

CONSTITUTION

COUNCIL OF GHANAIAN PASTORS AND CHURCHES - USA, INC.



MARYLAND, USA
JUNE, 2020

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
COUNCIL OF GHANAIAAN PASTORS AND CHURCHES
(COGPAC) – USA, INC.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the COUNCIL OF GHANAIAAN PASTORS AND CHURCHES, USA, hereafter referred to as “COGPAC, USA, INC”, being established on ____th day _____, 2020 and incorporated on the ____th day _____20____ as a fellowship of Ghanaian descent Pastors and Christian Churches in the United States of America (USA), agree to witness to abide together as fellow Christians of Ghanaian descent in the diaspora.

COMMIT ourselves to the strengthening and support of our Member Bodies, to improve and expand the scope of our influence, advocacy and service to humanity, and to do this in the spirit of patriotism towards enhancing a good image of our homeland Ghana.

AFFIRM that in supporting the activities of our Member Bodies, we act according to the fellowship through discussion, consultation, co-operation, mobilization of resources and the implementation of programs reflective of our Member Bodies aspirations and interests.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

This organization shall be known as COUNCIL OF GHANAIAAN PASTORS AND CHURCHES, USA (COGPAC, USA, INC), by which it will be incorporated as a non-profit, non-partisan, Christian faith-based entity organized in the State of Maryland and as a 501(c) (3) organization under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code of the United States.

ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in and acknowledge God as the creator, the source, and sustainer of all life. We acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord and Personal Saviour and God as the ground of our being, in whom we share our common humanity as one people and heritage as a people of Ghanaian descent. We share the basic conviction that the highest form of expressing our religious faith and convictions is to seek the peace, social justice, and holistic development of Society and the Ghanaian in the Diaspora, in particular, through our diverse religious activities.

ARTICLE 3 – VISION

The Vision of the COUNCIL OF GHANAIAAN PASTORS AND CHURCHES, USA (COGPAC, USA, INC) is to advocate and establish a Ghanaian Christian faith in the United States of America with the view to leading, educating and advocating the expression of Christian religious faith and core values of the Ghanaian in the Diaspora.

ARTICLE 4 – MISSION

The Mission of the COUNCIL OF GHANAIAAN PASTORS AND CHURCHES, USA (COGPAC, USA, INC.) is to facilitate the united vision of Ghanaian Christian faith in the United States of America through collaborative activities and community programs.

ARTICLE 5 – AIM

- 5.1. Encourage and coordinate the collaboration of events of religious, social, economic and cultural nature in Ghana and among Ghanaians in the diaspora..
- 5.2 Mobilize member bodies and their constituents for concerted community action for the spiritual, moral, social and economic transformation of our homeland Ghana and the spiritual well-being of all Ghanaians in the diaspora.
- 5.3 To promote the welfare, moral, social economic and spiritual well-being of the member Pastors.

ARTICLE 6 – MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 Membership of COGPAC, USA, INC shall comprise all Pastors of Ghanaian descent and their churches in the United States of America who through their accredited leaders, apply and are admitted. Membership shall comprise of one of the following categories:
- 6.2 **Provisional Membership:**
 - 6.2.1 Must be in existence for at least one (1) year from establishment.
 - 6.2.2 Must be a 501c(3) registered or in the process of securing a 501c (3) religious organization under the US IRS Code.
 - 6.2.3 Must have fully complied with the requirements listed in Article 2.

6.3. **Full Membership:**

6.3.1 Application for membership will be approved as soon as the provision in Article 6.2.2 and 6.2.3 above are satisfied.

6.3.2. Applications must be approved for membership by the Executive Committee.

6.4. Mode of application:

6.4.1. Membership begins by means of a written application

6.4.2. Attachments to the application must include:

- i. A copy of certificate of Ordination or Letter of appointment as a pastor.
- ii. A statement of Faith of the church
- iii. Certificate of Registration/Articles of Incorporation.
- iv. 501c(3) Letter of Determination from the US IRS.
- v. Application Fee (Non-refundable).

6.4.3 The applicant shall receive a written notification regarding status of application within 3 month from the date of submission. A thorough background check including personal interview may be required.

6.4.4. Each member body must abide by COGPAG, USA, INC constitution.

6.5 **Termination of Membership.** Membership of COGPAC, USA, INC shall be considered terminated upon the occurrence of one or more of the following:

6.5.1 **Voluntarily withdraws its membership.** When a member or organization independently, without coercion, decides to revoke or disassociate its official status as a member with COGPAC, USA, INC for corporate, or prescriptive reasons, and has stated so to the Executive Committee in writing.

6.5.2. **Suspension.** When a member is suspended for a period of time, determined and recommended by the Executive Committee of the Council and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

6.5.3 **Expulsion.** When a member is expelled upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 7 - OFFICERS

7.1 The Officers of the Council shall be:

7.1.1 The President.

7.1.2. The Vice President.

7.1.3. The Financial Secretary.

7.1.4 Deputy Financial Secretary.

7.1.5. The General Secretary.

7.1.6. The Deputy General Secretary.

7.1.7. Organizing or Publicity Secretary.

7.1.8. Welfare Secretary.

7.1.9. Prayer Secretary.

ARTICLE 8 – FINANCES

8.1 The finances of the Council shall be derived from:

8.1.1. Membership Application Fee.

8.1.2. Membership Dues.

8.1.3. Donations and Grants.

8.1.4. Income generating activities approved by the Executive Committee

8.2 **Council's Audited Annual Account.**

The Council's accounts shall be audited annually by a Certified Public Accounting Firm. The Auditor's report shall be presented to the Executive Committee not less than 30 days before the next Annual General Meeting.

ARTICLE 9 – TAX EXEMPT PROVISIONS

9.1 **Private Inurement.**

No part of the net earnings of COGPAC, USA, INC shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that COGPAC, USA, INC shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Articles 3, 4 and 5 hereof.

9.2 **Political Involvement.**

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

9.3 **Dissolution.**

Upon the dissolution of COGPAC, USA, INC the members of the executive committee shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of COGPAC, dispose of all of the assets of COGPAC, USA, INC to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as members of the executive committee shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with COGPAC, USA INC's statement of faith.

9.4 **Racial Non-discrimination**

COGPAC, USA, INC shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

9.5 **Limitation of Activities.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution, COGPAC, USA, INC shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes stated in Article 3, 4 and 5.

ARTICLE 10 - AMENDMENTS

10.1 This Constitution or any provisions thereof may be altered, amended, or repealed, and a new constitution may be adopted at any time with an affirmation of change, at a regular or specially called Annual General Meeting (AGM) provided that the meeting is called for the purpose, with notice given at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Further, a copy of the proposed changes shall be made available to members two consecutive weeks in advance of the meeting. A quorum of 25% of members is required to commence this specially called AGM. A sixty-seven percent (67%) majority vote of members present be required to amend these articles of the constitution.

ARTICLE 11: ADOPTION

11.1 **Adoption.** This Constitution was adopted on thisday of..... 20..... by a 67% majority vote of the members present and voting at a specially called meeting of the AGM in which a quorum was present.

11.2 This constitution was ratified on this day..... .. day of..... 20.....

This Constitution supersedes any other Constitution of the Council of Ghanaian Pastors and Churches, COGPAC, USA, INC.

.....
Full Name
Chairman, COGPAC, USA, INC.

.....
Full Name
General Secretary, COGPAC-USA, INC.