

# BOOK OF ORDER

## DISCIPLINE AND RITUALS



2007

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**BOOK OF ORDER**  
**DISCIPLINE AND RITUALS**  
**OF**  
**TRUE HOLINESS**  
**ASSEMBLIES OF TRUTH**  
**UNITED INTERNATIONAL INC**

**FOURTH EDITION**

Published by  
**True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc**  
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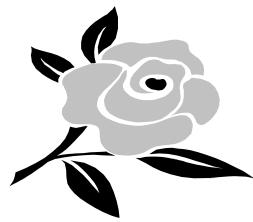
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**Code of Doctrine and Discipline**

This code of doctrine and discipline used for the congregations and affiliates of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International is entitled The Book of Order of Discipline and Rituals. This book is made available to all members of our congregations to promote unity of the faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to guide all in the doctrine and practice of the faith that was delivered to the first apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. (St. John 17:20 and I John 1:1-5.)



**IN MEMORY OF**  
**BISHOP EDDITA D. TOLBER**  
**1915-1992**

**A PIONEER OF HER TIME  
WHO DARED TO FOLLOW GOD, DESPITE HUMAN OPPOSITION**

She taught us to base our convictions, customs, and traditions on the word of God. She also taught us to acknowledge the changes within the dispensations...not to become unyielding traditionalists. Therefore, this tribute acknowledges this vessel that God appointed and ordained to oversee the gospel ministry. She taught us to walk in the light of God's word as it is revealed to us.

By our tradition we [can] fail because we have an infinitesimal understanding of the dichotomy between the spiritual and physical realities of human existence, and like Nicodemus, we must be told over and over again, "That which is flesh is flesh, and that which is spirit is spirit."

By Your Traditions  
Arthur D. Griffin, Th.D, D.D.

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## NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR THE LORD

by Elder Irene Phillips

As I looked at my surroundings  
And all was ere before,  
I thought in utter amazement,  
There's nothing too hard for the Lord!

I looked at all the work he's done  
And all his hands had formed,  
I stood and thought as I looked around,  
There's nothing too hard for the Lord.

You spoke and the heavens parted,  
The night separated from day.  
You waved your hand and formed dry land  
And you made man after your way.

And now, Lord, in this hour  
We see you opening doors,  
Your mighty powers revealed displays,  
There's nothing too hard for the Lord!

### *REHOBOTH*

For now the Lord has made room for us... (Genesis 26:22)

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## PREFACE

This Book of Order of Discipline and Rituals is a guide for the corporate administration and national ministries of the united congregations of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, which are named True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly. This guide is intended to give Bible information to guide the congregations in the doctrine and practice of the teachings that Jesus Christ taught the early church apostles, as commanded by the scripture in St.John 17:20 and 1st John 1:1-5.

We, therefore, publish this declaration to help you understand your organization and the biblical truths on which it was founded. We recommend that all members obtain a copy of this book.

The word of God teaches that we should go on into perfection, and we must advance with the light of God's word. Therefore, we cannot follow in the path of mere tradition and advance toward perfection (Philippians 3:12-15; Hebrews 6:1). To reach perfection we must follow the Apostles' teaching in the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:1; St. John 10:11), as Jesus Christ has commanded His church to do (John 17:20).

Throughout this book, you will find Bible references to support our customs, traditions, and biblical positions. We did this because we did not want you to worship God ignorantly, and to demonstrate to you that we do not teach for doctrine unholy commandments (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:9).

This Book of Order of Discipline and Rituals is a vehicle that will promote unity of the faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16). As the light of God's Word comes from time to time this Order of Discipline and Rituals will be revised. God's Word admonishes his people to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord (Ephesians 2:21; 4:15; 1<sup>ST</sup> Peter 2:2; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:18). And this is what we intend to do, until the Lord returns.

We trust that every saint will be humble in heart, obedient to God's Word as it is delivered to the church, through its leaders of this United Church.

Your Humble Servants,

The Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc

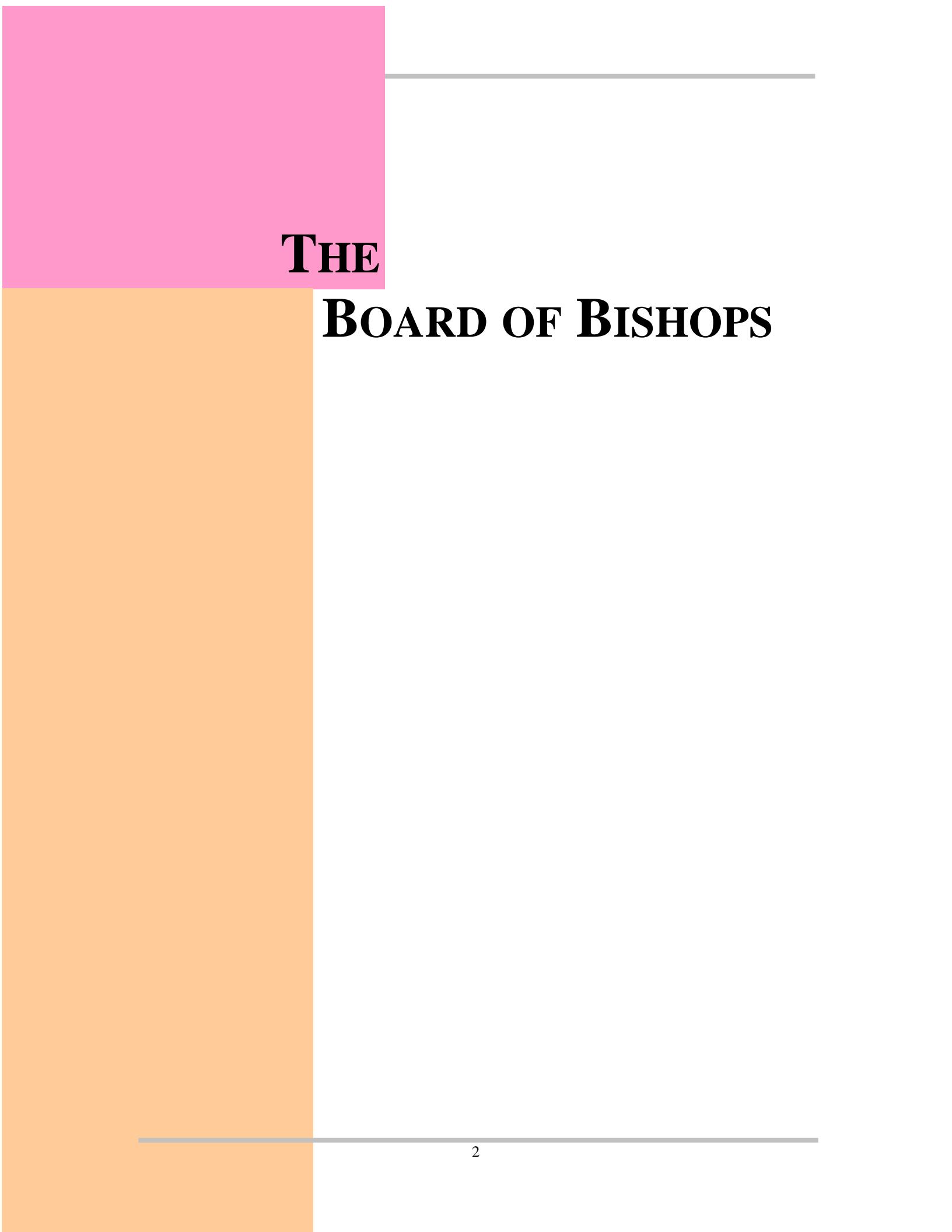
*Presiding Bishop Dr.Pamela A. Smith, President and CEO*

*Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith*

*Bishop Lolan H. Ray,*

*Bishop Robert G. Miller, 1st Vice President*

*Associate Bishop Dr. Alvin L. Rozier*



# THE BOARD OF BISHOPS

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## Presiding Bishop Pamela A. Smith

Bishop Dr. Pamela A. Smith is the Presiding Bishop of THAT United International. 8 churches in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Florida, Delaware are currently members of this organization. The vision that she shares with these united churches is to establish a righteous representation within their surrounding communities by promoting education, healthcare, childcare, and leadership development.

Presiding Bishop Smith was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1951 and was reared in a Spirit-filled home. At the age of nine, she received the Holy Ghost. In 1975, she acknowledged her call to the gospel ministry.

Her parents (the late Bishops Lewis and Eddita D. Tolber) founded the True Holiness Church of God in Lincoln Heights, Ohio in 1966. Through her mother's administration and outreach ministry, which was based in Silverton, Ohio, the organization has grown tremendously. After her mother's death in 1992, the Board of Bishops consecrated her as the Presiding Bishop.

In 1987, while still a member at the Silverton congregation, she established True Holiness Church of God (now named True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly) in Loveland, Ohio. She is currently the senior pastor and is assisted by two co-pastors, who she leaves in charge, when she makes her official tours throughout the church body. Her congregation has developed a nursing home ministry, homeless shelter ministry, street ministry, and small group Bible teaching ministry in the communities.

As a leader in education, Bishop Smith has earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at The Union Institute and University, a Master's degree in Human Resources Development at Antioch University McGregor, and Doctorates of Divinity and Theology at International Apostolic University of Grace and Truth. Her zeal for excellence motivated many members in the united churches to also return to school to become teachers, entrepreneurs, computer specialists, nurses, lawyers, etc., so that they can participate in the vision that God gave the churches.

In 2004, the Loveland congregation purchased a 16, 000 sq. ft. building in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the Walnut Hills community. This facility will also be the headquarters for THAT United Corporate Administration and United Ministries.

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## Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith

Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith was born November 29, 1953. On one occasion, when he was a child, he asked his mother (who took him regularly to church to worship) "Is Jesus God?" She replied, "Yes, son, Jesus is God." When he was very young, God began to stir in Bishop Smith to seek out who he is.

After being filled with the Holy Ghost in March 15, 1976, it was prophesied to him that he was called to be a prophet, while in his mother's womb. His mother was also a prophet. Three months after that prophecy, he was called into the ministry.

Bishop Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, with a minor in Sociology, from Wilberforce University. He had extensive training in counseling, while working in a hospital, at a youth detention center in Dayton, Ohio and in the Seven Hills Family Services agency in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He was a diligent worker in the church and was active in many groups, such as the trustee board, usher board, nurses guild, director of the Pastor's Chorus, vice president of the Minister's Staff, founder of Young People's Service Night, which later evolved into an academic organization. He is also a faculty member of the Leadership Development Institute in the Department of Pastoral Leadership.

He is the founder and head director of THAT United Mass Choir in 2003. He leads this outreach ministry in composing and arranging its own songs.

He has also served as the Presiding Elder, Jr. Pastor under Bishop Eddita Tolber, his pastor's revival staff, Sr. Pastor of the Silverton and Evansville, Indiana churches. In 1995, he received the appointment to the office of Suffragan Bishop.

Bishop Smith is also the founder of a congregation in Evansville, Indiana. During the first three years, the church hosted THAT United District Office of Evansville and purchased a worship facility, which seats 150 people.

As bishop and pastor, he developed the Harvest Ministry, which includes preaching and teaching to incarcerated women and men in Cincinnati. His evangelists and elders also conducts a nursing home ministry.

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## Bishop Lolan H. Ray

Bishop Lolan H. Ray was born on February 14, 1954 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is the only son of four children. His mother, Bishop Eddita D. Tolber, was also his pastor. In 1970, Bishop Ray committed his life and service to the Lord at the Silverton church.

From 1972 through 1980, as deacon, Bishop Ray labored faithfully in his office and was soon ordained. Displaying much wisdom in business matters, he became a chief advisor to his pastor in the construction of a new edifice for the Silverton church in 1980 through 1984. All of this came about because of the knowledge he gained from having a successful business. Knowing how to meet people and deal with them prepared him for leadership for the Lord.

In June 1985, his pastor established a church in Woodlawn, Ohio at 9909D Springfield Pike. As a deacon, Bishop Ray was among those that were led to Woodlawn to work in the north side of the city. December 27, 1986, he preached his first message and was later ordained an Elder. And later he was appointed to the work of pastor at the Woodlawn church. The church began to grow.

Bishop Ray was instrumental in purchasing the worship facility for the Woodlawn congregation. And a \$100,000 addition was built.

Bishop Ray served as the Vice President of Finance of THAT United, where he was in charge of financial forecasting, managing the organization's assets, increasing its equity, analyzing financial conditions, and minimizing financial risks.

In 2003, Bishop Ray and his wife relocated to Statesboro, Georgia. He is directing the establishment of a mission in that city.

## Bishop Robert G. Miller

Bishop Robert G. Miller was reared by parents who were successful entrepreneurs. This prepared him for church administration and finance. In 1975, He received a full scholarship to attend Xavier University of Louisiana. In May 1980, he received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in accounting and minor in business administration. In 1995, he became the first Black commercial lines underwriting manager for Cincinnati Financial Corporation.

Bishop Miller was baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire in April 1980. He left New Orleans and joined the Silverton church in Ohio. He was called to the ministry in 1984. He served for many years as assistant pastor at the Woodlawn church, under the pastorate of Elder (Bishop) Ray. Bishop Miller served there as the president of the Minister's Staff as well.

He was appointed to pastor the Northern Kentucky church on September 1995, where he continues to faithfully work today. Under his leadership and effective teaching, church members were healed of blood disease and cancer. The church's tape ministry reaches as far as Boston, Massachusetts and Alaska. A nursing home ministry has also been effective. Bishop Miller has also established a food pantry for the community and other churches in need.

He is also serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for THAT United International corporate administration.

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## Associate Bishop Dr. Alvin L. Rozier

Bishop Dr. Alvin L. Rozier is the Assistant Pastor to Suffragan Bishop Smith. He graduated from the International Apostolic College of Grace and Truth, with a Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work, from Central State University. He retired from the Princeton City School District as a school social worker, after twenty-eight years. He also served two years in the United States army.

God had also allowed Bishop Rozier to be reared in a religious family. When God called him into the family of God, many of the principles of God's love, he had already learned.

He was filled with the Holy Ghost and became a member of the Silverton church in 1986. God called him to the ministry and he was ordained an Elder in 1989. He was consecrated a Bishop in August 1996.

He also served as the National Sunday School Superintendent, senior faculty for the Parent College, and national trainer for the trustee and deacon boards.

# **HISTORY**

OF  
TRUE HOLINESS  
ASSEMBLIES OF TRUTH  
UNITED INTERNATIONAL  
INC

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## CHAPTER 1

### OUR PURPOSE

In 1966, a congregation in the Lincoln Heights suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio was devastated and its membership was scattered, because its pastor had abandoned it. Under the leadership of the late Bishop Lewis Tolber (as Elder) and the late Bishop Eddita D. Tolber (as Evangelist), they led the handful of its congregants to establish True Holiness Church of God. The Tolbers were members of and was ordained to the gospel ministry at Church of God Militant Pillar and Ground of the Truth, in Lockland, Ohio, with Bishop James Booth Burress as pastor. Under the Tolber's leadership, the True Holiness church membership rapidly increased in number and in the knowledge of the scriptures, obtained its state charter, acquired property, established an excellent reputation within Greater Cincinnati and suburbs, and many people (of various denominations) came to receive spiritual and physical salvation. Within a few years, a small association of churches grew out of this ministry. (Read founders' history)

In 1972, Bishop Eddita Tolber founded and pastored True Holiness Church of God of Silverton, Ohio (renamed True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly), which was a branch from the Lincoln Heights church. After Bishop Lewis Tolber's death in 1981, the Silverton church became headquarters for the association of churches. Throughout the following years, the number of churches increased to as many as nine, including a mission in Toledo, Ohio. Several of these churches were already established, but wanted to form an alliance with True Holiness Church of God. All of this was because of the revival ministry of Bishop Eddita D. Tolber. Prior to Bishop Lewis Tolber's home going, all but one of the churches moved to other areas of ministry. Currently, there are six congregations, which were actually birthed out of the Silverton church, from 1986 until the present time, also a mission in Nigeria, Africa and a mission in Statesboro, Georgia that began in 2003.

On November 6, 1997, these congregations made a covenant to organize and incorporate a central organization, which is named True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc. The central organization is the corporate-voice of the united churches in administration, entrepreneurial ventures, and national and international ministries. The congregations, under the leadership of their pastors, are the mission-arms of this united church, for national and international ministries.

#### Our Mission

The mission of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International is to make a positive life changing influence upon individuals and their community. This will be accomplished through preaching and teaching the Holy Scriptures, and training others to live holy living. Our efforts are based on the commission given by Jesus Christ through His Apostles. Therefore, we strongly advocate methodically designed curriculum to educate all age groups, which will result in social and spiritual change and empowerment.

#### Our Objectives

- To evangelize the world.
- To promote effective church government.
- To mobilize communities and nonprofit organizations toward social responsibility.
- To provide leadership for the special needs of the young and the aged.

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- To identify, train, and network gifted individuals in the ministry.

#### Our Strategy to Reach Our Objectives

- We are training and commissioning gifted evangelists, elders, and pastors to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people.
- We have established a ministerial leadership training and development academy for the church and community.
- We continually assess our growth and effectiveness through scheduled conventions, annual conferences, and executive and administrative reporting systems.
- We will design and establish an alternative assistant living facility for senior citizens.
- We are currently establishing a private school, grades K-12.
- We are supporting low-income families with childcare programs.

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## **CHAPTER 2**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Bylaws and Constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International specify that the office of Presiding Bishop is the highest governing appointment and will be the pastor of the whole church (the united congregations) and a teacher of this church's faith. She exercises pastoral care by giving leadership and support to the members of the Board of Bishops and Board of Elders.

The Board of Bishops is the highest governing body of the organization and constitutes the union, community, and corporate mission among all its congregations and lesser governing bodies.

Although their congregations are located in Southwestern Ohio, Northern Kentucky, Southern Indiana, Northern Delaware and Central Florida, they constitute one church that is unified for one purpose, which is to enrich their communities by modeling and teaching principles of Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church.

The congregations are the essential mission-arms of the corporate administration, as well as the corporate ministry. They are integrated into a volunteer workforce, which ensures that the projected goals are reached each fiscal year. Their particular involvement enables the united ministries' leadership and the corporate executives to effectively diagnose the organization's strengths and weaknesses, in order to resolve financial and spiritual dilemmas and to use opportunities to strengthen communication within the church community.

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## CHAPTER 3

### UNDERSTANDING OUR ORGANIZATION



It shocks most people to learn that, in the early years, the New Testament church did not have church buildings. Nothing in the Bible teaches that a church must absolutely have a building.

Church buildings are an important and convenient tradition. But the main drawback today (beside their cost!), is that people limit church growth by making their ministry “building-centered.” The building-centered philosophy limits growth of the congregation to the size of the building.

The building-centered philosophy can encourage membership to spend their time in activities behind the walls of the church building, instead of reaching out to those in need outside the church. Often we end up supporting the church buildings more than using the buildings to support people. We must keep the church Jesus-centered, and use our resources to help others, in His name.

The church must grow like the tree: the deeper and broader the roots the higher and broader it will grow. It must be rooted in Christ.

#### **CHURCH ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE PEOPLE ORIENTED!**

The organization of the united churches of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International is its people. This religious and spiritual organization is comprised of congregations of people that have an established body of officers, a purpose, and a set of regulations. However, the word of God is its primary source for direction.

#### **THAT UNITED IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

This means that, according to the Internal Revenue Service of the United States of America, this organized group is a legally constituted and nongovernmental entity that is set up to serve some charitable public purpose and is tax exempt.

Tax exemption gives the church a greater opportunity to direct its discretionary resources for charitable, educational, and public services opportunities.

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## **FURTHER EXPLANATION:**

True Holiness is not a representative of the federal, state, or city governments. However, True Holiness has a religious government, which is governed by the Presiding Bishop, Board of Bishops, and Board of Elders. This government helps us observe the rules and regulations outlined in its bylaws and constitution (Book of Order).

True Holiness presented these bylaws to a branch of the United States federal government (the IRS) and state government (the Ohio Secretary of State) and they said that this organization could be officially (legally) recognized as a nonprofit, charitable, and tax exempt entity.

## **WHY DO WE NEED ORGANIZATION FOR THE CHURCH?**

We need to organize to make sure that any business process is running smoothly, and to make sure that our goals are reached. Organization makes us *effective* and *efficient*!

Effective organization creates an atmosphere of cohesiveness and growth. Some people are misguided and uninformed about the purpose of organization for the church. They argue that any form of official government for a church is unnecessary and even dangerous to the spiritual work of the church.

However, a wise church will make sure that the structure of the organization is carefully chosen to represent what God intended for the church to accomplish.

When the Lord Jesus Christ established the early church, He taught them the necessity of order in the church. He appointed Judas Iscariot as treasurer, he taught James, John, and Peter how to establish and maintain a central organization for the local churches, and He used words that described his hierarchical position to the church (Ephesians 5:23, Hebrews 8:1)

## **THE CHURCH IS TO SERVE PEOPLE'S SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS!**

When some people come to the church, they have a history of unorganized lives. The church, as God's representation in the earth, is obligated to teach its members and the world that God is *not* the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). One way to do it is to demonstrate organization through its planning, managing, and governing.

At one point in its history, True Holiness was a loosely organized association of churches that grew in evangelistic ministry. But it lacked the ability to organize its churches to expand its ministry in education, healthcare, and major business ventures. Why?

The reason is that legally an association of churches cannot buy or sell property in that group's name, because it is not incorporated in one legal name. And the association will not be recognized for tax exemption in some states. Sometimes the larger business community will not recognize it as legitimate, if it does not have a state charter and is given nonprofit status by the federal government.

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## **HOW DID TRUE HOLINESS ADDRESS THIS ISSUE?**

On November 6, 1997, the True Holiness congregations made a covenant to organize and incorporate a central organization and to name it True Holiness Assemblies of Truth (which was later amended to True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International). It was incorporated in the state of Ohio on January 10, 1998. This central (or parent) organization is the voice of the united churches. What does that mean? It means that it unites the congregations, ministries, and subsidiaries for a more effective work. Therefore, THAT United International is a networking of congregations and ministries in several states. We are an organized group in the Body of Christ.

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## CHAPTER 4

### A BIBLICAL PRECEDENCE FOR TRADITIONS

What is tradition? Some say that traditions are good; some say that they are evil. Tradition may be defined as *the knowledge, opinions, beliefs, doctrines, customs, practices, rites, etc., handed down, or transmitted, usually by word of mouth or by example, from one generation to another.* The English word *tradition* is derived from the Latin verb *tradere*, which in turn is derived from *trans*, meaning *across*, and *dare*, meaning *to give*. In the Bible the Greek word *paradosis* is translated *tradition*. According to Strong's concordance, *paradosis* means *transmission*, and according to Young's concordance it means *a giving over, a handing down*.

True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United has traditions that are handed down to its membership by example, by word of mouth, and through this Book of Order.

The Bible illustrates the need for traditions for those who serve God. For example, Paul wrote to the church several statements about the importance of tradition:

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." **(2 Thessalonians 2:15)**

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." **(2 Thessalonians 3:6)**

As it says in 2 Thessalonians 2:15, these Traditions were taught not only by Scripture (epistle), but also by the private instruction of the Apostles (by word). Therefore, we come to the conclusion based upon the written word of God that traditions are a necessary part of transmitting the knowledge of God

#### **Why Should Christians Learn About Jewish Traditions?**

We must realize that there is a vital connection between the Church of God and Judaism. Most of what the 21<sup>st</sup> Century church does now is based on the ancient Hebrew and 1<sup>st</sup> century church religious practices. There is 2,000 years of Hebrew history, culture, language, tradition and customs that is the foundation of apostolic doctrine and practice today. Christianity is nourished from that Hebraic/Jewish root.

The Bible is a Hebraic book, telling the story of the Hebrew people. Jesus was born into a Jewish family in the Jewish village of Bethlehem in the land of Israel. His heritage was Hebraic and He kept the Law of Moses. Jesus read the Jewish scriptures, spoke Hebrew, wore Jewish clothing, ate only biblically kosher food, kept the Jewish Sabbath, celebrated the feasts, followed Jewish customs, and dwelt on earth as an observant Jew.

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## A Few of THAT United's Traditions Are Listed Below.

Right Hand of Fellowship  
Testifying in Public Assembly  
Praying During Public Services  
Opening a Service with Devotionals  
Board of Bishops  
Board of Elders  
Our Order of Worship  
Membership Regulations and Provisions  
Dedicating Children to God  
Conventions  
Convocations  
The Annual Assembly  
Wedding Ceremonies  
The Reading of the Word (Public)  
Use Musical Instruments in Worship  
Choral Music  
Congregational Music  
The First Sunday after Passover, Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection  
Celebrating the Word Made Flesh, The Savior's Birth  
Celebration of Mothers, Mother's Day  
Celebration of Fathers, Father's Day  
Sunday School  
Week Night Services  
Worship on Sunday

### **Why Does True Holiness Have Traditions?**

Biblical illustrations such as the aforementioned show that traditions have been an important part of the church for a long, long time! But what is it about traditions that make them such a powerful force in the church?

First of all, traditions create memories that last a lifetime and help to cement the church family relationship. Our Founders' Day celebration helps old and new membership to understand and remember the purpose for our church's existence. On that day, we rehearse the prophecies and events that helped to shape our particular purpose in the Body of Christ.

Secondly, traditions help us know how to do things! Think what it would be like if your Sunday services had no tradition, no pattern. Everyone in attendance would insist upon using their different ways to worship. There would be complete confusion. Therefore the visitors would not be edified either.

Thirdly, traditions help us to value the past and the present. I'm sure the boy Jesus looked forward to that trip to Jerusalem when He was twelve year old! It was an important and meaningful and joyful occasion! And years later as Jesus prepared to celebrate another Passover with His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion; He tells the disciples how much He has looked forward to celebrating Passover with them. There were, of course, some very serious things He had to talk about with them, some very sacred things as well; one of them was the institution of His holy meal. But I think Jesus also looked forward with simple joy to this family tradition of

---

Passover, to celebrating all that God had done for His people in the past, and all that He was about to do.

### **What is the Danger of Not Having Traditions?**

While the Jews were in captivity in Babylon, the understanding and use of the Hebrew language was gradually diminishing, so that many, especially of the younger people, were in danger of losing its understanding and use. After the Jews returned to their homeland, they had such problems with children of mixed marriages (Neh. 13: 24). But there were “men of understanding,” “ministers for the house of our God” (Ezra 8: 16-19), who were skilled teachers of the Law that admonished them to avoid these unholy alliances. Nehemiah reinstated a tradition that we call “The Reading of The Word.” He told Ezra to have the Law read out loud to the people, so that they would know how God required them to live. This tradition was also observed in the time of Christ on earth.

### **Paul Also Taught Against Some Types of Traditions**

Note what the Apostle Paul said in Gal. 1: 13, 14:

“For ye have heard of my conversation [conduct] in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: and profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”

Being very zealous of the traditions of his fathers, Paul placed a great deal of confidence in the flesh when he was “a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious” (1 Tim. 1: 13). He then considered himself as “the righteousness, which is in the law, blameless.” He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, a Pharisee who lived carefully after the practices of the strictest sect (Phil. 3: 5, 6). If anyone had a standing in the flesh, in religion or in the traditions of the elders, Paul could say, “I more.” Those who are zealous for their traditions are often very sincere, as Paul was. But sincerity does not make their beliefs right, nor make them God’s favorites.

### **When Should We Reject Tradition?**

When Jesus was on earth in His First Advent, the scribes and Pharisees repeatedly criticized him and His disciples because they did not follow the traditions of the elders. The scribes and Pharisees found fault, as mentioned in Mark 7: 1-5:

“Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

The scripture does not say that Jesus’ disciples ate with *dirty* hands, but merely *unwashen* hands—hands that these Jewish leaders considered as ceremonially unclean.

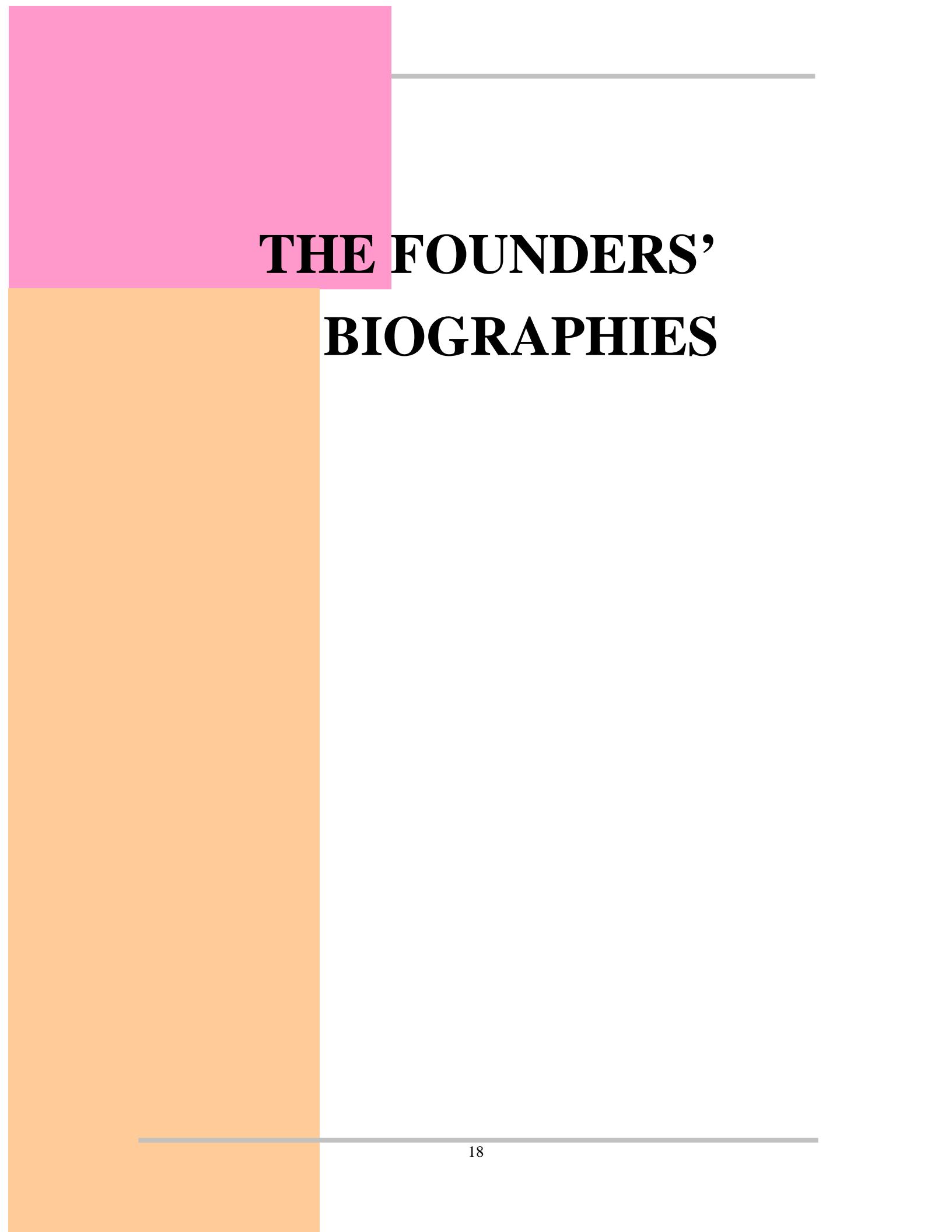
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Note also Jesus' reply (vs. 6-8; compare Matt. 15:2-9): "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do." Jesus then said, "Full well ye reject [*frustrate*, margin] the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (v. 9).

Our Lord then gave them an example of their embracing unrighteous traditions. The Mosaic Law commanded that one's father and mother be honored and that whoever spoke evil of either parent was to be put to death. But this commandment had been changed by the tradition of the elders so that anyone might be free from his obligation to his parents by consecrating himself and his substance to God and religious uses. Having done so, he according to the tradition was then free from obligations to his parents. Thus they had made God's direct commandment on this subject null and void, which they had no right to do (vs. 10-12).

Jesus then charged the scribes and Pharisees with making the word of God of none effect through "your traditions which ye have delivered" (v. 13).

If tradition does not conflict with holding to God's Word and its principles, God's people may follow traditions; but if God's Word and tradition conflict, they are to reject the tradition and continue to hold to God's Word. There is great danger in following tradition contrary to God's Word.



# **THE FOUNDERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

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## CHAPTER 4

### A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP LEWIS TOLBER, FOUNDER

#### **"IT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN, GOD WAS IN THE PLAN"** by Evangelist Edwina Robbison and Presiding Bishop P. A. Smith

Bishop Lewis Tolber received the Holy Ghost in early 1954, at the Church of God Militant Pillar and Ground of the Truth in Lockland, Ohio, which is now known as Burress Temple. He served under the pastorship of Bishop James B. Burress.

He often testified to God's goodness and mercy toward him. He made known how God delivered him from blindness as he once could not see and had to walk with a cane. Sister Beatrice Evans, a former member at the Church of God Militant Pillar and Ground of the Truth (now a member of True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Silverton, Ohio) met Brother Tolber in the early 1950's when he was a deacon in a Baptist church in Hazelwood, Ohio (now known as Blue Ash, Ohio). She remembers how he really praised God for restoring his sight.

Evangelist Pearl Davis, also a member at the Church of God Militant Pillar and Ground of the Truth (MPG of T), remembers how he was an inspiration to the young men in the church and that he always encouraged them to work for the Lord. She said, "He was a good worker and he worked well with the pastor and always supported his pastor."

While a member at Church of God MPG of T, Brother Tolber served on the usher board, sang in the choir and was treasurer of the Busy Bees (an adult men's auxiliary). He worked with these auxiliaries to raise money for the building of this church. They were worshipping in the basement and needed to add on a sanctuary. He was instrumental in this building project.

He was appointed deacon and very soon was called to the ministry. He was ordained a minister in 1958.

#### ***It didn't just happen!***

In late 1958, God sanctioned the union between Minister Tolber and Sister Eddita Tolber. They were united in Holy Matrimony. Truly there was a higher calling in store for them.

#### **SEPARATE ME BARNABUS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK WHERE UNTO I HAVE CALLED THEM. (ACTS 13:2)**

Minister Tolber along with Sister Tolber and Sister Beatrice Evans were led to form a prayer band. They visited the sick and prayed from house to house. Wherever they were led, whenever they were sent for, they went. Whatever the need, God supplied through these vessels. During this outreach ministry, Sister Evans recalls many souls were blessed, many delivered and one received the Holy Ghost. Whatever they needed God supplied.

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**FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME,  
THERE AM I IN THE MIDST OF THEM. (MATT 18:20)**

Minister Lewis Tolber transported children from Lincoln Heights, Ohio to Sunday school in Lockland, Ohio and took them back home after Sunday school.

Sister Evans remembers how he would go out on the street and witness to those who were lost in sin. The word says to “go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in.” This he did.

Their daughter, Bishop Pamela A. Smith, spoke of their works of charity: She said he and Sister Tolber bought groceries during Christmas holidays to prepare dinners for the sick and elderly. Sister Tolber cooked the meals and he delivered them. Financially and spiritually, they cheerfully gave. One of his sayings was “serving the Lord will pay off after a while.” And it did.

***Ordained Evangelist***

Minister Tolber was ordained an Evangelist by his pastor in 1961. Evangelist Tolber and Minister Eddita Tolber were sent to the Church of God in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Central Avenue, to assist the pastor, Elder Zebedee Trimble. They conducted the service during his absence. Many souls were delivered. Pastor Juanita Chiles (Church of God MPG of T now on Vine Street) as a teenager, remembers Evangelist Lewis Tolber, along with Elder Denton Barrett as being instrumental in bringing the Cincinnati church into the MPG of T church organization.

Pastor Chiles is now the pastor of this church, which was renamed Bible Believers Church of God. Evangelist Tolber also worked with her father and brothers for a railroad company. She said he witnessed on the job. “They knew he was a minister and they respected him,” she said.

Bishop Burress also sent Evangelist and Minister Tolber to Richmond, Kentucky Church of God MPG of T. There was no pastor there. They would periodically drive down to Richmond on Sundays to conduct service with the saints, and then return home on Sunday night. This they did for a season.

***By God's Design***

In 1966, the pastor at the Church of God of All Nations in Lincoln Heights, Ohio sent for Elder and Evangelist Tolber. This meeting was at the residence of Sister Arlene Olverson in Woodlawn, Ohio. The pastor told them how God directed him to turn the church over to them. Because of problems in his life, God directed this pastor to give up the church. He obeyed God.

Prior to this meeting Evangelist Eddita Tolber had conducted revivals at the Church of God of All Nations. After looking back, we can see that this was God's way of introducing her to the church and God's way of acquainting the pastor with her ministry. Therefore, God was able to deal with this pastor about her leadership ability.

The Tolbers had a meeting with their pastor, Bishop Burress, and told him of God's leading. He blessed them and allowed them to retain their credentials of the Church of God MPG of T. But God had a different plan.

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Later, the Tolbers had a meeting with the few that stayed with the church. They found the church membership had scattered and that there was no organization. Only a handful of people were left.

Bishop Pamela Smith was fourteen years old as this time. She remembers:

The church was barren and the handful of people there were very uncertain about their future. Many more people abandoned the church because of fear and humiliation. This first meeting was a time of getting acquainted and agreeing on whether or not the remnant of membership would be willing to reestablish the church.

My parents did not find any semblance of organization or established procedures from the former pastor. Therefore, in a later meeting, they began to direct the remnant that the church needs to be established in a proper manner. They all agreed that a new beginning was necessary.

Elder and Evangelist Tolber offered them an opportunity to become a part of Church of God MPG of T, but the members wanted to remain an independent church and agreed to establish a different name under the Tolber's new administration. The minutes of the General Assembly of 1967 states that Bishop Lewis Tolber presented the name *True Holiness Church of God*. I was present in the meeting and remember a lengthy discussion about the former church's image in the community. The purpose of this name was to demonstrate to the community that this new congregation recognizes the difference between a false and true holiness.

The new church was named True Holiness Church of God, all those in the meeting and all those who were to come later had to officially join this new church in order to become official members. I, too, remember going to the table to sign my name on the membership roster.

A church board was established and Evangelist Eddita Tolber drafted the church's book of order based on her training in Church of God Militant Pillar and Ground of the Truth, their home church and national organization. They proceeded to train the officers, secretaries, and ministers in their work.

People all over the community heard about this new ministry. Former members and their families returned and souls were saved from every part of Cincinnati, Ohio and Kentucky. Miracles of healings were performed. The church grew rapidly in finance, membership, and in the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The rapid growth compelled Elder Tolber to lead the Church Board in expanding the church edifice and parking areas. It was a time of great joy and restoration. Friends of the Tolbers, from other cities and states offered to fellowship with them to help them build this work unto God.

Many obstacles were overcome because God was on their side. In time, debts were paid off. And an Executive Board was formed, a deacon board was appointed, a choir was organized, (The Tolbernettes), and the physical structure of the church was added to.

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At the first General Assembly, in 1967, there was an ordination as follows (see 1967 minute book):

Elder Lewis Tolber -----Bishop  
Evangelist Eddita Tolber-----Elder  
Evangelist Ida Asbury-----Minister  
Minister Louis Hilton-----Elder  
Evangelist Bernice Causby-----Minister  
Brother Ulysees Jackson-----Deacon  
Brother Frank Jackson-----Deacon

“The ordination was performed by:

Bishop Luther Lundy of Revealed Holiness House of God [in Lincoln Heights] Bishop W.B. Rousseau of Holy House of the Living God [in Lincoln Heights], and Elder Jordan.

Bishop Isaiah Williams, pastor of First Unity Church of God [Mt Auburn, Cincinnati], was in attendance. He had remarks and gave advice.”

God had given Bishop Tolber a good report in the community and had given him favor with other Bishops and Pastors. They came willingly to assist in this ordination.

Bishop and Elder Tolber aspired to form a church body, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a greater capacity. Why? It was because God had given them this vision. Through revivals many souls were saved, many were delivered and many who had left the church returned.

Evangelist Arlene Olverson testified on numerous occasions how God healed her from a condition, while she was a member at THCOG Lincoln Heights, Ohio. She told how Bishop Lewis Tolber visited her every morning for 2 months. He would read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, St John 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, and Psalm 91.

He would encourage her and told her that God was going to deliver her. She said, “He prayed for my entire household, and always encouraged my children to seek the Lord,” The last time he visited, he told her that he would not return again because she would be coming out of the house; of which, indeed, she did.

That weekend God led her to the Sunday church service, where she received her healing in the prayer line, under the healing ministry of Elder Eddita Tolber.

#### **THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE 1971 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

April 1971 Bishop and Mother [Elder] Tolber together with Elder [Estelle] Laster, met in Toledo, Ohio at 27 W. Woodruff Street, to establish a mission, namely, *Every Nation Prayer Band Branch from True Holiness Church of God of Prophecy*. Elder Laster, General Overseer; Minister Harold Mitchell, Deacon; Minister Eva Frazier, Secretary. This work was done after much prayer and meditation to God.

God proved Bishop Tolber in areas of missionary, evangelism, and pastorship.

Evangelist Katherine Shearer, a member of True Holiness Church of God Lincoln Heights, was there from the beginning. She says, ‘Bishop Tolber was a man of God who loved the people,

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who worked hard, visited the sick, and always gave us an opportunity to share what God gave you to do or say.”

She continued to say, “A song he sang to express himself was *I Love Him Better Everyday*. There was a season when Bishop would come to church on a cane, struggling to walk when the gout condition in his foot took over his body.”

Evangelist Shearer remembers when her sister was terminally ill and Bishop visited her everyday. He would read the scriptures and minister to her. She knew him as a praying man.

## **THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO EXPAND**

On April 16, 1974, the First Unity Church of God, under Bishop Pastor Isaiah Williams, came into the True Holiness Church of God Organization. At one of their church business meetings, with Bishop Tolber in attendance, they agreed with their pastor to change their church’s name to True Holiness Church of God, Mt Auburn.

After Bishop Williams passed away, Bishop Tolber appointed Minister Mary Roundtree as pastor. He ordained her minister in 1976. Pastor Roundtree remembers how Bishop visited the church every other Sunday. He would tell them how he loved to be with them. She said, “He always encouraged us.”

## **HE WAS ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO GOD**

Bishop Pamela Smith, as a young girl, remembers Bishop as a praying man for direction. She said, “He would go to the church at 5AM to pray. Even in failing health, he would get up in the morning, go into another part of the house and read the scripture, then pray.” She said, “Bishop loved the church. The people were always on his heart. He gave all he had. They became a family to him and he constantly prayed for them and with them. He loved good things and wanted others to have good things. He constantly gave to others and received blessings in return.”

Bishop Smith realizes how blessed she was to be reared by parents who taught her to look to God. They taught her to be steadfast and committed. She remembers her father telling her to “speak up! – Speak up so that they can hear you!” He wanted her to develop her ability to orate in public.

He also encouraged her not to give up. He used to tell her “stick to it! – You give up too quick.” Bishop Lewis Tolber left a legacy for us all to follow. God gave a vision to Bishop and Elder Tolber. It was not just to build buildings, pay bills, and pay taxes, and other such things. But it was to grow into many churches, and prepare the membership to fulfill the commission to go into the entire world and preach the gospel.

March 7, 1981, Bishop Tolber passed away at home with his wife present. After a long bout with sickness, he suffered heart failure. His love for the saints was great, however, God’s love for him was even greater. The Lord took him home to be with Him forevermore.

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## CHAPTER 5

### “BORN TO BE A LEADER”

#### A BIOGRAPHY OF BISHOP EDDITA D. TOLBER, FOUNDER

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Adrienne C. Smith, Evangelist Bernita Olverson,  
Bishop Pamela A. Smith, and Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith

Bishop Eddita D. Tolber was born in Groveland, Georgia, a few miles outside of Savannah, Georgia, on September 30, 1915. She was the seventh of ten children born to Jasper Carroll and Lula Byrd Carroll.

As a young girl, on her father's plantation, while playing church in the yard, Bishop Tolber would preach and her younger sister, Vivian, would testify and shout. This was a prediction of her future, for she was marked at birth to be a spiritual leader.

Life started for her in 1915, however, a new birth began in a tent revival the summer of 1949, in a grassy yard near the B&O Railroad, which separates Lockland and Wyoming, Ohio (suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio). This is where she was filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. Tent revivals were to become an important part of her ministry in the future.

She later joined the Church of God Militant Pillar & Ground of the Truth, in Lockland, Ohio. She was a faithful member and an outstanding leader in the church. She sang in the church choir during the early 1950's as one of the main vocalists touching many souls with the song entitled "There's a Brighter Day Ahead."

She was the organizer and president of the first successful usher board at the Church of God MPGof T. And eventually, she was voted as the National President of Usher Boards in the church's national organization. (The founder and overseer of the national organization was the late Mother Alma Walker of Akron, Ohio.) She also served as Sunday school teacher and secretary of the Missionary Circle of her local church.

She continued her training under the pastorate of the late Bishop James B. Burress, where she was called, anointed, and sanctified to preach the Word of God. She was ordained an evangelist on June 23, 1961. She walked among bishops and pastors, learning from them to stand and to declare the unadulterated truth.

In 1965, she and her husband, the late Bishop Lewis Tolber, were called to pastor in Lincoln Heights, Ohio at a church they later reorganized and renamed True Holiness Church of God. (*Read Full Details in Chapter One*) She served for seven years as assistant pastor at the Lincoln Heights church, before the Lord called her to establish a branch church in Silverton, Ohio.

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## THE VISION

*By Prophetess Bernita Ray (1984)*

Bishop Tolber had a vision  
God said it's time to make provision  
My people need a place to pray

She said in her heart "God, I'll obey."  
Build me now a greater temple  
The instructions God gave were very simple,  
Tell my people of this vision,  
Tell my people of God's decision.

So Bishop Tolber made the thing known  
Because the congregations had fully grown,  
It's time to work, and build, and pray  
So souls can have a place to pray.

The people began to do God's will  
To work, and pray and fast, and build  
And God blessed greatly all-laboring hands,  
And unto this day the temple stands.

We dedicated this temple to God,  
And thank God for our Mother  
For this great work was done by none other.

We love our Bishop more, and most,  
Because she obeys the Holy Ghost

One Sunday morning in mid September 1972, Bishop Eddita Tolber, who was an Elder (in Lincoln Heights) at the time, was in her kitchen preparing dinner. A severe head cold caused her to miss morning service. She was standing at the sink looking through the kitchen window when she experienced an open vision from the Lord.

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### THE FOLLOWING ARE THE WORDS OF BISHOP TOLBER IN 1983, WHICH WAS PRINTED IN THE DEDICATION PROGRAM FOR THE NEW EDIFICE IN SILVERTON, OHIO:

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As I looked at the grass, trees, and shrubbery in the backyard, there appeared before me the house of one of our associate ministers. The garage of this house had been turned into a sanctuary. A pulpit was in the corner, rows of chairs on both sides and a narrow aisle in the middle of the room. The room was filled with people and I was dressed in a white robe. I saw myself walking in the midst of the people preaching the gospel.

The people were falling out under the power of the Holy Ghost. So numerous were the people that there was not space enough to walk through. The vision was so plain and powerful until I

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felt the anointing come upon my body as I stood in the window. After the Lord had shown this vision unto me, He spoke and said, "Do that!"

At the time of this revelation, I was assistant pastor at the True Holiness Church of God in Lincoln Heights, Ohio. Yet, the Lord spoke to me as He did to Abraham and told me to leave all familiar surroundings and go work in an area where the Word of God was not prospering. Exactly everything I had seen in the vision had come to pass, and more.

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## THE VISION BECOMES A MISSION

The revival began on October 9, 1972, in one of the saints' garage, in Rossmoyne, Ohio (a few miles from Silverton, Ohio). As the revival services turned into weeks and then into months, Elder Tolber obeyed the voice of God again when he told her to "establish."

Many were receiving the Holy Ghost in the garage, but no formal place had been established for them to regularly come and learn how to live holy and worship the Lord. Soon the revival services had to end and the harvest that had been gathered had no house to dwell in.

On January 1, 1973, the new congregation of about 25 people, held their first service in a rented space in a multiplex building at 7128 Montgomery Rd. It was officially called the True Holiness Church of God Mission of Silverton, Ohio. Within that year the church membership doubled.

On March 10, 1974, the Mission purchased a church building and a house, in Silverton. And True Holiness Church of God marched into 6849 Ohio Avenue, along with friends and fellow worshippers. They dedicated the little white church building for God's service, just as they had dedicated the garage and the storefront. This was just another step by faith.

By 1983, with a loyal membership of over 100 people, God blessed the church to build a \$180,000 edifice on that same property, within seven years. The Mayor of Silverton proclaimed that day of the dedication as the True Holiness Church of God Day in Silverton.

In 1980, Bishop Lewis Tolber ordained her as Bishop to lead the church body in administration as Head Executive, along side him.

Since her ordination, she orchestrated the building of a church edifice, and the establishing of a church in Woodlawn, Ohio. (*See Chapter 6 For Full Account*) Out of her fruitful labor in the Silverton church, of which she pastured for 20 years, five additional churches were established and incorporated into the church body.

Many have been saved, healed, and delivered through her ministry, as the Lord directed her to run revivals throughout the Midwest and the Tri-State areas. Also reaching as far as Savannah, Georgia, and touching souls even in Chicago, Illinois.

## JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH: SAVANNAH GEORGIA

Bishop Tolber proved her ministry of teaching, prophesying, pasturing, and evangelism. Each year, in September, Bishop Eddita Tolber went to Savannah, GA to visit and run revivals in her

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younger sister's (Vivian's), house. As children they played church together, now they were worshipping together in Spirit and Truth.

In 1970, the General Assembly of True Holiness Church of God recorded the following:

Out of town Evangelist work reports, November 1970 for Evangelistic work in Savannah Georgia, by Mother Tolber.

The report is that two were filled with the Holy Ghost in the city of Savannah, Georgia. And five filled in Pembroke, Georgia, located a few miles outside of Savannah. Total saved as to date is seven.

Bishop Tolber continued to make her annual fall trips to Savannah, Georgia for more than ten years. In June 1985, a special trip was taken to Savannah with Prophetess Bernita Ray assisting her. The following is Prophetess Ray's recollection of this notable trip:

Traveling with Bishop Eddita Tolber was always very exciting, because God, through her, would always work miraculously. In Savannah, Georgia, while we were there, one particular day Bishop had a leading to go and pray for (a lady named) Pastor Johnson. Pastor Johnson was a kind, God-fearing woman who was also a prophet.

She was lying on her sick bed very ill. Bishop Tolber began to lay hands and pray for her. We were all gathered around her bed. She began to purge and soon was able to get out of her bed. After prayer, she laid in her bed for a few minutes. As she rolled her head from one side of her pillow to the other, she began to prophesy.

When she finished prophesying, she immediately sat upon her bed. Bishop asked her how she felt. She said she felt fine! She got up; she got dressed and sat out on the porch. When her husband came home he was very surprised to see her sitting upon the porch.

Another occasion, a young man had begun tarrying for the Holy Ghost at his church. He tarried for many days without success. His church called him a "professional tarrier." This made Bishop Tolber very angry. She encouraged the young man to return on the next day. He received the Holy Ghost. Her sister's grandson, Daren, also received the Holy Ghost, while we were there.

Presiding Elder Larry Smith (now Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith) is her successor at True Holiness Church of God of Silverton (now called True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly). And Bishop Pamela A. Smith is her successor as head of the united churches. He, his mother, and siblings, also attended THCOG in Lincoln Heights, Ohio. The following is a tribute written by Elder Larry Smith for her 1990 Bishop's Day Dinner:

When I reminisce over the years that I have known the Overseer, my mind reflects back to childhood when going to church was such a bore

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for me. When preachers seem mean, uncaring, hard, and strict. The Overseer was one of those that topped that list in my eyes.

Now, that may not appear to be such a beautifully painted picture of our beloved, but by the mercies of God, I came to know her as a caring, loving, gentle, meek, kind, longsuffering, patient, intelligent, wise servant of God, who is full of joy, righteousness, goodness, and peace in the Holy Ghost. She has a motherliness that touches everyone she meets.

So, from 1965 (when I first met her) to 1976 (when I came to know her through Christ through the baptism of the Holy Ghost) I realized I had wrongly judged this great woman of God.

I wasn't in the church when life was prayed back into one of the Deacon, nor was I there when the first set of blind eyes were opened. But I came in shortly after the little infant child's heart was completely healed of an abnormal condition. (He was born with a hole in his heart.)

I personally have seen both that child, who is now about seventeen years old, and that man that was once dead. Both are doing fine.

For the last ten years of her life on earth, she suffered many physical afflictions. She continued to remind the churches that her "body was embracing a change in the dispensation." None of us realized that she was telling us that the Lord was calling her home.

Before her home going, she purged the church body of all those who became disobedient and irreverent to leadership. We now know that she was preparing for a smooth transition of leadership. One year before her death, she stood before the National Assembly of Churches and proclaimed those who were to be her successors.

Bishop Eddita Tolber went to Glory on March 20, 1992. Many all over the Greater Cincinnati area remember her works. And those who she trained to be her successors are still upholding the Truth in righteousness and expanding the kingdom of God as the Lord Jesus commanded.

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## CHAPTER 6

### HISTORICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED CONGREGATIONS

[Also see Resolutions section, explaining the name change of the congregations.]

#### HISTORY OF TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY OF SILVERTON, OHIO (EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM THE 1983 CHURCH DEDICATION ALBUM)

Words from Bishop Eddita Tolber, Founder of True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Silverton, Ohio and of the church body; concerning an open vision she had one Sunday morning in mid September 1972, while looking through her kitchen window. (Also Read Her History in Chapter 5)

As I looked at the grass, trees, and shrubbery, in the backyard, there appeared before me the house of one of our associate ministers. The garage of this house had been turned into a sanctuary. A pulpit was in the corner, rows of chairs on both sides, and a narrow aisle in the middle of the room.

The room was filled with people and I was preaching the gospel. The people were falling out under the power of the Holy Ghost. So numerous were the people that there was not space enough to walk through. The vision was so plain and powerful until I felt the anointing come upon my body as I stood in the window. After the Lord had shown this vision to me, he spoke and said, "Do that!"

Though Bishop Tolber was already assistant pastor at True Holiness Church of God of Lincoln, Heights, Ohio, the Lord directed her to run a revival that started on October 9, 1972. Five members of the church felt to come along with her. With the consent of the associate minister who she saw in her vision, and the associate minister's husband, Bishop Tolber preached a revival in their garage. Families came, husbands and wives came, preachers came, and people from everywhere were filled with the Holy Ghost! Then after hearing the voice of the Lord say "Establish," Bishop Tolber (as Elder Tolber) and the saints moved into 7128 Montgomery Rd., Silverton, Ohio, to start a mission church.

On January 1, 1973, True Holiness Church of God Mission of Silverton held its first service. God used this extraordinary leader and as time went on the Lord began to save more souls, choirs were formed, the usher board was formed, missionaries were organized, and preachers were called into the ministry.

Many people all across the city would come and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Some neighbors opposed the works and persecuted the saints harshly. Nevertheless, God carried the church through and soon it was time to move again.

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On March 10, 1974, the saints dedicated a little white church building for God's service, located at 6849 Ohio Avenue. True Holiness Church of God of Silverton, friends, and fellow worshippers marched by faith into a better house of worship. But the Lord did not stop there, for the population of the congregation continued to increase.

By 1983, the church had a new edifice built. God also moved on his people with wisdom and the church acquired other property as well.

From the beginning of my work, some pastors and some in authority did not hesitate to say to me that I was attempting to do a "man's job" and that I was stepping "out of my place," yet, I continued to obey the Lord even in the midst of adversity. (The words of Bishop Eddita Tolber)

Today we see the vision unfold that God had given to our founder. We are excited about what is yet to come. The plan of God shall speak and not lie, for God has ordained this work since the beginning of time. The Church of God will stay vigilant and will be very courageous for the Lord has promised us good success!

### **HISTORY OF TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY OF WOODLAWN, OHIO**

In 1970, Bishop Eddita Tolber, who at the time was Evangelist Tolber, assistant pastor of True Holiness Church of God of Lincoln Heights, Ohio. While looking out the window of her house the Lord suddenly showed her a vision. In the vision she saw herself leaning against an old building, which sat next to one of the saint's home, Sister Arlene Olverson's house in Woodlawn, Ohio. The Lord said, "Open the door." This was on her so strongly that she went about her Father's business immediately.

She and Sister Olverson went to talk to the man that owned the old building she saw in her vision. He refused to rent to her because the building was not fit to be occupied.

Now, she knew what the Lord had shown her, so she went down in prayer and fasting for weeks until the Lord spoke to her and gave her Habakkuk 2:3:

*And the LORD answered me, and said,  
Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables,  
That he may run that readeth it.*

*For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak,  
and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it' because it will surely come, it will  
not tarry.*

*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him; but the just shall  
live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:2-4)*

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So she did just that.

As she waited for the vision to come to past, she continued to work. Many things transpired. The Lord had her to establish a church in Silverton, Ohio, and she was ordained a Bishop of the True Holiness Church of God congregations. Under her leadership the Silverton church saw its new worship facility built and dedicated and the Lord saw fit to take her through open-heart surgery.

In 1985, while Bishop Eddita Tolber was convalescing at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, the Lord took her to a window again. She saw herself leaning on the old building again talking with the saints. The old building was gone and she knew that it was time now, so she contacted Sister Olverson and they immediately started looking around Woodlawn for a place.

Eventually a building was made available on Springfield Pike in Woodlawn. With Sister Olverson, together they inquired of the owner of 9909D Springfield Pike about the vacancy. Bishop Tolber appointed some of the saints at the Silverton church to move their membership to the Woodlawn location. She was lead to begin the services with a revival; just like the Silverton church began. The revival lasted for several weeks and souls were saved. She rented the space for 4 years.

Deacon Ray (Bishop Tolber's son) and his wife were among those that were led to Woodlawn to work in the church. God began to move rapidly in his life. Little did he know, another elevation was soon to come. December 27, 1986 he preached his first message after receiving the call. Minister Ray saw to it that the gap was filled, whenever the pastor was unable to be there. As time passed on God placed Minister Ray in position to become pastor. Deacon Ray was ordained as Elder before they moved into the new church. Bishop Tolber appointed him as pastor of this thriving congregation. The church was established in this building, until June 1988.

One of the church members reported that a building located on Linden Avenue, in Woodlawn, Ohio was for sale. Bishop Eddita Tolber and Deacon Lolan Ray immediately contacted a realtor about the availability of the building. By August of 1988, the church marched into the new church building at 835 Linden Avenue, in Woodlawn.

Pastor Ray's goal was to have an expansion built onto the church building. Through hard work and much prayer, God brought the increase. An addition of a multipurpose room, kitchen additional restrooms, a baptismal, dressing rooms, and an additional office was built onto the church by April of 1994.

On August 3, 1996, Pastor Lolan H. Ray was consecrated to the office of Bishop. To God be the glory for the things he has done.

As of November 2003, Bishop Ray and his wife moved to Statesboro, Georgia to live. God charged him to open a church door in that area. The mission of the church continues to expand.

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## **HISTORY OF TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY OF LOVELAND, OHIO**

On April 1986, Minister Victoria Kinley was in need of a place to live, because of the declining conditions of her current home in Pleasant Ridge, Ohio. After looking from place to place, she became weary because there were no vacancies anywhere.

Someone suggested the area of Loveland, Ohio. She knew very little about Loveland. But because there was nothing else available, she applied at the MacArthur Park Apartment Complex and was granted an apartment. This was not an ordinary situation; God was in the plan!

### **THE LORD SAID “GO.”**

At the same season, the Spirit of God was also moving in the Prayer Band that met on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at True Holiness Church of God of Silverton, Ohio. Evangelist Pamela Smith began walking the aisle on the west side of the church and the Lord gave her a revelation.

As I was walked the Lord began to talk to me. He said, “Go. Go and have service with Sister Kinley in her living room. “

I did not know that Sister Kinley had a conversation with our Pastor, Bishop Eddita Tolber, about people in that city who wanted to have a Bible study. But when I talked to Minister Kinley, she began to rejoice over the good news and told me of all that had previously taken place.

Later that month (in September 1987), I was in a one week revival at True Holiness Woodlawn. In that week’s service, God formed a revival team. And I heard the voice of the Lord say, “Now Go!”

The first Bible study was held at 663 Park Avenue, in mid October 1987, at Minister Kinley’s apartment on a Sunday evening. Those in attendance were two neighbors, Sister Kinley and the revival team. They continued teaching the word of God each Sunday evening at 7:30 PM. The goal was to glean souls for the Silverton congregation.

In a mighty weekend service at Silverton, the Lord spoke to Minister Lolan Ray (now Bishop Ray) to join the Loveland services for a season.

### **GOD TURNED THE BIBLE STUDY INTO A REVIVAL**

In November 1987, Sister Antonia Walker received the Holy Ghost and Fire; speaking in tongues as the Spirit of the Lord gave utterance. (Act 2:1-2) Oh, what a night that was!

The first baptism was held at headquarters in Silverton. The revival team and Deacons were in charge, with the blessings of our Overseer. Sister Walker was baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and her children were also present at that ceremony.

Each Sunday morning we would pick her up to go to the Silverton church for service and continued the Bible study for Loveland neighbors on Monday nights. The Lord led us one step at a time. We made no decisions until he confirmed it. As far as we were concerned the revival team continued to glean souls for Silverton.

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On February 1, 1988, Minister Ray opened his Bible and began to prepare to teach. During his ministering, a special revelation came that night and opened the understanding of one of the neighbors' concerning salvation. After much toiling in the word the neighbor received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

On Sunday morning, February 14, 1988, she was to be baptized at Silverton. Her daughter had come along just to observe. But the outpouring of the Holy Ghost came in the middle of the service and filled her daughter with the Holy Ghost and Fire! In the height of the service, both women eagerly went to the lower level of the church and was baptized in water.

## **NEW DIRECTIONS**

The Lord spoke to Evangelist Smith and said establish, nurture the new saints, and call others to Christ. On the next Bible study night, February 15, 1988, the saints, old and new, met together in the first business meeting. Evangelist Smith called the meeting to order. Under the direction of the Lord and with the blessings and advice of our Overseer, we agreed to establish True Holiness Church of God of Loveland, Ohio. All rejoiced and said, "Amen."

There were 12 members in all. The Sunday school department, Holiness Young People's Union, and the Usher Board were organized. Elder Larry Smith became the first acting Sunday School Superintendent and also taught the adult choir. Sister Adrienne Smith became the HYPU coordinator and taught the youth choir. Because of periodic sickness in the church, we had very little experienced help in the beginning.

On July 17, 1988, the church had a visitor, Sister Lydia Johnson. She was looking for a church home. She was already saved and anointed to sing. During the prayer service of August 7, 1988, Jamaal Kinley was filled with the Holy Ghost and baptized in water. One Thursday evening in March 1989, Ministers Reginald and Theresa Schooler and family surprised the church; announcing that the Lord sent them to work in Loveland.

In our Annual Assembly of August 5, 1989, the church received an elevation. Evangelist Pamela Smith was consecrated as Jr. Bishop, and others were ordained as evangelists.

## **IT WAS TIME FOR A CHANGE**

The church looked for a larger place to have service many times, but every possible door was closed. We all declared that since the Lord had placed the church in the apartment, he would reveal to us the place and time to move.

One Sunday morning, March 11, 1990, the Holy Ghost spoke to our Pastor as she was driving into the city for Sunday school. He said, "It's time to move! The door is open now!"

The Spirit led her to drive to the east side of the city, to look around. She saw only one vacant place that we tried before. After Sunday school she gathered the men together and told them what the Lord said and sent them out into the city with a list of addresses.

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On the next week, March 21 the lease was signed. On Thursday, Pastor purchased furnishings for the church that was advertised in the newspaper. Within one week, all that we needed, God gave.

Our last service in the apartment was March 29, 1990. To God be the glory for the things he has done.

We purchased other property in the next few years: the new corporate offices for the THAT United, which is located at 102 E. Broadway and on July 1999 we purchased a new worship facility at 129 South Second St.

In 2003, God said it is time to move again; this time we were to move to a permanent location. In 2003, the City of Loveland acquired our property through eminent domain and in 2004, we purchased our new facility at 3025 Walter Avenue, in Cincinnati, (Walnut Hills) Ohio.

Our ministry has blessed many souls in our church and in other churches in the city. Our enemies have become friends of the church and our friends have opened many doors for our congregation. We have record of miracles of healings and souls salvation. We are directed by God, and believe that there will be a greater opportunity for ministry in the City of Cincinnati.

### **HISTORY OF TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY**

In 1990, the Lord gave Bishop Eddita Tolber a vision and instructions for a church in Covington, Kentucky. It was later renamed True Holiness Church of God of Northern Kentucky. It had its first services in one of the saints' home that same year. Despite many hardships the church continued to press on and prosper.

In 1991, the church moved to a new location at 801 Main Street, in Covington, Kentucky. In 1995 the church was in need of a pastor. During our Annual Assembly Bishop Pamela Smith met with Elder Robert G. Miller, his wife Evangelist Dawn C. Miller, their pastor Bishop Lolan H. Ray, and Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith concerning the work in Covington. Elder Miller agreed to pastor the church for a year, while seeking the Lord's will for the church and himself.

On September 3, 1995, the first service was held, which was a business meeting. Bishop Pamela Smith presided over this meeting to reorganize the church.

The trustee board was formed at this meeting. As time went on, Pastor Miller continued to tell the membership about the work we had to do in Covington and the vision that God had put on his heart about the church.

We continued to seek the Lord through praying and fasting and God began to move. Through this praying and fasting, we sought the Lord for a special life changing revival. We desired not

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only to see our lives changed but also we wanted God to break yokes, save souls, and lift burdens. The Lord heard our cry in an anointed two-week revival with the theme “A Closer Walk in God.”

God moved mightily through this revival. Sister Catherine Ford’s parents received the Holy Ghost. We had the opportunity to have our Pastor come into our homes individually to have service. This was truly a blessing. We were instructed on how to have service in our home and many yokes were broken.

Pastor Miller was officially installed as pastor on September 29, 1996. The Lord is still blessing from the anointing of that service. Truly we serve a mighty God, therefore; “Some trust in chariots and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.: (Psalm 20:7) His Name Is Jesus!

From 1996 to 1998, God began to do a great work in his church (the saints) through anointed preaching and teaching of His word. Many souls were saved, miracles of healings were witnessed and there were various reports of deliverance. A tape ministry was started and distributed to Boston, Alaska, Mississippi, Jamaica, and of course the Tri State area.

In 1998, the Lord revealed that he was going to use this portion of the Body of Christ to minister to the entire Northern Kentucky area and beyond. So in this same year, the church incorporated and changed its name to True Holiness Church of God of Northern Kentucky Inc. (It is now known as True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Northern Kentucky.)

In 2000, the entire church began prayerfully driving and walking around all of Northern Kentucky seeking the Lord for a new worship facility. As we toured many buildings, the Lord allowed us to learn more about the city. Then in November of 2000, the Lord led us to 903 Greenup Street, through a couple of the families in the church. In March 2001 we purchased and moved into our current location.

The Lord has continued to save and deliver many, many souls, and has ministered to countless people through our ministries such as the food pantry, revival street ministry, tape ministry, special services for visitors, and most importantly the anointed inspired lives of the saints of God.

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### **HISTORY OF TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY OF EVANSVILLE, INDIANA BY SUFFRAGAN BISHOP LARRY SMITH, FOUNDER**

It was the LORD that said, “You shall establish a church in Indiana.” It was the Lord that showed me strong ties to Chicago, Illinois. I was thinking I was to go there to work in the ministry. I was thinking this because of a man on my job, who lived in central Indiana, had made a request for me to come and run a revival in his barn in 1981. That is how all of this work began, and is the culmination of all you are seeing today. Yet, how and when this future work was to be established in Indiana was by God’s design. Yes, it is marvelous in our eyes.

Another young man in Indiana consented to be baptized in the name of the LORD Jesus and had intended to allow us to come into his home for a bible study for himself and others. The LORD had another plan that did not include us being so close to the Ohio Border.

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## **AFTER GOD SECRETLY SPOKE TO ME ABOUT THIS WORK IN INDIANA, WITNESSES TO THIS WORK EMERGED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.**

After pasturing the congregation of True Holiness COPA of Silverton , for several years, a young lady named Brenda Ward, from Chicago Illinois, came into our fellowship and was saved. She became an outstanding worker for the LORD. But after a few years, her husband's job moved the family to Evansville, Indiana. Her heart was still in Ohio with her new church family that she had grown to love. This made it very difficult for her soul to be satisfied with any other fellowship that she sought out in the city of Evansville.

Therefore hearing the discouraging sound in her voice, my heart went out to her and before I knew it, I made her an offer to come down and have services with her on a regular basis. The trip was over 200 miles one-way. She was still quite amazed at how the Lord made considerations for her time and time again.

Therefore Presiding Bishop Smith began to instruct me and a few others in how to establish a work here in Evansville, Indiana, based on the knowledge handed down to her through years of training from our early Overseers, Bishops Eddita and Lewis Tolber.

The Cincinnati members, who came to help in this work, were Elder and Evangelist Stokes and family, Deacon and Evangelist Menefield and family, Elder and Evangelist Schooler and family, and Minister and Sister Hillard.

The work began in Sister Ward's home, Williamsburg on the Lake August 28, 1999. Later on, the clubhouse, of the apartment complex, was offered to us for a minimum charge for Sunday services. Souls were added to the church through the efforts of Sister Ward, at an accelerated pace and as the church began to grow GOD said through many witnesses, for us to find a worship facility of our own.

We are now focused on this work of God as never before. We received great support from all of the united congregations and leadership of THAT United International. Within two years, we purchased a church building at 2212 Lodge Avenue in Evansville, Indiana, which seats about 150 people.

We shall continue in this work, sounding the alarm and making a loud cry in this city for many souls and backsliders to come into this house and be saved. Please continue to pray and fast for those here in this city that are working diligently to see victory proclaimed in this City.

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## HISTORY OF TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY OF NORTHERN DELAWARE

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

- Romans 8:14

In 1984, Sister Irene Starling (whose name is now Irene Phillips) took a trip back to her birthplace Wilmington, Delaware, to visit family and friends. Though she had been a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, for twenty years, it was always a delight to visit home. However, upon this visit God had a purpose that would be the start of a special work and the answer to long awaited prayer.

While visiting her twin brother, Ira Starling, she began to minister the Word and pray for him. They reminisced about the life their mother led, and how she taught them the ways of holiness as children. She told him about how the Lord filled her with the Spirit and that the Holy Ghost was for him, too. By faith, her brother accepted the word, and right there in his home, was filled with the precious Holy Ghost! The anointing moved in that room as he spoke in tongues as the Spirit of God gave utterance and his sister witnessed.

She immediately grabbed the telephone and called to Cincinnati to report the miraculous happening to her pastor, Bishop Eddita D. Tolber, founder and overseer of the True Holiness Churches of God. Bishop Tolber heard Bro. Starling speak in other tongues, and rejoiced with the both of them. Sister Starling, returned to Cincinnati with a report of victory of how God has answered her prayer to save her loved ones.

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*

- Proverbs 3:6

A few months after returning to Cincinnati, Sister Starling received a word from the Lord in prayer: “Go back to Delaware and establish!”. She was already a member of, then, True Holiness Church of God of Loveland, but knew the voice of the Lord and was willing to obey. She pondered that word in her heart, keeping her brother in prayer and calling him often.

Some years had past, but God did not neglect his word. One night, in a church service God spoke the word again, this time through her Pastor, Jr. Bishop Pamela A. Smith. While the pastor was preaching, she fixed her eyes on now Evangelist Starling and said, “the Lord said, Evangelist Starling, there will be a church in Delaware, and you will go back to Delaware!” This was an awesome confirmation to Evangelist Starling, who had not revealed her thoughts to anyone at the time. She began to receive instruction and counseling from her pastor who told her to call her brother over the phone and have Bible studies with him. This would keep him encouraged and refreshed.

*...The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

- Isaiah 9:7\

And this is just the beginning....

# **THE BYLAWS**

## **THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION**

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## CHAPTER 7

### ARTICLE B1 OFFICES

#### SECTION B1.1 PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The place in Ohio where the principal office of the corporation is to be located is 3025 Walter Avenue (Hamilton County) Cincinnati, Ohio 45206.

#### SECTION B1.2 CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The designation of the county or state of the corporation's principal office may be changed by amendment of these Bylaws. The Board of Directors may change the principal office from one location to another by noting the changed address and effective date below, and such changes of address shall not be deemed, nor require, an amendment of these Bylaws:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION B1.3 OTHER OFFICES

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

### ARTICLE B2 NONPROFIT PURPOSES

#### SECTION B2.1 IRC SECTION 501(C)(3) PURPOSES

This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### SECTION B2.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The specific objectives and purposes of this corporation is to spread the Gospel by, but not limited to, the following means: publications; setting up churches interstate; providing financial support to those churches; establishing educational and health care facilities; and finally, to perform all other activities which may be performed by any nonprofit corporation incorporated pursuant to Chapter 1702 et seq. of the laws of the State of Ohio.

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## **SECTION B2.3 CORPORATION OPERATION AND DISSOLUTION**

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The corporation shall carry on all activities in a manner such that no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these Articles of Incorporation.

No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended, or any by the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Subject to the requirements of law, upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organization(s) under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, as the Board of Trustees may determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes, or to such organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.

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## **ARTICLE B3**

### **THE BOARD OF BISHOPS**

#### **SECTION B3.1 THE BOARD OF BISHOPS (The ecclesiastical function of the Board)**

The Board of Bishops is the highest governing body of this corporation and is representative of the unity of its subsidiaries, congregations and governing bodies of the True Holiness Covenant of Peace of Silverton, Ohio; Woodlawn, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Northern Kentucky, Evansville, Indiana; Northern Delaware and Orlando, Florida, and future congregations who will apply and be accepted in this organization.

The Board of Bishops consists of the oldest qualified Elders of the Union Churches, who are consecrated to the respective offices of Presiding Bishop, Suffragan Bishop, Bishops, and Jr. Bishops to manage the work, nurture the flock, and resolve doctrinal divisions. It shall administer

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judgment concerning such religious, doctrinal, cultural, and spiritual questions that cannot be settled by the local church congregations

### **SECTION B3.2 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (The legal function of the Board)**

The Board of Directors of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International is also The Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc, whose character shall be of high standing; men and women of sound judgment and wisdom; filled with the Holy Ghost, whose duties shall be to see after the general business of the body such as examining deeds and titles of property of this parent corporation and all affiliates.

According to the state law, the Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy for the nonprofit organization. This begins with drafting (and amending when necessary two documents that set out various rules, regulations, and procedures. These are the articles of incorporation and the bylaws.

### **SECTION B3.2 JURISDICTION**

They shall have power to keep the records of all deeds and titles and to see to the making of all seals, contracts, of property belonging to the general body.

This board shall be renewed and re-appointed every four years. Each local congregation should have a board of trustees with the pastor as head trustee, and the trustees of the local congregations should work with the Board of Bishops, so that if there is any property that is not in the name of the local church, it can be reported to the Board of Bishops immediately.

### **SECTION B3.4 NUMBER**

The corporation shall have a Board of Bishops (Board of Directors) that will consist of the oldest qualified Elders from each district or region. One Bishop will represent an equal number of churches that are under the jurisdiction of the Board.

### **SECTION B3.5 AMEMDMENT OF NUMBER ON BOARD**

The number can be amended by The Board of Bishops.

### **SECTION B3.6 QUALIFICATIONS**

Directors shall be of the age of majority in this state. Other qualifications for directors of this corporation shall be as follows:

- Directors (Bishops) must be educated and skilled in the scriptures, and be able to speak the predominant language fluently.

### **SECTION B3.7 POWERS**

Subject to the provisions of the laws of the state of Ohio and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws relating to action required or permitted to be taken or approved by the members, if any, of this corporation, the activities and affairs of this corporation shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.

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### SECTION B3.8 DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors (Board of Bishops) to:

- (i) Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws;
- (ii) Appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any, of all officers, agents and employees of the corporation;
- (iii) Supervise all officers, agents and employees of the corporation to assure that their duties are performed properly;
- (iv) Meet at such times and places as required by these Bylaws;
- (v) Register their addresses with the Secretary of the corporation, and notices of meetings mailed or telegraphed to them at such addresses shall be valid notices thereof.
- (vi) Determine the organization's mission and set policies for its operation, ensuring that the provisions of the organization's charter and the law are being followed
- (vii) Set the organization's overall program from year to year and engage in longer range planning to establish its general course for the future
- (viii) Establish fiscal policy and boundaries, with budgets and financial controls
- (ix) Provide adequate resources for the activities of the organization through direct financial contributions and a commitment to fund raising
- (x) Part of the legal obligation of the Board of Directors is to make sure the corporation is carrying out its activities and fulfilling its missions specified in the charter.

The ecclesiastical responsibilities and powers of The Board of Bishops (Board of Directors) constitute the bond of union, community, and mission among all its congregations and governing bodies. It therefore has the responsibility and power:

- (i) Select, evaluate, and if necessary, remove the Bishops, Elders, Evangelists, and Pastors, and the Chief Executive Officer if their conduct warrants it.
- (ii) Develop and maintain a communication link to the community, promoting the work of the organization;
- (iii) Judge doctrinal differences and schisms among the church;
- (iv) Set priorities for the work of the Church in keeping with its mission under Christ as described in the scriptures;

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- (v) To develop overall objectives for mission and a comprehensive strategy to guide the Church at every level of its life;
- (vi) To provide the essential program functions that are appropriate for overall balance and diversity within the mission of the Church;
- (vii) To establish and administer national and worldwide ministries of witness, service, growth, and development;
- (viii) To provide a system of administrative services to fulfill its objectives and program;
- (ix) To provide services for the whole Church that can be performed more effectively from a national base;
- (x) To establish and maintain an office of the Board of Bishops;
- (xi) To provide for communication within the Church;
- (xii) To review the records of the Pastoral administrations and to take care that they observe the Constitution of the Church;
- (xiii) To approve the organization, division, uniting, or combining of congregations;
- (xiv) To serve in judicial matters in accordance with the Order of Discipline;
- (xv) To warn or bear witness against error in doctrine or immorality in practice in or outside the Church;
- (xvi) To decide controversies brought before it and to give council and instruction in cases submitted to it, in conformity with the Order of Discipline;
- (xvii) To provide authoritative interpretation of the Order of Discipline, which shall be binding on the governing bodies of the Church when, rendered in accord with the scriptures. The most recent interpretation of a provision of the Order of Discipline shall be binding;
- (xviii) To receive under its jurisdiction, with the consent of two thirds, other congregations and small groups whose life and doctrine is consistent with the faith and order of this organization;
- (xix) To establish churches and missions under the jurisdiction of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International
- (xx) To establish financial overseers to provide adequate resources for the activities of the organization through direct financial contributions and a commitment to fundraising.

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### **SECTION B3.9 DUTIES DO NOT INCLUDE**

- (i) Engaging in the day-to-day operation of the organization

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- (ii) Hiring staff other than the chief executive
- (iii) Making detailed programmatic decisions without consulting staff

### **SECTION B3.10 TERM OF OFFICE**

Each director shall hold office as long as they are prosperous and their moral conduct is above reproach.

### **SECTION B3.11 COMPENSATION**

Directors shall serve without compensation except that a reasonable fee may be paid to directors for attending regular and special meetings of the board. In addition, they shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

### **SECTION B3.12 PLACE OF MEETINGS**

Meetings shall be held at the principal office of the corporation unless otherwise provided by the board or at such other place as may be designated from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors.

### **SECTION B3.13 REGULAR MEETINGS**

Regular meetings of Directors shall be held on the first Saturday in August at 1:30 pm, during the Annual Assembly. Unless such day falls on a legal holiday, in which event the regular meeting shall be held at the same hour and place on the next business day.

If this corporation makes no provision for members, then, at the regular meeting of directors held August directors shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Voting for the election of directors shall be by written ballot. Each director shall cast one vote per candidate, and may vote for as many candidates as the number of candidates to be elected to the board. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes up to the number of directors to be elected shall be elected to serve on the board.

### **SECTION B3.14 SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chairperson of the Board, the President, the Vice-President, or if different, by the persons specifically authorized under the laws of this state to call special meetings of the board. Such meetings shall be held at the principal office of the corporation or, if different, at the place designated by the person or persons calling the special meeting.

### **SECTION B3.15 NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Unless otherwise provided by the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provisions of law, the following provisions shall govern the giving of notice for meetings of the board of directors:

- (a) Regular Meetings. No notice need be given of any regular meeting of the board of directors.
- (b) Special Meetings. At least one week the Secretary of the corporation shall give prior notice to each director of each special meeting of the board. Such notice may be oral or written, may be given personally, by first class mail, by telephone, or by facsimile machine, and shall state the place, date and time of the meeting and the matters proposed

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to be acted upon at the meeting. In the case of facsimile notification, the director to be contacted shall acknowledge personal receipt of the facsimile notice by a return message or telephone call within twenty-four hours of the first facsimile transmission.

(c) **Waiver of Notice.** Whenever any notice of a meeting is required to be given to any director of this corporation under provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or the law of this state, a waiver of notice in writing signed by the director, whether before or after the time of the meeting, shall be equivalent to the giving of such notice.

### **SECTION B3.16 QUORUM FOR MEETINGS**

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Except as otherwise provided under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provisions of law, no business shall be considered by the board at any meeting at which the required quorum is not present, and the only motion which the Chair shall entertain at such meeting is a motion to adjourn.

### **SECTION B3.17 MAJORITY ACTION AS BOARD ACTION**

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

### **SECTION B3.18 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Board, or, if no such person has been so designated or, in his or her absence, the President of the corporation or, in his or her absence, by the Vice President of the corporation or, in the absence of each of these persons, by a Chairperson chosen by a majority of the directors present at the meeting. The Secretary of the corporation shall act as secretary of all meetings of the board, provided that, in his or her absence, the presiding officer shall appoint another person to act as Secretary of the Meeting.

Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or with provisions of law.

### **SECTION B3.19 VACANCIES**

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall exist (1) on the death, resignation or removal of any director, and (2) whenever the number of authorized directors is decreased.

Any director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairperson of the Board, the President, or the Board of Directors, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. No director may resign if the corporation would then be left without a duly elected director or directors in charge of its affairs, except upon notice to the Office of the Attorney General or other appropriate agency of this state.

Directors may be removed from office, with or without cause, as permitted by and in accordance with the laws of this state.

Unless otherwise prohibited by the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws or provisions of law, vacancies on the board may be filled by approval of the board of directors. If the number of

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directors then in office is less than a quorum, a vacancy on the board may be filled by approval of a majority of the directors then in office or by a sole remaining director. A person elected to fill a vacancy on the board shall hold office until the next election of the Board of Directors or until his or her death, resignation or removal from office.

#### **SECTION B3.20 NONLIABILITY OF DIRECTORS**

The directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the corporation.

#### **SECTION B3.21 INDEMNIFICATION BY CORPORATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

The corporation to the fullest extent permissible shall indemnify the directors and officers of the corporation under the laws of this state.

#### **SECTION B3.22 INSURANCE FOR CORPORATE AGENTS**

Except as may be otherwise provided under provisions of law, the Board of Directors may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the corporation (including a director, officer, employee or other agent of the corporation) against liabilities asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws or provisions of law.

### **ARTICLE B4 OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION B4.1 DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS**

The officers of the corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, an Executive Secretary, and a Chief Financial Officer. The corporation may also have a Chairperson of the Board, one or more Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Treasurers, and other such officers with such titles as may be determined from time to time by the President/CEO.

#### **SECTION B4.2 QUALIFICATIONS**

Any person, who is a active member of one of the congregations of THAT United as is an responsible adult, may serve as an officer in this corporation.

#### **SECTION B4.3 ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE**

Officers shall be appointed by the President/CEO, at any time, and each officer shall hold office until he or she resigns or is removed or is otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified, whichever occurs first.

#### **SECTION B4.4 REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION**

The President/CEO may remove any officer, either with or without cause, at any time. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President/CEO of the corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date

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specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. The above provisions of this Section shall be superseded by any conflicting terms of a contract, which has been approved or ratified by the Board of Directors relating to the employment of any officer of the corporation.

#### **SECTION B4.5 VACANCIES**

In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of President, such vacancy may be filled temporarily by appointment by the President/CEO. Vacancies occurring in offices of officers appointed at the discretion of the President/CEO may or may not be filled, as he or she shall determine.

#### **SECTION B4.6 DUTIES OF PRESIDENT**

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervise and control the affairs of the corporation and the activities of the officers. He or she shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Unless another person is specifically appointed as Chairperson of the Board of Directors, the President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all meetings of the members. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, he or she shall, in the name of the corporation, execute such deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, checks, or other instruments which may from time to time be authorized by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION B4.7 DUTIES OF VICE PRESIDENT**

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions on, the President. The Vice President shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION B4.8 DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall:

Certify and keep at the principal office of the corporation the original, or a copy, of these Bylaws as amended or otherwise altered to date.

Keep at the principal office of the corporation or at such other place as the board may determine, a book of minutes of all meetings of the directors, and, if applicable, meetings of committees of directors and of members, recording therein the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, how called, how notice thereof was given, the names of those present or represented at the meeting, and the proceedings thereof.

See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law.

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Be custodian of the records and of the seal of the corporation and affix the seal, as authorized by law or the provisions of these Bylaws, to duly executed documents of the corporation.

Keep at the principal office of the corporation a membership book containing the name and address of each and any members, and, in the case where any membership has been terminated, he or she shall record such fact in the membership book together with the date on which such membership ceased.

Exhibit at all reasonable times to any director of the corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request therefore, the Bylaws, the membership book, and the minutes of the proceedings of the directors of the corporation.

In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION B4.9 DUTIES OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

The Chief Financial Officer shall:

Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the corporation, and deposit all such funds in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

Receive, and give receipt for, monies due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever.

Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the corporation as may be directed by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements.

Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the corporation's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses.

Exhibit at all reasonable times the books of account and financial records to any director of the corporation, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request therefore.

Render to the President and directors, whenever requested, an account of any or all of his or her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation.

Prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify, or cause to be certified, the financial statements to be included in any required reports.

In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION B4.10 DUTIES OF THE CORPORATE SECRETARY**

The Corporate Secretary shall keep at the principal office:

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- (i) Minutes of all meetings of directors, committees of the board and, if this corporation has members, of all meetings of members, indicating the time and place of holding such meetings, whether regular or special, how called, the notice given, and the names of those present and the proceedings thereof;
- (ii) Adequate and correct books and records of account, including accounts of its properties and business transactions and accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses;
- (iii) A record of its members, if any, indicating their names and addresses and, if applicable, the class of membership held by each member and the termination date of any membership;
- (iv) A copy of the corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by the members, if any, of the corporation at all reasonable times during office hours.
- (v) And any other documents that legally bear the organization's seal, signatures, and or official identifying emblem.

#### **SECTION B4.11 COMPENSATION**

The salaries of the officers, if any, shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. In all cases, any salaries received by officers of this corporation shall be reasonable and given in return for services actually rendered to or for the corporation.

### **ARTICLE B5 COMMITTEES**

#### **SECTION B5.1 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATORS**

The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote of its members, designate an Executive Committee consisting of seven board members and may delegate to such committee the powers and authority of the board in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation, to the extent permitted, and except as may otherwise be provided, by provisions of law.

By a majority vote of its members, the board may at any time revoke or modify any or all of the Executive Administrators' authority so delegated, increase or decrease but not below two (2) the number of the members of the Executive Administrators, and fill vacancies. The Executive Administrators shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings, cause them to be filed with the corporate records, and report the same to the board from time to time as the board may require.

#### **SECTION B5.2 OTHER COMMITTEES**

The corporation shall have such other committees as may from time to time be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors. These committees may consist of persons who are not also members of the board and shall act in an advisory capacity to the board.

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### **SECTION B5.3 MEETINGS AND ACTION OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

Meetings and action of committees shall be governed by, noticed, held and taken in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws concerning meetings of the Board of Directors, with such changes in the context of such Bylaw provisions as are necessary to substitute the committee and its members for the Board of Directors and its members, except that the time for regular and special meetings of committees may be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors or by the committee. The Board of Directors may also adopt rules and regulations pertaining to the conduct of meetings of committees to the extent that such rules and regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE B6 EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS**

### **SECTION B6.1 EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

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

### **SECTION B6.2 CHECKS AND NOTES**

Except as otherwise specifically determined by resolution of the Board of Directors, or as otherwise required by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money, and other evidence of indebtedness of the corporation shall be signed by the Chief Financial Officer and countersigned by the President of the corporation.

### **SECTION B6.3 DEPOSITS**

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

### **SECTION B6.4 GIFTS**

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

## **ARTICLE B7 CORPORATE RECORDS, REPORTS AND SEAL**

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## **SECTION B7.1 MAINTENANCE OF CORPORATE RECORDS**

The corporation shall keep at its principal office:

- (i) Minutes of all meetings of directors, committees of the board and, if this corporation has members, of all meetings of members, indicating the time and place of holding such meetings, whether regular or special, how called, the notice given, and the names of those present and the proceedings thereof;
- (ii) Adequate and correct books and records of account, including accounts of its properties and business transactions and accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses;
- (iii) A record of its members, if any, indicating their names and addresses and, if applicable, the class of membership held by each member and the termination date of any membership;
- (iv) A copy of the corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by the members, if any, of the corporation at all reasonable times during office hours.

## **SECTION B7.2 CORPORATE SEAL**

The Board of Directors may adopt, use, and at will alter, a corporate seal. Such seal shall be kept at the principal office of the corporation. Failure to affix the seal to corporate instruments, however, shall not affect the validity of any such instrument.

## **SECTION B7.3 DIRECTORS' INSPECTION RIGHTS**

Every director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the corporation and shall have such other rights to inspect the books, records and properties of this corporation as may be required under the Articles of Incorporation, other provisions of these Bylaws, and provisions of law.

## **SECTION B7.4 MEMBERS' INSPECTION RIGHTS**

If this corporation has any members, then each and every member shall have the following inspection rights, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as a member:

- (i) To inspect and copy the record of all members' names, addresses and voting rights, at reasonable times, upon written demand on the Secretary of the corporation, which demand shall state the purpose for which the inspection rights are requested.
- (ii) To obtain from the Secretary of the corporation, upon written demand on, and payment of a reasonable charge to, the Secretary of the corporation, a list of the names, addresses and voting rights of those members entitled to vote for the election of directors as of the most recent record date for which the list has been compiled or as of the date specified by the member subsequent to the date of demand. The demand shall state the purpose for which the list is

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requested. The membership list shall be made within a reasonable time after the demand is received by the Secretary of the corporation or after the date specified therein as of which the list is to be compiled.

- (iii) To inspect at any reasonable time the books, records, or minutes of proceedings of the members or of the board or committees of the board, upon written demand on the Secretary of the corporation by the member, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interests as a member.

Members shall have such other rights to inspect the books, records and properties of this corporation as may be required under the Articles of Incorporation, other provisions of these Bylaws, and provisions of law.

#### **SECTION B7.5 RIGHT TO COPY AND MAKE EXTRACTS**

Agent or attorney may make in person or any inspection under the provisions of this Article and the right to inspection shall include the right to copy and make extracts.

#### **SECTION B7.6 PERIODIC REPORT**

The board shall cause any annual or periodic report required under law to be prepared and delivered to an office of this state or to the members, if any, of this corporation, to be so prepared and delivered within the time limits set by law.

### **ARTICLE B8 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE 501(C)(3) TAX EXEMPTION PROVISIONS**

#### **SECTION B8.1 LIMITATIONS ON ACTIVITIES**

No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation [except as otherwise provided by Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code], and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, this corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### **SECTION B8.2 PROHIBITION AGAINST PRIVATE INUREMENT**

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors or trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

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### **SECTION B8.3 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS**

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of this state.

### **SECTION B8.4 PRIVATE FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS**

In any taxable year in which this corporation is a private foundation as described in Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, the corporation 1) shall distribute its income for said period at such time and manner as not to subject it to tax under Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code; 2) shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code; 3) shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; 4) shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject the corporation to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code; and 5) shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **ARTICLE B9 AMENDMENT OF LAWS**

### **SECTION B9.1 AMENDMENT**

Subject to the power of the members, if any, of this corporation to adopt, amend or repeal the Bylaws of this corporation and except as may otherwise be specified under provisions of law, these Bylaws, or any of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by approval of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE B10 CONSTRUCTION AND TERMS**

If there is any conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation shall govern.

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

The term "Articles of Incorporation," in these Bylaws, shall also be referred to as the Articles of Incorporation, Articles of Organization, Certificate of Incorporation, Organizational Charter, Corporate Charter, or other founding document of this corporation filed with an office of this state and used to establish the legal existence of this corporation.

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All references in these Bylaws to a section or sections of the Internal Revenue Code shall be to such sections of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended from time to time, or to corresponding provisions of any future federal tax code.

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## CHAPTER 8

### MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS

#### ARTICLE B11

##### MEMBERSHIP OF UNION CHURCHES

###### **SECTION B11.1 DETERMINATION AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP**

The corporation shall have only one class of members. Membership in True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International is a union of ecclesiastical groups (particular churches) that have met the constitutional requirements for entrance, and continue to meet the constitutional requirements for active membership within this union. No member shall hold more than one membership in the corporation. Except as expressly provided in or authorized by the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws of this corporation, or provisions of law, all memberships shall have the same rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions.

###### **SECTION B11.2 THE PURPOSE OF THE UNION OF CHURCHES**

The purpose of the Union shall be the furtherance of a united witness and mission, the administration of a single program of nurture, sustenance, and growth of the church within the Union, as well as the corporate mission.

###### **SECTION B11.3 QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

The qualifications for membership in this corporation are as follows:

- (a) The applicant must agree with the Constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International in doctrine and practice. It must actively teach, preach, and appropriately administer the doctrine and practices that Jesus delivered to the original Apostles.
- (b) It must pledge obedience to the governing bodies of the union.
- (c) The minister or ministers of the church must be full of the Holy Ghost and pledge submission to discipline as provided in the bylaws and constitution of said corporation.
- (d) The applicant shall cause a corporation to be formed under the appropriate laws of the state wherever permissible. The corporation shall include in its articles or charter the substance of the union's bylaws and constitution.
- (e) All property of the uniting churches, real and personal, shall be transferred to its new corporation. All deeds or property purchase in the name of individual members shall be transferred into the name of the applicant's corporation. The new or existing corporation shall be the legal successor, and it shall be bound to administer any trust property or moneys received in accordance with the provisions of the original establishment of the trust. In any state where a church corporation is forbidden, the purposes of this paragraph shall be achieved in harmony with the law of that state.
- (f) Trustees of the corporation (or the unincorporated body) shall be elected in harmony with civil law according to constitutional provisions outlined in True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc Constitution. Only individuals on the active roll of the particular church shall be member of the corporation and eligible for election as trustees. The elders in active service in a church who are eligible under the civil law shall, by reason of their office, be the trustees of such corporation, unless the corporation shall

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determine another method for electing its trustees. Any particular church, which is, not incorporated may select trustees from the members on the active roll of the church. The power and duties of such trustees shall not infringe upon the powers and duties of the local executive powers or of the deacon board.

(g) The corporation so formed or the individual trustees, shall have the following power:

- To receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the church;
- To accept and execute deeds of title to such property;
- To hold and defend title to such property;
- To manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the church, all subject to the authority of the local executive powers and under the provisions of the constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, provided further that in buying, selling, and mortgaging real property, the trustees shall act only after the approval of the congregation granted in a duly constituted meeting.

(h) The governing body of the applicant congregation shall annually propose to the congregation a general mission or benevolence program which shall be divided equitably among the officially approved causes within in its community, and/or beyond.

(i) All members of the union church shall be under the discipline of the governing bodies of the parent corporation according to rules agreed upon in harmony with the Constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International

(j) The governing body of the union church shall submit its financial and administrative records annually and whenever requested to the Board of Bishops for review or council.

#### **SECTION B11.4 ADMISSION OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

Applicants shall be admitted to membership after all of the aforementioned requirements have been met. When a particular church of another organization requests that it be received by the Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc, The Board of Bishops shall verify that the church has been properly dismissed by the governing body of the applying church, and shall then receive the church in accord with its governing processes and doctrinal practices as guidelines.

#### **SECTION B11.5 FEES AND DUES**

- (a) The following fee shall be charged for making application for membership in the corporation:
- (b) Annual church and individual assessments to the Annual Assembly of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc
- (c) The annual dues payable to the corporation by union churches and their members shall be determined annually by the Board of Bishops.
- (d) The union church shall make a progress report of the total congregation to the governing body of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International and such membership shall be published in the Minutes of the Annual Assembly.

#### **SECTION B11.6 NUMBER OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

There is no limit on the number of members the corporation may admit.

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## **SECTION B11.7 MEMBERSHIP BOOK**

The corporation shall keep a membership book(s) containing the name and address of each member. Termination of the membership of any member shall be recorded in the book, together with the date of termination of such membership. Such book shall be kept at the corporation's principal office.

## **SECTION B11.8 NONLIABILITY OF MEMBERS**

A member of this corporation is not, as such, personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.

## **SECTION B11.9 NONTRANSFERABILITY OF MEMBERSHIPS**

No member may transfer a membership or any right arising there from. All rights of membership cease upon the member's dissolution, dismissal, or withdrawal.

## **SECTION B11.10 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of a member shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (1) Upon notice of such termination delivered to the Presiding Bishop or Secretary of the corporation personally or by mail, such membership to terminate upon the date of delivery of the notice or date of deposit in the mail.
- (2) If this corporation has provided for the payment of dues by members, upon a failure to renew the church's membership by paying dues on or before their due date, such termination to be effective thirty (30) days after a written notification of delinquency is given personally or mailed to such member by the Secretary of the corporation. A member may avoid such termination by paying the amount of delinquent dues within a thirty (30) day period following the member's receipt of the written notification of delinquency.
- (3) After providing the member with reasonable written notice and an opportunity to be heard either orally or in writing, upon a determination by the Board of Directors that the member has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the interests or purposes of the corporation.

All rights of a member church in the corporation shall cease on termination of membership as herein provided.

- (4) Whenever a particular church is formally dissolved by the Board of Bishops, or has become extinct by reason of the dispersal of its congregation, the abandonment of its work, or other cause, such property as it may have shall be held, used, and applied for such uses, purposes, and trusts as the Board of Bishops may direct, limit, and appoint, or such property may be sold or disposed of as the Board of Bishops may direct, in conformity with the civil law and the constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International
- (5) If there is a schism within the Congregation of a particular church and the Presiding Bishop is unable to effect a reconciliation or a division into separate churches within the True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc jurisdiction, the Board of Bishops shall determine if one of the factions is entitled to the property because it is identified by the Executives as the true church within the True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International's jurisdiction. This determination does

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not depend upon which faction received the majority vote with the particular church at the time of the schism.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **MEETINGS OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

#### **SECTION B12.1 PLACE OF MEETINGS OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

Meetings of union churches shall be held at the principal office of the corporation or at such other place or places as may be designated from time to time by resolution of the Board of Bishops.

#### **SECTION B12.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

Special meetings of the members shall be called by the Board of Bishops, the Chairperson of the Board, or the President of the corporation, or, if different, by the persons specifically authorized under the laws of this state to call special meetings of the members.

#### **SECTION B12.3 NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

Unless otherwise provided by the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provisions of law, notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Presiding Bishop, or the Secretary, or the persons calling the meeting, to each member entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the particular church at its address as it appears on the records of the corporation, with postage prepaid. Personal notification includes notification by telephone or by facsimile machine, provided however, in the case of facsimile notification; the pastor of the particular church to be contacted shall acknowledge personal receipt of the facsimile notice by a return message or telephone call within twenty-four hours of the first facsimile transmission.

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

#### **SECTION B12.4 QUORUM FOR MEETINGS OF MEMBER CHURCHES**

A quorum shall consist of majority of the voting members of the corporation. Except as otherwise provided under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provisions of law, no business shall be considered by the particular churches at any meeting at which the required quorum is not present, and the only motion which the Chair shall entertain at such meeting is a motion to adjourn.

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## **SECTION B12.5 MAJORITY ACTION AS MEMBERSHIP ACTION**

Every act or decision done or made by a majority of voting members present in person or by proxy at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present is the act of the members, unless the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provisions of law require a greater number.

## **SECTION B12.6 VOTING RIGHTS**

Each particular church is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote by the members. Voting at duly held meetings shall be by voice vote.

## **SECTION B12.7 ACTION BY WRITTEN BALLOT**

Except as otherwise provided under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provisions of law, any action which may be taken at any regular or special meeting of the union churches may be taken without a meeting if the corporation distributes a written ballot to each particular church entitled to vote on the matter. The ballot shall:

1. Set forth the proposed action;
2. Provide an opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of each proposal;
3. Indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirement and, except for ballots soliciting votes for the election of directors, state the percentage of approvals necessary to pass the measure submitted; and
4. Shall specify the date by which the ballot must be received by the corporation in order to be counted. The date set shall afford members a reasonable time within which to return the ballots to the corporation.

Ballots shall be mailed or delivered in the manner required for giving notice of membership meetings as specified in these bylaws.

Approval of action by written ballot shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot within the time period specified equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the action at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot.

## **SECTION B12.8 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

Meetings of union churches shall be presided over by the Presiding Bishop (the Board chair), or, if there is no Chairperson or, in his or her absence, by the President of the corporation or, in his or her absence, by the Vice President of the corporation or, in the absence of all of these persons, by a Chairperson chosen by a majority of the voting members, present at the meeting. The Secretary of the corporation shall act as Secretary of all meetings of union churches, provided that, in his or her absence, the presiding officer shall appoint another person to act as Secretary of the Meeting.

Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order; as such rules may be revised from time to time, insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or with provisions of law.

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## **ARTICLE 13**

### **GENERAL PLAN OF UNION**

#### **SECTION B13.1 ORGANIZING A PARTICULAR CHURCH**

In organizing a particular church, the Presiding Bishop and/or the Board of Bishops, proceeding directly or through a commission, shall receive applications for membership within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, whether by the receiving the Holy Ghost, refreshing from a backslidden condition, or transfer of membership from persons wishing to unite in forming a new congregation. These persons shall covenant together as follows:

We, the undersigned, in response to the grace of God, desire to be constituted and organized as a church to be known as \_\_\_\_\_, located at \_\_\_\_\_

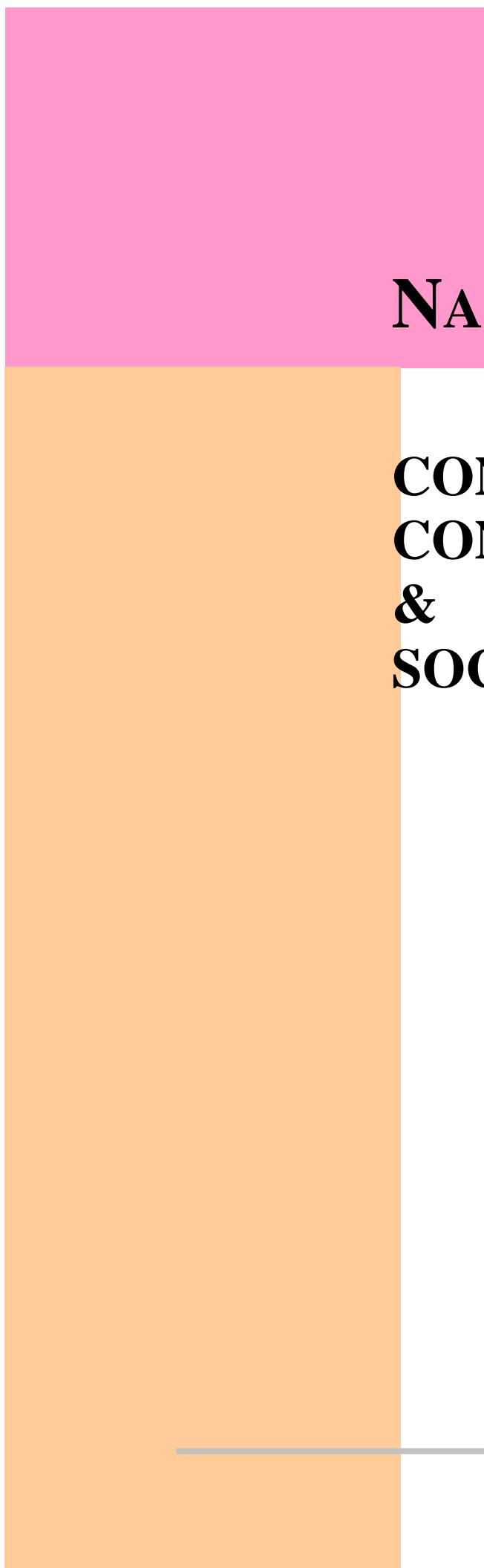
We promise and covenant to live together in unity and to work together in ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ, bound to him and to one another as a part of the body of Christ in this place according to the principles of faith, mission, and order of the True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International

#### **SECTION B13.2 DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The particular church shall be declared a constituted congregation by the Presiding Bishop and/or the Board of Bishops and shall proceed to the election of officers, making provision in cooperation with the Presiding Bishop and/or the Board of Bishops for their preparation, examination, ordination, and installation.

#### **SECTION B13.3 SECURING PASTORAL LEADERSHIP**

The Presiding Bishop shall continue to work closely with the congregation in securing pastoral leadership, in plans for the service and witness of the particular church, in coordinating its work with other churches, in counseling concerning bylaws for the church and in giving other forms of support and encouragement that will strengthen the mission of the congregation in the larger life of the organization.



# **NATIONAL**

## **CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, & SOCIETIES**

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## CHAPTER 9

### NATIONAL CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, AND SOCIETIES

#### ARTICLE CCS1

##### BY-LAWS OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONVENTION COORDINATION

**SECTION CCS1.1** The name of the directorship of the young people's convention is True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Young People's Convention Coordination.

**SECTION CCS1.2** The mission of the THAT United YPCC is a commitment to make a positive impact on its constituents by designing spiritual, social, and academic programs. Our aim is to guide the young adults and youth of the church population as well as our communities toward closer fellowship with God, and to exercise social responsibility.

**SECTION CCS1.3** The Sponsor. The sponsor of the YPCC is the Board of Bishops. Its existence is mandated by the Board and is accountable to it. The sponsor provides this convention for the membership of the church. Although attendance is generally not restricted to members, the major focus is on members within each church and the goals and mission of the central organization.

**SECTION CCS1.4** YPCC is comprised of five main divisions: The Executive Director, Registration, Talent Search, Program Coordinators, and Hospitality.

#### ARTICLE CCS2

##### BY-LAWS OF THE MINISTERS' ALLIANCE

**SECTION CCS2.1** The purpose is to encourage and assist each minister in mastering the ministry, develop curricula for, and to train the minister in pulpit procedures and teaching methods, to create an atmosphere conducive to learning and fellowship, to develop leadership skills that we may be one in the faith, guarding against schisms and divisions within the ministry, through instruction, counseling, and worship.

**SECTION CCS2.2** The Ministers' Alliance will have a conference every three months in order to unite and further the quality and quantity of the work of the evangelists, elders, and teachers.

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## ARTICLE CCS3

### THE WORK OF THE MISSIONARY

**SECTION CCS3.1** Missionary work began soon after the early church started, and spread rapidly due to the great zeal of the Apostles and those receiving the gospel. Missionaries took the gospel throughout the Roman Empire, including North Africa and, later, the Americas.

**SECTION CCS3.2** What Does It Mean To Be A Missionary? A missionary is one who is sent to teach religious doctrine and do a humanitarian work. The Word of God tell us to Go! – Teaching all nations to observe all things (Matt. 28:19-20) --Go! Preach to every creature (Mark 16:15-18)—Go! Out into the hedges and the highways and compel men (Luke 14:23).

The missionary's aim is to provide for the needs of the mind, body, and soul; through the Holy Ghost.

The work of the Missionary can sometimes be unpleasant due to certain conditions we may encounter, but we, as servants of God, do every work as unto him (Col. 3:17, 23).

#### **SECTION CCS3.3 Work Of Wisdom**

Wisdom is a necessary characteristic for missionaries. The Word of God tells us if we lack wisdom to ASK! (James 1:5) James 3:17 states, “the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

## ARTICLE CCS4

### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LOCAL MISSIONARY CIRCLE

**SECTION CCS4.1 Name:** This organization shall be henceforth formally known as the Missionary Circle of each particular church affiliate in True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International

**SECTION CCS4.2 Purpose:** The purpose of the Circle shall be to serve on a spiritual and humanitarian basis to assist the stricken and the helpless, to comfort the downtrodden, to impart knowledge of temporal things as well as a knowledge of the Word of God, that all might know of the hope that is within us and be made whole through Christ.

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**SECTION CCS4.3** Members are those individuals who are enrolled in the Missionary Circle.

**SECTION CCS4.4 Officers:**

The officers shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary (one secretary until there is need for the latter), Treasurer, and chaplain.

**SECTION CCS4.5 Committees:**

The committees shall be appointed as needed.

**SECTION CCS4.6 Election of Officers:**

The election of officers shall occur annually after the Annual Assembly.

**SECTION CCS4.7 Meetings:**

The regular meetings of the Missionary circle shall be announced at least two weeks in advance. Each meeting is one of the following: a devotional service, a periodic instruction session, a business meeting, and committee reports, if any. The Chair of each committee shall present the report in writing.

**SECTION CCS4.8 Duties of Officers:**

The office of President

- Preside over all meetings.
- Appoint officers if necessary.
- Sign with the designated person warrants for payment of money from the treasury.
- Is automatically a member of all committees by virtue of the office of president.

The office of Vice President

- Shall assume the duties of president in his/her absence.
- In case of the president's resignation, shall automatically become president for the unexpired part of the term.

The office of Recording Secretary

- Record proceedings of all meetings.
- Notify officers, committees, and delegates of their election or appointment; furnish committees with material referred to them. to know the spiritual and financial welfare of the said church or mission.
- To give plans for the edifying and growth of the particular church.
- Sign with the president warrants for payment of money from the treasury.
- Keep a copy of the Missionary Circle guidebook, your record book containing a list of unfinished business from previous meetings and an updated prayer lists.
- Preside over meetings when the president and the vice president are not present.

The Office of Corresponding Secretary

- Is responsible for all general correspondence as directed by the president.
- Send notices of all meetings
- Cards are to be sent in the name of the particular church.

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### The Office of Chaplain

- Begin meeting with one moderate song, and/or prayer song.
- Lead members into prayer.
- Sing second moderate song.
- Read scripture.
- Turn meeting over to president.
- At the end of the meeting, lead members into prayer for dismissal.

## **ARTICLE CCS5** **A TYPICAL MISSIONARY CIRCLE MEETING**

### **SECTION CCS5.1 Members Meeting From House to House**

- Open meeting with song.
- Prayer
- President gives the opening address.
- President calls for minutes of the last meeting to be read.
- Carry through motions.
- Call for old business to be discussed.
- Call for new business to be discussed.
- Call for report from correspondence secretary.
- Each member should report to the Circle any work they have completed or received advise concerning their work.
- Take up dues—Roll call.
- When taking up dues, call the name of each member one at a time...allowing each member time to recite a Bible verse or segment of training manual that pertains to missionary work. This will aid members in memorizing and understanding their duties as missionaries.
- Dues and other missionary fundraising support the benevolence treasury.
- The recording secretary maintains records of who attends and pays dues regularly.
- After dues and roll call, the president will call for the correspondence secretary to write down the names of any additional persons to be added to the prayer list. Then, the entire list is read in the Circle. Tell why each one needs prayer when their name is called.
  - (a) The correspondence secretary always sends out any cards or letters for the Circle.

### **SECTION CCS5.2 An Informal Missionary Circle Meeting (Especially when visiting the sick)**

Wear white when you go out.

- Open with a statement from the president.
- State the reason for this gathering.

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- Chaplain opens with a moderate song.
  - Reads scripture to encourage the sick, or someone can deliver a small sermon to build faith in the sick to receive healing.
  - Prayer song.
- Group gathers around the sick and prays for the sick only!
- Say only words that will make the person feel better (PRACTICE AT HOME!)
- After prayer each member can give brief words of encouragement to the sick.(Prepare and train ahead of time.)
- End with final words from president, closing song, and dismissal.
- Leave juice when you go. Don't Stay Long!

**General rules of wisdom for visitation are as follows (especially in sickroom):**

- Keep a calm atmosphere.
- No sudden movements or noises.
- Uniforms should be clean, pressed and no perfumes or scented talc.
- Don't be patronizing or condescending to the sick or family members

### **SECTION CCS5.3 Missionary Rules For Baptismal Ceremony – When this is not assigned to another group.**

(Rehearse these often.)

- You are in charge of all baptismal clothing.
- Keep all items clean and dry.
- Store them in a dry place.
- Hang up robes, if possible.
- Before the day of baptism, make sure there is enough garments for each candidate.
- Talk to the women to see if they have any special problems (physical problems).
- Remind each candidate to bring a change of undergarments.

## **ARTICLE CCS6**

### **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

### **SECTION CCS6.1** The National Missionary Day in the Annual Assembly week is all day Friday.

### **SECTION CCS6.2 Name:**

The True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United National Missionary Society, is made up of missionary circles of each particular church. When the missionary circles come together in the Annual Assembly, they are referred to as the National Missionary Society.

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### **SECTION CCS6.3 Responsibilities:**

Each missionary circle's responsibility is to help the needy in their church and community, to remove the cause of sin and suffering, and to provide and minister to the aged and blind. Its primary officers shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

### **SECTION CCS6.4 Job Description of National President:**

Visit each missionary circle once a year.

- Stay 1-3 days as needed
- Give general instruction in policies (see handbook)
- Help organize missionary circles
- Give Bible teaching on missionary work
- Encourage field work
- Organize committees for the National Missionary Day (as needed)
- Encourage obedience to pastor
- Each local church should have one Annual Missionary Day within its area. (Some churches have every fifth Sunday as a Missionary Day)
- Offer suggestions for regular local Missionary Services or meetings: every fourth Sunday, every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, and every quarter
- Counsel with local presidents concerning organization of local groups.
- Send one brief written report of all local visits to Board of Bishops one month prior to Annual Assembly, to be recorded in the Assembly Minutes Book. Keep a copy for yourself.

Prepare to make a 15-minute annual address before the Annual Assembly on the National Missionary Day.

- Suggested topics: humility and subjection to your pastor in all things and carry out all directives.
- Knowledge of the scriptures aid the missionary in doing his/her work.
- The importance of local missionary activities.
- The differences between field and local missionaries.
- Understanding the people you serve.
- Discussing the significance of the white uniform.
- The differences and similarities between the missionary and the evangelist.
- Paul as a missionary.

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### **SECTION CCS6.5 Annual Missionary Day Format.** (National Secretary should be present to take minutes.)

(optional) Early afternoon session one and a half-hour.

- Devotional
- Prayer
- Scriptural reading
- Educational program (theme)
  - Seminar
  - Panel discussion
  - Questions and answers
  - Workshops

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Review of a major missionary field operation within the church

- Offering
- Remarks
- Adjourn until next session.

Friday Evening Session

- Devotional (Missionaries in uniform.)
- Prayer
- Scripture reading
- Testimonial/Praise
- Turn over to moderator
- Offering (Assembly officers)
- Program (Includes national address)
- Preacher
- Altar call
- Turn over to moderator

#### **SECTION CCS6.6 (SUGGESTED CORRESPONDENCE)**

January 5, 1998

To: The Missionary Circle of True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Northern Kentucky.

From: Deacon Toni Worsham, National Missionary President

Subject: Annual visit

Dear President and Members,

Presiding Bishop Pamela A. Smith appointed me in January 1998 to be the National Missionary President for the True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United Missionary Society.

Enclosed are copies of my job description and a tentative national missionary day program for this year's Annual Assembly.

We need to set a time for a meeting so that we can prepare for our day in the Annual Assembly.

Please choose a date in the month of May. It will last at least 2 hours.

Enclosed you will find a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

Yours in Christ,

*(Signature)*

National Missionary President

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## **SECTION CCS6.7 (Form letter response)**

January 8, 1998

To: Deacon Toni Worsham, The National Missionary Society President

From: Evangelist C. Ford, Missionary Circle President  
True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Northern Kentucky

Subject: Annual visit

Dear Deacon Worsham,

The Missionary Circle of True Holiness Church of God Northern Kentucky will be pleased to meet with you on

\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM.

Sincerely,

*(Signature)*  
Local Missionary Circle President

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## **SECTION CCS6.8 (Memo to remind Missionary Circle of Scheduled Meeting)**

May 1, 1998

To: The Missionary Circle of True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Northern Kentucky.

From: Deacon Toni Worsham, The National Missionary Society President

Subject: Scheduled visit

Dear Fellow Laborers,

This note is to remind you of my arrival to your missionary service/meeting on  
\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM.

I am looking forward to our fellowship,

*(Signature)*  
National Missionary Society President

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## **SECTION CCS6.9 (Memo to remind Pastor of Scheduled Meeting)**

May 1, 1998

To: Bishop R.G. Miller, True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly of Northern Kentucky.

From: Deacon Toni Worsham, The National Missionary Society President

Subject: Scheduled visit

Dear Bishop Miller,

This is just to remind you that I will be meeting with your Missionary Circle for service/instruction on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM.

Thank you for the opportunity,

*(Signature)*

National Missionary Society President

## **ARTICLE CCS7**

### **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL USHER BOARD**

**SECTION CCS7.1** The church services and activities where an usher is needed, will not function properly without a highly skilled and observant usher. Every phase of each worship service needs this specialized assistant: greeting the visitor, arranging seating, caring for the comfort of the congregation, directing walking activities (e.g., offerings), keeping order, assisting in prayer lines and praises, and directing the crowd safely to the exit.

**SECTION CCS7.2** When there is more than one usher on the floor, special methods of communication (signs) are needed between them. Ushers should work together as a team, in ways that will not disturb the worship service.

A set of hand, body, and eye signals must be learned and practiced by all. A problem can be handled promptly and efficiently when an usher has the ability to quickly alert the other ushers without any clamor.

#### **SECTION CCS7.3 Job description of National Usher Board President.**

- To call local presidents' meeting
- To review national policies
- To prepare for work in annual assembly

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- To train in “signals”
- To encourage local annual usher board days
- Make sure that most experienced ushers are working from each church, in that annual assembly
- To help organize local boards
- To send brief written report to all local visits to the Presiding Bishop and the Board of Bishops one month prior to annual assembly, to be recorded in the assembly minutes book. Keep a copy for yourself.
- Prepare to make an annual address to all ushers in the Annual Assembly on their day. (15 minutes)

Suggested topics:

- Understanding the people you serve.
- What is a typical usher?
- Recruiting for the usher board.
- Understanding the job of a president.
- Why ushers need special trainers.
- Ushers in the Bible.

#### **SECTION CCS7.4 Dress code on national day.**

Everyone who is an usher should wear the same national colors and be in complete uniform, with gloves hanging from their belt (unless they are on duty). All ushers will sit in a reserved section starting at the front of the auditorium.

Each local president should inspect his/her own group for proper apparel. Improperly dressed ushers will not sit with the group.

#### **SECTION CCS7.5 Annual Usher Board Day Format. (one session)**

Thursday Night of the Annual Assembly

- Devotional (lead by usher board members)
- Prayer
- Scripture reading
- Testimonial/Praise
- Turn service over to moderator
- Offering (Assembly officers)
- Program
- (Includes National President’s Address)
- Preaching
- Altar call
- Remarks
- Dismissal

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## **ARTICLE CCS8**

### **BY-LAWS OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **SECTION CCS8.1 Ministers' Responsibility.**

All ministers not holding a charge shall be responsible to the annual meetings, and pay all assessments that are placed upon the ministry. They shall hold membership under the care of a pastor, and do duty as all other saints.

#### **SECTION CCS8.2 Secretaries of the Annual Assembly shall be donated according to the discretion of the disbursement committee and expenses paid to and from said place of meeting.**

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## **ARTICLE CCS9**

### **WOMEN EMBRACING HOLINESS CONFERENCE**

#### **Purpose of Conference**

- To provide yearly seminars, workshops, and training sessions for Women of all ages.

#### **Conference Overall Goals**

- To train women to be faithful, reverent, & strong leaders
- Help restore family traditions
- Help young women to make good life choices Encourage parents to provide a strong support system for their children
- Teach all women to embrace holy living

#### **Senior Women Should Embrace Holiness By:**

- Being an example to younger women So that they will not despise your instruction
- And Teach them to dress holy
- Teach them to be discreet
- To project a sober attitude
- To respect their husbands
- And to rear their children in the beauty of holiness
- Teach them to love God
- And to be faithful to the work of the Lord
- Admonish them not to be slothful in business
- To maintain a good name in their community

#### **Younger Women Embrace Holiness When They:**

- Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her: for she is thy life. (Proverbs 4:13)

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**ARTICLE CCS10**  
**MASS CHOIR OUTREACH**  
**MINISTRY**  
**CONSTITUTION**



**Name**

The official name of the organization is The True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United Mass Choir. The alternative acronym will be THAT United Mass Choir.

**SECTION CCS10.1: Purpose**

The choir's purpose is to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, by ministering to the poor in spirit, the forsaken, the lost, the homeless, the wayfarer, as well as sharing in jubilation with the joyful and optimistic. Our goal is to take the knowledge of the mercy and saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to all people.

**SECTION CCS10.3: Membership**

- (1) Each prospective member must have a recommendation from his or her pastor.
- (2) Normal membership is open to all adults who are active members in good standing in one of the affiliate congregations of THAT United International. Everyone who applies for membership should be a member of at least one singing group in their own church. They must have singing ability or a potential to achieve a satisfactory standard.
- (3) The head director shall have discretion to admit other persons into membership in special circumstances.
- (4) The head director shall have the power to suspend to expel from membership any person who conducts himself or herself in a manner contrary to the "Constitution and Rules," bring disrepute to the choir or fails to support the activities of the choir.
- (5) Each member shall maintain regular and punctual attendance at rehearsals and performances and conform to the "Constitution and Rules" of the Choir.

**SECTION CCS10.4: Attendance Requirements**

- (1) Each member is required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and engagements. One (1) rehearsal or engagement may be missed per quarter.
- (2) If an engagement must be missed, the member should contact the recording secretary as soon as possible, but no later than one (1) day prior to the engagement.
- (3) Each member is allowed one (1) unexcused absence per quarter. Personal and family emergencies are exempted.

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### **Withdrawal from Participation**

If a member fails to contact the recording secretary prior to an absence, that one (1) absence will then count as two (2). Four (4) absences will result in the termination of the member's participation in the choir for the remainder of the quarter.

### **Withdrawal of Membership**

- (1) Members may have their membership withdrawn for failure to adhere to the requirements for membership as stated above and/or misconduct during engagements.
- (2) No member will be dismissed without a written warning of conduct prior to actual dismissal. A copy of the warning will be given to the member and his or her pastor.

### **Rights**

Each member has the right to one vote on any matter that is brought before the membership for resolution.

## **SECTION CCS10.5: Executive Musical Coordinators**

The choir's executive musical coordinators, in order of seniority, shall be Head Director, Deputy Director, Choir Directors, Accompanist, and Librarian. Reelections and appointments will take place in September of each year.

### **Head Director and/or Deputy Director**

- (1) He or she is the head of the meetings of the musical department, which is composed of the musicians, directors, and head guest directors.
- (2) Lead the choir in the organization of the rehearsal schedule for each quarter.
- (3) He or she shall be responsible for all musical aspects of the choir's rehearsal and concert performances.
- (4) He or she will advise on the selection of new music and will select programs appropriate to the occasion and location.
- (5) The Head Director or Deputy Director shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall have full voting rights.

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## **Choir Directors**

- (1) Directors shall have the most proven experience all members of the choir.
- (2) They must show leadership ability, effective communication skills, spiritual grounding, and some knowledge about gospel choral music.
- (3) Directors will also organize instruction in voice and breathing exercises.
- (4) Work with the Head Director to decide on the order of songs for the final concert each year.

## **Accompanists**

The accompanists should be responsible for working with the head director to ensure accompaniment for all rehearsals. The accompanists should be in attendance at all director meetings.

## **Librarian**

- (1) Sheet music shall be under the control of the Librarian who shall issue and recall copies as necessary for rehearsals and concerts, as required by the Head Director.
- (2) He or she shall maintain register of the sheet music issued to each member of the Choir.
- (3) Members shall be responsible for the care of the music issued to them and shall remedy any loss or damage. All music shall remain the property of the choir.

## **Historian**

- (1) The Historian is not a singing member of the choir.
- (2) The Historian is to organize the videotaping of any concerts, as budgeting allows.
- (3) Organize the production of audio and videotapes for fundraising and documentary purposes in conjunction with the Head Director.
- (4) Comprise and maintain a portfolio of memorandum of the rehearsals, engagements, fellowships, and concerts that are containing items that pertain to the choir (i.e. pictures, programs, articles).
- (5) Maintain the written history of the choir and an accurate written copy of the constitution of the choir.
- (6) The original copies of each should be delivered to the Corporate Secretary of THAT United Int'l for indexing.

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## **SECTION CCS10.6: Administrative Officers**

All officers must be mature and reliable. Must have a good reputation inside and outside of the church. Must be faithful to his or her local church services, activities, and auxiliaries.

The choir's administrative officers, in order of seniority, shall be General Manager, Business Manager, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Chaplain. These officers are also the standing administrative committee. Reelections and appointments will take place in September of each year.

### **General Manager**

- (1) The Chairman shall have particular responsibility for the welfare of the members of the choir and the conduct of committee meetings.
- (2) He or she shall be responsible for coordinating the work of all committee members and conducting all general membership meetings of the choir.
- (3) Must be present at all choir rehearsals. Helps to communicate choir policies.
- (4) Helps business manager organize transportation for members to and from rehearsals and performance locations.

### **Business Manager**

- (1) The choir manager is not a singing member of the choir. He or she must be experienced in finance and general business practices. Coordinate fundraising efforts for choir expenses.
- (2) Organize the distribution of the audio instruction tapes for every choir member.
- (3) Make room reservations for all musical rehearsals and performances.
- (4) Book and contact, if necessary, musicians for all engagements and concerts.
- (5) With the help of standing committees, the Choir Manager shall undertake the responsibility for concert bookings, social functions, rehearsal management, and concert management.
- (6) Take responsibility for and have a procedure in place to transport and store choir robes.
- (7) As the publicist, he or she shall promote the reputation of the choir and its activities and seek to recruit new members within THAT United affiliate congregations.

### **Recording Secretary**

- (1) The recording secretary shall keep attendance for all rehearsals and engagements by performing a verbal roll call.

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- (2) The recording secretary shall prepare all business for the duly record all proceedings of the subcommittees and the choir and shall publish an agenda for and the minutes of all meetings of the choir and its committee.
- (3) He or she shall maintain a register of members and their home contact information, and shall maintain a continuous written record of all choir business and documentation.
- (4) He or she shall also distribute a copy of the Constitution and Rules to any prospective member.
- (5) The Recording Secretary shall also receive a written copy of any additions to or amendments to this Constitution and Handbook, and then distribute the amendment to each member attending the next scheduled rehearsal.

### **Treasurer**

- (1) The Treasurer works under the direction of the Chief Financial Officer of THAT United Int'l.
- (2) The Treasurer shall receive all monies and keep all accounts which shall be open at all times to the musical and administrative officers.
- (3) The Treasurer will send all major fundraising receipts to the Ministries & Missions account of THAT United.
- (4) The treasurer shall report the current financial situation and current financial business at each general membership and committee meeting. He or she shall submit a report and written statement of accounts.
- (5) The treasurer will manage a working treasure for incidentals such as: dry cleaning robes, purchasing accessories, notebooks, paper, pencils, song books, gasoline, paying seamstresses, purchasing fabric, etc. Only \$300 will be held in account. (Until amendment to this rule is submitted.)

### **Chaplain**

- (1) The chaplain shall organize devotion that will be conducted at the beginning of each rehearsal.
- (2) He or she serves as a resource for spiritual support through prayer and biblical exhortations.
- (3) The general manager and directors should strive to complement their duties with spiritual leadership for the choir members also.

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## **SECTION CCS10.7: Impeachment**

### **Grounds for impeachment of Administrative Officer shall be**

- (1) The failure to fulfill their duties as listed in the Constitution.
- (2) Improper conduct as determined by officers of the general membership.

### **Procedure for Impeachment**

- (1) A petition signed by one-third of the general membership, listing charges against the accused person. The petition shall be presented to the Head Director or General Manager.
- (2) The accused person shall be notified as soon as the position has been presented.
- (3) A meeting of all membership and the accused person is called to discuss those allegations.
- (4) The accused person is given the opportunity to resign or is impeached by the majority vote from the general membership.

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## **SECTION CCS10.8: Amendments**

- (1) The amendment is presented as a written proposal to the Head Director or General Manager.
- (2) The proposal is reviewed.
- (3) If the proposal is meritorious, the amendment will be brought before the general membership.
- (4) An amendment will be adopted by majority vote of the general membership.

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## **SECTION CCS10.9: Finance**

The income and property of the choir, however derived, shall be applied solely towards the objectives of the choir as set out in the rules.

### **Pledges**

- (1) Members shall donate to the funds of the choir by means of an annual pledge as is deemed necessary for the financial stability of the choir and agreed by the majority of the members.
- (2) In the event of serious and prolonged sickness of a member, the officers shall have discretion to excuse or reduce pledges.

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## **SECTION CCS10.10: Other Positions in the Choir**

### **Musicians**

- (1) The head musician, drummers, and percussionists should be responsible for working with the head director to ensure accompaniment for all rehearsals.
- (2) The musicians should be in attendance at all director meetings.

### **Guest Soloists**

All soloists are subject to an audition by the director of the song. In order for anyone to solo, they must have and maintain a satisfactory membership status with one of the affiliate congregations, or other congregations we fellowship with.

## **SECTION CCS10.11: Quorum**

- (1) Fifty percent of the membership of the administrative committee (including the ex-officio member) shall constitute a quorum for a committee meeting.
- (2) Fifty percent of the membership of the choir shall constitute a quorum for a general membership meeting.

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## **ARTICLE CCS11**

### **BOARD OF BISHOPS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

#### **THE PRESIDING BISHOP AND HER STAFF PLANS FOR THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Board of Bishops is the highest governing body of the corporation and is representative of the unity of its subsidiaries, congregations, and governing bodies in True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, Inc, and future congregations who will apply and be accepted into this Union.

The Board of Bishops consist of the oldest qualified Elders of the union churches, who are consecrated to the respective offices of Presiding Bishop, Suffragan Bishop, Bishop, Associate Bishop to manage the work, nurture the flock, and resolve doctrinal divisions. The Board decides upon such religious, doctrinal, cultural, spiritual questions that cannot be settled by the local church congregations. The Board of Bishops meet quarterly, with meetings officiated by the Presiding Bishop. Positions are renewed or reappointed every four years. This Board furthers our exempt purpose by promoting effective church government.

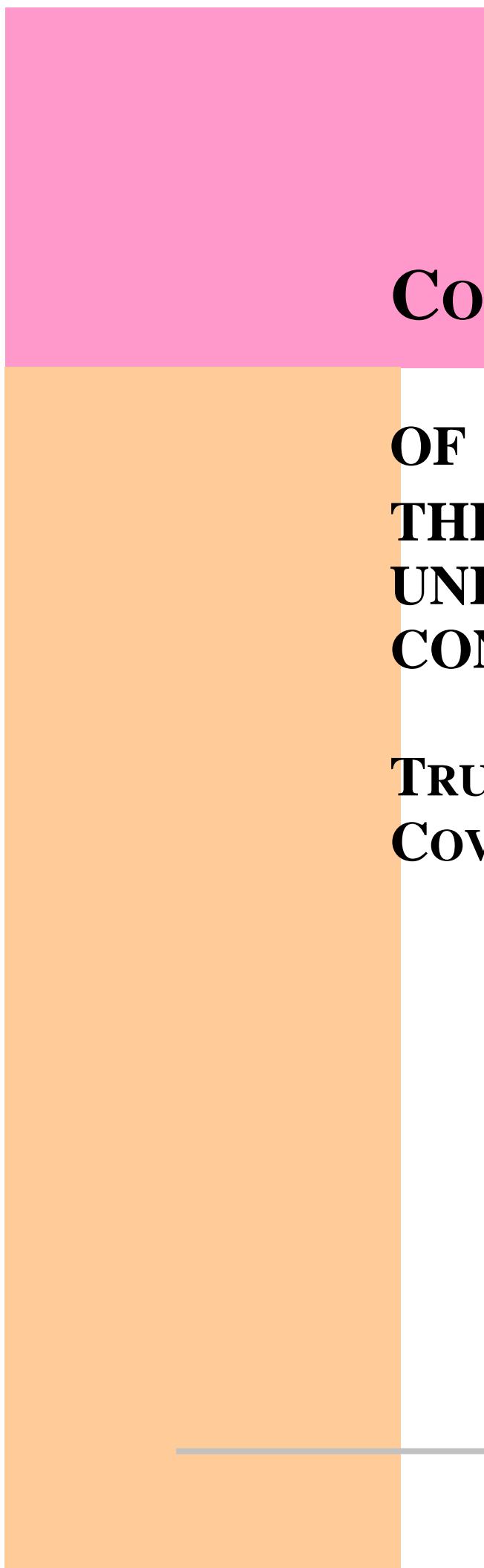
The Board of Bishops is also the Board of Directors of THAT United. The Board is made up of men and women of high character and standing, of sound judgment and wisdom, and filled with the Holy Ghost. The Board sets policy, create articles of incorporation and bylaws, and sees after

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the general business of the organization as examining deeds and titles of property of the organization and all affiliates.

Additionally, the Board establishes financial overseers to provide adequate resources for the activities of the organization through direct financial contributions and a commitment to fundraising.

Annual conferences are held for the purpose of the Board determining the organization's mission and setting policies for its operation, engaging in planning to establish the organization's general course for the future, establishing fiscal policy and boundaries, with budgets and financial controls, and ensuring the provisions of the organization's charter and law are being followed.



# **CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED CONGREGATIONS**

## **TRUE HOLINESS COVENANT OF PEACE ASSEMBLY**

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## **CHAPTER 10**

### **THE STATEMENT OF FAITH**

True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International believes in the doctrines of the whole Bible rightly divided. We recognize the Bible as the authority for government and personal discipline. The following is a statement of faith for each congregation, which is called True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE F1.**

##### **THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible, the infallibility of the original manuscripts, and that the teachings in the Bible is truth without any error and is inspired even to the very words and is therefore the in scripted Word of God, to be practiced under the direction of the Holy Ghost.

#### **ARTICLE F2.**

##### **SALVATION**

Man was created in the image of God, but by exercise of his own will He transgressed the will of God and fell in sin. His only hope of redemption is through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Bible standard of full salvation is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other (unlearned) tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. (Acts Chapter Two)

#### **ARTICLE F3.**

##### **THE GODHEAD**

We believe in one eternal God, infinite in power, holy in nature, attributes and purpose, and possessing absolute indivisible deity. This one true God has revealed Himself in these last days as Father in creation, through His Son in redemption, and through the Holy Ghost in emanation. (1 Cor. 8:6, Eph. 4:6, 2 Cor. 5:19, Joel 2:28)

#### **ARTICLE F4.**

##### **THE SON OF GOD**

The one true God, the Jehovah of the Old Testament, took upon Himself the form of man, as the Son of man, was born of the virgin Mary. As Paul says, “and without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Tim. 3:16)

#### **ARTICLE F5.**

##### **THE NAME**

His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6). “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21)

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## **ARTICLE F6.**

### **HEALING**

We believe that the vicarious suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ paid for the healing of our bodies, as for the salvation of our souls. “Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses.” (Matt. 8:17) Jesus said of believers – “they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:18) “Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord and the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.” (James 5:14-16)

## **ARTICLE F7.**

### **HOLINESS**

We approve of every social and personal activity, which will promote the interest of spiritual development. However, we firmly reject activities of worldliness which are not conducive to Christianity and godly living.

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## CHAPTER 11

### MISSION STATEMENT

The particular church carries a vital responsibility in the mission of the organization (union of churches). There God's people perform especially the ministries of worship, proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, evangelism, nurture, counseling, personal and social healing, and service. Congregations serve as the essential mission arms of the ecclesiastic order and of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International

### ARTICLE M1

#### **The Purpose or Purposes for Which This Congregation is Formed are:**

- (1) To provide a place of worship and religious education for its members;
- (2) To preach the Gospel;
- (3) To engage in Mission;
- (4) To receive, hold and disburse gifts, bequests and funds arising from other sources;

Under the auspices of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, to ordain Bishops, Elders, Pastors, Evangelists, and Deacons;

- (1) To purchase, or otherwise acquire, lease as lessee, invest in, hold, use, lease as lessor, encumber, sell, exchange, transfer, and dispose of real and personal property of every kind and description or any interest therein, by authority and action of its board of trustees and the Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International
- (2) To borrow money, and issue, sell, and pledge its notes, bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness, and to secure any of its obligations by mortgage, pledge of deed of trust of any or any of its real and personal property, of whatever kind and description or any interest therein, by authority and action of its board of trustees and the Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International
- (3) To do such other lawful acts or activities to accomplish its religious and charitable purposes as contemplated by Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) and the nonprofit corporation laws of the State of Ohio.

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## CHAPTER 12

### GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE UNITED CONGREGATIONS

The particular churches of the True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International wherever they are, taken collectively, constitute one Church.

#### ARTICLE G1 CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Governing Bodies of the Church are distinct from the government of the State and Federal governments and have no civil jurisdiction or power to impose civil penalties. They have only ecclesiastical jurisdiction for the purpose of serving Jesus Christ and declaring and obeying his will in relation to truth and service, order and discipline.

##### SECTION G1.1

This Church shall be governed by senior elders, who are assigned the titles of Bishops, Pastors, Elders of the Gospel, and Business Elders (Deacons); which shall meet as governing bodies at regular intervals of time.

##### SECTION G1.2

The Bylaw and Constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United specify that the office of Presiding Bishop is the highest governing appointment and will be the pastor of the whole church and a teacher of this church's faith. She exercises pastoral care by giving leadership and support to the members of the Board of Bishops and Board of Elders.

The Presiding Bishop serves as

- The president and chief executive officer of the corporation,
- As the chief representative of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International to all other organizations in which THAT United holds membership,
- Acts as the chair of the Board of Bishops holds responsibility for the preparation of the Annual Assembly's agenda, as well as the agenda of the Board of Bishops, and various other groups related to the national organization.
- In addition the presiding bishop, or the bishop's representative, has the responsibility of providing for the preparation of the budget of the corporate administration,
- Serves as an advisory member, on all committees of this union of churches and on all boards or committees of the units of the national organization.

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### **SECTION G1.3**

The mission of these governing bodies is to represent the will of Christ for the people.

### **SECTION G1.4**

Decisions shall be reached in governing bodies by vote, following opportunity for discussion, and a majority shall govern.

### **SECTION G1.5**

The higher governing body shall have the right of review and control over a lower one and shall have power to determine matters of controversy upon reference, complaint, or appeal.

### **SECTION G1.6**

Governing bodies possess whatever administrative authority is necessary to give effect to duties and powers assigned by the Constitution of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc.

## **ARTICLE G2. RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER GOVERNING BODIES**

All governing bodies of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International are united by the nature of the churches and share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers as provided in this constitution. The governing bodies are separate and independent, but have such mutual relations that the act of the whole church performed by it through the appropriate governing body. The express provisions of the constitution, with the acts of each subject to review limit the jurisdiction of each governing body by the next higher governing body.

## **ARTICLE G3. OFFICERS THAT HAVE JURISDICTION WITHIN AND OVER THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION**

**SECTION G3.1** The Cabinet Board of Executive Officers shall be known as a board of Bishops. The Senior Bishop shall be known as the executive head of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc. and its affiliates. Duties shall be to preside in all general meetings and to look after the welfare of the general body, being assisted by the Associate Bishops.

**SECTION G3.2** The Board of Bishops shall also be known as Supreme Judges to decide on all cases that shall appeal to the General Church, and any question that may arise on the teaching of doctrine of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International shall be settled by this Board of Bishops.

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**SECTION G3.3** The Board of Bishops will thoroughly examine any doctrine that seems to bring division among the congregation, for scriptural soundness.

**SECTION G3.4** National Evangelists shall be appointed to their work by the Board of Bishops.

**SECTION G3.5** Pastors shall be appointed to their charge by the Board of Bishops, or shall come in possession of their charge by establishing their work, and it shall not be taken away from them unless they are not able to hold it or they desire to give it up.

**SECTION G3.6 The Duties of Pastors are**

- To feed the flock the word of God and to carry out the doctrine of the Church and to see that the same is carried out by others.
- To designate offices within the particular congregation.
- To establish auxiliaries such as the Missionary Circle, Sunday school, Building Fund, etc.
- To appoint a clerk to keep a close and careful record of the church business and work, maintain records of name; address; and dates of everyone that joins. The clerk should also record the deaths of the saints. (Clerks should be selected at the first business meeting before each Annual Assembly to serve one year. The same may be reelected from year to year.)

## **ARTICLE G8.**

### **QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTRY AND OFFICERS IN THE CONGREGATION**

**SECTION G8.1** Bishops, Elders, Pastors and Evangelists must be able to read that they may fulfill the scriptures(1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 4:13; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 2:15). They must be skilled in the scriptures and able to speak the predominant language fluently. (*See Qualifications of the Saints, Article 3*).

**SECTION G8.2** The pastor shall have the following qualifications: Be spirit-filled according to the tenets of the church; be a member in good standing of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International; he must maintain a life above reproach from without the church or within it; he must be capable of performing all the varied duties elsewhere herein stated.

**SECTION G8.3** All pastors are required to attend all annual meetings.

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## ARTICLE G9.

### LICENSE/ORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

#### **Requirements for local licensing:**

- Make their confession of service to Pastor
- By discretion of Pastor, may undergo written and/or verbal examination to demonstrate competency in the scriptures (able to read and comprehend)
- Must receive a recommendation from their Pastor

Local licensing permits the minister to exercise their gift only within the organization. Local licensed ministers are not permitted to obtain any other form of clergy papers or badges outside of THAT United (e.g. in hospitals, clinics, prisons, etc.) until they have proven their ministerial calling and are prepared for formal ordination credentials.

#### **Requirements for Ordination:**

- Must be recommended by Pastor
- By discretion of Board of Bishops, may undergo written and/or verbal examination to demonstrate advanced competency in the scriptures and excellent disposition for responsible ministry
- Must pledge obeisance to Bylaws and Constitution of the organization

Ordained ministers may exercise their gift outside of the jurisdiction of THAT United, with the consent and acknowledgement of their Pastor. Ordained ministers are subject to re-examination of license every year.

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## ARTICLE G10

### THE ELECTIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF OFFICERS

**SECTION G10.1** They may hold their respective offices as long as they are prosperous and their moral conduct is above reproach. They may be removed at any time if their conduct warrants it.

**SECTION G10.2** In cases of misconduct, Bishops shall be examined and dealt with according to the Bible by the Board of Bishops.

**SECTION G10.3** Elders shall be dealt with the same as Bishops.

**SECTION G10.4** Elders shall be elected from among the oldest qualified ministers by the Board of Bishops.

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**SECTION G10.5** Pastors and Evangelists shall be examined and dealt with by the Board of Bishops

**SECTION G10.6** Teachers shall be appointed to their work by the pastor.

**SECTION G10.7** Teachers and Deacons shall be examined and dealt with by the pastor.

**SECTION G10.8** Be it known to all that no minister or officer will be allowed to exercise their authority in the church if they refuse to do any of the following: live according to the scriptures, be faithful in services, or pay tithes and offerings.

There must be sufficient signs of repentance before he/she is reinstated.

If there are legitimate problems that prevent him/her from doing any of the aforementioned, he/she should communicate with the pastor promptly, so that you may receive help.

**SECTION G10.9** Local licensed ministers are to preach locally. This means he or she preaches at home, and by permission from the pastor, he/she can preach at other congregations in the body.

**SECTION G10.10** Local licensed ministers are not permitted to obtain any other form of clergy papers or badges outside of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International (e.g., in hospitals, clinics, prisons, etc.) until they have proven their ministerial calling and have been given formal ordination credentials.

## **ARTICLE G11**

### **DUTY OF ACTIVE BISHOPS**

### **FOR PARTICULAR CONGREGATIONS**

**SECTION G11.1** The duty of the active Bishop shall be to look after the general church work and preside over annual meetings, and go when called upon to any subordinate church and his expenses shall be paid.

**SECTION G11.2** A professional expense account within a particular church shall include disbursements for the Bishops visitation to and from said place of meeting.

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**SECTION G11.3** Bishops are to carry out the Edict of the United Church in accordance with the word of God. And to see that these doctrines and customs are carried out in every part of the world, wherever a congregation is established under the jurisdiction of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc.

**SECTION G11.4** Bishops are to be diligent and devoted to their work, and see that no contrary work is being carried out in the True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International Inc movement.

## **ARTICLE G12.**

### **THE BOARD OF BISHOPS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATIONS**

The Board of Bishops may frame symbols of faith, bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in life, resolve questions of doctrine and of discipline, give counsel in matters of conscience, and decide issues properly brought before them under the provisions of the book of discipline. Wn collaboration with pastors, it shall authorize the serving of the Lord's Supper in accordance with the principles of the word of God and establish plans and rules for the worship, mission, government, and discipline of the church and to do those things necessary to the peace, purity, unity, and progress of the church under the will of Christ. It has responsibility for the leadership, guidance, and government of that segment of the church that is placed under its jurisdiction, by the Presiding Bishop.

## **ARTICLE G13.**

### **NAME OF THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION**

**SECTION G13.1** The corporate name of a particular congregation within the parent corporation is required to identify its affiliation with the other churches by using the words "*True Holiness*" in its name. True Holiness produces true worship (St. John 4:24).

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## CHAPTER 13

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION

#### ARTICLE P1

##### **DUTIES OF THE GENERAL (CHURCH) SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, AND CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY.**

**SECTION P1.1** The duties of the general secretary is to attend all business meetings pertaining to the general church, to keep records of all business transacted in all such meetings, and to keep minutes of all business and resolutions that are acted upon by the general church.

**SECTION P1.2** The financial secretary shall be responsible for records of all moneys received and paid out, and what it was paid for. A formal receipt for all tithes should be given to each member.

**SECTION P1.3** The correspondence secretary announces weekly services, meeting times, special events and weekly finances.

This secretary also corresponds for the general church to any other church's or agencies through letters, bulletins, telegrams, etc.

**SECTION P1.4** The church secretary shall be a mature member in good standing in the congregation with the ability to properly record the transactions of the church and keep such records as prescribed by the church leaders.

**SECTION P1.5** The recording secretary shall be a member in good standing in the congregation, capable of properly recording the activities of Saints meetings and general business meetings and work as asked of the pastor when it is asked to be done.

**SECTION P1.6** Secretaries should not be gossips, who will talk of the business of the church to those without or within, and if such be the case, the pastor shall call for her dismissal.

**SECTION P1.7** Secretaries who work in the annual meetings of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International shall be donated according to the discretion of the disbursement committee and expenses paid to and from said place of meeting.

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## ARTICLE P2

### QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD OF THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION

**SECTION P2.1** Trustees are appointed to their work by the pastor. A board of trustees should consist of an odd number, such as 3,5, 7, or 9. Trustees should be men and women of sound judgment and full age. Experience in running a business or home successfully is a must! If you do not know how to take care of your own home and surroundings how can you take care of the house of God.

**SECTION P2.2** Trustees shall be appointed by the pastor. Their duty shall be to help investigate, buy, build, and protect all church property in the interest of the particular church with the aid of their pastor.

**SECTION P2.3** A board of trustees should select a chairman, secretary, and treasurer and hold their business meetings separate from the general church meetings. The overseer has the option to serve on the trustee board as an ex officio member for the Board of Bishops.

**SECTION P2.4** The trustees' duties shall be to help investigate, buy, build and protect all church property in the interest of the union church and True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International with the aid of their pastors.

**SECTION P2.5** Trustees shall be mature members in good standing in the congregation and have some knowledge of property values.

**SECTION P2.6** Treasurers shall be mature member in good standing of the church and shall have the ability to maintain an understandable record of all monies to him.

**SECTION P2.7** Their duties are to know how, when and where to appropriate (or spend) church money; such as paying notes, rent, utilities, and care of the church property. The pastor is the principle trustee of the church.

**SECTION P2.8** There should be one or more general church treasurers appointed who is able and willing to hold bank records, and passbooks in a locked file cabinet, strong box, or security box in a bank.

**SECTION P2.9** No one is a trustee for an indefinite period of time. Reappointment can be made when necessary.

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**SECTION P2.10** It is the duty of the trustee to look after the church buildings and place of worship and keep it in repair and look after lights and fuel and also deeds that are made to the church.

**SECTION P2.11** Receipts should be made for every transaction.

**SECTION P2.12** The trustee board is responsible for investigating and establishing ways of increasing the financial base of the church without taking the risk of losing, even a penny.

**SECTION P2.13** Trustees shall not be allowed to sell and convey church property for any other purpose than for the use to benefit of the church and church property cannot be disposed of without majority vote.

**SECTION P2.14** The trustee shall not derive any personal benefit from any property; but his duty is to hold such property in trust for the use of the church only.

If property is loaned out, a policy must be established for the care and limited use of said property.

**SECTION P2.15** Be it known that all personal property and real property bought or contracted for, shall be done in the name of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International and all signers will use the title of “business agent,” e.g., John Jones, business agent.

**SECTION P2.16** Until a congregation is organized in this manner it will be considered a “mission” of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International (e.g., name will read, Mission of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International) The Board of Bishops (through the Finance Department) will govern its receipts and expenses.

## **ARTICLE P3** **THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Chaplain:

- Opening Song
- Prayer
- Song
- Scripture reading

Chairman:

- Roll call
- Minutes of previous meeting read

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- Vote to accept last minutes
- Reports from committees
- Unfinished business
- New business and new resolutions

Chaplain:

- Dismiss with prayer

## **ARTICLES P4**

The pastor may appoint any other officers that are necessary for the prosperity of the church.

## **ARTICLES P5**

### **QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEACONS (READ ARTICLE 6; SECTION 2 FOR QUALIFICATIONS.)**

**SECTION P5.1** Deacons are to look after the interest of their local church such as raising finances for the Pastor and assist the Pastor in meetings and services and to look after the widows and orphans, sick and their afflictions.

**SECTION P5.2** Deacons shall have the right to teach. They shall not have any power over the pastor.

**SECTION P5.3** When any trouble cannot be settled between deacons, congregation and pastor, if the pastor is unable to notify the overseer, the deacon shall notify the overseer of such trouble. The overseer's duty shall be to look after such trouble and adjust it if possible.

**SECTION P5.4** When there is but one deacon he shall have power to solicit any one to help him in his work.

**SECTION P5.5** The Deacon Board helps to organize the pastor's compensation agreements.

**SECTION P5.6** Deacons and teachers must be able to teach, of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. They must cooperate with their pastors, they have no power to admit any preacher to conduct meetings without the pastor's consent.

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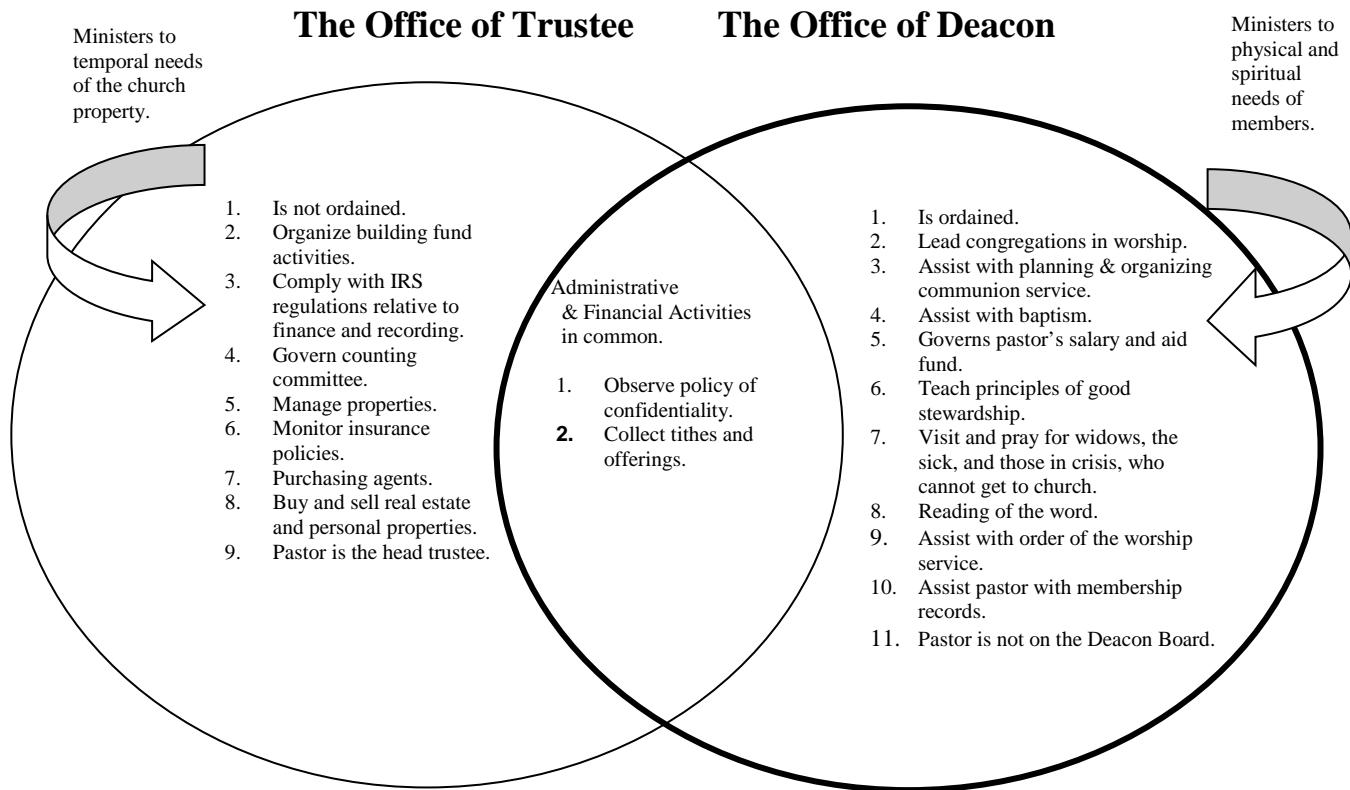
**SECTION P5.7** Deacons shall be mature male members in good standing in the congregation and fulfill the other requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

**SECTION P5.8** Deacons shall be appointed to their work by the pastor.

- (A) Deacons are supposed to be spiritual officers in the church with good behavior, one wife, having their children under obedience; the ruler over his household and providing for his own; have a good understanding of the scripture; and how to teach and rightly divide the word of God. The deacon has power over all the members, but the pastor and assistant pastor, are the ones the deacon is supposed to come subject to.
- (B) The Deacon is also to help with water baptism ceremony.
- (C) All preachers should work in the Deacons' office before being ordained an Elder, for it is necessary for them to know how to carry out the different services that go on in the church. All Deacons, after they have proved that they know how to carry out the different duties, will receive ordination.

## What does the Trustee Board and the Deacon Board have in common?

Sometimes trustee and deacon boards are combined because there are not enough qualified workers available.



Directives for True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International  
Prepared by Presiding Bishop P. A. Smith, January 2002

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## **ARTICLE P6**

### **REAL ESTATE**

All property bought by the parent corporation shall be deeded to True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International. The Board of Bishops shall govern it. The Board will hold the documents. Any officer or member holding license or business papers bearing the name of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International and cease to be in fellowship with the church should turn over all said papers and belongings to the Board of Bishops or its representatives. Failing to do so shall be counted as a transgression and dealt with accordingly.

**SECTION P6.1** Be it known that all real estate and personal property bought or contracted for by the particular church shall first have the consideration of the Board of Bishops. It will give advice in the matter.

**SECTION P6.2** Be it resolved that no church shall be counted a fully authorized member of True Holiness Assemblies, Inc. whose property is in some other name; as the Board of Bishops shall command all properties to be bought in the name of the Church.

## **ARTICLE P7**

### **AUXILIARIES WITHIN A CONGREGATION**

**SECTION P7.1** The pastors in their respective congregations shall organize Sunday school, Holiness Young People's Union, Missionary Circle, Usher Board, Choirs, and any other auxiliary.

**SECTION P7.2** All auxiliaries in the respective congregations shall represent in the Annual Meetings according to their financial ability.

**SECTION P7.3** Each year after the Annual Assembly all auxiliaries are to be reorganized.

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## **ARTICLE P8**

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE PASTOR'S AID**

#### **(FOR A SMALL CONGREGATION)**

**SECTION P8.1** The Pastor's Aid fund should be a committee to set forth a plan to aid the pastor throughout the year, with finances and/or substance. This is designed for a pastor of a congregation that is unable to pay a salary or a sufficient salary. This will be given in the form of a housing allowance, reimbursements, or other gifts that comply with Internal Revenue directives.

**SECTION P8.2** If the pastor needs more than what the general membership is giving, the concern must be brought before the trustee board, by the deacon board or pastor to establish and support new financial policies.

## **ARTICLE P9**

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE PASTOR'S HOUSING ALLOWANCE**

#### **(FOR A LARGE CONGREGATION)**

#### **SECTION P9.1**

Because our congregations, at this time, are too small to offer yearly salaries to their pastors, after thorough investigation, the Commission on Compensation Standards and Church Finance Management Compliance recommends that each church adopt an housing allowance and an accountable reimbursement plan to compensate their pastors.

#### **SECTION P9.2**

The official church board must designate the housing allowance on an annual basis and their decision must appear in official minutes.

#### **SECTION P9.3**

Under the accountable reimbursement plan, the pastor is reimbursed for professional and business expenses within 60 days, with reasonable documentation. The official church board must designate the housing allowance on an annual basis and their decision must appear in official minutes.

#### **SECTION P9.4**

Congregational budgets are management tools rather than inflexible financial contracts, they may be revised when circumstances change or when it serves the interests of all parties to do so.

**[ALSO READ 2004 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND COMPENSATION GUIDELINES  
FOR PASTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS]**

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## **ARTICLE P10**

### **CONFISCATING PROPERTY UPON DISSOLUTION OF A PARTICULAR CHURCH**

When a church is dissolved, the Presiding Bishop shall take possession of its records, have jurisdiction over its members, and grant them letters of transfer to other churches within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International

## **ARTICLE P11**

### **(BISHOP'S VISITATION WEEK)**

**SECTION P11.1** An Overseer shall have a designated district to preside over every three months. His/her duty is to visit each church or mission or see to it being done by a qualified Elder (Presiding Elder). The purpose of his/her visit should be

- To know the spiritual and financial welfare of the said church or mission.
- To give plans for the edifying and growth of the particular church.

Three nights shall be the term of his/her quarterly meeting and if the church needs him/her to tarry longer his/her time shall be unlimited.

**SECTION P11.2** If there is a matter between member and member, or pastor and member that has not been resolved and they may wish to appeal it to the overseer. It is at this meeting that the overseer may judge on such matter and should the party or parties feel that they are not satisfied, they can appeal to the Board of Bishops. However, their appeal should come through the Overseer.

**SECTION P11.3** Questions that should be asked in the quarterly meeting are as follows:

- Are all members in fellowship one with another?
- Are all members in harmony with the doctrine of the church?
- Are all teachers and preachers in harmony with the church?
- How many have been saved last quarter?
- How much money is in the treasure?
- How active are your evangelists and missionaries?

**SECTION P11.4** The Overseer should be given a financial stipend for his/her lodging and traveling expenses.

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## **ARTICLE P12.**

### **MOTHERS IN THE CHURCH**

**SECTION P12.1** Church Mothers should be women of good sound judgment, women of good behavior, obedient women that need not to be often chastised for any unseemly doings. They

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should be women that understand well the condition of the congregation, and who know how to well control their homes and children.

**SECTION P12.2** It is their duty to teach and exhort the young women how to wear their apparel, and conduct themselves as women becoming holiness. It is their duty to see that that the visiting ministers have a place of lodging, food, and to see that they are kept clean, and also see that the members respect the pastor, and that he is supplied with necessary needs.

## **ARTICLE P13** **WOMEN EMBRACING HOLINESS CONFERENCE**

May 30,1999 at the Annual Board of Bishops conference, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the *Women Embracing Holiness Conference* was conceived. This movement is designed for local and national education and stewardship among our women of all ages.

The hierarchy of this conference is the Board of Bishops, a shepherd mother, and the steering committee described as “the teaching women”. The shepherd mother and steering committee will be nominated by pastors and appointed by the Board of Bishops.

The function of the above is to provide yearly seminars, workshops, and training sessions. Each can be arranged in house of at a retreat. Instructors or facilitators can be capable women from within the organization or outside of the organization.

Qualifications of the “teaching women:”

- Competent to teach and/or advise one of the following: single, married, widowed, young or elder women into holiness.
- Model what is to be taught in dress, attitude, business, community, homemaking, church work, and personal health.
- Must be involved in continuing education for their personal development.
- Faithful to local church.
- Law abiding citizens.
- Exhibit leadership ability.
- Be Modest...not partaker in fads or inappropriate social trends in dress, hairstyles, ornaments, and cosmetics for the face, hands, or feet.
- Has a good reputation among the brethren and community.

## **ARTICLE P14** **SHEPHERD MOTHER**

A shepherd mother will be appointed by the Board of Bishops to monitor overall conditions of the society of women in the churches. She will visit local mothers’ boards periodically to review policies and procedures.

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Two others on the Women Embracing Holiness Committee will accompany her on her trips. One of the two will act as secretary to record the shepherd mother's findings on each visit. The shepherd mother will report to the Board of Bishops yearly.

She will be the advisor and supervising director of the Women Embracing Holiness steering committee and instruct them about current conditions of the women in the church.

### **ARTICLE P13**

### **THE CARE OF THE POOR**

Each affiliate church should maintain a benevolence treasure. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:1-3) to be distributed at the church's discretion.

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## **CHAPTER 14**

### **MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS AND PROVISIONS OF THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION**

#### **ARTICLE MR1**

##### **MEMBERSHIP IN TRUE HOLINESS CONGREGATIONS**

###### **Why Church Membership is Important**

Scripture instructs us to encourage each other and to continue meeting together (Hebrews 10:24-25). We are also told that all of the parts of the body are important to the survival of the other parts, and for the body as a whole (I Cor. 12:12-14)

We believe that membership is a statement of commitment to the church and its people, as well as a sign of desire to be a disciple of Christ. Through church membership the body is enhanced, know that you, along with other people, have made a formal commitment to each other.

**[READ “THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, CHAPTER 24.]**

#### **ARTICLE MR2**

##### **QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SAINTS**

They must be law abiding citizens, they must be saved from sin, and keep themselves unspotted from the world by mastering all habits such as tobacco, snuff, and strong drinks. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 9:27; James 1:27) They shall not take part in fighting, not shedding of innocent blood, as the Bible teaches against it (Exodus. 20:13; St Luke 3:14; Matt. 26:52; Rev. 13:10).

#### **ARTICLE MR3**

##### **ADMISSION INTO THE PARTICULAR CONGREGATION**

**SECTION MR3.1** God’s way into the church has not changed since the Day of Pentecost. We must enter by repentance, and baptism with water and spirit. (Acts 2:38; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:13; Acts 19:5).

All who shall be officially recorded as members or seeking membership must be filled with the Holy Ghost as is demonstrated in the book of Acts.

Upon accepting a request for membership within one of the local churches, the pastor shall ask the prospective member to publicly commit to the following church disciplines:

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1. I will regularly attend and participate in church services
2. I will help support the church through paying tithes and offerings, all my financial increase.
3. I will participate in congregational business meetings
4. I will submit to the church authority and discipline
5. I will commit to personal spiritual discipline of weekly Bible reading, daily prayer, private and congregational worship, fellowship with the saints and participate in an outreach ministry.
6. I will share responsibility for the care and nurturing of my fellow members and the physical property of the church.

Be it resolved that no one is allowed to be a member of a particular church without conforming to the following rules:

- New Membership Orientation
- When one comes to join the particular church the secretary should ask him or her name and address.
- Do you know that you are saved from sin? Can you tell the church the same? (Candidate must testify to the church.)
- Are you willing to obey the rules and regulations of the church and church body? Are you willing to obey those over you in the Lord? (The answer should be yes or no.)

**SECTION MR3.2** It shall be the duty of the Pastor to instruct, or to appoint suitable leaders to instruct, all prospective members concerning the rules and regulations of the church.

When the Pastor is satisfied as to the knowledge of and the willingness to keep the rules and regulations of the particular church, he shall receive them into church membership according to the prescribed form.

**SECTION MR3.3 MEMBERSHIP RECORDS.**

A permanent record of membership shall be kept, both active and non-active. Each entry shall bear its proper date, and the pastor shall report all such changes in membership at the next Annual Assembly.

It is recommended that each church shall provide, a membership register having space for name address and date and manner of admission into membership. Each person at the time of admission into membership shall be requested to sign this register. This register shall be a bound and not a loose-leaf volume.

**SECTION MR3.4** Receiving members from other organizations of like faith. When a pastor is unsure of the individual's purpose for membership or personal reputation, he should inquire to see if the applicant has received (1) baptism of the Holy Ghost and (2) water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus and (3) require a letter of recommendation from the church he/she is leaving. (A phone call to the pastor may substitute for a letter of recommendation.)

Letters should contain information pertaining to the prospective member's character and standing (good or bad), faithfulness, and what positions or offices that were held in that church.

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**SECTION MR3.5** If prospective member has no church home, [e.g., there was not church where they lived; they were a part of a prayer group; or they had been absent from their church home because of distance] and is, therefore, unable to obtain a letter of recommendation, it is only necessary for the pastor to be satisfied of the worthiness of the applicant.

**SECTION MR3.6** When a member dies, the pastor shall record the date of death and delete the name from the roll.

#### **ARTICLE MR4. TRANSIENT MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION MR4.1** Members of a particular church who reside elsewhere for an extended period of time, may upon application be enrolled as temporary members of any church within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, which is located in the vicinity of their temporary residence. Such Membership shall entitle them to the privileges of that church, to its pastoral oversight, to engage in its activities, and to hold office therein as the pastor sees fit. But they shall be counted and reported only in the membership of their home church. A letter must be presented to the pastor receiving membership from the pastor recommending membership. The reason for and the length of stay must be part of the letter.

#### **ARTICLE MR5 TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION MR5.1** When a member desires a transfer of membership from one pastoral charge to another, the current pastor shall send a letter of transfer to the receiving pastor. A member shall be permitted to transfer one time for any reason if the current pastor will not be disadvantaged, and if the receiving pastor agrees with the transfer.

**SECTION MR5.2** The member shall first present request to his/her current pastor, and then the current pastor will initiate communication with the receiving pastor.

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**SECTION MR5.3** In the transfer of membership the following form shall be used:

Date:

To: (Pastor's name)  
(Church's name)

From: (Pastor's name)  
(Church's name)

Subj.: Transfer of Membership

CC: Member, File

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ who holds a notice of this letter, is an acceptable member of the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, (State). Having requested that his/her membership be transferred to the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, (state), he/she is commended to the fellowship of said church. When the church, to which this letter of transfer is issued, acknowledges the receipt of the same and his/her enrollment, his/her membership in this church shall cease.

**SECTION MR5.4 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRANSFER FORM.** The original letter shall be accompanied by a blank form for the acknowledgment of the same, in accordance with the following form:

Date:

To: (Pastor's name)  
(Church's name)

From: (Pastor's name)  
(Church's name)

Subj.: Acknowledgment of Transfer of Membership

CC: Member, File

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ who holds a notice of this letter, is an acceptable member of the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, (State). Having requested that his/her membership be transferred to the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, (state), he/she is commended to the fellowship of said church. When the church, to which this letter of transfer is issued, acknowledges the receipt of the same and his/her enrollment, his/her membership in this church shall cease.

**ARTICLE MR6****TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP TO CONGREGATION OUTSIDE OF JURISDICTION**

A pastor shall upon request give a letter of recommendation of membership to any member in good standing who wishes to unite with any other congregation that is not under the jurisdiction if it is of like faith.

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## **ARTICLE MR7**

### **VOTING PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS**

**SECTION MR7.1** All members of 18 years and above shall have the right to one vote on each issue.

**SECTION MR7.2** No member shall be eligible to vote who does not believe in and practice the tenets of their particular church and its parent organization, and/or does not support the church by tithes and offerings.

## **ARTICLE MR8**

### **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION MR8.1** Membership in the church can be terminated only by withdrawal, expulsion, or death.

**SECTION MR8.2** When a member withdraws from a congregation acknowledgment of such should be made to the pastor and congregation. If the member does not comply he/she may be contacted with a witness. If he/she cannot be reached after an absence of 6 months, termination of membership is automatic. He/she is no longer afforded the rights and privileges of membership within that particular church. He/she is no longer the responsibility of the pastor.

For rare exceptions, he/she cannot apply for membership to any congregation within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, except to the congregation he/she left.

**SECTION MR8.3** A member who has become neglectful of his vows and without good and sufficient reason, has continuously absented himself from the services of the church, or has persistently refused to support the church, shall be visited or phoned by the pastor or representative and asked to give explanation of his actions. If the member refuses to take heed to such contact, such person shall no longer be counted as an active member and is no longer the responsibility of the pastor.

For rare exceptions, he/she cannot apply for membership to any congregation within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, except to the congregation he/she left.

**SECTION MR8.4** A member of the church who has united without notice with another church not under the jurisdiction of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International, shall be recorded as "withdrawn."

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## **ARTICLE MR9**

### **TRIALS OF MEMBERS**

When there should be an investigation, evidence is not apparent, but there are accusations.

**SECTION MR9.1** If a member of the church shall be accused of endeavoring to sow dissension in the church by expounding against its doctrines and/or discipline, its ministers or members, or in any other manner, the person so offending shall first be reproved by the pastor; and if he persists in such practice, he shall be brought to trial, and if found guilty, shall be expelled.

**SECTION MR9.2** In cases of trial, the accused member shall be brought to trial before a committee along with the pastor of the local church. If the pastor refuses to take control of situation and it comes to the attention of the Board of Bishops, the trial will be held before the Board of Bishops with all of the accusers and witnesses present.

**SECTION MR9.3** Members should be dealt with according to the scriptures, according to the nature of the case. The pastor must let the Bible be his guide, and if he is unable to give satisfaction they (pastor and accused) should report it to the Board of Bishops.

**SECTION MR9.4** Be it resolved that any member becoming unruly is eligible to be tried by the pastor anytime and turned out without voting. The Bible gives the pastor that authority (Matt. 16:9). The pastor is the overseer of the particular church that watches over them. (Matt. 18:10; Ex. 23:20-22; II Thess. 3:6&14; Heb. 13:17; Rom. 13:1)

**SECTION MR8.5** No member should be tried and turned out without two or three witnesses. And any member who thinks he had been unjustly turned out may appeal to the Council.

## **ARTICLE MR10**

### **PENALTIES FOR WRONGDOING**

An expelled person shall have no privileges of the society or of the Lord's Supper within the particular church and other affiliates, without confession, contrition, and satisfactory reformation.

## **ARTICLE MR11**

### **OFFENSES FOR WHICH A MEMBER MAY BE TRIED**

**SECTION MR11.1** A member shall be liable to accusation and trial upon any of the following charges:

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- Immorality or crime
- Disseminating, publicly or privately, doctrines that are contrary to the articles of faith or the established standards of doctrine.
- Disobedience to the church decree and/or discipline or rules and regulations of the church.

**SECTION MR11.2** A member of the particular church, who after much counseling, private reproof, and admonition by the pastor or representative, persists in using, buying, or selling intoxicating liquors as a beverage, or engages in worldly habits, shall be brought to trial. And if found guilty shall be placed on probation from all duties and leave his/her gifts before God at the altar so that he/she can wholly fast and pray before God until he/she has overcome.

## **ARTICLE MR12** **TRIAL OF A LOCAL PREACHER**

**SECTION MR12.1** When there should be an investigation, evidence is not apparent but there are accusations. When a local preacher ordained or not ordained, is accused of any of the offenses that are mentioned above a committee consisting of the pastor and of his peers shall investigate the charges. During investigation he/she shall be relieved of all his duties until all has been settled.

**SECTION MR12.2** Preachers should be dealt with according to the scriptures, according to the nature of the case. The pastor must let the Bible be his guide, and if he is unable to give satisfaction they (pastor and accused) should report it to the Board of Bishops.

## **ARTICLE MR13** **OFFENSES FOR WHICH A LOCAL PREACHER MAY BE TRIED**

- Immorality or crime
- Disseminating, publicly or privately, doctrines that are contrary to the articles of faith or the established standards of doctrine.
- Disobedience to the church decree and/or discipline or rules and regulations of the church.
- Habitual neglect of his ministerial conduct.
- Imprudent or improper ministerial conduct.
- Improper tempers, words, or actions
- Maladministration

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## **ARTICLE MR14**

### **RECORDS OF TRIALS**

In all investigations of trials the records shall be accurate and full. They shall include the proceedings in detail and all the evidence, taken by a stenographer, if possible, including the documents admitted, together with the charges, specifications, and findings, and shall be approved and attested by the presiding officer and secretary. The presiding officer shall be the custodian of all the records. Copies should be made for the appropriate files for preservation.

## **ARTICLE MR15**

### **APPEALS OF MEMBERS**

**SECTION MR15.1** Any member has the right to appeal to the next highest court if the decision of the lower court is without scriptural foundation to them. The appeal must be in writing.

**SECTION MR15.2** If membership has been taken away, an appeal may be made in writing to the next highest court.

## **ARTICLE MR16**

### **TRIAL OF PASTORS**

**SECTION MR16.1** Be it resolved that no pastor can be tried and discharged by a local church or member. Be it further resolved that no accusation should be received against a pastor without two or three witnesses, with sufficient evidence. (I Tim. 5:19, Matt. 18:16, Heb. 10:38, II Cor. 13:1)

**SECTION MR16.2** Any pastor, who fails to conform to the rules of this church, may be called in question by the Presiding Bishop, Overseer, or Presiding Elder anytime during the year; and on failing to give satisfaction, his license may be revoked by the Bishop or Overseer until he meets the Council.

## **ARTICLE MR17**

Spouses are not compelled to testify against each other.

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## CHAPTER 15

### ARTICLE FS1 FINANCIAL SYSTEM OF THE LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

**SECTION FS1.1** Be it further resolved that this Church strictly teaches paying tithes and offerings. When you joined the particular church, you pledged to obey all rules and regulations of the church and when you are disobedient you are found guilty before God and man and the scripture said, “No liar shall tarry in His sight.”

**SECTION FS1.2** Yearly records should be kept of all tithes payers.

**SECTION FS1.3**

In the Old Testament the people of Israel were commanded to bring a tenth of their income to support the work of the house of God and those who served God in it. In the New Testament the apostles recognized that the work of the Church required disciplined support. Both in Israel and in the early church the people were encouraged to give generously to meet the needs of the poor. God calls believers today to be disciplined and generous in giving support to the ministries of the Church.

Abraham paid tithes. This was about 430 years before the law, so this shows that tithing was not only under the Law of Moses.

### ARTICLE FS2 FINANCIAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED MINISTRIES

All congregations contribute to the financial mission of our organization.

The Young People’s Convention fund-raising activity consists of selective mailings to local businesses for in-kind gifts and foodstuffs for the youth (see attached copy). The Young Christians Leadership Academy sponsors a benefit dinner with proceeds forwarded to the Bishop Eddita D. Tolber Memorial Scholarship Fund. Additionally, the EDT Scholarship Fund replenishes its corpus by pledges, face-to-face requests, telephone appeals, and in the future, scheduled mailings to alumni.

The account managers of the Finance Department will launch an annual, major funding raising campaign for the National Building Fund. The National Building Fund is a corpus established to assist mission churches. The Committee distribute pledge materials to members, solicit businesses, and have volunteer events where monies from employment are donated to the non-profit group. Future solicitation activities for the organization will be cultivated to include institutional donors such as corporate prospects, Utilities, Banks and Insurance companies,

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national companies, and state and federal grants designated for nonprofits.



# **ORDINANCES**

## **OF**

## **THE**

## **UNITED**

## **CONGREGATIONS**

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## CHAPTER 16

### CHURCH ORDINANCES

#### ARTICLE CO1

##### BAPTISMAL CEREMONY

**SECTION CO1.1** We believe that baptism by immersion should be administered in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of sins only to persons who have reached the age of understanding, and under no condition, do we approve of the baptism of infants. This is the ceremony that the apostles used (Acts 8:16; Acts 19:5; Col.3:17).

The baptizer says, “According to your faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of your sins.”

#### SECTION CO1.2 DOCTRINE ON BAPTISM

**[Baptism is in the name of Jesus Christ to denounce any other name and all the authority that you gave to Satan prior to coming to Christ.]**

*Luke 24:45-47*

Then opened he their understanding that they might understand the scriptures,

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

And that repentance and remission of sins should be *preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

**[Repentance and Faith Always Precedes Baptism.]**

*Acts 2:38 & 41*

*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:* and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

*Acts 8:2, 36-38*

**But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.**

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And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

**And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he baptized him.

***Mark 16:15-16***

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

***He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.***

***Acts 10:44-48***

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision that believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized, which have received that Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord....

***Acts 18:8***

And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his house and many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized.

***Acts 19:4-5***

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, **that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Jesus Christ.**

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

[Walk in the Newness of Life/Give up your old citizenship for a new one.]

***Romans 6:3-5***

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

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*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

**2 Kings 5:1-17** (Naaman the leper)

**I Peter 3:21** [Good conscience toward God.]

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the *filth* of the flesh, **but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

(*filth.....Gr. rupos, meaning moral filth and depravity. James 1:21 Gr. rhuparia, moral filthiness; impure and unholy affection; baseness; vileness; depravity.) [Outward testimony.]*

[Another way God demonstrated forgiveness of sin for the saints.]

**James 5:14-15**

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord....

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; **and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.**

**[CONFESSiON IS iMPORTANT.]**

**Romans 10:10**

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; **and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

FOR UNIVERSAL BAPTISM CEREMONY

**According to your faith, we now baptize you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for physical and spiritual healing. And if you have committed any sin, it shall be remitted.**

*Remitted.....remission, forgiveness, pardon*

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## CHAPTER 17

### ARTICLE CO2 THE LORD'S SUPPER

**If we understand the past, we can understand the present.**

**SECTION CO2.1** The night that the Lord's Supper (Communion Ceremony) was instituted was the same night of the Passover celebration, a Jewish Memorial Day and the feast of unleavened bread (Ex. 12:14-15). That night was full of symbolism. The dinner elements were to commemorate (symbolize) the way God delivered the children of Israel out of 400 years of bondage in Egypt.

**But the Lord hath taken you, and brought  
you forth our of the iron furnace, even  
out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of  
inheritance, as ye are this day. (Deut.4:20)**

The 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Exodus records the ordinance of the Passover that Israel was to observe throughout their generations (Ex. 12:42).

The lamb that represented the Passover was to be without blemish, a male of the first year (vs 5). After placing the blood on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses where the Passover was to be eaten, they were to eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and bitter herbs they shall eat (verses 7&8)

The feast of unleavened bread began on the night of Passover and continued for seven days. This was also an ordinance that was to be observed throughout their generations.

**Seven days shall there be no leaven found  
in your houses: for whosoever eateth that  
which is leavened, even that soul shall be  
cut off from the congregation of Israel,  
whether he be a stranger, or born in the  
land.**

**Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened  
bread.  
(vss.19-20)**

All leavened or fermented food was to be put out of all houses during the feast of unleavened bread (vs15-20).

**Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days;  
and there shall no leavened bread be seen  
with thee, neither shall there be leaven  
seen with thee in all thy quarters 13:7)**

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- Leaven is a symbol of evil (I Corinthians 5:6-8; Gal. 5:9)
- Leaven is a symbol of false doctrines (Matt. 13:33; 16:6-12)
- The death penalty was passed upon all who ate leavened bread during the feast of unleavened bread (vs.15)

**SECTION CO2.2** So the night that Jesus observed that last Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread with his disciples was the same night that he instituted that Supper in Remembrance of his Death. He took one unleavened element (bread) of the 1<sup>st</sup> (or primary) supper and introduced a second unleavened element (the cup) and used them to represent His death. Therefore we should be very careful how and what we use, because it is his death that brought salvation to us.

**The bread represents his body, and the cup represents his blood.**

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The keeping of the Ordinance is a time of solemnity:

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**When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. (I Cor. 11:21-22)**

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Discerning the Lord's body is important:

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**Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

**But let every man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of the cup.**

**For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. (I Cor. 11:27-29)**

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## SECTION CO2.3

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Paul explained his teaching on the matter:

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**But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it but by revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal.1:11-12).**

*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:*

The text of the Lord's Supper ceremony:

*And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

*After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. (I Cor.11: 23-26)*

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Take, eat; this (bread) is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me (my death):

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**I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.**

**I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

**The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? (St. John 6:48-52)**

**SECTION CO2.4** Individuals today are confused like the Jews in St John 6 chapter. They think that the bread and the cup must look like flesh and be the color of human blood before it is considered acceptable for the Lord's Supper. Those who understand the impossibility of this, offer prayer for a miracle of spiritual transformation into human properties of the bread and the cup.

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Finis Dake (historian, annotated reference Bible) says:

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Eating and drinking is used figuratively of partaking of the benefits of the death of Christ....  
Eating is used figuratively of partaking of spiritual food (I Cor. 10:1-3)...No figure of speech was more common to Jews at this time, so there was no excuse for them to misunderstand His words. By comparing vss.47-48 with 53-54 we see that believing on Christ is the same as eating and drinking Him.

## SECTION CO2.5

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This cup is the New Testament in my blood...drink it in remembrance of me (my death):

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**Then Jesus said unto them, verily, verily,  
I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of  
the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye  
have no life in you.**

**Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will  
raise him up at the last day.**

**For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth  
my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in  
him. (St. John 6:53-56)**

Throughout the centuries Israel was forbidden to drink blood. “Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh. Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.”(Deut. 12:23-24) Is this doctrine a contradiction to St. John 6:56?

Christ gave His life (He died) for our sins.

The unleavened bread is symbolic of his sinless flesh.

The cup is symbolic of His sinless (unleavened) blood of the *New Testament*.

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**SECTION CO2.6** The blood of the Old Testament is described in Hebrews 9:18-22:

**Whereupon neither the first testament (old testament)  
was dedicated without blood.**

**For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the  
people according to the law, he took blood of calves  
and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop,  
and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,**

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**Saying, This is the blood of the testament (old testament)  
which God hath enjoined unto you.**

**Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and  
all the vessels of the ministry.**

**And almost all things are by the law purged (cleansed) with  
blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission.**

**SECTION CO2.7** If the blood of the Old Testament was for cleansing, then the blood of the New Testament is for cleansing. Hebrews 13:10-13 demonstrates the parallel between the blood of the OT and the blood of the NT:

**We have an Altar, whereof they have no right to eat which  
serve the tabernacle.**

**For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into  
the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are *burned without the camp*.**

**Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with  
his own blood, *suffered without the gate*.**

**Let us go forth therefore unto him *without the camp*, bearing  
his reproach.**

This passage of scripture compares the Old Testament Red Heifer sacrifice to the New Testament sacrifice crucifixion of Jesus.

**SECTION CO2.8** In order to understand the present, we must understand the past (history).

The red heifer provided a means for the congregation of Israel to purify themselves for the coming priesthood and temple services.

The red heifer must meet certain physical criteria and must be sacrificed in a certain way. Once sacrificed, the ashes were mixed up with clean water and it is this mixture, which was sprinkled over the unclean. (Numbers 19:1-22)

**SECTION CO2.9** The New Testament church should understand that Numbers 19:1-22 represented a type of Christ. For the sacrifice of the red heifer was the forerunner to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, which could do so much more than purify the flesh. Remember that the red heifer was to be without spot (Number 19:2). Compare this with the following passage written by Paul in Hebrews 90:13:14:

**For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes**

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of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

## SECTION CO2.10

### The red heifer was (Numbers 19; 8:1-7)

| THE RED HEIFER THE OLD COVENANT SACRIFICE  | CHRIST THE NEW COVENANT SACRIFICE  |
|--|--|
| Without blemish  | So was Christ (I Peter 1:19)   |
| Was to be slain  | So was Christ (Re v. 5:9)  |
| Slain outside the camp   | So was Christ (Hebrews 13:11-12)   |
| Blood mixed with water   | So was Christ (John 19:34)   |
| Blood Sprinkled  | So was Christ (I Peter 1:2)  |
| Called water of purifying  | So was Christ's (Heb. 19:22)   |
| Cleanses sin   | So was Christ's (Rev 1:5)  |
| Provides passage into the Holy of Holies   | So does Christ's (Heb. 10:19-22)   |
| Is temporal  | Christ's is eternal (heb.10:17)  |
| The only Old Testament sacrifice that cleansed for ceremonial preparations, from defilement, and from sin. | Christ is only New Covenant sacrifice that cleanses, heals, and takes away sin. (John 1:9; I Peter 2:24) |

## SECTION CO2.11 The color of the blood is not a biblical doctrine.

In scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, we are taught of what the blood represented or accomplished. It stood for atonement (Rom 5:11; Rev 1:5). The diligent Bible scholar will easily recognize the New Testament comparison of atonement to the Old Testament Water of Purification doctrine, after reading Hebrews 9:3-14 and Hebrews 13:11-12.

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**SECTION CO2.12** The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion (fellowship) of the body of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion (fellowship) of the body of Christ? (I Cor 10:16)

Therefore, we conclude that the element in the cup in the Lord's Supper is water. For wine (alcoholic or otherwise) has no communion with the blood of redemption, nor does grape juice, nor does any other physical element that cannot be identified as part of God's plan (process) of salvation.

**SECTION CO2.13** Christ did not give this ordinance to divide saints in his churches. It was merely given in remembrance of His death. If anyone observes this ordinance with an arrogant spirit, he or she is not conveying the message of love and peace. For God is not the author of confusion, but of love, and a sound mind.

Paul taught the Corinthian church that the observance of this ordinance should bring unity and love among the saints, and not division and strife (I Cor 10:16-17; 11:16-30)

There are other groups who might not agree with our teachings. Because of the complexity of this subject for some, Let every man be persuaded in his own mind (Rom14: 5b) We4 are not to shun fellowship with any congregation outside of True Holiness based on this doctrine.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (I Tim 2:15)

**SECTION CO2.14 However, we do caution other congregations:**

When observing the Lord's Supper, diligently investigate the reasons for your methods, for it might cause weak one to fall to sin:

However, Let us not therefore judge (condemn) one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

And remain open to communication concerning the ordinances of the church.

**SECTION CO2.15**

**Eight ways the Corinthian church was found unworthy to partake in the Lord's Supper. (I Cor 11:17-32)**

1. Take the Lord's Supper in envying and strife (verse 18)
2. Take it to commemorate a mere historical fact, as the Jews celebrated the Passover (verse 19)
3. Take it in excess and drunkenness (verses 21-22)
4. Take it in irreverence to God and His church (verse 22)
5. Take it in disrespect to the poor and needy (verse 22)
6. Take it in unbelief, not realizing its true significance, and not discerning the Lord's body and blood to receive the benefits by faith (verses 27-30)
7. Take it as an unsaved person and without proper confession and acknowledgement of personal needs (verses 27-30)

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8. Take it without judging self so as to escape chastening from God (verses 31-32)

## **SECTION CO2.16 The Ceremony of the Lord's Supper**

**On this occasion, no other program should be planned.**

1. Devotional
2. Testimonials and Praise
3. Offering
4. Teaching should precede the ceremony.
5. Appointees should start preparing the table for the Communion elements. When all has been set up, cover the table with a cloth.

## **SECTION CO2.17 SUGGESTED OPENING FOR EATING AND DRINKING THE ELEMENTS:**

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night before He was betrayed, and all true followers in remembrance of Him should practice it as He commanded. (Luke 22:19)

It is to commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus Christ until he comes again (I Cor 11:26). Therefore, we should be very careful how and what we use to remember Christ's suffering, because it is his death that brought salvation to us. To find out what elements Jesus used, and what is appropriate for us to use, we must search the scriptures prayerfully and with a spiritual mind, because it is spiritually discerned.

(While an appropriate song is being sung throughout the ceremony from this point on) The pastor stands before the table, along with his helper and receives the bowl of water from the attendant to wash his or her hands. Then dries them with a cloth. The attendant removes the cloth over the elements on the table and the pastor prepares the bread by breaking it into smaller pieces, and fills the cups. (His or her helper can perform one of these jobs.)

**Prayer of thanksgiving is then offered for the elements.**

The pastor serves the helper the elements by repeating the statements below. Then the helper serves the pastor both elements by repeating the statements below.

The pastor calls the congregation forward to receive of the elements. If there is a large congregation, smaller groups can be directed to come forward and stand side by side in a circle or other convenient pattern.

**The pastor serves the bread (or the helper) by repeating:**

The same night that the Lord Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and when he brake it, and said, take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

**The helper (or the pastor) serves the cup by repeating:**

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

When the congregation has been served, then praise follows. Then final words and dismissal.

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## CHAPTER 18

### ARTICLE CO3 FEET WASHING CEREMONY

This is an ordinance that was instituted by Christ himself. (St. John 13:4-5). And it was practiced by the apostles (I Tim. 5:10). All saints should practice it today (St. John 13:14-17).

#### CHRIST'S INSTITUTION OF FEET WASHING By Suffragan Bishop Larry Smith

I dare not say that this may be all that is necessary to be written on the subject of feet washing. The church's practice of feet washing is one of the ordinances instituted by Christ. By example, He demonstrated to His disciples what things were required of them as followers and to be effective instructors of the faith. St. John 13:14-15 says, "If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you."

In defining the purpose of this ordinance, we realize that the answer or reason why is not simply acquired only through daily reading and study, but through actual participation as well. Your participation causes you to deeply understand the purpose of feet washing as Christ taught His disciples.

Did His disciples fully understand when Christ began to speak to them about feet washing? St. John 13:7 says, "Jesus answered and said unto him (Peter) what I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." Neither do any of you that hear and participate at the first, but gradually even as Christ's disciples, and even I, began to understand, so will you from feet washing to feet washing; from lesson to lesson.

History is very important keys that will help unlock darken perception. It (feet washing) has been practiced among eastern cultures as far back in time as Abraham and Lot, as they entertained angels (Genesis 18:1-4; 19:2). This was done as an act of hospitality to their guests, upon entering a host's home, especially when a great deal of traveling was done, which brought about some defilement or uncleanness to the feet.

The practice of feet washing in the church today is also designed to work humility (Joshua 10:24). It suffocates pride and imparts humility and promotes affection for those whom we say we love and respect.

Because the foot of man is in contact with the earth, it is thought to be less esteemed than the hand or the head. It is felt to be more inferior and without honor. When one washes that which is less honorable (the feet), the entire body is honored. For the one who is doing the washing, it brings forth a sense of humility and regard. He makes himself the servant, by performing that which is considered to be of the lower degree, while this self-humbling act succors within him the power of love.



# **RITUALS**

## **OF**

## **THE**

## **UNITED**

## **CONGREGATIONS**

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## CHAPTER 19

### ORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International believes that to be ordained means to be commissioned for a ministry by the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that not every member is called or equipped by God for the exercise of particular offices or ministry within the church that would require public recognition (or ordination). However, every member can and should minister to all those they meet, with the ability that God gave them.

It is the position of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International that certain individuals are ordained of God to perform works within a leadership role. Yet, during the course of time, these individuals must grow in the knowledge of God and demonstrate to God and man an acceptable level of proficiency in their ministry before they are considered for ordination. They must “make full proof of their ministry.” Then they are publicly acknowledged (i.e., ordained) by the Board of Bishops in a special service or ceremony.

We believe that ordained ministers should represent the entire church and not just a particular congregation. Therefore, the ordination ceremony is simply an acknowledgment of the work God has wrought in an individual and his or her willingness to faithfully abide in that calling, for as long as the Lord requires their service.

We ordain elders of the gospel, evangelists, and deacons. The oldest and most qualified elders are dedicated (or consecrated) to various other offices within True Holiness, such as bishop and pastor. Those evangelists who are qualified can also be consecrated to the office of pastor; however, it is usually because they have established their own church.

The ministry of the deacon is a spiritual and temporal office for which one is ordained. He or she should have the anointing to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. All Ordination candidates must be at least the legal age of eighteen years old.
2. After receiving the recommendation from the pastors, Elders and Evangelists are examined and ordained by the Board of Bishops and Deacons are examined by their pastors and ordained by the Board of Bishops and their pastors.
3. All candidates will vow to live a moral, righteous, and lawful manner, knowing that it is his or her full legal responsibility to know and follow the laws governing his or her ordination, ministry, and actions.

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4. Ordained ministers will periodically reaffirm their Active Good Standing status by renewing their credentials and fulfilling any future requirements or testing. Ministers failing to renew credentials will be listed “inactive” and “not in good standing.”
5. Each candidate must be in harmony with the teachings and beliefs of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International and his or her local congregation.
6. If the candidate fails to acknowledge any of the above, his or her credentials can be changed from active to inactive, suspended, revoked, or cancelled.

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## CHAPTER 20

### ARTICLE R1. CONSECRATING A BISHOP

**(The Bishops shall be elected by the Board of Bishops or appointed by the Presiding Bishop and consecrated at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board of Bishops.)**

This service is a consecration, not an Ordination, of an Elder or Presbyter to the duties of General Superintendent within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International

Then shall two Elders unto the Presiding Bishop present the elected person, the Elders saying:

*We present unto you this Elder chosen to be consecrated a Bishop.*

Then shall the Presiding Bishop say:

*Dearly beloved, it is written in the Gospel of Saint Luke that our Savior Jesus Christ continued the whole night in prayer, before He chose and sent forth His Twelve Apostles. It is written also in the Acts of the Apostles that these disciples who were at Antioch did fast and pray, before they laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas, and sent them forth on their first mission to the Gentiles. The Board of Bishops has followed their example of Christ and His Apostles by giving prayer these before you today.*

Then shall the Presiding Bishop say to him that is to be consecrated:

*(Brother or Sister), forasmuch as the Holy Scriptures command that we should not be hasty in admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ, before you are admitted to this Ministration, you will, in the fear of God, give answer to these questions:*

*Are you persuaded that you are truly called to this Ministration, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ?*

**Yes, I am persuaded.**

*Will you faithfully exercise yourself in the Holy Scriptures, and call upon God that through study and prayer you may have true understanding of the same?*

**Yes, I will.**

*Are you ready with all faithful diligence to seek and to promote the truth of Christ and to defend the Church against all doctrine contrary to God's word?*

**Yes, I am ready.**

*Will you live soberly, righteously, and devoutly in this present world, that you might show yourself in all things an example of good works unto others, to the honor and glory of God?*

**Yes, I will.**

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*Will you fully exercise such discipline in the Church as shall be committed unto you?*

***Yes, I will.***

*Will you be faithful in ordaining and appointing others; and will you ever seek to deal justly and kindly with your brethren of the Ministry over whom you are placed as chief pastor?*

***Yes, I will.***

While holding the bible, then shall the Presiding Bishop charge the candidates by saying:

*The Lord pour upon you the Anointing for the Office and the work of a Bishop in True Holiness Assemblies of Truth now committed unto you by the authority of the Board of Bishops, through the laying on of hands, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And remember to stir up the gift that is in you.*

*I charge you to give heed unto reading, exhortation, and teaching. Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby might be manifest unto all men. Take heed unto yourself and to they teaching: for by so doing you shall save both yourself and them that hear you. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd. Hold up the weak; heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcast, seek the lost; faithfully minister discipline but forget not mercy; that the kingdom of god might come upon the earth and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, that you may receive the never-fading crown of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Then shall the Bishops lay hands on the candidates and pray.

Afterwards, the Presiding Bishop will present the newly Consecrated Bishops to the congregations of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International by saying:

“The Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International presents to you

Bishop \_\_\_\_\_

Jr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_

Let us receive them by praising God.”

A testimony from each ordained minister should be offered to the congregation.

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## ARTICLE R2

### MINISTER'S ORDINATION CEREMONY

**[On the same day that Deacons are ordained as Evangelists and Elders, the Deacons shall be first presented and then Evangelists and then the Elders.]**

Sometime prior to the ordination ceremony, persons authorized by the Board of Bishops will examine the candidate for ordination by asking the following questions. The candidate must prepare sufficient demonstration of his/her answers:

1. Do you believe from your heart that you are called of God to preach this Gospel?
2. Have you received the Holy Ghost with signs following as they did on the day of Pentecost?
3. Do you believe that Word of God is infallible?
4. Will you before stand and declare that you will not teach or preach anything that will be an offense to the church and doctrine?
5. Are you willing to be taught, led and controlled by the Bishops and Pastors of this organization?
6. Are you willing, should you be called by the Bishop, to go and serve wherever you are appointed, if it is expedient to do so?
7. Do you believe in all doctrines of this Church and will obey them?
8. Will you endeavor to keep the standard of the ministry high by abstaining from the filth of the flesh?
9. Will you do all in you power to keep peace among the saints and the ministry of the Church?

Before the ceremony, a sermon or exhortation should be brought forth declaring the duty of an elder or evangelist, also how the people ought to esteem that office (Exod.33:8; Acts 28:10). See also Phil. 2:29-14; II Tim.5:12,13; I Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:7)

After this, their pastors should bring those that are to be ordained forth, while one of the presenters is saying:

**“We have brought unto you these persons to be ordained.  
After examining them we believe that they are worthy.”**

The names of those to be ordained should be read out loud, stating the church they are from and the office for which he/she is being ordained.

The Presiding Bishop shall respond with a statement similar to the following:

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To the congregation: **“Saints these candidates have been examined and we find them to be in perfect harmony with God’s word. Their pastors have recommended them for ordination, after overseeing each one’s work in his/her local church. We believe they are sanctified and prepared unto every good work.”**

To the candidates: **“Brethren you have heard in your private examination and in the scriptures, how extraordinary and significant the office is that you are now being ordained to.**

**Evangelists, remember, you are sent forth to gather the outcasts, to seek those who are lost, and to be a blessing to the people of this earth wherever you go.**

**Elders, remember, you also are receiving the greatest treasures that were ever given to mankind, for the Lord is committing to your trust the care of His people. Now take heed how and what you shall feed them on.**

**And now, that this congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your purpose in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to perform your duties, you shall answer plainly to the following questions:**

**Do you believe in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Ministry of Elder?**

*Yes, I do believe.*

**Will you give your faithful diligence duly to minister the doctrine of Christ and the discipline of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth, and to defend the Church against all doctrine contrary to God’s word?**

*Yes, I will.*

**Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families, according to the teachings of Christ?**

**I charge you all to study the word of God, that you may be able to feed both the sheep and lambs. You are now commanded by God and is servants to set aside all worldly excess and give yourselves over to the study of God’s word that you might be able to exhort and teach the Lord’s people on into a superior life.”**

Then shall the Bishops lay hands on the candidates and pray.

Afterwards, the Presiding Bishop will present the newly ordained to the pastors and congregations of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International by saying:

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**“The Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International presents to you**

**Elder \_\_\_\_\_**

**Evangelist \_\_\_\_\_**

**Let us receive them by praising God.”**

A testimony from each ordained minister should be offered to the congregation.

### **ARTICLE R3**

#### **DEACON’S ORDINATION CEREMONY**

Before the ceremony, a sermon or exhortation should be brought forth declaring the duty of a Deacon and also how the people ought to esteem that office (I Tim. 3:8-13)

After this, their pastors should bring those that are to be ordained forth, while one of the presenters is saying:

**“We have brought unto you these persons to be ordained.  
After examining them we believe that they are worthy.”**

The names of those to be ordained should be read out loud, stating the church they are from and the office for which he/she is being ordained.

The Presiding Bishop shall respond with a statement similar to the following:

To the congregation: **“Saints these candidates have been examined and we find them to be in perfect harmony with God’s word. Their pastors have recommended them for ordination, after overseeing each one’s work in his/her local church. We believe they are sanctified and prepared unto every good work.”**

To the candidates: **“Brethren you have heard in your private examination and in the scriptures, how extraordinary and significant the office is that you are now being ordained to.**

**Deacons remember, you hold a spiritual office in the church. You have proven to your pastor that you know how to function in the office of a Deacon.**

**Just like the Evangelists and Elders, the scripture says that you too must be filled with the Holy Ghost and wisdom. You should be able to teach the word of God to the congregation in your pastor’s stead, and look after the widows, orphans, sick and their afflictions. Always be prepared to assist the pastor in any area of his work.**

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I charge you all to study the word of God, that you may be able to feed both the sheep and lambs. You are now commanded by God and are servants to set aside all worldly excess and give yourselves over to the study of God's word that you might be able to exhort and teach the Lord's people on into a superior life."

*Likewise must the Deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. They that have used the office of a Deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith, which is in Christ Jesus.*

*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, wherefore be not unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Giving thanks always for all things unto God in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

*Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*

Then shall the Bishop, in the presence of the people, examine every one of those to be ordained in the following manner:

*Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the Office and Ministry of Deacon, to serve God for the promoting of His glory and the edifying of His people?*

(Candidate responds with "I do.")

*Do you wholeheartedly believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?*

(Candidate responds with "I do.")

*Will you diligently read and expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?*

(Candidate responds with "I will.")

*Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own lives and the lives of your families, according to the teachings of Christ and His Apostles?*

(Candidate responds with "I will.")

Then the Bishop laying the Bible upon those to be ordained shall say:

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*I charge you to take the authority to execute the Office of a Deacon in True Holiness Assemblies of Truth, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Take thou authority to read the Holy Scriptures and teach the word.*

(Then the Board of Bishops laying hands upon those to be ordained shall pray.)

Then shall the Bishop say:

*The peace of God, which surpass all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.*

Then shall the Bishops lay hands on the candidates and pray.

Afterwards, the Presiding Bishop will present the newly ordained to the pastors and congregations of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International by saying:

**“The Board of Bishops of True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International presents to you**  
**Deacon \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Deacon \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Deacon \_\_\_\_\_**

**Let us receive them by praising God.”**

A testimony from each ordained minister should be offered to the congregation.

## **ARTICLE R4**

### **INSTALLATION AND DEDICATION OF A PASTOR**

Devotional/Praise Opening

Processional of all dignitaries:

Choir  
Presiding Bishop  
Pastor to be installed and spouse  
Board of Bishops Members  
Other Dignitaries

Welcome address (Board of Bishops Member)

Scripture Reading

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Choir Selection

Reading

Choir Selection

Introduction of Speaker

Dedication Prayer (music in background)

Confirmation of auxiliaries

Remarks/Benediction

Recessional:

Installed Pastor and spouse  
Board of Bishops  
Other Dignitaries  
Choir  
Congregation

A reception usually follows the service.

## ARTICLE R5

### MARRIAGE CEREMONY

**Premarital Counseling:** Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion has light with darkness? So the Lord says if we are not married, being saved, let us marry someone that is in the Lord, which means that he or she will have to be saved.

Since marriage is ordained of God, every minister should be very careful to ascertain by questioning the legal fitness of any parties to be married by him/her.

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The persons to be married should be qualified according to law and show the proof thereof by license issued by the state of their residence.

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At the day and time appointed for the ceremony, the persons to be married standing together, the man on the right side, and the woman on the left side. *The minister shall say:*

**Marriage is an institution of divine appointment and is commended as honorable among all men. It is the most important step in life and should not therefore be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but discretely and soberly.**

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**Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted by God in the time of man's innocence, and signifies unto us that mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church.**

**Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined together. Therefore, if anyone can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak or else hereafter forever hold his peace.**

***Addressing the couple the Minister continues to say:***

**“I solemnly require and charge you both, that if either of you know of any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, you do now confess it, for be well assured, that if any persons are joined otherwise than as God’s word does allow, they are not joined by God, and neither is their marriage lawful.”**

**If no impediment shall be alleged, *the minister shall say to the man, using his given name:***

***(The parties must now join right hands)***

**To the Man: Will you, (insert his name here), take this woman to be your lawful wife and do you promise before God and these witnesses and according God’s holy ordinance, to love her, comfort honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto her so long as you both shall live?**

***(The Man shall answer, “I will.”)***

**To the Woman: Will you, (insert her name here), take this man to be your lawful husband; and do you solemnly promise before God and these witnesses and according God’s holy ordinance that you will love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others keep yourself only unto him so long as you both shall live?**

***(The woman shall answer, “I will.”)***

If the parties wish to use the ring, the minister shall instruct the man to place the ring on the third finger of the woman’s left hand and hold as he repeats after the minister:

**“With this ring I thee wed and with all my worldly goods I thee endow, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.”**

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Then shall the minister join their right hands together, and say the following words:

**“Inasmuch as this man and this woman have in the presence of God and these witnesses consented together to be joined in the lawful bonds of matrimony and thereto have given and pledged their troth. I now according to the ordinances of God and in the name of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ pronounce them Husband and Wife. What, therefore, God has joined together let not man put asunder.”**

**Prayer: And now may the God of peace prosper and bless you in this new relationship, and may the Grace of Jesus Christ abound unto you now and always. Amen**

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**Present the candidates to the people as:  
Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **ARTICLE R6 FUNERAL SERVICE**

**The Processional:**

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If the body is brought in from the outside, the minister, walking before the body, shall say the following words:

I am the resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; Whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold and not another.

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

**The Processional:**

In the funeral parlor or church, while the family is coming in either the twenty-third or Psalm 90:1-12 should be read at this point

Hymn

The Prayer..... (by appointment)

Choral Selection

Scripture reading:.....Old Testament, Psalms 61:1-3  
New Testament, St. John 14:1-6

Acknowledgments, Condolences, and Resolutions

Song

Reading Obituary

Song

The Eulogy

The Recessional.....The Clergy, Bearers, and Family

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**At the gravesite, the minister should stand at the head of the grave, and wait until all the people gather under the tent. This shall be said:**

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“Man that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succor, but of thee, O Lord, shut not they merciful ears to our prayers; but spare us, Lord most Holy, O God most mighty, judge eternal; suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.”

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Then while someone standing by shall cast the earth upon the body, the minister shall say:

Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of this world our deceased (brother or sister), we therefore commit (his or her) body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ;

At whose second coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and made like unto his own glorious body, according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, blessed are the dead, which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

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A short prayer if so desired.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

## **ARTICLE R7** **DEDICATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS**

When the time appointed is come, the ceremony should be preceded by worship and devotional service:

A processional including the choir, the Board of Bishops, and other dignitaries will march in will singing praises. The congregation will be standing.

After all is seated, the choir proceeds to sing a selection.

A presbytery says:

**Dearly Beloved, as we learn from the Holy Scriptures,**

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**it is meet and right that houses erected for the worship of God should be especially set apart and dedicated to religious uses. We are, therefore, now assemble for the purpose of dedicating this house to the worship and service of Almighty God.**

The choir sings another appropriate selection.

An Board of Bishops member reads a scripture.

Another Board of Bishops member offers a prayer of thanksgiving.

A solo or choir selection is presented.

The highest-ranking presbytery present delivers a sermon.

After the sermon the Trustees stand before the Board of Bishops, and one of them, shall say unto them:

**We present unto you this building, to be dedicated as a Church for the worship and service of Almighty God.**

Thereupon shall the Presiding Bishop say these words of dedication, all the people standing:

**In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we dedicate this Church for Holy Worship.**

**God is Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.**

**We dedicate this Church to the training of children in faith and knowledge and to the summoning of youth to the life of service.**

**Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.**

**We dedicate this Church to the cure of souls that doubt and to the persuasion of those that have not yet believed; to comfort the discouraged, the guidance of the bewildered, and the consolation of the dying.**

**All souls are Mine, saith the Lord.**

**We dedicate this Church to the unfinished work of Evangelism and Education.**

**Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning: blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.**

**We dedicate this house to the glory of God our Father, by whose favor it has been built; Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.**

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Then the pastor of the congregation shall say on behalf of himself and the congregation:

**We, the minister and the people of this Church, (name of the church), compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, do here and now dedicate ourselves anew to the worship of God in this sanctuary and to the establishment of His kingdom among men everywhere.**

Prayer of dedication is made.

Choir sings final selection and leads dignitaries out in a recessional, while congregation remains standing.

A reception usually follows.

## **ARTICLE R8 BABY DEDICATION**

Minister Begins Ceremony:

It is exciting whenever a new child enters a family. There's no greater moment when parents sense that children are a gift from God. Dedication of a child acknowledges God's sovereignty, not only over the child, but also the mother and father. Parents present their child before God and His people asking for grace and wisdom in carrying out their responsibilities.

Deuteronomy makes clear that the duty of teaching children belongs to parents: Sunday schools can provide weekly instruction, but parents must seize the teachable moments that arise throughout life.

Children are a gift of God. Psalm 127:3 proclaim that "Lo children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

As believers in the word of God, we are called to recognize that children belong first and foremost to God. God in his goodness gives children as gifts to parents. They not only have the awesome responsibility of caring for this gift, but also the wonderful privilege of enjoying the gift. Because children belong to God and are given by grace as gifts to parents, it is only proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God.

We are told in 1st Samuel that Hannah presented her son, Samuel, to the Lord. In Luke 2:22, we read that Mary and Joseph brought their baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem in order to present him before the Lord. In the same way, (call the name of the parents) today bring their (son or daughter's first and middle name); presenting first themselves and then their (son or daughter) before the Lord our God.

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Accompanying them in making this commitment is (the son or daughter's name) grandmother.

**Minister Addresses the Parents:**

Brother and Sister (last name) love God with every ounce and fiber of your energy and teach (the child's name) to do the same. As you love God, one another, and your other children, you will model before (the child's name) a wonderful love for God that he will want for himself.

Brother and Sister (last name) by coming forward before God and his people, do you hereby declare your desire to dedicate yourselves and your (son or daughter), (child's name) to the Lord? If so, please respond by saying, "we do."

Having come freely, I ask now that you enter into the following commitment in the presence of God and his people.

[The wife gives the child to the husband as a sign of his spiritual headship in the family.]

So that ( child's name) may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you Brother and Sister (last name) vow by God's help and in partnership with the church, to provide (child's name) with a Christian home of love and peace, to raise her in the truth of our Lord's instruction and discipline, and to encourage her to one day trust Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord? If so, please respond by saying "we do."

**Minister addresses the congregation and extended family:**

There's an old proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." Finally, I ask the congregation of True Holiness Covenant of Peace Assembly and the (parents' last name) extended family to make a vow as well. Parents have their first responsibility. But parents need the help and support of the community. So I direct my next questions to you.

By being present in God's house today, do you hereby declare yourselves to be the children of God because you trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life? If this is true, please respond by saying "we do."

Would you please stand? Having come freely, I ask now that you make the following commitment to those who stand before you: So that (child's name) may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you vow by God's help, to be faithful in your calling as members of the body of Christ, to help Brother and Sister (last name) be faithful to God, and to help teach and train (child's name) in the ways of the Lord, so that she might one day trust Him as Savior and Lord? If you accept this responsibility, please respond by saying "we do."

(Father gives child to the pastor for prayer of dedication.)

**Dedication song is sung**

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## BABY DEDICATION RECORD

Baby's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling #1 First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling #2 First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sibling #3 First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparent's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparent's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **ARTICLE R9**

#### **LAYING HANDS ON THE SICK**

#### **[READ JAMES 5:14-16]**

Laying on of hands is a method of transferring the anointing, or power of God from one person to another. In the Old Testament, priests, prophets, and kings were anointed with oil and laying on of hands.

Laying hands on the sick, while praying in faith, was a common practice in the early church. Jesus often laid hands on people before healing them (Mark 6:5; Luke 4:40; 13:13). Paul laid hands on a sick person and he was healed (Acts 28:8). Jesus said concerning His followers, “They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover” (Mark 16:18).

When Saul was blinded on the road to Damascus, Ananias was told to go to him, place his hands on him to restore his sight in preparation for his ministry (Acts 9:17).

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## **ARTICLE R10**

### **ANOINTING THE SICK WITH OIL**

Anointing with oil is similar to laying on of hands. The oil has no special property. It is a symbol of the Holy Ghost. It is the Spirit's power that brings healing. We believe that the application of oil in James 5:14 was a symbolic act invoked in conjunction with supernatural healing.

There is contextual information elsewhere in the New Testament that associates miraculous healing with the anointing of oil. In Mark 6:13 the record states, "And they [the Lord's disciples] cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them." This may be the key verse that sheds light on James 5:14. Healing takes place by the power of the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:38), of whom the oil is a symbol (Zechariah 4:4-16).

## **ARTICLE R11**

### **PRAYING IN FAITH IN JESUS' NAME**

Jesus charged the disciples to go "In my name." James instructed the elders to pray over the sick person, and anoint him or her with oil "In the name of the Lord." We (who have the gift of healing) minister healing, not by our own power or authority, but in the power an authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After the day of Pentecost, Peter and John went to the temple to pray. Upon entering the gate, they encountered a lame a man, who was begging. Peter fixed his eyes on the man, grabbed his arm, and declared "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Peter lifted the man up. He started walking, leaping, and praising God.

Peter explained that miracle this way: It's not by our own power or holiness that we made this man walk. It was Jesus. "And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong" (Acts 3:16).