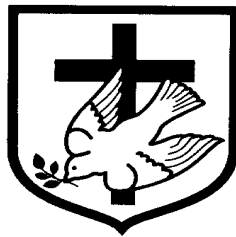

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



CONSTITUTION

Accepted by 35th Assembly
25th August 2009

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Scripture declares and faith accepts that from the beginning God's purpose was to gather all people in joyful, loving and permanent communion with Himself and with one another. The Church is the community of those who believe in the one God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who thus accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; and so, by the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live to the glory of God the Father. They covenant with God and one another to walk together in all His ways and ordinances according to all He has made known to them.

The corporate life and fellowship of the Church are experienced most immediately in the local church, gathered in response to the Word of God to worship, serve and witness to Him. The corporate life and fellowship of the Church are experienced more widely in the denomination. God's purpose will not, however, be fulfilled until all barriers are broken down, and all the people of God accept one another without reservation as brothers and sisters redeemed through faith in Christ and incorporated into the one family of God.

With this understanding of the nature and purpose of the Church, the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa gives thanks to God for the grace and truth imparted to our forebears, which are our inheritance today. With the same understanding it claims unity with all who, through the centuries and throughout the world today, likewise have sought and still seek to fulfil their common calling by glorifying and serving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa therefore takes its stand alongside the other branches of the Christian Church in acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord of all and as the Head of the Church, which is His body. With them it exists to worship God, to work to His glory, to witness to His grace, and constantly to be reformed according to His Word. In obedience to its understanding of Christ's will, it participates in the ecumenical movement and shares in the task of world evangelism and social transformation. It calls all people, society and states to repent and to accept and obey Jesus Christ as Lord and Liberator, in joyful anticipation of the coming fullness of God's kingdom.

1. NAME

The name of the Church is **THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.** This Church is a union of the churches of the Congregational Union, Church Aid and Missionary Society of South Africa, the London Missionary Society of Southern Africa and the Bantu Congregational Church of the American Board (which later has also been known as the Congregational Church in Africa, the Bantu Congregational Church of the American Board of Trustees, the Bantu Congregational Church of Southern Africa, Congregational Churches of the American Board, African Congregational Church and the American Zulu Mission), the South African Association of the Disciples of Christ (which includes the United Christian Missionary Society in South Africa, the South African Association of the Disciples of Christ and the African Christian Churches).

2. STRUCTURE, ORGANISATION AND LEGAL STATUS

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- 2.1 The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (hereinafter called ~~The Church~~) is composed of local churches, Regional Councils, Synods and an Assembly. The local churches together with the Regional Councils and Synods to which they are assigned, are named in a schedule, which is published in the Directory of the Church.
- 2.2 The legal status of the Church is that of a corporate body having perpetual succession and power to own and hold property (immovable, movable and incorporeal) in its own name and independently of its members as well as power to sue and be sued in its own name. The Church as a corporate body possesses all such powers as are requisite for the carrying out of its purposes and functions.

3. THE LOCAL CHURCH

- 3.1 A local church is recognised by the Assembly as a fellowship of members of the Church gathered in a particular locality for worship, witness and service. A local church may consist of one or more congregations.
- 3.2 The measure of autonomy enjoyed by the local church at the time of the Union, including the freedom to retain any name it has had previously and the right of call, where exercised, continues to be recognised, due regard being had to the interests of other churches.
- 3.3 Local churches are formed at the request of existing local churches, on the recommendation of the appropriate Regional Council, or by a Regional Council, in terms of any one or any combination of the following:
- 3.3.1 Division of the existing local church;
 - 3.3.2 The establishment and constitution of new congregations and local churches;
 - 3.3.3 The amalgamation of existing local churches or portions of local churches;
 - 3.3.4 The establishment of a united congregation in terms of the Memorandum of Association (Presbyterian/Congregational) or in terms of an approved CUC procedure;
 - 3.3.5 The inclusion in our existing church or its recognition as a new local church any congregation received from another denomination into the Church by the Assembly.
 - 3.3.6 In all cases the local church concerned consults with the Regional Council in whose bounds it falls. Local churches are deemed constituted only when they have been recognised by the Assembly in terms of 3.1 above.
- 3.4 The local church is constituted in terms of its own constitution, which complies with the Model Constitution for Local Churches as the Assembly approves and amends from time to time.
- 3.5 Among the powers and duties of the local church are the following:
- 3.5.1 To hold regular services of worship; to preach the word of God and to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord = s Supper; to assume responsibility for the pastoral care of its members and adherents and to witness to Christ within the local community.
 - 3.5.2 To elect deacons, elders and other officers.
 - 3.5.3 To admit and dismiss church members in terms of Chapter 3 of the Model Constitution for Local Churches as approved by the Assembly.
 - 3.5.4 To seek and foster Christian leaders, including candidates for the Ministry, and to recommend them for training to its Regional Council.
 - 3.5.5 To participate in the mission of the Church Universal, locally in consultation with its Regional Council and other Christian Churches.

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- 3.5.6 To provide for the training of its people in the Christian way of life.
 - 3.5.7 To raise and expend funds; to be responsible for the support of those serving it as ministers; and to share in the work of the whole Church by the payment of assessments as determined from time to time by the Assembly.
 - 3.5.8 To be responsible for all that concerns the internal administration of the local church.
 - 3.5.9 To acquire, hold, mortgage, and dispose of property in terms of its own constitution.
 - 3.5.10 To appoint representatives to the Regional Council within whose bounds it falls.
 - 3.5.11 To submit to its Regional Council matters of concern.
 - 3.5.12 To receive audited financial statements in terms of chapter 4.4 and 7.2 in the Model Constitutions for Local Churches.

4. THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

4.1 The church is divided into Regions whose bounds and designation are determined by the Assembly. The local churches of which each Region is constituted are listed and published in the official Directory of the Church.

4.2 Legal Status

The Regional Council in its organisational aspect and form is a corporate body having perpetual succession and power to own and hold property (immovable, movable and incorporeal) in its own name as well as the power to sue and be sued in its own name. The members of the court of the Regional Council constitute the membership of the Regional Council as a corporate body. The Regional Council functions within the framework of this Constitution as a self-governing body.

4.3 Membership

The Regional Council (hereinafter referred to as ~~the Council~~) consists of:

- 4.3.1 Representative Members elected by local churches within its bounds on a basis as determined from time to time by the Regional Council.
- 4.3.2 Personal Members: accredited ministers and other full-time church workers as the Council may from time to time determine.
- 4.3.3 Officers of the Council.
- 4.3.4 Committee Convenors.
- 4.3.5 Co-opted members as determined by the Council.

4.4 Officers

Officers are elected for a two-year term of office at an Annual Meeting of the Region and are eligible for re-election for an additional two-year term. Under special circumstances the Region may make exceptions to this procedure.

4.4.1 The Chairperson

The Chairperson presides over the Council and Administrative Committee meetings. In consultation with the Chairperson-Elect and the Secretary, the Chairperson makes statements on behalf of the Council. The Chairperson performs such other duties as the Council may from time to time determine. The Chairperson is a member ex-officio of all the Committees of the Council.

The most recent Past-Chairperson acts as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson at his/her request or in the event that the Chairperson is unable to carry out his/her duties.

4.4.2 The Chairperson-Elect

The Chairperson-Elect holds office for a period of two years and assumes the office of the

Chairperson when the term of office of the Chairperson expires

4.4.3 **The Secretary**

The Secretary is responsible for the general administration of the Council and acts as convener and secretary for the Council and Administrative Committee Meetings. The Secretary is a member ex-officio of all the Committees of Council.

4.4.4 **The Treasurer**

The Treasurer is responsible for the general supervision of the finances of the Council. The Treasurer presents regular Income and Expenditure Statements to the Council and its Administrative Committee Meetings and presents annual audited Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statements to the Council.

4.4.5 **The Moderator**

The Moderator is an ordained minister and acts as the “pastor pastorem” of the Council and is responsible for the general spiritual well being of the Council. He/she acts as counsellor to local churches within the bounds of the Council. The Moderator chairs the meetings of the Regional Ministerial Committee and represents the Council on the School of Moderators of the Synod and the College of Moderators of the UCCSA. He/she normally presides at Ordinations and/or Inductions held at local churches within the bounds of the Council. The Moderator has the right of access to local churches within the bounds of the Council and local churches are expected to receive the Moderator.

4.4.6 The Regional Council has the right at any time to suspend or depose an officer of Council when such officer brings the Council and/or the Church into disrepute, in terms of the accepted procedures of the church. Deposition is removal from office but not from membership.

4.5 Functions

Among the duties and powers of the Council are the following:

4.5.1 To be concerned with the welfare of all local churches within its bounds.

4.5.2 To receive and act upon business referred to it by local churches, the Synod, the Assembly and other bodies.

4.5.3 To bring the influence of the churches to bear upon such public and general questions as may demand their collective action.

4.5.4 To raise and administer such funds as may be authorised by the Assembly or Synod for the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Council and of the local churches.

4.5.5 To consider applications for loans and to make recommendations to Synods or Assembly.

4.5.6 To investigate and adjudicate in any matter brought to it by any local church, one of its committees, the Synodical Committee or the Executive Committee of the Assembly.

4.5.7 To be responsible for:

4.5.7.1 The approval of calls to ministers in respect of local churches, and to recommend to the Synodical Committee.

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- 4.5.7.2 The placing of ministers within its bounds. Where more than one Region is involved, the placement is done in consultation with the Ministerial Committee of the Synod.
- 4.5.8 To commission ministers and lay members to represent it in the Synod in accordance with the basis of representation enacted from time to time.
- 4.5.9 To co-ordinate Church Extension within its bounds and decide upon proposals for the establishment of new local churches and institutions.
- 4.5.10 To decide upon the proposals for the grouping or amalgamation or dissolution of local churches.
- 4.5.11 To issue directives/instructions to local churches within its bounds.

4.6 The Administrative Committee

- 4.6.1 This consists of as many members as the Council determines from time to time together with the officers of the Council who are member's ex-officio. It transacts the business and fulfils the objects and functions of the Council when the Council is not in session. The Administrative Committee, through the Ministerial Committee of the Council, is responsible for making arrangements for the supervision of a vacant church and for the calling or placing of a minister. The Administrative Committee also acts as a Court of Appeal. A church member who considers that his local church has unconstitutionally disciplined him has the right to appeal in writing to the Administrative Committee of the Council for a review of his case. The decision of the Administrative Committee is final and binding unless procedure 13.2.8 is invoked.
- 4.6.2 The quorum for an Administrative Committee meeting is one third of its members.
- 4.6.3 In the event a quorum not being attained the meeting is postponed for seven (7) days and the members present at the postponed meeting are competent to administer the business before them.

4.7 Standing Committees

The Council appoints the following Standing Committees which report to the Council or its Administrative Committee:

4.7.1 The Ministerial Committee:

This Committee consists of as many members as the Council determines from time to time, together with the officers of the Council who are member's ex-officio. Its responsibilities are inter-alia to keep before the churches the Call of the Christian Ministry and to have pastoral care of candidates during their period of preparation; to recommend to the Council suitable candidates for the ministry; to arrange in consultation with the Ministerial Committee of the Synod for the placing of ministers in churches which request the Council to make such arrangements; to recommend the approval of Calls; to arrange for the ordination and induction of ministers; to institute inquiries when charges are made against a minister and to report its findings through the Administrative Committee of the Council to the Ministerial Committee of the Synod.

4.7.2 The Finance Committee:

This Committee consists of as many members as the Council determines from time to time, together with the officers of the Council who are member's ex-officio. Its responsibilities are inter-alia to prepare an annual budget to be reviewed by the Council and then submitted to the Synod for approval; to raise and administer funds as authorised by the Synod; to raise and forward money for special appeals; to review the stipends of ministers from time to time; to submit to the

Administrative Committee of the Council requests for financial aid to be provided either by Overseas Mission Boards or Churches or by the Central Funds of the Church for forwarding to the Synod.

4.7.3 **The Mission Council:**

The Mission Council consists of the Convenor, appointed by the Council every second year and the Convenors of the Commissions on Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, the units on Music Development, Justice and Social Responsibility, Education in Mission, Stewardship and Church Growth, Communication, Worship and Liturgy, Leadership and Resource Development.

4.7.3.1 Among the duties of the Mission Council are:

- Developing and creating a mission consciousness at all levels within the Council
- Co-ordinating the work of the Mission Council in the Council.

4.8 **Other Committees**

The Council appoints such other Committees as may be necessary to fulfil its objects and functions.

4.9 **Salaried Staff**

The Council may employ such salaried personnel, as its programme requires.

4.10 **Meetings**

The Council holds its Annual General Meeting not more than four months prior to the Synod Conference or its Synodical Committee where applicable.

4.11 **Property**

4.11.1 The Council by resolution of a duly constituted special meeting of the Council or its Administrative Committee, may acquire by way of purchase, donation, exchange, lease or any other manner, any property movable or immovable and may sell, donate, exchange, lease, mortgage or otherwise dispose of any of its properties.

4.11.2 The Council by resolution of a duly constituted special meeting of the Council or its Administrative Committee may at any time permit such premises as it acquires to be repaired, altered or enlarged, taken down and wholly or partially rebuilt, or sanction the erection of any other building so as to render the premises more suitable for the fulfilment of the objects and functions of the Council.

4.11.3 All immovable property acquired by the Council is vested in the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Council for the time being who hold it in trust for the Council.

4.12 **Quorum**

4.12.1 The quorum for a meeting of the Council is one third of its members.

4.12.2 In the event a quorum not being attained the meeting is postponed for thirty days and the members present at the postponed meeting shall be competent to administer the business before it.

4.13 **Regional Council Constitution**

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- 4.13.1 A Regional Council may insert in its constitution additional provisions as may be necessary in the light of local conditions. All such provisions are subject to the approval of the Synod.
 - 4.13.2 A notice to amend the constitution of the Regional Council may be submitted by a local church or by the Administrative Committee of the Council.
 - 4.13.3 Such notice must reach the secretary of the Council in writing at least six (6) months before the date of the annual meeting of the Council.
 - 4.13.4 All notices of motion to amend the constitution are to be referred to local churches within the bounds of the Council at least 4 months prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Council.
 - 4.13.5 Any amendments are subject to the approval of the Synod.

5. THE SYNOD

5.1 The Synod is a court of the Assembly. The Assembly determines and defines the bounds of the Synod from time to time. The Synod administers and has general oversight of the Regional Councils within its bounds.

5.2 In exceptional circumstances where the powers of a Synod are required in a particular area, but the creation of two Regional Councils is not practical the Assembly may, at its discretion constitute a Synod which shall have the power of a Synod and a Regional Council and its members are appointed by the local churches within its bounds on the basis provided for a Regional Council.

5.3 Legal Status

The Synod in its organisational aspect and form is a corporate body having perpetual succession and power to own and hold property (immovable, movable and incorporeal) in its own name as well as power to sue and to be sued in its own name. The members of the court of the Synod constitute the membership of the Synod as a corporate body. The Synod functions within the framework of the Constitution as a self-governing body.

5.4 Membership

The Synod is composed of:

5.4.1 The officers of the Synod.

5.4.2 Ministers of the Church residing within the bounds of the Synod as the Synod determines from time to time;

5.4.3 Lay members commissioned by each Regional Council on a basis as the Synod determines from time to time;

5.4.4 The Officers of each Regional Council within its bounds.

5.5 Officers

5.5.1 The Officers of the Synod are the Chairperson, the Chairperson-elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

5.5.2 The Chairperson

The Chairperson presides over the Synod and Synodical Committee meetings. With the

Secretary, the Chairperson is responsible for ecumenical relations and represents the Synod on ecumenical bodies and committees. In consultation with the Secretary, the Chairperson makes statements on behalf of the Synod. The Chairperson holds office for a period of two years after which the office is occupied by the Chairperson-Elect. The Chairperson performs such other duties as the Synod may from time to time determine. In the absence of the Chairperson the past Chairperson acts as Chairperson at his/her request or in the event that the Chairperson is unable to carry out his/her duties.

The most recent Past-Chairperson acts as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson at his/her request or in the event that the Chairperson is unable to carry out his/her duties.

5.5.3 The Chairperson-Elect:

The Chairperson-Elect holds office for a period of two years and assumes the office of the Chairperson when the term of office of the Chairperson expires.

5.5.4 The Secretary:

The Secretary has general oversight of the Synod, exercising such oversight in a ministerial and collegial manner. The Secretary is responsible for the general administration of the Synod, maintaining the official records, data and documentation of the Synod. With the Chairperson, the Secretary is responsible for ecumenical relations and represents the Synod on ecumenical bodies. In consultation with the Chairperson, the Secretary makes statements on behalf of the Synod. The Secretary acts as Convenor the Synodical Committee, the Training for Ministry Committee, the Moderators Forum of the Synod and such other committees as the Synod may determine. The Secretary may visit any local church or Regional Council within the bounds of the Synod in consultation with the Regional Council. The Secretary is a member ex-officio of all the Committees of the Synod. In the event that the office of the Secretary is a full-time salaried one the Secretary shall serve for a period of four years and is eligible for re-appointment for a further four years. The Secretary shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

5.5.5 The Treasurer:

The Treasurer is responsible for the general supervision of the finances of the Synod. The Treasurer holds office for two years and is eligible for re-election. The Treasurer presents an audited Balance Sheet, Income, and Expenditure Account to the Synod Conference and its Synodical Committee.

5.5.6 The Synod has the right at any time to suspend or depose an officer of Synod when such officer brings the Council and/or the Church in disrepute, in terms of the accepted procedures of the church. Deposition is removal from office but not from membership of the Church.

5.6 **Staff**

The Synod may appoint such salaried personnel, as its work requires.

5.7 **Functions**

Among the duties and powers of the Synod are the following:

5.7.1 To take such action as it deems conducive to the propagation of the gospel, and co-ordination of the work of the Church within its bounds.

5.7.2 To co-ordinate Church Extension within its bounds and to decide upon proposals submitted by the Regional Councils for the establishment of new local churches and institutions.

5.7.3 To co-ordinate the work of mission within its bounds.

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- 5.7.4 To initiate and exercise oversight of Church-related educational, medical, welfare and other work within its bounds.
- 5.7.5 To receive and decide upon recommendation from Regional Councils on all matters regarding the grouping, amalgamation or dissolution of local churches and the erection and alteration of buildings or disposal of properties.
- 5.7.6 To act upon instructions remitted to it by the Assembly.
- 5.7.7 To make proposals to and raise concerns for consideration by the Assembly.
- 5.7.8 To receive and decide upon every matter brought before it by overture, appeal, complaint, petition or reference from or through Regional Councils, subject to the right of appeal to the Assembly in cases involving doctrine and worship, or deposition of an officer, minister or specialised worker.
- 5.7.9 To appoint a Synodical Committee entrusted with and authorised to exercise all the powers and functions of the Synod in the interim between meetings of the Synod.
- 5.7.10 To issue directives/instructions to Regional Councils within its bounds.
- 5.7.11 To foster ecumenical relations and participate in church union schemes within the bounds of the Synod.
- 5.7.12 To raise funds from within its bounds and by appeal to outside bodies and administer such funds as may be required for general administration at Synodical and Regional Council levels, the support for the ministry, Assembly assessments and the promotion and extension of the Church = s total witness.
- 5.7.13 To commission ministers, and lay members to represent it in the Assembly in accordance with the basis of representation enacted from time to time.
- 5.7.14 To appoint a Ministerial Committee, a Finance Committee and a Mission Council and such other committees as may be necessary.
- 5.7.15 To accept candidates for the ministry if authorised by the Assembly and in consultation with it.
- 5.7.16 To perform such other functions as may be necessary in pursuance of its responsibility for the common life of the Church.
- 5.8 **The Synodical Committee**
- 5.8.1 This consists of as many members as the Synod determines from time to time together with the officers of the Synod who are member's ex-officio.
- 5.8.2 The Synodical Committee also acts as a Court of Appeal. A church which considers that its Regional Council has unconstitutionally disciplined it has the right of appeal in writing to the Synodical Committee for a review of its case. The decision of the Synodical Committee is final and binding, unless procedure 14.2.9 is invoked.

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- 5.8.3 The Synodical Committee transacts the business of the Synod and fulfils its objective and functions of the Synod when it is not in session. It further fulfils other objectives and functions as are allocated to it by the Synod.
- 5.8.4 The quorum for a Synodical Committee meeting is one third of its members.
- 5.8.5 In the event a quorum not being attained the meeting is postponed for three months and the members present at the postponed meeting are competent to administer the business before it.
- 5.9 Standing Committees**
The Synod appoints Standing Committees, which report to the Synod and its Synodical Committee.
- 5.9.1 The Ministerial Committee
- 5.9.1.1 The Committee consists of the Synod Secretary, who serves as Convenor and Secretary, one representative from each Region in the Synod and the Director of the Training for Ministry Committee. The Committee elects a chairperson from among its members.
- 5.9.1.2 Among the duties of the Ministerial Committee are:
- 5.9.1.2.1 Dealing with all matters concerning the ministry in the Synod, the training of ministers, credentials, settlements and discipline initiated by itself or referred to it by Regional Councils or the UCCSA Assembly Ministerial Committee;
- 5.9.1.2.2 Acting in terms of this Constitution and the Procedures enacted by the UCCSA from time to time;
- 5.9.1.2.3 Co-ordinating the settlement of ministers in local churches in consultation with the Regional Councils concerned;
- 5.9.1.2.4 Co-ordinating the placing of seconded staff in consultation with the relevant structures concerned.
- 5.9.1.3 **The Training for Ministry Committee:**
Synod appoints a *Training for Ministry Committee*, consisting of the Synod Secretary, the Synod TMC Director, Regional Directors, and three other members as the Synod may decide.
- 5.9.1.4 The functions of the Training for Ministry Committee are:
- 5.9.1.4.1 To exercise general oversight of the Church's training for the ministry in the Synod;
- 5.9.1.4.2 To process applications for the ministry in terms of the relevant UCCSA Procedures and to make appropriate recommendations to the Synod Ministerial Committee and the Synodical Committee;
- 5.9.1.4.3 To direct and arrange for supervision of accepted candidates for the Ministry in the Synod;
- 5.9.1.4.4 To implement the approved policies of the UCCSA in regard to theological training, internship and post-ordination studies and training;
- 5.9.1.4.5 To make an assessment of the internship of ministerial interns in the Synod on the authorisation of the UCCSA Assembly and make the appropriate recommendations to the Synodical Committee;
- 5.9.1.4.6 To attend to administrative matters pertaining to the Synod Ministerial Committee which in the opinion of the Synod Secretary should not be held over until the next meeting of the Synod Ministerial Committee? All such decisions taken are reported to the next meeting of the Synod Ministerial Committee for ratification.
- 5.9.2 The Finance Committee**

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- 5.9.2.1 The Committee consists of the Officers of the Synod, the Chairperson of the Synod Investments Committee and one representative from each Regional Council within the Synod. The Committee elects a Chairperson from among its members.
- 5.9.2.2 Among the duties of the Finance Committee are:
- 5.9.2.2.1 raising and administering funds for the work of the Synod;
- 5.9.2.2.2 reviewing the minimum stipends of ministers from time to time;
- 5.9.2.2.3 preparing long-range goals for the Synod's consideration and approval;
- 5.9.2.2.4 ensuring that the financial records of the Synod are in good order and in accordance with the financial measures set by the UCCSA;
- 5.9.2.2.5 submitting financial records of the Synod for audit by a registered accountant or auditor and presenting the report with recommendations to the Synod and its Synodical Committee
- 5.9.2.3 The Investments Committee
- 5.9.2.3.1 The Investments Committee consists of the Officers of the Synod and three persons appointed by the Synod on the basis of their expertise. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Synod every second year.
- 5.9.2.3.2 The functions of the Investments Committee include:
- 5.9.2.3.2.1 investing the funds of the Synod in the name of Synod;
- 5.9.2.3.2.2 authorising property transactions where properties are vested in the name of the Synod and making appropriate recommendations to the UCCSA Investments Committee in regard to properties vested in the name of the UCCSA or its predecessors where such property is situated within the Synod;
- 5.9.2.3.2.3 administering the financial affairs of the Synod in between meetings of the Synod Finance Committee in accordance with the policy approved by the UCCSA Assembly or its Executive Committee. All such decisions taken are reported to the next meeting of the Finance Committee for ratification.
- 5.9.2.3.2.4 seeking and acting in its discretion upon the written advice of the appropriate departments of recognised and reputable financial institutions in relation to the investments of funds of the Synod.
- 5.9.2.3.2.5 at its discretion, retaining shares donated or bequeathed to the Synod in the absence of any provision to the contrary in terms of such donation or bequests
- 5.9.2.3.2.6 using in accordance with the provisions of the respective Trust Deeds or as authorised by the Synodical Committee, all income accruing from investments.
- 5.9.3 **The Mission Council**
- 5.9.3.1 The Mission Council consists of the Convenor, appointed by the Synod every second year and the Convenors of the Commissions on Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, the units on Music Development, Justice and Social Responsibility, Education in Mission, Stewardship and Church Growth, Communication, Worship and Liturgy, Leadership and Resource Development.
- 5.9.3.2 Among the duties of the Mission Council are:
- developing and creating a mission consciousness at all levels within the Synod
 - co-ordinating the work of the Mission Council in the Regions within the Synod.
- 5.10 **Other Committees**
- The Synod appoints such other Committees as may be necessary to fulfil its objects and functions.

5.11 Meetings

5.11.1 The Synod holds its Synodical Conference as it determines from time to time.

5.11.2 Other meetings are held as the Synod determines from time to time.

5.12 Quorum

5.12.1 The quorum for a meeting of the Synod is one-third of its members.

5.12.2 In the event a quorum not being attained the meeting is postponed for three months and the members present at the postponed meeting shall be competent to administer the business before it.

5.13 Synod Constitution

5.13.1 A Synod may insert in its constitution additional provisions as may be necessary in the light of local conditions. All such provisions are subject to the approval of the Assembly.

5.13.2 A notice of motion to amend the constitution of the Synod may be submitted by a Regional Council or by the Synodical Committee of the Synod.

5.13.3 Such notice must reach the secretary of the Synod in writing at least six (6) months before the date of the Conference of the Synod.

5.13.4 All notices of motion to amend the constitution are to be referred to local churches and Regional Councils within the bounds of the Synod at least 4 months prior to the Conference of the Synod.

5.13.5 A two-thirds majority vote of members at the Conference is required to amend the Constitution. Such amendments are also subject to the approval of the Assembly.

6. THE ASSEMBLY

6.1 The Assembly is the governing body of the Church and its highest court.

6.1.1 The Assembly meets as it enacts from time to time.

6.2 Membership

The members of the Assembly are as follows:

6.2.1 The President, President-Elect, General Secretary, and Treasurer of the Church, the officers of each Synod, Assembly Committee convenors and members of the Executive Committee of the Church.

6.2.2 Ministers appointed by the Synod equal to one-third of the number of ministers residing within the bounds of the Synod.

6.2.3 Lay delegates appointed by Synods on the basis of a minimum of six lay delegates from each Synod plus one additional lay delegate for each two thousand members, or part thereof, above twelve thousand members in that Synod.

6.2.4 Co-opted members.

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- 6.3** **The Officers of the Assembly are:**
The most recent past-President at Assembly, acts as electoral officer for the election of the Officers of the Assembly.
- 6.3.1** **The President:**
The President is nominated by a Synod and elected by a majority of more than 50% of those eligible to vote at an Assembly
- 6.3.1.1 Synods are entitled to nominate any member of the Church. The President holds office for a period of two years and is not eligible for immediate re-election.
- 6.3.1.2 The President presides over Assembly and the Meetings of the Executive Committee and performs such other functions as Assembly may determine from time to time.
- 6.3.1.3 The most recent Past-President acts as Chairperson in the absence of the President at his/her request or in the event that the President is unable to carry out his/her duties.
- 6.3.2** **The President-Elect**
The President-Elect is nominated by a Synod and elected by a majority of more than 50% of those eligible to vote at an Assembly.
- 6.3.2.1 Synods are entitled to nominate any member of the Church. The President-Elect holds office for a period of two years and assumes the office of the President when the term of office of the President expires.
- 6.3.3** **The General Secretary**
The General Secretary is nominated by a Synod and elected by a two-thirds majority of those eligible to vote at an Assembly. This is a full-time salaried position.
- 6.3.3.1 The General Secretary is elected and appointed for a period of four years and is eligible for nomination for a further term. The General Secretary is elected in terms of the provisions of Procedure 17.
- 6.3.3.2 The General Secretary has general oversight of the Church and exercises that oversight in a ministerial and not a magisterial manner.
- 6.3.3.3 The General Secretary has the right of access to local churches, Regional Councils and Synods, which are required to receive the General Secretary.
- 6.3.3.4 The General Secretary acts as Secretary and Convenor of the Assembly, Assembly Ministerial Committee and the Training for Ministry Committee. The General Secretary acts as Secretary and Convenor of such other departments and/or Committees as the Assembly from time to time determines, and is a member ex-officio of all Departments and Committees of the Church.
- 6.3.3.5 The General Secretary is responsible for ecumenical relations and represents the Church on major ecumenical bodies and Committees in consultation with the respective Synods.
- 6.3.3.6 The General Secretary, in consultation with the Officers, is authorised to make statements on behalf of the Church when called upon to do so.
- 6.3.3.7 The General Secretary performs such other duties as the Assembly or Executive Committee may determine from time to time.

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- 6.3.3.8 The General Secretary inducts the new President at the Assembly in the absence of the incumbent President.
- 6.3.4 The Treasurer:**
The Treasurer is nominated by a Synod and elected by a two-thirds majority of those eligible to vote at an Assembly.
- 6.3.4.1 The Treasurer is elected for 2 years and is eligible for re-election. Thereafter, he is not eligible for immediate re-election.
- 6.3.4.2 The Treasurer is responsible for the general care and supervision of the finances of the Church and present audited Balance Sheets, Income, and Expenditure Accounts to the Assembly and its Executive Committee.
- 6.3.5 The Officers of the Assembly are ex-officio members of all Committees.
- 6.3.6 The Assembly has the right at any time to depose an officer of Assembly when such officer brings the Assembly and/or the Church in disrepute, in terms of the accepted procedures of the church.
- 6.4 Power and Duties of the Assembly:**
Among the powers and duties of the Assembly are:
- 6.4.1 To fulfil the powers and duties vested in it by this Constitution. It has the right to refer specific matters to Regional Councils, Synods, Committees, or local churches for consideration or action.
- 6.4.2 To elect Standing Committees and other committees to carry out its work in various areas of its concerns. It periodically receives and reviews reports of the work of its various committees and provides funds for them where necessary.
- 6.4.3 To act, through its Executive Committee, Ministerial Committee, Finance Committee, Mission Council and other committees on matters initiated by itself or referred to it by Synods.
- 6.4.4 To note the settlement of ministers planned by Synods, and is responsible for the acceptance of candidates for the Ministry and for their training, and to grant licences to administer the sacraments on the recommendation of the Assembly Ministerial Committee.
- 6.4.5 To co-ordinate the work of the Synods.
- 6.4.6 To give counsel and to adjudicate in matters concerning more than one Synod. Such decisions are final and binding.
- 6.4.7 To arrange in consultation with Synods for the appointment and placement of seconded staff from overseas.
- 6.4.8 To act as Field Authority of the Common Global Ministries and the Council for World Mission in all matters concerning the Church and its personnel seconded by these Bodies.
- 6.4.9 To encourage co-operation and conversations with other communions of the Christian Church and to enter into negotiations with them with a view to organic union.

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- 6.4.10 To admit a denomination or group of Churches or any individual congregation into membership of the Church.
- 6.4.11 To unite with other Churches upon the approval of the Scheme of Union by all Synods, and upon a three-quarters majority of those present and entitled to vote at the Assembly.
- 6.4.12 To engage in the task of evangelism within Southern Africa and to encourage the participation of the Church in the worldwide task of evangelism through the provision of personnel and funds.
- 6.4.13 To approve constitutions of local churches and to admit congregations to constituent status on the recommendation of the Synod concerned.
- 6.5 The Assembly has extraordinary powers to deal with and dispose of any matter which may arise and for which no provision exists in this Constitution or the Procedures, provided a three-quarters majority vote by ballot of those present and entitled to vote at the Assembly, is obtained in favour of extraordinary powers being assumed.
- 6.6 The Assembly may only act in terms of 6.5 above in exceptional circumstances which render such action imperative.
- 6.7 **Quorum**
A quorum for a regular meeting of the Assembly is two-thirds of the members.
- 6.8 Executive Committee**
- 6.8.1 The Executive Committee is representative of the Assembly and the Synods. It transacts the business of the Assembly and fulfils the objects and functions of Assembly when the Assembly is not in session, and fulfils such other objects and duties as are allocated to it by this Constitution and Assembly.
- 6.8.1.1 The Executive Committee is constituted of the following:
- 6.8.1.1.1 The officers of the Assembly
- 6.8.1.1.2 The Immediate Past President
- 6.8.1.1.3 The Director of the Assembly Training for Ministry Committee
- 6.8.1.1.4 The Convenor of the Assembly Mission Council
- 6.8.1.1.5 The Chairperson of the Investments Committee
- 6.8.1.1.6 5 Representatives from each Synod.
- 6.8.1.1.7 The Assembly Convenors of the Recognised Ministries.
- 6.8.1.1.8 The Media Officer
- 6.8.1.1.9 Assembly or Executive shall from time to time review the membership of the Executive Committee in order to affect balances; taking into consideration gender, age and people with disabilities.**
- 6.8.1.2 The President of the Assembly and the General Secretary are the Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Executive Committee.
- 6.8.1.3 The officers of the Assembly are authorised to deal with any matter which in the opinion of the President and the General Secretary should not be held over until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

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- 6.8.1.4 This action can be undertaken only after consultation with the Chairperson and Secretary of each Synod has taken place. Any action taken by the Officers of the Assembly under this section of the Constitution is reported to the next meeting of the Executive Committee for confirmation.
- 6.9 Standing Committees**
The Assembly appoints the following Standing Committees, which consist of as many members as the Assembly determines from time to time:
- 6.9.1 The Assembly Ministerial Committee:**
The Assembly Ministerial Committee nominated by the Executive Committee. This committee consists of the Officers of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Assembly Training for Ministry Committee and two representatives from each Synod. The committee deals with all matters concerning the Ministry, training of ministers, credentials, settlements, discipline, initiated by itself or referred to it by Synods or the Assembly, to act in terms of this Constitution and the Procedures enacted by the Church from time to time. It notes co-ordinates the settlement of ministers in local churches by the Synod and Regional Councils concerned. It is also responsible for co-ordinating the placing of seconded staff. The Chairperson of the Assembly Ministerial Committee is elected at each meeting of the Assembly Ministerial Committee for the duration of the meeting.
- 6.9.1.1 The Assembly appoints a *Training for Ministry Committee*, consisting of the General Secretary of the Church and the Synod Directors of the respective Synod Training for Ministry Committees. The ATMC is accountable to the Assembly Ministerial Committee. The Chairperson of the Assembly Training for Ministry Committee is appointed by Assembly.
- 6.9.1.2 The functions of the Assembly Training for Ministry Committee are:
- 6.9.1.2.1 to exercise general oversight of the Church = s training for the Ministry;
- 6.9.1.2.2 to process all applications for the ministry in terms of Procedure 1;
- 6.9.1.2.3 to direct and supervise all accepted candidates for the Ministry;
- 6.9.1.2.4 to ensure the implementation of the approved policies of the Church in regard to theological training, internship and post-ordination studies;
- 6.9.1.2.5 to make the final assessment of the internship of each ministerial intern on the authorization of the Assembly;
- 6.9.1.2.6 to attend to such administrative matters pertaining to the Assembly Ministerial Committee, which in the opinion of the Officers of Assembly should not be held over until the next meeting of the Assembly Ministerial Committee. All such decisions taken are reported to the next meeting of the Assembly Ministerial Committee for ratification.
- 6.9.2 The Assembly Finance Committee**
The Assembly Finance Committee nominated by the Executive Committee. The Committee consists of the Officers of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Assembly Investments Committee and one representative from each Synod. The Chairperson of the Assembly Finance Committee is appointed by the meeting for the duration of the meeting.
- 6.9.2.1 Among the duties of the Finance Committee are:
- 6.9.2.1.1 raising and administering funds for the work of the Church;
- 6.9.2.1.2 reviewing the minimum stipends of ministers from time to time;
- 6.9.2.1.3 preparing long-range goals for the Church for the Assembly's consideration and approval;
- 6.9.2.1.4 ensuring that the financial records of the Church are in good order and in accordance with the financial measures set by the UCCSA;

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- 6.9.2.1.5 to deal with recommendations from the Investments Committee;
 - 6.9.2.1.6 submitting financial records of the Church for audit by a registered accountant or auditor and presenting the report with recommendations to the Assembly and its Executive Committee

 - 6.9.2.2 The *Investments Committee* consists of the Officers of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Investments Committee, one representative per Synod and persons appointed by the Assembly on the basis of their expertise. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Assembly every second year.

 - 6.9.2.3 The functions of the Investments Committee include:
 - 6.9.2.3.1 investing the funds of the Church in the name of the UCCSA;
 - 6.9.2.3.2 authorising property transactions where properties are vested in the name of the Church and making appropriate recommendations to the Assembly Finance Committee in regard to properties vested in the name of the UCCSA or its predecessors;
 - 6.9.2.3.3 administering the financial affairs of the Church in between meetings of the Assembly Finance Committee in accordance with the policy approved by the Assembly or its Executive Committee. All such decisions taken are reported to the next meeting of the Finance Committee for ratification.
 - 6.9.2.3.4 seeking and acting in its discretion upon the written advice of the appropriate departments of recognised and reputable financial institutions in relation to the investments of funds of the Church.
 - 6.9.2.3.5 at its discretion, retaining shares donated or bequeathed to the Church in the absence of any provision to the contrary in terms of such donation or bequests
 - 6.9.2.3.6 using in accordance with the provisions of the respective Trust Deeds or as authorised by the Executive Committee, all income accruing from investments.
 - 6.9.2.3.7 Making recommendations in respect of all matters mentioned above to the Assembly Finance Committee.

6.9.3 The Assembly Mission Council:

- The Assembly Mission Council consists of the Officers of the Assembly, the Convenor, elected by the Assembly every second year, the Convenors of every Synod Mission Council, the Mission Council Convenors of the recognized ministries. Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries. The Assembly Mission Council may co-opt, in consultation with the General Secretary, the Convenors of different units.
- 6.9.3.1 Among the duties of the Assembly Mission Council are:
 - 6.9.3.1.1 Encouraging a mission consciousness at all levels within the Church.
 - 6.9.3.1.2 Co-ordinating the work of the Mission Councils in the Synods within the Church.
 - 6.9.3.1.3 To ensure that units become a resource tool for the Church's ministry.
 - 6.10 The Assembly may appoint other committees, as it may deem necessary in order to carry out its aims and objects. Such committees consist of as many members as the Assembly determines from time to time.

7. THE MINISTRY

- 7.1 Candidates for the Ministry require the recommendation of their local church and of the Regional Council and Synod of which that church is a member. The Assembly Ministerial Committee recommends approved candidates to the Assembly or its Executive Committee for acceptance. The Synods are responsible for the training and pastoral oversight of candidates and students for the Ministry.

- 7.2 The Assembly Ministerial Committee determines the training of candidates for the Ministry.

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- 7.3 Candidates for the Ministry are under the control of the Assembly Ministerial Committee during the entire period of their training, except that in certain agreed matters, a Synod may have control of candidates within its bounds, in terms of 5.7.15 of this Constitution.
- 7.4 The ordination of candidates for the Ministry only takes place as authorised by the Assembly or its Executive
- 7.5 All ministers fall under the general care of the Assembly Ministerial Committee and hold their accreditation in terms of the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Constitution.
- 7.6 Ministers of the CUC-related Churches may be accepted as Ministers of the UCCSA on the recommendation of the Assembly Ministerial Committee. Ministers of other denominations may be accepted in terms of Procedure 5.
- 7.7 Two systems of settlement are provided for in the Church. These are:
- 7.7.1 The system of Call whereby constituent local churches elect to call their own minister.
- 7.7.2 The system of Placement of ministers by a Ministerial Committee at Regional Council, Synod or Assembly level.
- 7.7.3 Where candidates have completed their internship satisfactorily but do not receive a call or placement, the Regional/Synodical Ministerial Committee in consultation with the Assembly Ministerial Committee may ordain such a candidate to an approved specialized ministry.**
- 7.8 A minister resigning from the Ministry of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa for any reason whatsoever is deemed, ipso facto, to have resigned from the pastoral charge of the local church in which he was serving at the time of his resignation from the Ministry of the Church. The local church concerned is declared vacant and the Regional Council appoints an Acting Minister.
- 7.9 Ministers who have been seconded from overseas, who have been placed by Regional Councils or Synods, are not permitted to accept a call to a local church except by mutual goodwill and agreement between the sending body and the UCCSA.
- 7.10 A layperson may administer the Sacraments only by licence of Assembly or its Executive Committee on the recommendation of a Regional Council or Synod or Assembly Ministerial Committee.
- 8. ROLL OF ORDAINED AND ACCREDITED MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENTS**
- 8.1 The names of all ordained and accredited ministers of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa are recorded in the *ROLL OF ORDAINED AND ACCREDITED MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENTS* (hereinafter referred to as the Roll of Ministers).
- 8.2 Admission to the Roll of Ministers is by resolution of Assembly on the basis of any one of the following:
- 8.2.1 Ordination to the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments on the authority of the Assembly;
- 8.2.2 Secondment by an overseas Church or Mission Board;
- 8.2.3 The Mutual Recognition of Ministries;
- 8.2.4 The acceptance of credentials of ministers from other Churches in terms of Procedure 5.

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- 8.3 The Roll of Ministers distinguishes between the Categories of Ministry currently recognised by the Church. One of the symbols appearing hereunder is placed after the name of every minister admitted to the Roll of Ministers to denote the category in which such minister is placed:
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| F | Full time minister |
| SEC | Seconded minister |
| SUP | Self-supporting minister |
| O | Out-of-charge |
| E | Minister Emeritus |
- 8.4 A full-time minister is a minister who is engaged solely in the full-time service of the Church. A full-time minister may undertake other remunerative employment only if the requirements of Procedure 4.4.7.8 have been fulfilled.
- 8.5 A seconded minister is a minister who is engaged in another form of Christian service with the consent of the Assembly Ministerial Committee. The procedure for the appointment of seconded ministers is set out in Procedure 6.6.
- 8.6 A self-supporting minister is a minister engaged in full-time secular employment who has been appointed to a specific form of ministry by a Regional Council or Synod for a period of one year.
- 8.7 A minister out-of-charge is a minister temporarily without a pastoral appointment or some other form of service in the Church and who is actively seeking a pastorate or a Church appointment. Where a Minister has remained out of charge for a period of five (5) years, and has declined calls or placements or has not actively sought a placement or call, his/her name shall be removed from the Roll of Ministers. This will be done with the understanding that he/she had no interest in serving in the UCCSA Ministry. Should the minister = s intention change, however, he/she may apply for reinstatement in the manner prescribed in **Procedure 8: Re-instatement of Ministers**.
- 8.8 When the occasion arises that a minister has resigned his/her charge for any reason other than the acceptance of a call or placement to another church, or to work in a position to which he/she has been seconded, and remains on the Roll of Ministers of the UCCSA, the responsibility for the oversight and discipline that minister shall shift directly to the Assembly Ministerial Committee. The AMC shall be free to request the cooperation of any Regional/Synodical Moderator or Ministerial Committee in exercising that oversight or discipline, in order that their ministry may be carried out efficiently and timeously.
- 8.9 A minister emeritus is a minister who has retired from the active service of the Church and who retains full accreditation on the Roll of Ministers for life. Such minister may not assume any other category of ministry.
- 8.10 The Assembly Ministerial Committee is responsible for the annual revision of the Roll of Ministers and prepares appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee at its pre-Assembly meeting. Synodical Ministerial Committees therefore furnish the Assembly Ministerial Committee with recommendations relating to Secondment, Self-supporting ministers, ministers who have reached pensionable age and other reclassification
- 8.11 A minister formally retires at the age of 65 years but may continue in active service provided:
- 8.11.1 In the event of a minister serving a local church the provisions of Procedure 4.4.7.8 are fulfilled. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present and entitled to vote at a special meeting of the local church called for that purpose is required for a decision on the extension of service.

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- Thereafter the minister = s call or appointment is reviewed every two years provided that such re-appointment does not proceed beyond age 70.
- 8.11.2 In the event of service in any other appointment the Assembly Ministerial Committee assesses the efficacy of the mode of ministry of such appointment each year and decides accordingly on the recommendation of the Ministerial Committee of the Synod.
- 8.11.3 A minister may apply for early retirement from the age of 60, provided the application is properly motivated and supported by the relevant Regional Council and Synod. A minister who opts for early retirement may not continue in full-time service beyond the date of his/her retirement.
- 8.12 The deletion of names from the Roll of Ministers is by decision of the Assembly on the recommendation of the Assembly Ministerial Committee.
- 8.13 A minister who accepts office in a political party or is elected or appointed to public and representative office at local, regional or national level shall resign his/her pastoral charge or full-time church position at Regional, Synodical or Denominational level at the time of such acceptance or election or appointment.
- 8.14 **College of Moderators**
- 8.14.1 The College of Moderators consists of the Regional and Synod Moderators of the Church. The General Secretary is the convenor of the College. The College considers matters affecting:
- 8.14.1.1 The ministerial personnel of the church
- 8.14.1.2 Pastoral oversight of local churches
- 8.14.1.3 Matters referred to it by the Church

9. FINANCE, TRUST AND PROPERTIES

9.1 Finance

The Assembly or its Executive Committee has the power to administer the financial affairs of the Church in such a manner as may be deemed best for the furtherance of the work and witness of the Church. Such powers include the following:

- 9.1.1 to acquire and dispose of property, fixed or otherwise;
- 9.1.2 to raise or borrow funds on such terms as may be expedient at the time;
- 9.1.3 to employ such full-time personnel as may be necessary for the work of the Church.

9.2 Trust Funds and Investments

- 9.2.1 The Church may establish such Trust Funds as may be necessary for the furtherance of its work. Trust Funds for special purposes which were in existence at the time of union are administered by the Executive Committee in terms of the Provisions of the respective trust.
- 9.2.2 With the exception of such provident funds as are administered in terms of the Pension Fund Act of 1965 all trusts and general funds as may be available for investment are invested by an Investments Committee.
- 9.2.3 Unless the terms of the Trust Deed of any fund provides otherwise, the Investments Committee invests funds as determined after consultation with the Assembly Finance Committee.
- 9.2.4 The Investments Committee is empowered at its discretion to seek and act upon the written advice of the appropriate departments of recognised and reputable financial institutions in relation to the investments of funds of the Church in registered unit trusts or other forms of managed funds.

9.2.5 The Investments Committee is authorised in its discretion, to retain shares donated or bequeathed to the Church in the absence of any provision to the contrary in terms of such donation or bequest.

9.2.6 All income accruing from investments is used in accordance with the provisions of the respective Trust Deeds or as authorised by the Executive Committee.

9.3 Properties:

9.3.1 All Title Deeds, Deeds of Hypothecation, Leases and similar documents in respect of immovable property belonging to the Church shall vest in the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa.

9.3.2 The Assembly or the Executive Committee has the authority to exercise in the name and on behalf of the Church the legal powers vested in the Church in terms of Chapter 2.2 of this Constitution. Any one of the bodies mentioned above may by resolution appoint the President and General Secretary of the appropriate body to sign any powers of attorney, contracts, deeds and other documents which may be required to give effect to any specific transactions which any one of the aforementioned bodies may have decided upon. Where cancellation of a Mortgage Bond by a Mortgagor in favour of the Church is desired and repayment of the capital has either been made or is guaranteed to be made against registration of cancellation in the Deeds Office, the documents are signed by the President and the General Secretary for the time being of the appropriate Committee without a prior resolution by any of the aforementioned bodies.

9.3.3 In cases where immovable property belonging to a local church has been registered in the name of the official Trustees of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa or in the name of the official Trustees of the Church together with the Trustees of a local church, any one of the Assembly or the Executive Committee upon proper authorization of the local church concerned shall authorise the President and General Secretary of the appropriate body to sign any powers of attorney, contracts, deeds and other documents which may be required to give effect to any competent transaction which the local church concerned has decided upon.

9.3.4 The Official Trustees of the Church are the President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Church for the time being. The Official Trustees only act on the instruction of the Assembly or the Executive Committee.

10. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Church Discipline is exercised in terms of this Constitution and/or Procedure 13, Procedure 14, Procedure 15 and/or any other Procedure, which the Church from time to time enacts.

11. DISSOCIATION OR SEVERANCE OF A LOCAL CHURCH

A local church may effect dissociation or severance from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa only in terms of the accepted procedures of the Church.

12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution is only amended by the Assembly. Synods or the Executive Committee may submit notices of Motion to amend the Constitution. Such Notices of Motion are to reach the General Secretary of the Church in writing not less than six months prior to the next meeting of the Assembly. The General Secretary gives not less than four months notice in writing of such amendments to all Synods. A two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at the Assembly is required to amend the Constitution.

This Constitution was adopted at the Assembly at

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UCCSA PRESIDENT

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UCCSA GENERAL SECRETARY

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Date

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