

AFRICA ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ALLIANCE

Constitution & Bylaws

(As Amended Through March 1, 2013)

PREAMBLE

Having felt the leading of the Holy Spirit to stand together for the great harvest which we believe is before us, and after careful deliberation and diligent prayer, a resolution has been unanimously adopted which brings into existence the AFRICA ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ALLIANCE. May the name of Jesus be lifted high and the Kingdom of God made stronger through this alliance.

By such action we boldly proclaim that...

-WE STAND TOGETHER for the total evangelization of Africa.

-WE STAND TOGETHER for the best possible cooperation as believers of like precious faith.

-WE STAND TOGETHER in order to send forth African missionaries into the African and world harvest.

-WE STAND TOGETHER with one voice, with one message, with one purpose, with one prayer...that Jesus Christ shall reign over Africa in glory and power!

I. NAME

The official name of this organization shall be The Africa Assemblies of God Alliance – (AAGA).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this alliance shall be to provide for fellowship among fraternal Assemblies of God and related churches of Africa and the island nations in close proximity to Africa and to thus advance the kingdom of God in Africa.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this alliance shall be:

- A. To encourage and facilitate the missionary mandate of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), in Pentecostal power, at every level of church life throughout the continent.
- B. To provide a forum for consultation, the exchange of ideas and information, and the coordination of ministries and ministry activities among member national churches.
- C. To provide a relational context among fraternal national churches for the offering of counsel and assistance in matters of division, issues of doctrine or practice, disciplinary matters, or other circumstances when needed.
- D. To provide a structure for safeguarding sound doctrine and ministerial ethics among member churches.
- E. To strengthen the hands of member national churches and promote the full gospel message of Christ through Africa and the island nations in close proximity.
- F. To accurately and adequately represent the Assemblies of God of Africa internationally and globally.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

In order to facilitate the purpose and objectives of the Alliance,

- A. The Alliance shall be governed by a chairman and an executive committee as defined herein.
- B. Regional structures shall be created according to the recognized, regional alignments of member national churches to promote regional fellowship and to promote grassroots mobilization and to implement AAGA projects and ministries.

V. EVANGELISM, MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

In order to be effective in evangelism, missionary endeavors and outreach to the continent;

- A. *AG Care* is mandated and approved as the relief and development arm of the Alliance, in outreach to the poor, marginalized and victimized masses on the continent.
- B. *AG Care* shall function as a recognized auxiliary ministry of the Alliance under the direct authority of the Executive Committee.
- C. Necessary governing documents, such as a constitution and by laws shall be prepared to provide governance of *AG Care*, while remaining amenable to the Executive Committee representing the AAGA General Assembly.
- D. The *AAGA World Missions Commission* is mandated and approved as the world missions arm of the Alliance, in pursuit of Africa's fulfillment of Great Commission obligations to take the gospel of Christ to the nations.
- E. The *AAGA WMC* shall function as a recognized ministry of the Alliance under the direct authority of the Executive Committee.
- F. Necessary governing documents, such as a constitution and by laws shall be prepared to provide governance of the *AAGA WMC*, while remaining amenable to the Executive Committee representing the AAGA General Assembly.
- G. The Pan African Theological Seminary is mandated by AAGA to provide the Africa Assemblies of God with a doctoral program to offer the highest level of theological training for the continent.
- H. Future initiatives may be undertaken by AAGA to strengthen the entire range of training at all levels across the continent. The aim of AAGA in this domain shall be to assure that the critical need for training for the dynamic church of Africa will be met through every acceptable means
- I. In pursuit of our pivotal objective of evangelism, missions and outreach, the AAGA Executive Committee and General Assembly may endorse, recognize and/or liaise with other ministries which will facilitate these goals.

VI. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership Criteria

Membership in the Alliance shall be open to all approved Assemblies of God national churches in Greater Africa, including those not bearing the exact name but who adhere to our statement of faith and practice

B. Membership Process

National churches wishing to apply for membership in the Alliance must complete the prescribed membership application and submit the same to the Executive Committee. It

must be accompanied by the governing documents of the national church, namely the duly approved Constitution and By Laws.

Each applying national church will be contacted with the decision of the AAGA Executive Committee once the process is completed.

C. Membership Requirements

1. Members of the Alliance shall maintain sound doctrine and practice.
2. Members shall adhere to the Constitution and By Laws of the Alliance and support all projects and ministries undertaken.
3. Members shall support the Alliance financially in the prescribed, approved manner.
4. Failure to maintain annual support will revoke voting privileges and eligibility for elected office.
5. Voting privileges and eligibility for elected office shall be restored when financial support is made current.
6. Members shall be represented at all regular meetings of the Alliance (The General Assembly).
7. Two consecutive absences by an Alliance member from the General Assembly, without notification and explanation, will result in their membership being declared inactive.
8. Restoration to active membership will require an acceptable letter of explanation.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of the following executive Officers:
 1. The Alliance Chairman
 2. The Alliance Vice-Chairman
 3. The Regional Representatives
 4. The Alliance Executive Secretary
 5. The Alliance Deputy Executive Secretary
- B. The director of U.S. Assemblies of God World Missions shall meet with the Executive Committee ex officio.
- C. The Alliance shall function with the Executive Secretary also carrying the portfolio of Alliance Treasurer until such time that a separate position of Treasurer is mandated by the Executive Committee and ratified by the General Assembly.
- D. Expenses to attend Executive Committee meetings shall be covered at the regional level except for the expenses of the Chairman which shall be covered by AAGA.

VIII. REGIONAL STRUCTURE

Regional structures, as called for in Article IV, shall organize according to the context and needs of each region as sub-entities of the greater Alliance.

- A. Each region shall elect a regional chairman and a regional vice-chairman prior to each electoral General Assembly.

- B. The duly elected regional chairman shall serve as the regional executive officer on the Alliance Executive Committee.
- C. Should the regional executive officer assume the elected role as Alliance Chairman, the regional vice-chairman shall assume the role of regional chairman and regional executive officer on the Alliance Executive Committee.
- D. In the event that the normal function of any regional structure is disrupted by prolonged conflict, economic pressures, natural disasters, etc. the AAGA Executive Committee may name leadership for the involved region until the next general assembly or the return of normal function in the affected region, whichever occurs first.

IX. QUALIFICATIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- A. The Chairman shall be a general superintendent and remain currently in office as the general superintendent while serving as chairman. If he has not been re-elected as general superintendent while holding the chairmanship of AAGA, his term as chairman of AAGA shall also cease.
- B. The Executive Secretary shall be a qualified minister of unquestionable character deemed capable of fulfilling the administrative, financial and relational responsibilities of the Alliance.
- C. The Deputy Executive Secretary shall serve under the direction of the Executive Secretary.
- D. The Executive Officers shall be those general superintendents duly elected as representatives of their respective regions

X. ELECTIONS & VOTING CONSTITUENCY

- A. Elections shall be conducted by the Alliance at the time of the General Assembly, every four years.
- B. Each member national church shall send two delegates; the general superintendent and the general secretary, or their officially designated substitutes.
- C. Each member national church will be recognized in the voting constituency by two voting delegates per country. In the case of multiple members from the same country, two voting constituency delegates must be selected by caucus prior to the General Assembly.
- D. The Alliance Executive Secretary shall organize voter registration in preparation of an official voting roster. The voting roster shall be comprised of the voting delegates of those member national churches with current voting privileges.
- E. The order of business for the election process shall be:
 1. Ratification of the Executive Committee's designates for Executive Secretary and for Deputy Executive Secretary
 2. Presentation of the Regional Executive Officers
 3. Election of the Alliance Chairman
 4. Election of the Alliance Vice-Chairman
- F. It is understood that additional Alliance business may be conducted at intervals during the election process, while ballots are being counted, etc.

- G. The election of the Alliance Chairman shall be rotational, according to regions. Each time a rotational cycle has been completed, meaning each region has served in the chairmanship, a new rotational cycle will begin at random.
- H. The election of the Alliance Chairman shall be by secret ballot and shall require a two-thirds majority vote for an election.
- I. The election of the Alliance Vice-Chairman shall be by secret ballot and shall require a two-thirds vote of the voting constituency. The Vice-Chairman shall be selected from among all the regions excepting that of the elected Chairman.
- J. Ratification of the Executive Secretary designate and the deputy Executive Secretary designate shall be by voice or show of hands and shall require a simple majority for ratification.

XI. TERMS OF OFFICE

- A. The Chairman shall serve for a period of four years.
- B. The Vice-Chairman shall serve for a period of four years.
- C. The executive secretary shall serve for four years.
- D. The deputy executive secretary shall serve for four years.
- E. The Executive Members shall remain in office for four years subject to re-election by their regions, provided that he continues to serve as the general superintendent in his national church.
- F. In the event the chairmanship is vacated, the vice-chairman shall assume that office until the next General Assembly.
- G. Vacancies among the executive officers at the regional level shall be filled by the vice-chairman of the region.
- H. A vacancy occurring in the position of Executive Secretary, the Executive Committee may make an executive appointment until the next General Assembly.
- I. Newly-elected and newly-ratified officers of AAGA shall assume office at the conclusion of a three-month transitional period. During this period, outgoing officers and incoming officers shall meet with the Executive Committee to formally transfer offices and functions.

XII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. The Chairman shall be directly responsible to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee. He shall:
 - 1. Chair all official meetings.
 - 2. Promote all projects and ministries of the Alliance throughout Africa.
 - 3. Represent the Alliance to other international and global organizations.
- B. The Vice-Chairman shall act on behalf of the Chairman in the event of an absence and shall be responsible for other duties as assigned by the Chairman.
- C. The Executive Secretary shall:
 - 1. Oversee and manage the Alliance Office.

2. Keep all records of the Alliance.
3. Prepare and distribute all of the Alliance's necessary minutes and documents.
4. Provide for the editing of a news periodical for the Alliance.
5. Receive and disburse all of the Alliance's funds in accordance with officials' policy and decisions of the executive officers.
6. Keep current and accurate financial records.
7. Prepare and present an annual financial report and a new budget to the member entities.
8. Be involved in fund raising for the full scope of Alliance activities.
9. Perform other duties as delegated to him.

D. The deputy Executive Secretary shall work under the direction of the Executive Secretary.

XIII. MEETINGS

- A. The Alliance General Assembly shall meet at least every four years.
- B. Each member national church shall send two official delegates to each General Assembly, the general superintendent, the general secretary or their officially designated substitute.
- C. When deemed necessary or desirable, the chairman, in consultations with the Executive Committee, may call a special meeting of the Alliance General Assembly.
- D. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year.
- E. Those members present for the business session of the general assembly shall constitute a quorum
- F. A simple majority of members shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the Executive Committee.

XIV. FINANCES

- A. Each member national church shall contribute consistently to the Alliance according to current, selected criteria.
- B. An annual budget for the Alliance shall be presented to the Executive Committee by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer two months prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- C. The annual audited financial report shall be presented to the Executive Committee within two months of the close of the fiscal year, covering the twelve months of the most recently completed fiscal year. A 4-year financial report shall be presented to the General Assembly in Session. It shall include reporting from all AAGA affiliate accounts.

XV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be made in any regular or special meeting of the Alliance General Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote.