

PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WEST INDIES (PAWI) INTERNATIONAL

CONSTITUTION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies International exists to fulfill the purpose of God by transforming people and communities everywhere, by the gospel of Jesus Christ and through the power and manifestation of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS WE BELIEVE THAT:

1. God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save the lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son; that these believers,

saved and called out of the world, constitute the body or church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone (*Ephesians 4:11-13*);

2. The members of the body, the Church (*Ecclesia*) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order (*Hebrews 10:25*);
3. The early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, spirit-filled believers who, under the supervision of the Holy Spirit, set over the Church the five-fold ministry which is set forth as the pattern for the leadership of PAWI (*Ephesians 4:11*);
4. The purpose of PAWI is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, a Fellowship in which people may worship God, and a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (*Ephesians 4:12*);

5. PAWI exists expressly to give continued emphasis to the above-mentioned as indicated in the New Testament apostolic pattern, by teaching and encouraging the baptism of the Holy Spirit with signs following, thereby bringing a new dimension to worship and the demonstration of the fruit and gifts of the Spirit for the edification of the body of Christ (*Acts 1:8*);

6. PAWI is a fellowship of Pentecostal believers from Assemblies or other bodies of like faith throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere, whose purpose is to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, the work and business for God, and endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”. (*Ephesians 4:13*);

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1 – INTERPRETATION

In this Constitution:

1. “Assembly” means a local church congregation of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies members.
2. “Bylaws” mean the part of this document comprising the laws adopted by the General Conference. (The Bylaws put into effect the principles of the Constitution and are subordinate to the Constitution.)
3. “Constitution” means the part of this document recording the fundamental laws and principles of the Fellowship.
4. “Credential holder” means a person holding a credential, that is, a licence from the Fellowship for Ministry.
5. “District Conference” means the District Conference referred to in Article XI.
6. “District” means any geographical district established under Article XI.
7. “Fellowship” means the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies.
8. “General Conference” means the highest and ultimate governing body of the

Fellowship.

9. "National Conference" means the geographical districts established under Article X with specific reference to Trinidad and Tobago.
10. "Other bodies" mean fellowships, ministries, and para-church organizations (see Article VI, clause 2 below).
11. Words denoting the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender except in the case of the General Bishop and the Assistant General Bishop.

ARTICLE II – NAME

The name of the Fellowship shall be The Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies International (PAWI), with registered offices at Fourth Bridge, Maracas Royal Road, St. Joseph, Trinidad, Trinidad and Tobago.

ARTICLE III – INTENT

PAWI is a Fellowship which is based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership comprising legally incorporated, autonomous and other organizations, whose Articles and Bylaws shall be subject to, or at least consistent with, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies.

ARTICLE IV – OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

1. The objectives of PAWI are to:
 - i. Encourage and promote the worship of God as revealed in the Bible.
 - ii. Encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
 - iii. Encourage and promote the discipling and edification of believers.
 - iv. Establish places of worship for the propagating of the Christian faith.
 - v. Provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like faith.
 - vi. Engage in home and foreign missionary work for the spread of the Christian faith.

- vii. Establish, maintain and operate such institutions and facilities as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the Fellowship, including those relating to health-care, education and social life.
- viii. Establish, manage and participate in pension funds, cooperatives, and non-governmental and community-based organizations, and exercise any of the powers conferred on duly incorporated and registered benevolent societies by local, regional or governmental authorities.
- ix. Own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or personal, as may be necessary for carrying out its purposes.
- x. Solicit and accept funds and donations and prescribe subscriptions for church related activities according to the laws of the country in which the specific activity is being carried out.
- xi. Own, operate and/or use varied news media for the advancement of the Gospel.

- xii. Undertake such other measures as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes.

ARTICLE V – STATEMENT OF FAITH

(See also the expanded Statement of Faith appended to this Constitution.)

1. **WE BELIEVE** the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are the divinely inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, and the final authority for all Christian faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. **WE BELIEVE** in one God, infinite, perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

3. **WE BELIEVE** in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, His unqualified deity, His sinless humanity, the eternal all-sufficiency of His atoning death, His bodily resurrection and His ascension to the Father's right hand (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 1:1, 20, 24-29; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Timothy 2:5; Revelation 20: 1-6).

4. **WE BELIEVE** in the personal and imminent, pre-tribulation return of Jesus Christ for His Church, i.e. the rapture; the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ with His Church, and His millennial reign on earth (Hebrews 9:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:51; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:13).
5. **WE BELIEVE** that Justification is a judicial act of God on the believer's behalf solely through faith in Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 3:24, 26; 4: 18-25; 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 3:24).
6. **WE BELIEVE** that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is under condemnation, and that it is only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit that salvation can be obtained (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:1-13; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).
7. **WE BELIEVE** that Water Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

8. **WE BELIEVE** that the Christian life involves discipleship, obedience to the Word of God, holiness, witness and service through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 1:8; 2:38; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1).
9. **WE BELIEVE** in the Baptism with the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:4; 4:31; 10:46; 1 Corinthians 12: 13-14; Ephesians 5:18).
10. **WE BELIEVE** in the demonstration of the gifts of the Spirit, and the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
11. **WE BELIEVE** in the divine healing of the human body as provided for in the atonement, which is a privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; James 5:14, 15).
12. **WE BELIEVE** in Heaven as the eternal inheritance of the believers, and in Hell and the Lake of Fire as the place of eternal doom for the devil, his angels and all unbelievers (John 14:1-3; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:1-6).
13. **WE BELIEVE** that the true Church consists of all who through faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; 4:3-6).

14. **WE BELIEVE** in and practice the five-fold Ministries and the supporting Ministries to be operational in the Church (Ephesians 4:11-13).

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in PAWI shall be open to those groups and individuals who subscribe to and agree to be governed by the Statement of Faith, principles, purposes and objectives of the Fellowship as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, and who are approved for membership.
2. In particular membership shall be open to assemblies and fellowships, ministries, and para-church organizations (referred to herein as “other bodies” – see Article I, clause 10 above).
3. Credential holders shall have the option to use the designation of the five-fold ministry giftings of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher consistent with their functioning ministries which shall be recognized by the respective District Conferences

and authorized by the General Executive, after which the title shall be conferred upon the individual by the General Executive.

ARTICLE VII – ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of the Fellowship shall consist of the:

1. General Conference
2. General Executive
3. National Conference of Trinidad and Tobago
4. National Executive of Trinidad and Tobago
5. District Conference
6. District Executive
7. Local Assembly.

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. A plenary session of PAWI to be known as the General Conference shall be held biennially, pursuant to a call by the General Executive.
2. Special Sessions of PAWI may be called by a majority of the General Executive or by a credential holder of PAWI or by an other body, going through his/her District Bishop, who presents a petition for the same signed by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the General Executive specifying the grounds for such a special session.
3. The General and Special sessions of PAWI shall be attended by the General Executive and persons representing the Assemblies, Districts and other bodies on such bases as are prescribed in the Bylaws.
4. The General Conference shall have the exclusive authority to determine and approve scriptural doctrine and conduct governing the Fellowship according to the Bylaws.
5. The General Conference shall have power by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority of the members present and voting to authorize a sale of the undertakings or assets of the properties at 85 Tunapuna Road, and the West Indies School of Theology at

Fourth Bridge, Maracas Valley, and such other properties as may be acquired by or may belong to the Fellowship through the International Office.

6. The General Conference shall designate criteria for parliamentary procedure for itself, for its member districts and for other bodies of the Fellowship.
7. The General Conference shall elect officers in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.
8. The General Conference shall elect a Board of Elders from time to time from among PAWI members who are recommended by the General Executive. The Board shall serve as elders of the PAWI Fellowship in an advisory capacity.

ARTICLE IX – COMPOSITION OF GENERAL EXECUTIVE

1. The management of PAWI shall be vested in the General Executive which comprises the following persons:
 - i. General Bishop
 - ii. Assistant General Bishop

- iii. General Administrator
- iv. Executive Director of Church Ministries
- v. Executive Director of World Missions
- vi. Districts' Presiding Bishops
- vii. National Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago
- viii. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Indies School of
Theology
- ix. Three (3) persons nominated by the General Executive and approved by
the General Conference.

ARTICLE X – NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

1. The management of the National Conference of Trinidad and Tobago shall be vested in the National Executive Council comprising the National Bishop, Assistant National Bishop, Secretary, Treasurer, Presiding Bishops and Assistant Presiding Bishops of each District within Trinidad and Tobago and such persons as may be specified from

time to time.

2. The National Conference shall elect its own officers and establish its own procedures for the holding of meetings and the conduct of other business, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of PAWI.
3. Membership of the National Conference shall consist of all credentialled ministers who are registered members of the Districts within the geographical boundaries of Trinidad and Tobago and such delegates as may be elected by Districts or other bodies to represent them at the National Conference.
4. The National Conference shall be governed by the provisions of the Constitution and the Bylaws, and in carrying out its work shall ensure that it adheres to the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which PAWI is especially and unalterably dedicated.
5. The National Conference shall be amenable to the General Executive and General Conference in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all credential holders.
6. The National Executive Council shall pay to the PAWI Fellowship via the International

Office a tithe of its monthly income and the percentage agreed upon by the General Executive of all missions offerings collected, and shall cooperate in and support the programmes of the General Conference and the General Executive.

7. The National Executive Council shall present an audited National Consolidated Financial Report at each biennial National Conference, which shall comprise a balance sheet, income and expenditure statements, and receipts and payments accounts representing its financial stewardship for the two-year Conference term under review.
8. The National Executive Council shall exercise discretionary powers in relation to the Districts within its boundaries and shall:
 - i. Act as the legal representative of PAWI in Trinidad and Tobago, performing regulatory functions with respect to property matters;
 - ii. Arbitrate in matters of conflict and carry out appropriate disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - iii. Act in an advisory capacity and assist in the ongoing development of each of its Districts and other ministries.

ARTICLE XI – DISTRICTS

1. PAWI shall establish Districts in various geographical areas, each of which shall be governed by an Executive Council in order to carry out its functions.
2. Districts comprising large geographical areas may subdivide into smaller Districts with the permission of the General Conference to facilitate continued growth and expansion.
3. There shall be two (2) classifications of districts, namely:
 1. Pioneer District
 2. Autonomous District
4. A District shall be classified as a “Pioneer District” until it is self-propagating, self-governing and self-financing as determined by the General Executive.
5. Membership of the District Conference shall consist of all District credentialed ministers and such delegates as may be elected by Assemblies or other bodies to represent them at the District Conference. Delegates shall be elected upon such bases as are prescribed in the Bylaws.

6. The District Executive shall have oversight of all the activities of PAWI in the particular District. The District may examine, approve, and recommend to the General Executive candidates who qualify as credential holders. The applications of the recommended candidates shall be forwarded to the General Administrator for approval of the General Executive.
7. The management of the District Conference shall be vested in the District Executive comprising those persons specified in the Bylaws. The District Conference shall elect its own officers and establish its own procedures for the holding of meetings and the conduct of other business, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws.
8. The District Conference shall be governed by the provisions of the Constitution and the Bylaws, and in carrying out its work shall ensure that it adheres to the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which PAWI is especially and unalterably dedicated.
9. The District shall be amenable to the General Executive and General Conference in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all credential holders.

10. Each District shall pay to the PAWI Fellowship via the International Office a tithe of its monthly income and the percentage agreed upon by the General Executive of all missions offerings collected, and shall cooperate in and support the programmes of the General Conference and the General Executive.
11. The District Executive shall present an audited District Consolidated Financial Report at each annual District Conference, which shall comprise a balance sheet, income and expenditure statements, and receipts and payments accounts representing its financial stewardship for the annual Conference term under review.

ARTICLE XII – ASSEMBLIES AND OTHER BODIES

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of this Article, the Bylaws may specify categories of Assemblies and other bodies which may be admitted to membership of the General Conference.
2. Each Assembly or other body which is a member of the General Conference shall pay tithes of its general tithes and offerings to its respective District, shall give missionary

and other offerings to the Fellowship, and cooperate in the work and support the programmes of the General Executive and Districts.

3. Subject to the Constitution and Bylaws, each such Assembly or other body shall have the right to:

- i. Self-government.
- ii. Choose or call its pastor/leader.
- iii. Elect or ratify its Board.
- iv. Transact all other business pertaining to its life.
- v. Acquire and hold title to property through District trustees in the corporate name of the Fellowship.

4. All Assemblies and other bodies are expected to have an interest in the objectives of PAWI and to provide contributions for support as prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII – BYLAWS

1. The membership and structure of the General Conference, General Executive, National

Conference, National Executive, District Conference, District Executive, and Local Assemblies shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

2. PAWI, through the General Conference, shall make Bylaws:
 - i. Providing for the establishment of Committees.
 - ii. Relating to the duties and functions of officers.
 - iii. Providing for the removal of any officer at any level and filling any vacancy arising for whatever reason.
 - iv. Relating to the issue and withdrawal of credentials.
 - v. Respecting disciplinary matters and proceedings.
 - vi. Governing ceremonies and ordinances.
 - vii. Respecting privileges and responsibilities of credential holders and other members of the Fellowship.
 - viii. Relating to financial matters and borrowings.
 - ix. Respecting pension funds.
 - x. Governing the classification and other matters relating to Assemblies and other

bodies.

- xi. Respecting the functions of Departments/Ministries.
- xii. Relating to the West Indies School of Theology (WIST) Educational Foundation and other educational institutions.
- xiii. Any other matters the General Conference shall deem necessary from time to time.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

The provisions of this Constitution may be amended or revoked and new provisions made by PAWI in General Conference. Any resolution to amend the Constitution must be communicated to the office of the Administrator in writing at least forty days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be moved. Amendments to the Constitution shall require two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members present and voting.

ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of any national body or District of PAWI, the General Executive shall appoint a committee to advise the National or District Executive on how it may dispose of its assets to a non-profit organization which operates exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, or both, in accordance with the laws of the country in which that national body or District is located.