THE CONSTITUTION OF
CONGRESS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA CHRISTIANS



"Unite and stand up for Christ".

2017

CONSTITUTION

OF

CONGRESS OF NORTHERN

NIGERIA CHRISTIANS

(CNNC)

2017

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the nation, Federal Republic of Nigeria, is established on the principles of liberal democracy with its inherent multi-cultural and multi-religious diversity which is its source of strength;

WHEREAS, the various tribal, ethnic, and religious groups within Northern Nigeria are expected to live in peace with mutual tolerance, mutual respect, and mutual acceptance as equal stakeholders in the country;

WHEREAS, Section 10 and 38 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) respectively, provide for prohibition of State religion and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; a lot of tension, dislocation, intimidation, and religious extremism have characterized some parts of Northern Nigerian society by individuals and groups of individuals opposed to freedom of choice;

AND WHEREAS in obedience to God's will of "How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps.133:1); inspired by the Lord's Prayer that "They all may be One…" (John 17:21); in firm belief that "There is only One Body (of Christ), One Spirit, One Lord, One Faith, One God and Father of all" (Eph.4:4-6); conscious of the unity of Christians with its implications of the end that "The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ" (Rev.11:15); prepared at all times "to contend earnestly for the faith (in Christ Jesus) which was once delivered to us" (Jude 3);

WE, THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA CHRISTIANS DO HEREBY DECLARE and give to ourselves this Constitution.

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ARTICLE ONE
NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION:

1.00 The name of the Association is Registered Trustees of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians (hereinafter referred to as the Association or CNNC).

ARTICLE TWO
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

2.00 The Headquarters of the Association shall be situated at Kaduna, Kaduna State of Nigeria.

ARTICLE THREE
SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION:

3.00 Subject to the Holy Bible, this Constitution shall be supreme and binding on all officers, members, and workers of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians.

ARTICLE FOUR
MOTTO:

4.00 Unite and Stand Up for Christ.

ARTICLE FIVE
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION:

5.00 The Aims and Objectives of the Association shall include:

a. To serve as a basis of response to the unity of the church as enunciated in our Lord's Prayer that "they all may be one" John 17:21.

b. To promote understanding, peace, unity and progress amongst the peoples in the Northern States (19 States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja) of Nigeria.

c. To acts as a forum by which its members can consult together and when necessarily make common statement and take common actions.

d. To act as watch person of the spiritual and moral wellbeing of the Nation.

e. To ensure that Section 14 (1) of the 1999 Constitution as amended states that "The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice" remains sacrosanct.

f. To create awareness through advocacy amongst Northern Nigeria Christians to stand firm against every form of violence, discrimination, and intimidation being meted out to any citizen(s) of this country.

g. Using peaceful means of persuasion, to ensure that no structure supporting ethnicity or religious intolerance, bigotry, discrimination, and intimidation is allowed to thrive in Nigeria.

h. To raise the political consciousness of Nigerians, mobilize, and organize them for the common good of our society.

i. To work towards the unity and indivisibility of the Nigerian Nation.

j. To do all other things, which are incidental towards the realization of its aims and objectives.

ARTICLE SIX
MEMBERSHIP

6.00 A person shall, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, be eligible for membership if:

a. He or she is a Christian, in accordance with the injunction of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Bible; and

b. He or she resides in a State which falls within the defunct Northern Region of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; or

c. Any indigene of the defunct Northern Region of Nigeria who resides in any state in and outside Nigeria.

6.01 CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member shall ipso facto cease to be a member if:

a. His/her conduct is considered prejudicial or inimical to the objectives of the Association upon the advice of a Disciplinary Committee set up under this Constitution, such member has exhibited an inability or unwillingness to be governed by the provisions of this Constitution; or

b. He/she resigns his membership at the expiration of one month after giving a notice to that effect to the President; or

c. He/she is adjudged a bankrupt by a Court of competent jurisdiction; or

d. He/she is found to be a lunatic or is mentally certified to be of unsound mind; or

e. He/she is convicted for any offence involving dishonesty; or

f. He/she neglects or refuses to comply with any provision of the bye-laws of the Association after due notice sent to him/her being in force or by registered post/email to his last known address, registered with the Association, by the General Secretary on the instruction of the National Executive Council, or directing his/her attention to such neglect or refusal; or

g. He/she ceases to be a Christian.

6.02 REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The Secretary shall maintain a Register of members, update it regularly and such register shall be open for inspection by any member during the hours of business of the Association.

6.03 PATRON:

The Association shall at the National Congress appoint a patron whose role shall be advisory and shall serve for a renewable period of six years.

ARTICLE SEVEN
7.00 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION:

There shall be a Board of Trustees for the Association in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap C20, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2010.

7.01 QUALIFICATION OF TRUSTEES:

A person shall be qualified to be appointed as a trustee if he/she:

a. Is a Christian indigene from any of the 19 States in the defunct Northern Region

and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja;
b. Is of sound mind having been so certified by a qualified Medical Practitioner;
c. Is not an un-discharged bankrupt;
d. Has not been convicted of any offence involving fraud or dishonesty by any court of competent jurisdiction;
e. Is a person of at least 40 years old;
f. Appointment of pioneer Trustees shall be made by members of CNNC at the General Congress and the nominees shall cut across the States of Northern Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. PROVIDED that such Trustees (hereinafter referred) to as

"THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES" shall not be less than Two (2) in number and shall be known as the Ten (10) INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF CONGRESS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA CHRISTIANS.

7.02 TENURE OF TRUSTEES OFFICE:
The Trustees shall hold office for six (6) years and may be reappointed at the expiration of another term of six (6) years but shall not hold office for more than two terms of six (6) years each. PROVIDED that a Trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
a. Resigns his/her office as a Trustee;
b. Becomes insane;
c. Is declared bankrupt by a court of competent jurisdiction;
d. Is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty by any court of competent jurisdiction;
e. Is removed from office by a resolution supported by a simple majority vote of members present at the National Congress in a special meeting specifying that it is intended to remove the Trustee;
f. The Board of Trustees shall recommend Trustees for removal and such recommendation shall be affirmed by a majority votes at a National Congress.

7.03 REPLACEMENT OF TRUSTEES:
Upon vacancy occurring in the number of Trustees, the National Congress shall meet to appoint a replacement. Such replacement shall be made by members at the National Congress upon a simple majority of votes cast.

7.04 POWERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
a. With effect from the registration of the Trustee under the Companies and Allied Matters Act, ("the Act"), all properties of the Association, movable or immovable, real or personal, shall become vested in the Incorporated Trustees of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians for and on behalf of the members of the Association.
b. All Trustees holding property in trust for and on behalf of the Association shall be deemed to be the agent of, and be accountable to the Association.
c. The Trustees shall keep records and accounts at the National Congress in respect of all the properties vested in them.
d. The powers vested in the Trustees under this Constitution shall be exercised subject to the direction of the National Congress.
e. In addition to the above, the Trustees may exercise any powers given to them

under this Constitution and such powers of the trustees may be delegated by the trustees to the National Executive of the Association.
f. The Trustees shall act in good faith at all times in the best interest of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians.
g. The Board of Trustees may advise the Executive Council on any of the aims and objectives of the Association.

7.05 MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
a. The Board of Trustees may, from time to time, hold meetings at a time and place as the Trustees shall appoint and the quorum shall be formed when a simple majority is in attendance.

a. The Board of Trustees shall by simple majority in their meeting elect one of them as a Chairman while the Secretary of the National Executive Council shall also function as their Secretary.

b. The President of the Association may convene a meeting of the Board of Trustees from time to time as it is expedient to do so but shall not preside at such meetings except in an ex-officio capacity.

c. Notice of meetings shall be served on any member of the Board of Trustees either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter or by hand delivery or by electronic mail at his registered address or telefax to such member at mail or such other internationally acceptable mode of communication to such telefax or electronic mail or other address given by such member and the notice shall indicate the precise nature of the business to be discussed.

d. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall preside as Chairman at every Board of Trustees' meeting. Where the Chairman is absent from the meeting or is unable to act, the trustees present shall appoint one of their number to be the Chairman of the meeting.

e. Resolution shall be carried out by a simple majority of the votes of the Board of Trustees.

f. In case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second vote or casting vote in addition to deliberative vote at all meetings of the Board of Trustees.

g. The Board of Trustees may meet for the dispatch of business and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.

7.06 PROCEDINGS AT THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
a. Opening prayer;
b. Anthem of the Association;
c. A short exhortation;
d. The Secretary of the Board shall prepare the agenda of the meeting and present the business of the day at all meetings of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE EIGHT
8.00 THE COMMON SEAL:
a. The Association shall have a common seal.
b. The common seal shall be kept in the custody of the General Secretary of the Association, who shall produce it when required for use by the Board of Trustees.
c. All documents which require execution by the Board of Trustees shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees and shall be sealed with the common seal.

ARTICLE NINE
9.00 THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
There shall be an Executive Body of the Association which shall be called the National Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as "The National Executive"), and shall be responsible for carrying out the day to day business of the Association.

9.01 The National Executive shall consist of the following members:
a. President
b. Vice President
c. General Secretary

d. Assistant General Secretary
e. National Financial Secretary
f. National Publicity Secretary
g. National Treasurer
h. National Internal Auditor
i. National Legal Adviser
j. National Women Leader
k. National Youth Leader.

9.02 TENURE:
All elected members of the National Executive are entitled to hold offices for a period of four (4) years.
PROVIDED THAT the President and other members of the National Executive elected for a term of four (4) years shall be eligible for re-election for a further term of four (4) years in same or different offices and may contest the latter after the expiration of two consecutive terms in same office.

9.03 CESSATION:
A person shall cease to be a member of the National Executive if he/she:
a. Resigns from the office he/she has been elected into; or
b. Becomes insane; or
c. Is declared bankrupt by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
d. Is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty by any court of competent jurisdiction; or
e. Is removed from office by a resolution supported by a simple majority votes of

members present at the National Congress in a special meeting specifying that it is intended to propose such a resolution; or
f. Ceases to uphold the principles of the Association.

9.04 DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:
a. The National Executive shall have the general administrative control of the affairs of the Association which shall rest on all National Officers elected and shall from time to time determine policy direction in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Association.
b. The National Executive shall have general control over all standing committees and other administrative officers of the Association.
c. The National Executive shall have power to convene a National Congress at least once a year.
d. The National Executive shall have power to constitute ad-hoc committees, as it deems necessary, and to fix their terms of reference.
e. The National Executive shall present, at a National Congress of the Association, a report of its activities and audited accounts for the relevant year.
f. The National Executive shall have the powers to constitute groups to wit: traditional Rulers, women, youth, and any other interest group for the purpose of realizing the objectives of the Association.
g. To take such other steps as it may consider necessary or expedient to fulfil the objectives of the Association.
h. To have the overriding effect on the decisions of the State Executive.

9.05 MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:
The National Executive shall, in each year hold quarterly meetings.
The quarterly meetings of the National Executive shall be

at such time and place as the President in consultation with the General Secretary may direct in the notice calling it; PROVIDED that the National Executive shall hold not less than 4 meetings in each year. The quorum for the meeting is simple majority of the officers.

9.06 NOTICE OF MEETINGS:
Except as may otherwise be provided or agreed by the National Executive, notice of meetings shall be given fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting provided that the President shall have power to call a special meeting to discuss a particular matter without the necessity of giving the length of notice referred to above.

9.07 AGENDA:
Members of the National Executive shall submit to the General Secretary memoranda for the agenda of the meeting at least ten (10) days before the date on which such meeting shall be held; PROVIDED that the President with the approval of a simple

majority of the members present at the meeting may waive the provision of the standing order.

9.08 PROCEEDINGS AT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:

a. The President shall preside at every meeting but in his absence, the vice President shall preside. Where both the President and the Vice President are absent, the National Executive members present shall appoint anyone of their number to preside over the meeting.
b. Except with the leave of the President only a member of the National Executive may address the meeting.
c. All observations shall be addressed to the chairman.
d. A member shall confine his observation to the matter under discussion.
e. It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific matter upon which the National Executive has already come to a conclusion without the prior permission of the President first sought and obtained.
f. The President shall on all occasions be heard and in silence and any member who is speaking when the President begins to speak shall immediately be silent.
g. In the case of disorder at the National Executive meeting, the President in consultation with the General Secretary may, if they think necessary to do so, adjourn, or suspend the meeting for another time to be fixed.

9.09 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

Special meeting of the National Executive may be convened by the President or in his/her absence, the Vice-President or if requisitioned by 5 members of the National Executive. When a special meeting is called, notice of such meeting stating the object (s) thereof shall be given by the General Secretary.

9.10 VOTING:

a. The President shall have right to order the closure of discussion and put a matter to the vote. A resolution put to vote shall be decided on a show of hands unless voting by secret ballot is demanded by at least 5 members present before the declaration of result of the show of hands and in such case voting by ballot shall be taken as the case may be.
b. In respect of any resolution put to vote, the President shall declare whether it has been carried or lost and whether on a show of hands or unanimously or by particular majority and an entry to the effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of everything contained therein.

9.11 DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

9.11.1 President:

a. The President shall be the national leader of the Association, its principal officer, executor of its business and its principal point of contact with the Board of Trustees,

the National Congress, and the National Executive.
b. The President shall, in general, be in charge of the day-to-day management of the Association. The President's functions specifically include:
i. Financial management;
ii. Fund raising;
iii. Staff welfare;
iv. Ensuring that proper systems and controls are put in place for transparent and accountable management of the funds of the Association.
v. The President shall have oversight of the Association's activities including implementation, human resource management, program development, corporate and public affairs, public communications and with the press and all such similar details.
c. The President shall preside at all General Meetings of the Association.
d. The President in consultations with the National Executive shall mandate any of the National Executive Officer(s) to supervise elections of each State Chapter of the Association including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
e. The President in consultations with the General Secretary shall have the power to summon an emergency meeting of the National Congress, National Executive, or any standing committee or other committees, to discuss imminent issues which are of great importance and interest to the Association.
f. The President in consultations with the National Executive shall appoint other Ex-officio members but not more than three (3) for effective supervision and coordination of the Association's programmes.

9.11.2 Vice President:

The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties to the Association. The Vice President shall chair all meetings of the Association in the absence of the President and shall perform any delegable duty of the President, which the President may expressly delegate. In addition, the Vice President may discharge the responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President.

9.11.3 General Secretary:

a. The General Secretary shall be the head of the secretariat of the Association and shall be the Secretary at the National Executive Meetings, Secretary at the National Congress, and any other meeting as may be directed by the National Executive. He/She shall also function as the Secretary of the BoT.

b. The General Secretary in consultations with the President, shall convene meetings of the Association, issue notices of meetings, write and keep correspondence on behalf of the Association, maintain proceedings and keep records of proceedings of all meetings of the Association.
c. The General Secretary shall take all necessary steps to give effect to the Association’s approved decisions or resolutions.

d. The General Secretary shall carry out such administrative duties, as the President shall direct from time to time.

9.11.4 Assistant General Secretary:

The Assistant General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary in all matters relating to the work of the secretariat. Assistant General Secretary shall perform the duties of the General Secretary in absence of the General Secretary.

9.11.5 National Treasurer:

a. The National Treasurer shall ensure that proper controls and systems are put in place for the transparent and accountable custody and management of the funds of the Association in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and in general, perform all duties incidental to his/her office as the treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the National Executive.
b. The National Treasurer shall see that the budget and the annual audit report and accounts are prepared as and when due.
c. The National Treasurer shall liaise with the entire State Branch Treasurers including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja to assist him/her prepare the Annual Financial Report.

9.11.6 National Financial Secretary:

The National Financial Secretary shall keep detail and up-to-date accounts of the funds of the Association and shall keep records of all receipts and payments of the Association. The National Financial Secretary shall issue receipts for all monies received on behalf of the Association.

9.11.7 National Publicity Secretary:

a. The National Publicity Secretary shall ensure adequate publicity for the activities and programs of the Association in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Association.
b. The office of the National Publicity Secretary shall issue press release or statements, or publications, when necessary, as may be directed or approved by the National Executive.

9.11.8 National Women Leader:

There shall be a National Women Leader, who shall be responsible for:
a. Mobilizing and organizing Northern Christian women;
b. Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the Association to an average Northern Christian woman;
c. Coordinating the activities of the State and Local Governments' women leaders.

9.11.9 National Youth Leader:

There shall be a National Youth Leader, whose functions shall be:
a. mobilizing the Youth for the attainment of the objectives of the Association;

b. Initiating and implementing strategic programs and policies aimed at endearing the Association to an average Northern Christian Youth;
c. Coordinating the activities of the State and Local Governments' Youth leaders.

9.12 National Legal Adviser:
The National Legal Adviser shall provide first hand legal advice to the National Executive on any kind of legal matter, including contracts, and disputes or on regulations that may have impact on the activities of the Association. The National Legal Adviser shall also render upon request advice as to compliance by the Association with relevant laws.
PROVIDED that officers of the National Executive shall have, in addition to the powers and duties specifically set forth in this Constitution, such powers and duties as are customarily incidental to the office, and such powers and duties as the National Executive may from time to time designate.

9.13 MINUTES OF MEETINGS:
The minutes of meetings shall record:
a. The names of the members present, phone numbers, emails, branch, and those absent and apologies.
b. All discussions, recommendations, resolutions, and the number of votes for or against a resolution.
c. The General Secretary shall read the minutes of the preceding meeting which after adoption or amendment shall be signed by the President and General Secretary.

9.14 ATTENDANCE AND VACANCIES:
In the event of any elected member of the National Executive failing to attend three consecutive meetings of the National Executive, unless he shall have been excused from attendance by a resolution, the National Executive may between the regular period of the biennial elections declare the seat vacant and direct the National Congress to elect another member of the Association to fill the vacancy.
The term of office of each member so elected shall be for the unexpired period of the member whose place he shall occupy.

ARTICLE TEN
10.00 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:
There shall be a body to be called a National Executive Council (hereinafter referred to as "the council") which shall comprise of all members of the National Executive and all Chairmen and Secretaries from each of the State Chapters of the Association.

10.01 The council shall meet twice in a year to review report of Performance and progress made at the National, State, and Local Government levels.

10.02 The General Secretary in consultation with the President shall give appropriate notice of the meeting.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

11.00 GOVERNING BODY:

There shall be established a governing body to be known as the National General Congress of the Association (hereinafter referred to as "the National Congress"). All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the National Congress.

11.01 The National Congress shall be the Supreme Authority of the Association and shall consist of the following:

a. All the incorporated Trustees of the Association;
b. All members of the National Executive;
c. Patron and ex-officio members of the Association;
d. All officials from State and FCT, Abuja Chapters;
e. 10 members representing each state and the FCT, Abuja Chapters.

11.02 It shall be the duties of the National Congress:

a. To elect or approve the replacement of members of the Board of Trustees of the Association.
b. To elect members of the National Executive at the end of each term of four (4) years.
c. Approve the appointment of a patron.
d. To receive Report from the President on the activities of the Association.
e. To receive the statement of account duly edited.
f. To receive the General Secretary's Report.
g. To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year.
h. To approve the resignation or removal of any member of the Board of Trustees or members of the National Executive.
PROVIDED that the President shall not preside over the National Congress where a motion calling for his/her

resignation or removal is to be heard.
i. To fill up vacancies in the National Executive or the Board of Trustees.
j. To consider and necessarily take action with reference to any business or motion of which due notice may have been given or which a simple majority of those present and voting may determine to entertain, not being inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

11.03 MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

The National Executive Council of the Association shall in each year hold a National Congress as its Annual General Meeting in addition to any other meeting in that year and shall specify the meeting as such in the notice calling it. The Association shall so

holds such and so many Meetings as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its aims and objectives contained in this Constitution.

11.04 NOTICE OF NATIONAL CONGRESS:

An Annual General Congress and any meeting being called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by at least fourteen (14) days' notice in writing and any meeting of the Association other than an Annual General Congress for the passing of the special resolution shall also be by at least fourteen (14) days' notice in writing. The notice shall be exclusive of the day on which it is served or deemed to be served and of the day which it is given and shall specify the place, day, and hour of meeting and in case of special business, the general nature of that business, and shall be given in a manner hereinafter mentioned or in such other manner, if any, as may be prescribed by the National Executive.

PROVIDED that a meeting of the Association shall, notwithstanding that it is called by a shorter notice than that specified in this Constitution be deemed to have been duly called if it is so agreed:

a. In the case of a meeting called as Annual General Meeting by all the members entitled to attend and vote thereat; and

b. In the case of any other meeting, by a majority in number of the members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting.

c. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of the notice of meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at the meeting.

11.05 SERVICE OF NOTICES:

A notice may be given by the Association to any member, either personally, by phone, SMS text, telefax, email, or by post to him/her, or to his/her registered address, if any within Nigeria supplied by him/her to the Association for the given of notices to him/her. Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to have been effected by properly addressing, prepaying, and posting a letter containing the notice, where it is by electronic means, then proof of delivery thereof.

PROVIDED that if a member has no registered address or has not supplied to the Association an address within Nigeria for the giving of notices to him/her, or provided any other means of contact, a notice addressed to him/her and displayed in the registered office of the Association shall be deemed to be duly given to him/her on the day on which it is so displayed.

11.06 ORDER OF BUSINESS:

At the Annual National Congress of the Association, the order of business shall be as follows:

a. Opening prayer;

b. CNNC Anthem;
c. Short word of exhortation;
d. Appointment of temporary President (if need be) in the absence of the substantive President and his/her vice Chairman;
e. Reading and adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting;
f. Matters arising from the minutes;
g. Reports of the Chairman, General Secretary, and/or Auditors;
h. Filling of vacancies in the National Executive or the Board of Trustees;
i. New business including memoranda submitted by members;
j. Any other business;
k. Date of next meeting;
l. Closing prayer.

11.07 PROCEEDINGS AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:

The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Association; in his/her absence, the Vice President and in their absence the Congress may appoint any member of the National Executive to preside.

The National Congress may meet for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In case of an equality of votes, the President shall have a second or casting vote.

The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the National Congress shall be by a simple majority of eligible members.

11.08 CONDUCT OF BUSINESS:

The following rules of debate shall be observed:
a. Except with the leave of the President only, a member of the National Congress may address the meeting;
b. All observations shall be addressed to the President;
c. A member shall confine his/her observation to the matter under discussion;
d. It shall be out of order without the prior permission of the National Chairman, to attempt to reconsider any specific matter upon which a National Congress has already come to a conclusion;
e. The President shall on all occasions be heard in silence and any member who is speaking when the President is speaking shall immediately be silenced;
f. If a member shows disregard to the authority of the President or obstruct the business of the meeting the President in consultation with the National General Secretary may direct him/her to withdraw from that National Congress;
g. In the case of disorder in the National Congress, the President may, if he/she thinks necessary to do so, adjourn or suspend the meeting for another time to be fixed by him/her.

11.09 DECISIONS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS:
All decisions of the National Congress taking in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution shall be binding on all officers, staff, and members. A decision in respect of every matter referred to it by any person, group of persons, or any organ of the Association shall be binding and final.

11.10 COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES:
a. There shall be such committees and sub-committees of the Association as this Constitution provides and such other standing and special committees, as authorized by this Constitution in the management of the Association.
PROVIDED that the designation of such committees and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Trustees, or any individual member or group thereof of any responsibility imposed by this Constitution.
b. Every committee shall have the power to co-opt persons to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities.
c. Unless otherwise provided in this Constitution, all committees shall serve for a period as may be determined by the National Executive.
d. The National Executive shall define the duties and fix their terms of reference.
e. The quorum at all Committees and Sub-committee meetings shall be one-third (1/3) of the Membership of the Committee.
f. Every matter referred to the Committees, shall be determined by a simple majority of the members present and voting on the question.
g. Where the President of a particular Committee or Sub-committee is unable to attend a meeting, he/she may nominate any of the members to preside at such meeting, or the members may choose one of them to preside at the meeting.

ARTICLE TWELVE
12.00 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAPTERS:
The Executive Committee Organ of the State Chapter shall be the State Executive Committee (hereinafter called "the State Executive").

12.01 The State Executive shall consist of the following members:
a. State Chairman.
b. State Vice Chairman.
c. State Secretary.
d. State Assistant Secretary.
e. State Financial Secretary.
f. State Publicity Secretary.
g. State Treasurer.
h. State Internal Auditor.
i. State Legal Adviser.
j. State Women Leader.
k. State Youth Leader.

12.02 The Association shall establish State Chapters in each State of the defunct Northern Region of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

12.03 There shall be a State Executive in each State of the defunct Northern Region of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, which shall perform such functions and assume such responsibilities as determined by this Constitution.

12.04 The State Executive shall co-ordinate, supervise, and direct the activities of the members of the Association at the Local Government levels where chapters of the Association shall be established in their respective states with the sole purpose of achieving the aims and objectives of the Association.

12.05 The State Executive shall maintain a register of members of the Association within the State. It shall also collect, and remit to the National Secretariat contributions received from individuals, churches, corporate Organizations etc.

12.06 The State Executive shall constitute the Local Government Chapters and inaugurate the Local Government officers which shall include the following:
Local Government Chairman, Local Government Vice Chairman, Local Government Secretary, Local Government Assistant Secretary, Local Government Financial Secretary, Local Government Publicity Secretary, Local Government Treasurer, Local Government Internal Auditor, Local Government Legal Adviser, Local Government Women Leader, and Local Government Youth Leader.

12.07 State Executive shall be elected at a General Meeting called for that purpose in each State. Those eligible to vote at the election shall be members from the Local Government and existing members of the State Executive.

12.08 A person elected as a member of State Executive shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and may be re-elected for another term of four years only. **PROVIDED** that the State chairman and other members of the State Executive elected for a term of four (4) years shall be eligible for re-election for a further term of four (4) years in same or different offices and may contest the latter after the expiration of two consecutive terms in same office.

12.09 The State Executive may, from time to time, hold general meetings for the State Chapter at such time and place as the State Executive may determine.

12.10 Notice of meetings may be given in writing, or by electronic means to each member of the State Executive and the notice shall state the precise nature of the business to be discussed.

12.11 The quorum of the State Executive meeting shall be one-third (1/3) of its members.

12.12 The State Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the State Executive but in his/her absence, the Vice Chairman, if the latter is absent, members present can

appoint any one of their number to preside over the meeting.
12.13 The State Executive shall have the general administrative control of the affairs of the State Chapter, which shall rest on the State Chairman and other State Executive officers. The decision of the National Executive, however, shall have the overriding effect on the State Executive.
12.14 The State Executive shall prepare and submit to the National Secretariat quarterly reports and accounts for the State.
12.15 Members of the State Executive may make comments on local issues relating to their State.
12.16 The State Executive shall set up Local Government Chapters in their States and the composition, proceedings at the Local Government Chapter shall be the same as those of the State Chapter.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN
13.00 ELECTION GUIDELINES:

Elections into the membership of the National Executive of the Association shall be held from the month of December to January. The nominated candidates for the election into any of the recognized offices of the Association shall be up-to-date members of the Association.

13.01 BACKGROUND RULES AND PROCEDURE:

a. Elections to offices of the National Executive shall follow a period of prayer, teaching, notification of due process.
b. There shall be a nomination of candidate for a particular office and the nomination shall be seconded by another member. At this point a motion for disqualification of a candidate may be lodged by any member who has adverse information about the candidate.
c. A motion for disqualification tabled by any member shall be investigated by the Electoral Committee to be constituted by the National Congress and if the allegation is proved, it shall disqualify the candidate whose Christian testimony is called to question on biblical grounds.
d. All nominations shall be by show of hands unless the Electoral committee directs otherwise.
e. No elected officer of the Association shall hold more than one elective post at the same time.
f. A person who had served in an elective position for two consecutive terms shall not be eligible for re-election until he rested for one term.
g. Election into National Offices shall be by delegates. Each State is only entitled to present 17 of its members at the election.
PROVIDED that the delegates shall be nominated from the officers of states and Local Government Chapters as well as past leaders of the Congress.

13.02 OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATION:
Offices to be contested for the National, State, and Local Government Chapter of the Association are as provided in Article Nine, paragraph 9.01, Article Twelve, Paragraphs 12.01 and 12.06 respectively of this Constitution.

13.03 CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS:
a. Due notice of the election shall be given by the National, State, and Local Government Chapters' Secretary at the expiration of each four (4) year term. The period of the notice shall not be less than three Calendar Months and must appear in the notice of their general meeting with date, place, and time of the election.
b. After due notice of the election has been served, members of the National Congress shall appoint a five (5) member Electoral Committee to conduct elections at various levels.
c. At the end of the nomination and screening, any candidate whose nomination is not challenged on biblical grounds shall be eligible to contest for the position nominated for.
d. Voting for the election of officers at the National Congress shall be decided by show of hands or by casting of votes.
e. The Chairman of the Electoral Committee shall declare openly the votes scored by each contestant and declare the candidate with the highest number of votes the winner.
f. These election guidelines shall be followed in the election into any office recognized by the Association at the National, State, and Local Government Chapters.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN
14.00 FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION:
The Association is, and always shall be a non-profit-making organization and shall derive its incomes to enable it carry out its aims and objectives under this Constitution from the following sources:

a. Churches across the Northern part of Nigeria;
b. Gifts, grants, and donations from individual members, corporate bodies, and non-government organizations;
c. Legacies;
d. Sale of the Association's property;
e. And such other legitimate means as the National, State, and Local Government Executive considers appropriate.

14.01 DISTRIBUTION AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS:
The financial year of the Association shall be 31st December of every year, to which day accounts shall be balanced and drawn. The trustees shall cause proper books of account to be kept with respect to:

a. All Assets and liabilities of the Association;
b. All sums of monies received and expended by the Association;
c. All legacies and donations of the Association and such other books shall be so kept as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and explain its transactions. The books of account shall be kept at the office or at such other places as the Board of Trustees shall think fit and shall always be opened for the inspection of the members.
d. True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Association and the matter in which such receipt and expenditures take place. The Audited account, which shall be opened for the inspection of the Association, shall be examined, and the correctness of the balance sheet ascertained by one or more properly qualified auditor(s).

14.02 KEEPING OF ACCOUNTS:
All monies, bills, and notes belonging to the Association shall be paid to or deposited with the Association's Bankers to an account in the name of title Association. Cheques from the Association shall be signed by the President and the General Secretary or the Treasurer.

14.03 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:
The National Executive, with consent of members at the National Congress may from time to time determine the annual subscription fee payable to the Association. The amount realized from the subscription shall be shared in the ratio 50:30:20 between the National, State, and Local Government Chapters.

14.05 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:
i) Independent qualified and licensed Auditors shall be appointed by the General Meeting to audit the financial records of the Association annually and submit an audit report to the Annual General Meeting of the Association. A copy of the audited account shall be kept at the registered office of the Association and be opened for inspection by members of the Board of Trustees.
ii) The audited financial statements (balance sheet and income and expenditure accounts), duly certified by the independent auditors, shall be annexed to the annual returns and filed with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN
15.00 PROPERTY OF THE ASSOCIATION:
All real or moveable property of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians such as land, buildings, houses, and all things whatsoever devised to the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians or otherwise acquired, and all bequests, donations, endowments, and gifts for the support of the Association shall be vested in the Incorporated Trustees for the use of the Association or any of its Chapters.

PROVIDED always that the Trustees aforesaid shall hold all such properties subject to the direction of the National Congress of the Association. The officers of the Association holding offices under this Constitution and other persons who are in occupation or possession of any documents, plans, buildings, school buildings, offices or any possession thereof shall deemed to be in occupation or possession or holding the same respectively as agents, servants of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN
16.00 ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION:
We National Executive may from time to time appoint suitably qualified persons as Arbitrators or Conciliators for the settlement of disputes referred to it from any persons, Governments, or Institutions, such appointment shall be preceded by prayer and fasting.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN
17.00 ANNUAL RETURNS:
The Board of Trustees shall cause all Annual Returns of the Association to be submitted to the Corporate Affairs Commission in accordance with the provisions of part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, not earlier than 31st December each year or later than 30th June of the following year:
a. Details of National elections and composition of Local Government, State Chapters and National

Executive members, their names, addresses, and occupations shall be forwarded to the National Secretariat of the Association for proper documentation and as part of Annual Returns.
b. Details of all landed properties acquired on behalf of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians together with the original Deed of Conveyance/Assignment, Customary or Statutory Right of Occupancy, should be promptly be forwarded to the National Secretariat of the Association as part of the Annual Returns.

ARTICLE EIGHTEEN
18.00 AMENDMENTS/ALTERATIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION:
This Constitution is subject to amendments/alterations but no amendments/alterations shall be made to this Constitution by any member or group. When the Association intends to amend or alter this Constitution, it shall be made by a resolution passed by a simple majority of members at the General Congress. PROVIDED no addition, alteration, or amendment shall be made to or in this Constitution for the time being in force, unless the same has been previously submitted to and approved by the Registrar General of Corporate Affairs Commission.

ARTICLE NINETEEN

19.00 BYE-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The National Congress shall have powers to make, alter, or revoke Bye-laws for carrying on the business of the Association; PROVIDED always that those Bye-laws shall not be repugnant to this Constitution.

The draft Bye-laws presented to it by the National Executive shall only become operative after a resolution supported by a simple majority of members of the National Congress at a special meeting convened for the purpose. A clean copy of the Bye-law shall be submitted to the Registrar General, Corporate Commission Affairs for his/her approval before it becomes part of this Constitution.

ARTICLE TWENTY

20.00 DISCIPLINE:

Members shall adhere to the fundamental principles of the Association and the provisions of this Constitution. It is also expected that every member shall readily contribute his/her time, efforts, and resources towards fulfilling the Aims and Objectives of the Association.

20.01 All officers and leaders occupying whatever position in the Association shall have a higher requirement of responsibility. He/she must demonstrate a character above reproach and must develop unflinching loyalty to the Association.

20.02 An officer of the Association may be removed and a member disciplined by the appropriate body i.e. The Disciplinary Committee of the Association, if at any time it is determined to be in the best interest of the Association to do so. Reasons for removal or discipline shall include but not limited to the following:

a. Persistently exhibiting a character that is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the Association;
b. Persistent questionable loyalty to the Association;
c. Persistent lying and dishonesty;

d. Major deviation from biblical standards in relation to, morals, finances, and fundamental principles of the Association;
e. Persistent questionable conduct leading to a lack of coherence in the personal integrity of the individual;
f. Persistent irresponsible and incompetent conduct;
g. Abandonment of post or assigned duty.

20.04 The National Congress shall have power to dissolve any state Executive, Local Government Executive and Committee set up pursuant to this constitution, in the event of a major deviation from biblical standards and indiscipline in respect of finance, morals doctrine and the foundational principles or breach of the provisions of this constitution which in the estimation of the National Executive, will bring the whole Association into confusion and disrepute.

ARTICLE TWENTY-ONE

21.00 SPECIAL CLAUSE:

a. The income and property of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians whenever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the congress of Northern Nigeria Christians as set forth in this CONSTITUTION: and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to any member or members of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians.

b. **PROVIDED** that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith, of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians in return for any service actually rendered to the Association so that no member of the council of Management or Governing body shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians or any office of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians paid by fees; and that no remuneration or other benefit in money or money worth shall be given by congress of Northern Nigeria Christians to any officer except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised, or let to the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians provided that the provision last aforesaid shall not hold more than one hundredth part of the capital, and such member shall not be bound to account for any share of profits he may receive in respect of any such payment.

c. NO addition, alteration, or amendment shall be made to or in this **CONSTITUTION** for the time being in force, unless the same have been previously submitted to and approved by the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission.

d. In the event of winding up or dissolution of the Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the congress of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions, having objects similar to the objects of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians and the body or bodies are prohibited from distributing its or their income and property amongst its or their members to an extent at least or by virtue of the SPECIAL CLAUSE hereof, such institution or institutions to be determined by the members of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians and if effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provisions, then to some charitable object.

ARTICLE TWENTY-TWO
22.00 INTERPRETATION:

1) In this Constitution, unless it is expressly provided or the context otherwise requires:
"A simple majority" means 50 + 1 per cent.
"Northern Nigeria" includes the 19 States that are part of the federating units that make up the Federal Republic of Nigeria to wit: Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Sokoto, Zamfara, Yobe, Taraba, Plateau and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
"A Christian" means any person who accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Personal Saviour; and he/she belongs to a recognized Christian denomination.

2) Wherever it is provided that any authority or person has power to make, recommend, or approve an appointment to any office, such power shall be construed as including the power to make, recommend, or approve a person for such office, whether on promotion or otherwise, or to act in any such office.

3) In this Constitution, references to a person holding an office shall include reference to a person acting in such office.

22.01 CITATION:
This Constitution may be cited as the Constitution of Congress of Northern Nigeria Christians, 2017 AD.

22.02 COMMENCEMENT:
The provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the 13th day of November, 2017 AD.