in the members to the church this multiplication in evangelism. This method helped the church to increase her members especially in Accra.

In 1989, the evangelistic team organized a crusade at Bubuashie. It was a three days crusade and at the end, eighty people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. After the crusade, the evangelistic team made the follow-up work for some time until the new converts were baptized. This is the second congregation established by the church.

In June 1990, the team organized another crusade at Fadama in Accra, this time about forty people gave their lives to Christ. The follow up work was done by the team.

Another congregation was established by the evangelistic team in January 1991 at North Kaneshie. It was a crusade programme for three days. About sixty people gave their lives to Christ. They were baptized and taught how the follow-up work was done.

In 1992, another three days crusade was organized by the evangelistic team and about thirty people gave their lives to Jesus. The crusade was held at Kwashieman Sowutuom. Also the follow-up work was done by the evangelistic team.

Another congregation was established at Gomoa Abonyi in April 1994. The church held its Easter convention at the town for about four to five days and about eighty people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. The follow-up work was done by the evangelistic team. The new converts were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Pastor William Tetteh was asked to pastor this congregation. This is the sixth congregation of the church.

After every crusade, the church organizes a three months studies course for the new converts and after they are baptized and the course is called new convert course. After they have been baptised and taught, the head pastor and his associates make Holy Ghost baptism for the new converts.

The church has Sunday school class which every member of the ministry is educated in the message of the bible every Sunday morning before normal worship service.

All the missionary work is been done in the ministry by the evangelist and the evangelistic team.

The message of the missionaries was the "GOOD NEWS" thus Jesus Christ's death and his resurrection and also our faith in him as the personal saviour.

The missionaries worked in these areas by the influence and by the direction of the Holy Spirit.

THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

The Gospel Faith Ministry believes in teachings and also follows the New Testament teaching and practices. The church believes in the Trinity – thus the God Head which consist of three persons in one: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:16-17).

She believes in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, death, the only begotten son of God the life, crucifixion, buried and bodily resurrection ascension of Jesus Christ, the rapture of saints, his glorious coming again, His Millennial reign, His white throne judgement and the new heaven and the new earth when He shall put all enemies under his feet and shall reign eternally with his bride and casting Satan and his followers into Hell.

She believes the Holy bible consists of sixty six books are the inspired, authoritative and infallible word of God. She believes in the Bible as the final authority in all matters concerning Christian and work.

She believes in the fall of man and the total depravity of the human nature, the necessity for the new birth and the eternal doom of the un-repented.

The church teaches water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as Jesus commanded. She believes in the Lord Supper or Holy communion, baptism of the Holy Ghost, evangelism the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, the possibility of falling from grace, the five offices of ministry, the obligatory nature of tithes and offerings and marriage thus marriage is honourable and the bed is undefiled and it shall be binding for life.

THE PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH

The church practices child out-doors and child dedication, marriage ceremony and funeral ceremony. The church practices sharing of grace, covering of the hair by women, visitation, benediction and prayer and fasting deliverance services shaking of hands.

THE WORSHIP LIFESTYLE

The Gospel Faith Ministry style of worship is Pentecostalism. The church uses both local and foreign instruments in the time of services. The members clap their hands, sing foreign and local songs, hymns and they dance during praise time. In the time of thanksgiving and adoration prayer, some life up their hands, some kneel down, others sit down and some of them ova about whiles praying. The church speaks in tongue when praying. The church has a choir and a band that minister onto them.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

The founder of the church Rev. M.K. Koomson is the head of Gospel Faith Ministry. He is the administrative head of the church. He ensures that all the functions of the ministry are geared towards his visions. He cares for the spiritual needs of the members of the ministry.

The founder has no pastoral education knowledge. He has never attended any seminary but has been attending seminars organized by foreign missionaries.

The associate pastors are John Ocloo, William Tetteh, Dickson Koomson, the son of the founder. These three pastors have completed their secondary form five education. They also completed a consecutive one year seminary and have their certificates of diploma in pastoral ministry. They all graduated in the same year 1996 from Gospel Life Bible School at Circle – Accra. They are ordained ministers who are in charge of other duties.

The church has the general secretary, financial secretary, administrative secretary and treasurer. She also has Sunday school teachers, deacons, deaconesses, who serve the ministry especially during the communion service. There are others who keep order and check disturbances when church services are in session, see to the proper arrangement of pews, conduct worshippers to their seats and watch over vehicles parked outside the church premises.

The church has the women fellowship group, evangelism team, men's fellowship, youth, prayer warriors and the children ministry.

THE ROLE OF THE LAY PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

The role of the lay people in the church is heading committees and groups such as men fellowship, women fellowship, youth, being secretaries, treasurer and chairman of any of these individual groups. They sometimes take part in the activities of the ministry and receive a license as a preacher to help in the ministry of the word.

THE CONSTITUTION OF GOSPEL FAITH MINISTRY DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in:

1. The Trinity – God head consist of three persons in one, The Father, The Son and the Holy Ghost. Matt. 3:16-17
2. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ, death, the only begotten son of God the life, crucifixion, buried and bodily resurrection ascension of Jesus Christ, the rapture of saints, his glorious coming again, His Millennial reign, His white throne judgement and the new heaven and the new earth when He shall put all enemies under his feet and shall reign eternally with his bride. Zach. 14:4, Matt. 1:23, 24:30, 1 Thess. 4:15:17, Rev. 1:7, 20:15
3. The Holy bible consisting of sixty six books is the inspired, authoritative and infallible word of God. We take the bible as the final authority in all matters concerning Christian and work. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:20-21, Prov. 30:5-6, Rev. 22:18-19.
4. The fall of man and the total depravity of the human nature, the necessity for the new birth and the eternal doom of the un-repent. Ps. 15:5, Eph. 2:1-3, Matt. 24:41-46, John 3:3, Acts 2:38, Rom. 3:23

5. Water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost as Jesus commanded. Matt. 3:16, Acts 8:38-39
6. The Lords Supper or Holy Communion Jesus instituted the Lords Supper that we might show the Lord's death till he comes. 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Luke. 22:17-20
7. Baptism of the Holy Spirit, endowment of power from on high to anyone that believes. John 14:15-17, Acts 1:5-8 and all the gift of the Holy Spirit.
8. Evangelism: We believe in the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ which compels the evangelisation of the whole world. Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-18, Acts 1:8
9. The possibility of falling from Grace. Rom. 11:20-22, Col. 1:21-23, Heb. 6:4-5
10. The five offices ministry and the multiple ministries of helps and governments. Eph. 4:11-12, Rom. 12:6-13, Acts 6:2-6, 1 Tim. 3:1-3
11. The obligatory nature of tithes and offerings. Gen. 14:20, Mala. 3:8-12, Heb. 7:1-10, 2 Cor. 9:6-7
12. Marriage: that marriage is honourable and bed is undefiled that marriage should be between one man and one woman and shall be binding for life. Heb. 13:4, Gen. 2:24-25, Matt. 19:4-6, Mark 10:7-9

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

1. To spread the full gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To win souls for Christ and encourage Christian living
3. To attend to the spiritual needs of members and be charitable
4. To establish churches, Christian school, health institutions and maintain training facilities for the needy in Ghana and elsewhere
5. Through prayers and actions to work towards promotion of Christian unity
6. To train, ordain candidates for work of the gospel faith ministry
7. To intercede and work for peace, progress and stability of the universe
8. To uphold and maintain truth

MEMBERSHIP/QUALIFICATION

1. The ministry is open to all members of the public who are prepared to accept the universal mission of Jesus Christ, accept him as their personal saviour and to follow His footsteps.
2. He must be baptised according to what we believe and teach
3. He must abide by the doctrine, rules of conduct and rules of beliefs of the ministry

DUTIES OF MEMBERS

1. To live a consecrated life and not contaminated one's self with the world. 2 Pet. 1:4-8, 1 Cor. 6:11
2. To learn how to win soul for Christ.
3. To honour, respect and support the ministries. 1 Thess. 5:12-14
4. To contribute to the support of the word with tithes and offering. Matt. 3:10, 22:23.
5. To endeavour at attend all regular service including weekly meetings and any special activities of the ministry. Ct. 2:42
6. To establish a family prayer meeting in the home as conditions permit.
7. He shall cast his vote helping in decision – making in the various business sessions of the ministry where necessary.
8. To encourage one another in Christian fellowship and also to bear one another's burden especially the weak and the less privileged, to help promote harmony and good-willing among members. Gal. 6:1-4, Col. 3:16-17

THE PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS

1. A member shall receive visits, spiritual counselling and help from the ministers and elders of the ministry
2. To take part in the activities of the ministry
3. A member may receive license as a lay preacher to help in the ministry of the word
4. A member shall partake in the Lord Supper

MARRIAGE

1. A member of the ministry especially a pastor or a leader shall take to himself one wife or husband. 1 Tim. 3:1-4, 11:12

2. The marriage when contracted shall be solemnised in the Temple of the Ministry at a special ceremony for divine blessings.
3. A member shall contract his marriage through the ministry's authorities in consultation with the members of the two families.
4. A minister, leader or member who is already married lawfully shall have his marriage blessed at the ministry

BIRTH AND CHILD DEDICATION

1. Lawfully married members will be honoured by the ministry's representation during childbirth ceremonies. Such members shall have their babies dedicated by the ministry at the appropriate time. The ministry shall during the occasion make a token contribution to the member concerned.

DEATH

1. On the death of a fully committed member of the ministry, the minister in charge shall be informed and all burial arrangement procedure for burial shall be organised.
2. In the case of the death of a relation, else father, mother, wife, husband, sister, brother or child of a fully committed member, such a member will be honoured by a representative of the ministry.

MINISTRY'S GOVERNMENT

1. The Gospel Faith Ministry shall be headed by a president.
2. The government of the ministry shall compose of the following organs:
 - a. Synod
 - b. Executive council
 - c. Church growth committee
 - d. Finance committee
 - e. National Secretariat/ Headquarters
 - f. Project Committee

DEFINITION OF SYNOD

1. The synod of governing council is the highest policy making organ of the ministry.
2. Composition of synod shall comprise the following:

- a. The President
- b. The Vice-president
- c. District Minister
- d. The National Secretary
- e. All Heads of Committee
- f. All Congregation members
- g. Four representatives from each congregation

FUNCTIONS OF THE SYNOD

- a. It shall elect and review officers, appoint auditors and also committees when the need arises
- b. Approve the annual budget of the ministry
- c. Study and approve all matters relating to the establishment of districts and to all branches of the ministry
- d. To approve proposals/ recommendations of the service conditions of ministers and other employees of the ministry.
- e. Rectify the decision of the National Executives Council on disciplinary matters
- f. It shall act as a decisive body and appoint a committee to look into actions emanating from the executive council of the ministry.
- g. To approve guidelines and conditions for admission of and possible amalgamation of other Christian organizations.
- h. The synod can permit where possible observers to its meetings. Such observers shall have no vote.
- i. It shall meet once in a year, the month of subsequent meetings shall be determined by the synod.
- j. There shall be an extraordinary meeting of the synod if it becomes necessary. The authority to convene such emergency meetings shall be invested in founder/president and in consultation with the National Executive council.

FUNCTION OF THE FOUNDER/LEADER

1. The founder or leader shall be spiritual head of the ministry.
2. He shall ensure that the functions of the ministry are geared towards his visions.
3. The founder or leader shall see to the spiritual needs of the members of the ministry.
4. In the event of the death of the incumbent or he be inform or otherwise unable to elect form among the existing senior ministers and must subsequently be confirmed and appointed by the synod.

FUNCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. He shall be responsible for interpretation of the doctrine of the ministry after due consultation with the ministerial council.
- b. He shall direct the spiritual affairs and be a source of inspiration to the ministry.
- c. He shall précised over meetings of the synod.
- d. He shall anoint elders, deacon and deaconesses, duly recommendation by the ministerial council.
- e. He shall be responsible for ordination of the ministers and issuance of certificates of ordination of ministerial credentials.
- f. He shall be responsible for dedication and consecration of building.
- g. He shall be submissive to the synod for approval of recommendation of ministers by the ministerial council on appointments, promotions, demotions or discharging of ministers.
- h. He shall have power to convene extra-ordinary meetings of the synod after consultation with the National Executive Council.
- i. He shall be responsible for transfer and placement of ministers in consultation with the National Executive Council and approval by the synod.

REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT

1. In the event of death of the incumbent or he be of unsound mind, suffering from infirmity, or gross misdemeanour which may result to his incompetency after further investigation to prove and justify the above, the president shall accordingly be requested to resigned gracefully or be removed from office.

2. Issues involving moral and criminal activities i.e. stealing, falsification of accounts, fornication and adultery etc. Which tarnishes the image of the ministry shall first be investigated by an Ad-hoc committee to be appointed by the synod and if established, submit recommendation to the synod.
3. The synod after receiving the findings of the committee shall decide on its recommendation and where possible review and implement accordingly.

SUCCESSION OF PRESIDENT

1. In the event of the existence of such a vacancy, the vice-president shall temporarily assume the presidential responsibilities.
2. The vice president shall within twenty-one days direct the General Secretary to the synod to summon a joint session of the executive body and the ministerial council to recommend a successor by the prayers and simple majority of votes casts.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT

- a. There shall be a vice-president elected from among the existing ministers and appointed by the synod
- b. The term of office shall be five (5) years from date of appointment
- c. He shall act in the absence of the president

FUNCTIONS

Assigned by the president in accordance with the function, stipulated under the president or any other duties there from

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. Composition: the council shall compose of the president, vice president, the national secretary, treasurer and the congregational ministers.

FUNCTIONS

- a) It shall discuss advice and execute all matters delegated to it by the synod.
- b) Take appropriate action on cases of emergency and report same to the synod.
- c) It shall act as Advisory body to the president.

- d) Ensure that all organs meet as often as necessary but provided that they meet not less than six times in a year.
- e) It shall have power to terminate any ineffective committee and appoint a caretaker committee pending the next synod.
- f) It shall receive from finance committee Annual Budgets and Annual Audit Financial report from various congregations for presentation to the synod for approval.
- g) The council shall meet once every month.
- h) Extra-ordinary meetings of the council may be convened on the instructions of the president when the need arises.
- i) Where a council member absents him or herself for three consecutive times without prior permission or proper explanation, he or she ceases to be a member. Such a member shall be written to officially confirm his or her expulsion from the council.
- j) The quorum for the council meeting shall be two third (2/3) of its membership.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE

Definition: this committee will be responsible for the entire growth and education of the member of the ministry.

Composition: Seven members shall be appointed to serve on this committee by synod. This committee shall be headed by a minister.

FUNCTIONS

- a) Shall manage and direct all matter relating to curriculum developing and training.
- b) Deal with matters relating to curriculum developing and training.
- c) Draw up syllabuses for Sunday school and bible studies for scrutiny and approval by the National Executive Council.
- d) Prepare tracts and all theological literature for scrutiny and approval of the National Executive Council
- e) Propose plans for evangelism for approval of the National Executive Council.
- f) It shall formulate guidelines for opening and establishment of new congregation for scrutiny of the National Executive Council and approval by the synod.
- g) To make recommendations to the national executive council for the award of scholarship to deserving of members.

- h) Responsible for running bookshops.
- i) Handle the organisation of seminars.
- j) It shall collect spiritual reports and church growth data of all congregations for submission to the national secretariat.
- k) It shall be responsible for the coordination of the various organizations and societies in the ministry.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION

There shall be a committee which shall meet at least every three months. The members shall be appointed by the synod. It shall consist of five (5) members. The financial controller shall be the chairman.

FUNCTIONS

- a) Prepare and present financial budgets to the national executive council for submission to the synod for approval.
- b) Maintain a uniform accounting system for the ministry.
- c) To ensure that all the ministry's nominal and projects accounts are properly audited.
- d) To receive monthly statements of accounts from the congregation.
- e) To control the finances of all councils and committee of the ministry.
- f) To report to the national executive council quarterly and an annual audit to the synod.
- g) To report to the national executive council all financial irregularities for further action.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT/ HEADQUARTERS

1. There shall be a general secretary who shall be secretary to the synod of administrative of the national secretariat.

FUNCTIONS

- a) Shall handle all reports from congregation and synod.
- b) He shall be in charge of all administrative documents.

- c) He shall be responsible for all internal and external correspondence.
- d) He shall be responsible for the secretariat staff.
- e) He shall ensure that all records are kept up to date
- f) He shall call for and maintain inventory of the ministry's properties from the projects committees.
- g) He shall co-ordinate activities of the various organs which service the secretariat.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

- a) The committee shall be responsible for the construction and maintenance of all the ministry's assets e.g. building furniture etc.
- b) The synod shall nominate a qualified person to head the committee. He shall co-opt executives in the exercise of his duties.
- c) It shall initiate development and productive programmes to raise funds for the running of the ministry.
- d) Decisions and recommendations of this committee shall be subjected to the scrutiny and approval of the National Executive Council.

FINANCE

- a) The ministry shall open and operate both savings and current accounts at any available bank.

SOURCES OF INCOME

- a) The income of the ministry shall be derived thus: Tithes, offerings, special donations, fund raising, etc. And shall be paid into the banking account of the ministry.

FINANCE RETURNS

- a) Proper records shall be maintained in respect of income and expenditure of the congregation.
- b) All congregation ministers shall submit monthly statements of accounts to the General Secretary latest by the 15 of the ensuing month for onward transmission to the financial controller.

- c) The financial controller shall have the prerogative inspect and check the books of the various congregations.

ORGANIZATIONS/ SOCIETIES

The following designations shall apply to the appropriate groupings and each group shall meet at National Level at least twice in a year. These societies shall be under the supervisory control of the Church Growth Committee.

- I. Men's fellowship
- II. Women's fellowship
- III. Youth fellowship
- IV. Church choir
- V. Evangelism team
- VI. Ushers
- VII. Sunday school teachers
- VIII. Prayer warriors
- IX. Children ministry

Nomination for appointment of officers for the above National Organization shall be done by the church growth committee and duly approved and confirmed by the National Executive Council.

DUTIES OF ORGANIZATIONS

1. All the ministry's organization or societies shall have their perspective byelaws and elected officers.
2. The congregation executive councils shall have insight into all the planned activities and programs.
3. All church organizations and societies shall each submit copies of their annual reports on the activities, programs, and quarterly financial reports detailing their achievements, targets and problems to their congregation executive councils for perusal and advice.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

- a) The men's fellowship is made up all men adult members in the ministry.

- b) They shall meet to research into the bible in order to have a deeper and better understanding of the scriptures.
- c) They shall exhort themselves and discuss their welfare as it affects the ministry.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

- a) This fellowship shall be made up of all adult women members in the ministry.
- b) They shall meet to study and discuss topics and issues in the bible and how they can up lift the ministry.
- c) It shall also discuss the welfare of its members as it affects the ministry.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

- a) This group shall be made of all youth of both sexes not below the age of twelve (12) years and baptised by the ministry or any recognised Pentecostal church.
- b) Membership to the fellowship is open to members who are believers and would like to share and participate in the fellowship activities.
- c) The youth fellowship shall be the supporting spiritual and moral organ of the ministry.
- d) It shall assist all committees in the executive of their programmes as and when directed.
- e) It shall plan and organize other youth activities and variety entertainment for the welfare of the ministry.
- f) It shall participate in both internal and external activities of the ministry.

CHURCH CHOIR/ CHORAL GROUPS

- a) The choir shall comprise of fully baptised members of both sexes, interested to sing to glorify our creator with songs.
- b) The members of the choir shall be provided with special uniforms to identify them from the congregation.
- c) The choir shall lead in singing at all church services and participate in other engagements.
- d) Other choral groups may be formed in the ministry to assist the choir in singing during church services and participate in other engagements.

EVANGELISM TEAM

- a) The team shall be responsible for outreach in soul winning.
- b) It shall conduct follow-up programs after every crusade; camp meetings, revival meetings or any such activities as involve evangelism.

USHERS

- a) The group shall keep order and check disturbances when church services are in session.
- b) They shall see to the proper arrangement of the pews and seats, conduct worshippers to their seats and also to keep watch over vehicles parked outside the church premises.
- c) The dissemination of emergency information as and when necessary and available shall be the responsibility of the ushers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- a) The members of the ministry shall be educated in the message of the bible every Sunday morning before normal worship service.
- b) The Sunday school shall be conducted under the direction and supervision of the Sunday school superintendent who shall be the minister in-charge or a teacher.

CHILDREN MINISTRY

- a) The children shall be instructed in the word of God so as to achieve a high moral and Christian conduct.
- b) They shall be taught and act religious plays to fully understand the biblical teachings.
- c) The children's ministry shall be under the charge of a minister.

MINISTRY'S FESTIVALS

Unless otherwise decided upon by the president in concurrence with the National Executive Council, the following festivals shall be observed.

COMMUNION SERVICE

- a) It shall be celebrated on every first Sunday of the month at any time that the minister in-charge may decide.

- b) It shall be open to all members who feel they are spiritually prepared to have fellowship with the Lord.

CHILDREN'S DAY

- a) The leader/founder shall declare a special Sunday to be set aside for the observance of a festival for children.

WOMEN'S DAY

- a) This festival day set aside shall feature the activities and role of a Christian woman generally and their role as Christian mothers.
- b) Worship/service in the ministry on that day shall be organized principally by the women members.

MEN'S DAY

- a) The day shall be set aside to feature the role of Christian men.

YOUTH DAY

- a) The day shall feature the role of the youth as Christians their service to humanity and God.

CHORAL DAY

- a) The church choir in association with all other choral groups within the ministry shall celebrate a choral festival program of songs and plays.

DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

1. The synod shall be the highest disciplinary organ referred to in these articles as "the disciplinary authority".
2. The disciplinary authority may delegate any of its powers and functions under these articles to the National Executive Council as its deems fit.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Disciplinary action shall be taken against any member, minister, and staff of the ministry to respect of inefficiency or any act of misconduct as understated disciplinary codes specifies "or code of ethics" is to regulate and guide all operations of this ministry and it is hereby and therefore strictly to be adhered to by all accredited, honourably and permanent members of this ministry. This code shall not be construed strictly, either as against the

accused of any offence, but it shall be construed and apply and beneficially for giving effect to the purpose thereof.

- a) Every person who within the jurisdiction acts or abets any act of this code may be punished considering the gravity of the offence. 2 Corinthians 2:6-9
- b) Acts of instigations and conspiracies to create violence in the ministry shall be treated as "conspiracy to disturb the structures of the ministry must and shall follow the laid down redressing of grievance procedure of the constitution.
- c) Offences of causing abortion, drunkenness, causing harm, assault, sexual offence, stealing, misdemeanour, libel or printing a defamatory matter shall be classified as serious offences which are punishable by the disciplinary principles of the ministry. 1 Cor. 5:11.
- d) Whoever conceals, injures alter or falsifies any book, paper, account kept by or belonging to or entrusted to the ministry shall be guilty of an offence and should be disciplined in accordance with this code.
- e) Various acts exhibited which are found to violate or contradict the doctrinal policy of the ministry shall be classified as offences and mode of punishment must be determined by the National Executive Council.
- f) Insubordination, negligence or dereliction of duty, embezzlement of funds belonging to the ministry or making of false claims against the ministry is offences punishable under the code.
- g) Any other action or behaviour which shall or may in the interest cause the name of the ministry into disrepute should be classified as offences and is to be punishable by the disciplinary authority.
- h) No person shall be liable to any punishment unless the proper disciplinary procedures of the ministry are followed and complied with or otherwise under the provisions of the disciplinary mode of the ministry.

PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

The penalty for proven misconduct for any member shall be one of the following:

- a) Termination of appointment of the member being an officer (minister)
- b) Reduction in rank, which is redeployment to another post or grade with an immediate reduction in salary or allowance.
- c) Written warning or reprimand.

- d) Suspension from duty with consequent loss of pay and allowance for officer's staff for a period not exceeding fourteen days.
- e) Expulsion from the ministry. Tit. 3:10-11
- f) Suspension from performing any assigned duty with the ministry for a period not exceeding three months.
- g) Suspension from service for a period not exceeding three months in respect of any member.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. Where the disciplinary authority considers that formal disciplinary action should be instituted against any minister staff member, the disciplinary authority shall be required to answer the charges in writing within such period as may be specified by the disciplinary authority.
2. Where the person concerned answers the charges within the specified period, the disciplinary authority shall investigate the matter or in the case of a minister refer it to the appropriate quarter for action.
3. If after the investigation the disciplinary authority is satisfied that the charge brought against the offender has been proved, it shall notify the person concerned in writing of the penalty imposed on him.
4. Where the accused person fails to answer the charges within the specified period the disciplinary authority shall if it is satisfied that the light of the fact is guilty of misconduct under the Article 39 of the articles, the disciplinary authority shall appropriate penalty on the accused.
5. All documentary preceding relating to any disciplinary action taken against any offender shall be treated as confidential.
6. As far as possible, disciplinary action shall be initiated and completed within a period of one month.

ORDINATION AND CREDENTIALS

QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS

1. Only officers holding valid ordination certificates of the ministry shall be eligible to hold offices in the clergy.
2. Officers possessing valid ordinations certificates from any organization with the identical doctrinal beliefs of the ministry may be considered on application for

appointment after screening by the Ministerial council and submit recommendation to the National executive council for consideration and appointment.

REQUIREMENT FOR ORDINATION

1. All candidates for ordination shall be of the necessary experience and qualifications and shall have demonstrated their ability to undertake the responsibilities of the gospel ministry.
2. A non member with requisite qualification admitted into the ministry shall be ordained after having acquired two (2) years post qualification practicing experience.
3. Accepted candidates shall be ordained according to the procedure of the ministry.
4. No candidates shall be ordained to engage in the active work of the ministry as evangelist, pastor etc. Until he has acquired a year's post qualification practicing experience.

ORDAINED OFFICERS

1. Ordained officers namely Evangelist, elders, deacons/deaconesses and Christian workers shall assist the minister in-charge at the congregation level.
2. They shall perform such other duties that may be assigned to them from time to time by the ministry.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

- a. Any proposal of amendment to this constitution shall be submitted in writing to the national executive council of the Gospel Faith Ministry at least thirty (30) clear days before the next full meeting of the council.
- b. The proposal shall be circulated among all members by the general secretary at least a fortnight before or at the beginning of a full meeting of.
- c. The amendment shall be carried by at least two-thirds majority of membership present and voting as well as proposal amending the constitutions shall reflect on the general tone of regulation and biblical principles of the Gospel Faith Ministry.

THE ROLE OF LAY PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

The lay people are sometimes given the chance to preach as a lay preacher to help in the ministry. They are allowed to cast their votes helping in decision-making in the various businesses sessions of the ministry where necessary.

They head committees and groups such as men fellowship, women fellowship, youth fellowship and leaders, secretaries and treasurers of these various committees. The lead choir group and other singing group in the church

They lay people who head these positions are appointed by the committee members due to their activeness, commitment and their knowledge of the bible.

The church's constitution has not gone under any changes.

THE CHURCH TODAY

Today the church is growing fast and not declining. The headquarters has started putting up its block chapel and it has reached the window level. The church has not financial support from any other place. The church has its income by fund raising, tithing, collection, special donation and a school of the church. The church annually organizes harvest which also fetches income for the church. The church has got one Mercedes Benz bus which takes the members who are staying far away to church service and also work to gain income for the ministry. The church has bought foreign musical instruments. It has its own institution at the premises of the church. The school is called Christ Mission and it is from primary one to Junior Secondary School form three (JSS). The school has about ten teachers and the headmaster with about six hundred students. The church today has eight congregations.

THE NEW AIM OF THE CHURCH

The church's new aim is to put-up block chapel for its congregation and to establish institution for them.

THE EFFECTS/CONCLUSION

The teachings and practices of the Gospel Faith Ministry are universally accepted by the church, the Holy Catholic Church. They are faithful to scriptures.

I therefore see the Gospel Faith Ministry as part of one Holy and Apostolic Church of Christ.