



*The Final Consolidated Amendments of
The Rules of Procedure*



*of the Assemblies of God
(Back to God)*

"Gold Book"

adopted in 2016

*Adopted by the Extra-Ordinary Conference of the
Assemblies of God (Back to God)*

24th – 27th February 2014

And

*Ratified by the Ordinary Conference of
the Assemblies of God (Back to God)*

6th – 10th October 2014



DECLARATION

We, the Assemblies of God (Back to God) hereby acknowledge and declare that we are an organism born from the Infallible Word of God – the BIBLE. We subscribe to the Authority, Provisions, Dictates and Supremacy of the BIBLE.

We declare that we believe that *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” [2 Timothy 3: 16-17].*

We declare that the Rules of Procedure are subordinate to the Authority of the Canon of Scriptures (the BIBLE) and as such the interpretation and application of the Rules of Procedure shall be executed within the stringent parameters and context of the BIBLE.

We acknowledge and declare that these Rules of Procedure shall not take precedence over the Rule and Authority of the BIBLE.

Anybody who interprets and applies these Rules of Procedure must do so to give effect to the Authority and Supremacy of the BIBLE as the Supreme Authority within the Assemblies of God (Back to God).

In the unlikely event that any or some of the provisions of these Rules of Procedure may be in conflict with the Bible, the provisions of the Bible shall prevail.

Thus we adopt the Rules of Procedure.



Rules of Procedure - Assemblies of God (Back to God)

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OR THINGS COMMONLY BELIEVED AMONG US

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is inspired by God. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Peter 1:20-21.)

GOD

We believe the Godhead is eternally co-equal and co-existent in three persons; not three Gods but one; not one Person but three, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:26; Mark 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19)

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. Thus we uphold His absolute deity as His complete humanity; two natures but one undivided Person. (Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:5-12; Philippians 2:5-8)

THE RESURRECTION

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that He ascended into Heaven where he is now seated at the right hand of God, in the position of power and authority. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead. (Daniel 12:2; Romans 8:34; Mark 12:36; Mark 14:62; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 20; Philippians 2:8-11; Acts 2:33; Luke 22:69; Hebrews 8:1; Revelation 20:11-15).

LORDSHIP JESUS CHRIST

We confess the Lord Jesus Christ and no other, as Head of the Church, and as our Lord. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18, 24)

THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus will manifest Himself in glory, majesty and power and in physical Presence. This is the second coming of Christ and the blessed hope of the Church. (Matthew 24:30; Luke 21:27; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 22:7; Revelation 1:7; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

THE FALL

Every individual has sinned and is guilty before God. Man by nature is depraved and incapable of saving his own soul. (Romans 3:10, 23; Ephesians 2:8-10)



REDEMPTION

The Lord Jesus Christ, by His life, death, resurrection and ascension, has made available to all mankind the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. These blessings are made personally real to the individual, not by works, or by any personal merit in themselves, but by faith alone, which is accompanied by repentance. (John 3:16; Romans 8:8-13; II Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:4-7; Titus 2:11)

THE NEW BIRTH

We believe in the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Birth, which makes a repentant sinner a child of God being baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. (John 1:11-13; II Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-8; I Peter 1:22-25; I Corinthians 12:13)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the true Church consists of the community of true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who by faith have had their sins forgiven and been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the fellowship of all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, recognizing that the true Church is not confined to any one denomination. (Hebrews 12:23-24; 1 John 1:7; Ephesians 3:3-10; I Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 4:3-6, 13; I Corinthians 10:32)

BAPTISM

We believe in the baptism, by immersion, of believers only. (Matthew 28:19; Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 10:47; Hebrews 10:22; Acts 8:36-39; I Peter 3:21)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe in the Breaking of Bread as commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ and as practised by the Early Church. (I Corinthians 10:16-17; I Corinthians 11:23-32)

SANCTIFICATION

The Scriptures teach of a life of holiness, and we are to obey the command "Be ye holy for I am holy." Believers are sanctified (i.e. set apart) for God's purpose at conversion. Continuation in sanctification of the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word and through faith and submission to the Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:48; I Peter 1:16; Hebrews 6:1; Philippians 3:11-14; I Thessalonians 5:23-24)

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, and that this baptism, as a distinct experience from the New Birth, is promised to every believer. (Matthew 3:11; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 8:14-17; Acts 11:14-16; Acts 2:32-33; Acts 15:7-9).



DIVINE HEALING

We believe in the gifts of healing and that God still, in our day, heals the sick. (Mark 16:16-18; Matthew 8:16-17; I Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14-15)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We believe that God has never removed the gifts referred to in I Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14 and that whenever the Holy Spirit moves upon the Church in power, these gifts are manifested. We believe it is contrary to the Apostolic command for any to "forbid to speak in tongues".

PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

Each individual believer has full and equal access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ, as a believer-priest. (I Peter 2:1-9; Revelation 5:9-10 (R.V.); Revelation 1:6)

THE MINISTRY

The ascended Christ has given various ministries to the Church and each of these exists for the strengthening of, and is essential to, the welfare of the Church. They are set forth in Ephesians 4:11, I Corinthians 12:28 and elsewhere.

MIRACLES

We believe in miracles, both as recorded in the Bible, and as being possible in the present day. (John 14:12; I Corinthians 12:10)

JUDGEMENT

We believe that both the living and the dead will be judged, it being understood that the believer's condemnation was borne by our Lord Jesus Christ in His redemptive work (John 5:24, 28-29; Revelation 20:11-15).



1. EXPLANATION OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

1.1.	AOG	Assemblies of God
1.2.	AOG/BTG	Assemblies of God/Back to God Church an associate/affiliate/member of the Assemblies of God Southern Africa
1.3.	Board of Trustees	BTGC (NPO) Board
1.4.	BTG	Back to God
1.5.	BTGC	Back to God Crusade
1.6.	BTGCT	Back to God Crusade Team
1.7.	RC	Regional Council
1.8.	RCC	Regional Council Committee
1.9.	RCG	Regional Council General
1.10.	Executive	AOG (BtG) Executive
1.11.	Groups	Similar interest fellowship within the organization like Men, Mother, Girls, Youth, Sunday School.
1.12.	Missionary	A Minister who represents his church from outside South Africa
1.13.	NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
1.14.	Office Bearers	The first six elected Executive Committee members
1.15.	The Church	Means the Assemblies of God (Back to God)
1.16.	RBTGC	Regional Back to God Crusade Committee
1.17.	RSA	Republic of South Africa
1.18.	TT	Teaching Team
1.19.	NBTGC	National Back to God Crusade Committee



1. NAME

- a. In terms of **Sections 39.3 and 39.4** of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God as an umbrella body, the name of the Association is **Assemblies of God (Back to God)**. The shortened name shall be **AOG (BTG)**.
- b. The official and registered name is **Back to God Crusade**.
- c. All our local churches shall individually be branded "**Assembly of God (Back to God)**". Local churches shall be named according to their localities or areas of locations.
- d. The Head Office is in South Africa, Henley on Klip, Meyerton.

2. BODY CORPORATE

- a. Assemblies of God (Back to God) exists separately from its members and continues to exist despite any change of members or any of its office bearers.
- b. Has the right to own and dispose of properties and other assets under its official registered name as **Back to God Crusade**.
- c. All assets held under the defunct Assemblies of God Movement belong to the Assemblies of God (Back to God) under officially registered name.

3.1 PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH

- a. To promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Africa and beyond.
- b. To endeavour to advance and promote a New Testament pattern church within the dictates of the Bible.



3.2 SECONDARY OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH

- a. To provide assistance, where possible, for the acquisition of premises and assets such as church buildings, tents, motor vehicles and to provide maintenance thereof.
- b. To maintain such premises, equipment and engage such officers, staff, as may be deemed necessary by the Executive for the establishment, maintenance and promotion of the church.
- c. To purchase, take on lease or acquire any other interests in any land, buildings and property, real and personal which may be acquired for the purposes of or capable of being used in connection with the objectives of the Church.
- d. Notwithstanding other provisions, the church may delegate the powers and duties under this clause in terms of the delegation clause hereunder, to the **BACK TO GOD CRUSADE** (hereinafter referred to as the “**BTGC**”), the evangelistic arm.

4. INCOME, EXPENDITURE, REMUNERATION AND PROPERTY

- a. In achieving all objectives, AOG (BTG) shall keep proper records reflective of its income, expenses and assets owned at locals, regional, and head office. This will include all HR data and particulars of Ministers, evangelists etc.
- b. Office Bearers and/or Employees, whichever the case may be, in the service and/or employ of the church shall be reasonably compensated and/or remunerated for services rendered as ecclesiastically regulated (***in the case of Ministers as they are not employees***) and/or regulated by laws governing employment relationship in the case of employees that are employed in terms of applicable labour legislations.
- c. **All income or monies or donations or collections, in whatsoever form,** received by the church shall be its own and NOT to be divided among its members or otherwise disbursed for any purpose other than attaining its objectives.
- d. An Asset register shall be kept, reflecting all assets owned by the church with their cost and market values.



5. MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall be open to any person who;

- a. Has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour.
- b. Has been baptized according to the Scriptures.
- c. Is a bona fide member of a recognized local assembly in terms of the provisions of the Bible, Rules of Procedure as well as the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- d. Subscribes to the Supreme Authority of the Holy Scriptures, our "Statements of Belief", the Rules of Procedure and the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- e. The names of the members of the church shall be entered into a register and kept by the local church.

6. MEMBERSHIP AOTH AND DECLARATION

Once a person is accepted as a member of the Assemblies of God (Back to God), the person shall be bound by the following oath and declaration:

"By taking up voluntary membership of Assemblies of God (Back to God) or placing myself under the authority of the Church as a voluntary formation, I declare and accept that I will abide by the Biblical Dictates and Authority, Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) (Gold Book), the Constitution of the Assemblies of God (Blue Book) Rules of Procedure (Green Book) any other duly adopted policies or resolutions of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) by any relevant structure. I will abide by all Assemblies of God General Conference and Executive Decisions. I hereby declare that I am placing myself under the Assemblies of God (Back to God) voluntarily from my heart and without any ulterior motives of material or personal gains. I hereby declare that I will respect all structures of the Church and to carry out the Biblical mandate as a loyal believer to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this Church. I will promote and advance the unity of the Body of Christ in terms of the dictates of the Bible and any other authoritative book or regulative policy within the Assemblies of God (Back to God)".



7. TERMINATION AND/OR RE-ADMISSION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated under the following circumstances;

- i. When a member has requested the Local Assembly Regional Council and/or the Executive, as the case may be, in writing to terminate his or her membership.
- ii. In the case of (i) above, the member must serve the letter to the Local Church before serving it to any other Church Structure.
- iii. When the Local Assembly has revoked the person's membership after disciplinary processes in accordance with the Bible, the Constitution of the Assemblies of God, Rules of Procedure (Green Book), Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) and any other policy of the Church.
- iv. When a member has explicitly distanced him or herself from the Fundamental Beliefs or doctrine of the Church or displayed a conduct that stands against the doctrine of the Assemblies of God (Back to God)
- v. When a member has engaged in a conduct that fundamentally brings the Body of Christ into disrepute.
- vi. By death.
- vii. Any person whose membership was terminated in terms of any of clauses (i-v) above, may be re-admitted as a member of the AOG (BTG) through the Local Assembly.
- viii. The Local Assembly must notify the Regional Office which must notify all Local Assemblies about the termination or re-admission of the affected person.
- ix. In the event that the person holds a portfolio externally (at regional and/or national levels), the Local Assembly must notify the Regional Office which must notify the relevant structures of the termination or re-admission of the affected person.



8. POWERS OF THE CHURCH

- a. To promote the objectives as stated herein above.
 - b. To formulate, adopt and/or amend Rules of Procedure as well as all other necessary policies from time to time.
 - c. To conduct elections in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
 - d. To determine nomination and election procedures.
 - e. To adopt and implement resolutions.
 - f. To defend the policies and resolutions adopted.
 - g. To admit, discipline, suspend, disfellowship and expel or excommunicate person/s from the church through the local assembly.
 - h. To appoint or dissolve structures and determine their term of office in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
 - i. To devise, adopt and/or review strategies of fundraising to advance the objectives of the Church.
 - j. To open and manage banking accounts.
 - k. To acquire and/or dispose of assets such as land, equipment, church buildings, tents, motor vehicles, etc.
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- a. To develop relations (*domestic and international*) with other organizations with similar vision and objectives for strategic purposes.

9. STRUCTURES OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (BACK TO GOD)

The Structures and leadership of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) are as follows;

- a. **Local Assembly – basic foundation of the church - consists of Saints, Ministers, Elders and Deacons.**
- b. **Regional Council** consists of Ministers and their wives, Elders, Deacons, Delegates and Organizers. (The Regional Council is the highest decision - making body of the Church within the Region. The Regional Council may adopt or readjust or reject some or all decisions made by the Regional Council Committee).



- c. **Regional Council Committees** (Region Council Committee is the highest decision-making body between the Regional Council General).
- d. **Executive** (the Executive Committee is the highest Administrative Decision - Making Body between Conferences).
- e. **Teaching Team** (the Teaching Team is the Apostolic Body that deals with matters of doctrine).
 - i. The Teaching Team has the overall Apostolic Authority in the Church and it plays an oversight role over the **Assemblies of God (Back to God)** Church as a whole by virtue of the Apostolic Office it occupies.
 - ii. The Teaching Team is the Vanguard of doctrine within **Assemblies of God (Back to God)**.

Conference (the Conference is the highest decision-making body of the Church). The Conference may adopt or readjust or reject some or all decisions made by the Executive.



10. DELEGATION

The following powers are delegated to structures hereunder within the church, namely;

- a. **Back to God Teaching Team** has an Apostolic mandate for the church; - The Highest Ecclesiastic Office in the Church.
- b. **Executive Committee** with the administrative mandate for the church; - *Administrative Mandate - The process or activity of running a business, organization, etc.:* the day-to-day administration of the organization between Conferences. It has powers to institute discipline against ministers.
- c. **Back to God Crusade** has the evangelistic mandate for the church; - Responsible for the preaching or promulgation or spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- d. **Regional Council Committee** is responsible for the day-to-day matters of the Regions between Regional General Councils
- e. **Local Assemblies** are the foundational base of the Assemblies of God (Back to God). This is where members are admitted, spiritually nourished, trained, developed, disciplined, disfellowshipped or expelled. It is **only** through the Local Assembly that people may be re-admitted.



11. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEACHING TEAM

Rev NBH Bhengu appointed the original twenty-four (24) members of the Back to God Teaching Team herein referred to as the Teaching Team. The role and responsibilities of the Teaching Team are as follows;

- a. The Teaching Team has an Apostolic Mandate and functions as the Apostolic Body of the Church.
- b. The Teaching Team shall have a Coordinating Team of nine (9) appointed from amongst themselves by mechanisms or processes deemed fit by the full bench or reasonable majority of the Teaching Team Members at the meeting convened to make appointment.
- c. It is the vanguard and the custodian of the doctrine as espoused by the Assemblies of God (Back to God). It performs no administrative function, however should be consulted on all the administrative matters.
- d. The Teaching Team smoothes/heals relations after the Executive has settled disputes. The Teaching Team acts as a conciliatory body.
- e. The Teaching Team trains Pastors, oversees the elections of Elders and Deacons in Local Assemblies to replace church committees to ensure that the Church emulates the New Testament pattern.
- f. Performs ordination of Pastors, Elders and Deacons.
- g. Assists and ensures the establishment of local assemblies working with the AOG (BTG) Executive, NBTGC nationally, RCC's as well as the Regional Back to God Committees.
- h. The Teaching Team ensures continuity, uniformity and safeguarding against deviation from the Church's Biblical Doctrine, Ethical Standards, Norms and Values.
- i. All Teaching Team members shall not be eligible to stand for elections within the Assemblies of God (Back to God). **One-member-one-cap** principle applies (e.g. RCC or Executive).
- j. Members of the Teaching Team should be exemplary in word and deed and shall not be involved in conduct or behaviour that warrants discipline.



12. ROLES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has following powers to:

- a. The AOG (BTG) Executive is charged with the fiduciary duty, with respect to administration and the decision making function of the organisation, and is accountable to the AOG (BTG) Conference.
- b. The AOG (BTG) Executive shall be principally responsible for the general operations of the organisation. It is the body that represents the organisation as a legal persona.
- c. The AOG (BTG) Executive and the Back to God Teaching Team shall convene an annual budget meeting, where all relevant stakeholders shall be invited.
- d. Admit Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers, Recognized Elders and Deacons, Organizers, and Delegates from recognized Assemblies as members of the Conference.
- e. Recommend the withdrawal of recognition of Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers and recognized Assemblies to the General Executive of the Assemblies of God.
- f. Makes recommendations for the recognition and autonomy of assemblies as well as exercising overall supervisory function on recognized Assemblies.
- g. Inquire into and decide upon matters of scriptural procedure and /or conduct of Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers and recognized Assemblies.
- h. Require a person seeking admission into fulltime ministry to undergo a course of study prescribed at the discretion of the AOG (BTG) Executive in order to help equip such persons for the ministry.
- i. The Executive shall deal with all urgent matters if, for any reason, the Conference cannot be held.
- j. The Executive shall implement the decisions and/or resolutions of the AOG (BTG) Conference and Assemblies of God General Conference.



- k. All unresolved disputes, after following all necessary steps of the dispute resolution in the Local Church, will be referred to the RCC and if the matter/s remain unresolved, then the matters are directed to the Executive Committee.
- l. The Executive Committee assesses the nature of the dispute, and decides whether the Teaching Team will deal with such a dispute first, or the Executive Committee will deal with the dispute first, then request the Teaching Team to deal with the healing and conciliatory processes.

13. POWERS IN RELATION TO DISCIPLINE

- a. The Executive handles matters of discipline in matters affecting Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers, Organizers and recognized Local Assemblies within the AOG (BTG) of God for ratification by the General Executive.
- b. The Executive has the power to institute disciplinary processes against Ministers and people in leadership in the event that allegation/s of misconduct are brought to its attention.
- c. The Executive shall refer matters of alleged misconduct to the National Tribunal for initiation of investigation, disciplinary processes and recommendations.
- d. ***The discipline of all ministers shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Executive at least for a period of two (2) years from the date of the adoption of the 2016 Amendments.***
- e. The National Tribunal shall convene disciplinary processes after which the recommendations shall be tabled before the Executive for implementation.
- f. The Executive shall implement the recommendations after ten (10) calendar days from the date of communication of the outcome to the minister concerned if the affected minister has not filed application for appeal.
- g. The Executive Committee shall have powers to appoint **auxiliary committees** as and when the need arises in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure.
- h. The Executive Committee shall prepare the agenda for each conference with consideration of regional inputs.



14. NATIONAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- a. The Assemblies of God (Back to God) shall have National Operations Advisory Committee appointed by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Back to God Teaching Team.
- b. The National Operations Advisory Committee is an administrative auxiliary committee.
- c. The National Operations Advisory Committee shall in no circumstances usurp or assume or exercise the roles and powers that are assigned to the Executive.
- d. The National Operations Advisory Committee is just an auxiliary committee and it shall not participate in decision making meetings or processes of the Executive.



14.1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

It shall advise and assist with the following:

- a. Financial and management control of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- b. Human resource management and development.
- c. Legal matters.
- d. Any other related matters

14.2. TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for the National Operations Advisory Committee shall be four (4) years and shall run concurrently with the term of office for the Executive.

14.3. SKILLS AND/OR EXPERTISE TO BE CONSIDERED

Members of the National Operations Advisory Committee shall be appointed from a pool of people who possess but not limited to the following relevant skills.

- a. Financial management.
- b. Human resources management and development.
- c. Law and Labour Relations.
- d. Project Management.
- e. Civil Engineering.
- f. Quantity Surveyor.
- g. Media, Communications and Production
- h. General administration



14.4. COMPENSATION

- a. Members of the National Operations Advisory Committee shall receive no remuneration nor compensation/stipend (umbongo) for services rendered. However, travelling costs incurred shall be refunded.
- b. The National Operations and Advisory Committee structure shall be replicated at the regional and local level.

14.5. COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Noting that the Committee is the Administrative Organ, it shall be composed as follows;

- a. Only five Accredited Ministers, all in all shall, form part of the Committee and the ministers are from the Executive Committee.
 - b. The Secretary is the Chairman of the Committee
 - c. The Deputy Secretary is the Secretary of the Committee
 - d. All three Trustees elected by the Conference are members of the Committee
- Other members of the Committee shall be appointed by the leadership from the general membership so as to give opportunity to the general membership to serve in their church.

15. CONFERENCE

The Assemblies of God (Back to God) shall convene Annual Conference to deal with her domestic matters, as defined by **Part 7.6 of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God - [Blue Book](#)**.

15.1 ELIGIBILITY TO ATTEND CONFERENCE

- a. The Annual Conference of the Assemblies of God (BTG) shall be attended by all recognized Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers, Pastors' wives, Recognized Elders, Deacons, Supervisors, Organizers and delegates sent by Recognized Local Assemblies of the AOG (BTG) and any other person the AOG (BTG) Executive Committee deems relevant.
- b. Each Recognized Assembly of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) is entitled to send one delegate for the first twenty-five (25) members and there after one for every one hundred (100) additional members.



16. STATUS OF THE CONFERENCE

- a. The Conference, in terms this section as empowered by **Section 39** of the **Constitution of the Assemblies of God**, shall meet annually.
- b. The Conference is the highest decision-making body of the Church. The Conference may adopt, readjust or reject some or all decisions made by the Executive.
- c. The Conference shall decide or resolve or direct on matters pertaining to the Assemblies of God (Back to God) only.
- d. The Conference shall observe Conference or Meeting Procedures.
- e. This rule may be waived on occasion by written notice from the Executive and Back to God Teaching Team after all regions have had an opportunity to properly discuss and resolve, by majority, for the waiver with full and direct involvement of all local assemblies.
- f. The Executive and Teaching Team shall, when the need arises or when the majority of regions have so petitioned, convene Special Conference on a Three (3) Months' Notice (90 days).
- g. The Annual Conference notice shall include the agenda of the meeting with some all of the following or additional items:
 1. Written Apologies
 2. Reading and confirmation of previous minutes
 3. Chairperson's report;
 4. Secretary's report
 5. Presentation of Annual Audited Financial Statements and adoption thereof
 6. Presentation of items and reports by the Back to God Teaching Team
 7. Presentation of items and reports by the Back to God Crusade
 8. Retirement of members, if any, or election and/or replacement/s;
 9. Matters for church participation or position proposals in countries' political and/or social developments.
 10. Matters submitted by Local Assemblies and/or Regions; and
 11. Closure.



17. POWERS OF THE CONFERENCE

- a. To formulate, adopt and/or amend her Rules and Procedures as well as all other necessary policies from time to time.
- b. To conduct elections in accordance with the Rules and Procedures
- c. To determine nomination and election procedures
- d. To adopt policies and resolutions
- e. To appoint and/or dissolve structures and determine their term of office in accordance with the Rules and Procedures.
- f. To devise, adopt and/or review strategies of fundraising to advance the objectives of the Church.
- g. To ratify or amend the appointment of Electoral Commission.



18. QUORUM FOR CONFERENCE

- a. A quorum of the duly constituted Conference shall be **50%+1** of the total number of all Regions.
- b. All regions shall submit all the names of their delegates **one (1) month before the date of the Conference.**
- c. If there is no quorum at the time and date of the Conference, the Executive Committee shall add more time, at its discretion, to allow other regions time to arrive before the Conference can either commence or be rescheduled.
- d. The Conference that cannot commence due to lack of quorum, shall be rescheduled for another date within a period of three **(3) months** from initial intended date.
- e. If, at a rescheduled Conference, there is no quorum, the Conference shall duly commence as though there was a quorum and the resolutions taken at such Conference shall be binding to all regions.
- f. The Executive shall prepare the Agenda for each Conference and shall appoint committees to facilitate conference.
- g. The Executive shall devise ways and means whereby costs of the Conference and also its expenses shall be met.
- h. The Executive shall implement the resolutions of the Conference between conferences.
- i. The Conference, in terms of **Section 39 (3) to (6) of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God**, shall meet in the interim periods between General Conferences.



18.1 SPECIAL CONFERENCE AND QUORUM

- a. A Special conference shall be convened when there is a special need that arises or when the **50%+1** majority of the regions have so petitioned the National Leadership.
- b. A quorum of the duly constituted Special Conference shall be **50%+1** of the total number of all Regions.
- c. All regions shall submit all the names of their delegates **one (1) month before the date of the Special Conference**.
- d. If there is no quorum at the time and date of the Special Conference, the Executive Committee shall add more time, at its discretion, to allow other regions time to arrive before the Special Conference can either commence or be rescheduled.
- e. The Special Conference that cannot commence due to lack of quorum, shall be rescheduled for another date within a period of **three (3) months** from initial intended date.
- f. If, at a rescheduled Special Conference, there is no quorum, the Special Conference shall duly commence as though there was a quorum and the resolutions taken at such Conference shall be binding to all regions.
- g. The National Leadership shall prepare the Agenda for the Special Conference.
- h. The resolutions of the Special Conference shall first be tabled before the ordinary Conference prior to implementation.



19. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- a. The conference shall elect an executive whose term of office shall be **four (4) years**.
- b. In electing an Executive, the Conference shall elect from amongst the accredited ministers Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the three (3) Trustees and five (5) additional members who shall be the Office Bearers of the AOG (BTG).
- c. The elected members referred to in paragraph **(b)** above shall constitute the Executive of the AOG (BTG) and shall assume office with immediate effect.
- d. The hand over process from the outgoing members of the previous Executive Committee to the incoming Executive shall be effected within fourteen **(14) days** from the date of the election. The Teaching Team must ensure that the handover meeting is convened.
- e. The Executive shall consist of 12 members. Should the number of Executive Members, for any reason, fall below ten (10) - *in number*, the Executive shall co-opt a member from list of names that were in the ballot papers of the Elective Conference of the AOG (BTG) that scored the highest votes in the group of unsuccessful candidates.

19.1 DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN

- a. The Chairman shall preside at Conference and Executive Meetings. If the Chairman is unable to attend the meeting for whatever reason/s, the Deputy Chairman shall preside over the meeting.
- b. If the Deputy Chairman is unable to attend the meeting, then the Executive shall appoint an interim Chairman from amongst its members to fulfill the functions and duties of the Chairman.
- c. The Chairman shall keep and have in his possession copies of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God (Blue Book), Rules and Procedures (sp) of the Assemblies of God (Green Book) as well as the ***Rules of Procedure of the***



Assemblies of God (Back to God) at all times when presiding over the Conference.

- d. The Chairman shall acquaint himself with the provisions of the authoritative documents of the church, as set out in paragraph (c) above in order to provide strategic leadership to the meetings and other matters of the Church.
- e. The Chairman shall perform the customary functions of a presiding Officer, and shall otherwise act as he is directed by the Conference or the Executive.

19.2 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- a. The Secretary or his duly authorized representative shall keep accurate Minutes of Meetings of the Conference and Executive.
- b. To record all general statistics and shall preserve these and all Official and Legal Documents and deliver them to his Successor.
- c. The Secretary shall sign Official Documents and perform such functions as are customary or as he is otherwise directed by the Executive or Conference.
- d. The Secretary shall keep an up-to date records of the following:
 - i. All Accredited Ordained Ministers
 - ii. All Probationary Ministers
 - iii. Organizers
 - iv. All Recognized Assemblies
 - v. All Recognized Elders and Deacons.
 - vi. All Staff employed by the Church including Regions.
 - vii. All Legal and Labour Related Matters.
 - viii. All other relevant matters that affect the Church at all levels.
 - ix. All relevant copies of legislation.
 - x. All Church Policies, Resolutions, Declarations and any relevant authoritative documents of the church.



- e. The Secretary or his duly authorized representative shall receive, scrutinize ministerial credentials.
- f. The Secretary shall advise Regional Councils of all matters affecting them.
- g. The Secretary is the Chief Communications Officer of the Church.
- h. The Secretary shall be the figure that deposes of all affidavits.
- i. The Secretary is the Chairperson of the National Operations Advisory Committee.
- f. The Secretary is the Chairperson of the Secretariat Forum.

19.3 DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES

- a. The Trustees shall administer the funds and assets on behalf of the Church. The Trustees shall take charge of the Funds and Assets on behalf of the Church.
- b. The Trustees shall perform all functions customary to such an office or as may be otherwise directed by the Conference or Executive.
- c. Cheques shall be signed by the Signatories jointly on the even date.
- d. Payments shall be authenticated by all three (3) Trustees, and there shall be no pre-signed cheques or pre-authentication.



20. ELECTIONS

- a. Each Regional Council shall at their General Meeting, preceding the Elective Conference make nominations of persons to stand for elections at the Conference.
- b. Each Regional Council shall submit nominations for portfolios of office bearers and for the additional members to the Electoral Commission a month before the date of Conference.
- c. The Chief Electoral Commissioner shall receive all submissions of nominees and count them accordingly. A candidate who has received nomination from at least three regions will qualify to be in the ballot paper for elections for the position the candidate has been nominated for.
- d. The full results of the voting must be counted by the Electoral Commission and the duly appointed Commission's Staff under the observation of the Teaching Team and any available independent observer.
- e. The results shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Commission, who shall hand over the record to the incoming Secretary of the Church elected by the Conference, in case disputes and/or further appointments must be made.
- f. Only Accredited full-time and ordained Ministers are eligible for nomination.
- g. These accredited ministers must have served **10 years as ministers of the AOG (BTG) inclusive of probationary period**, before the date of elections.
- h. The Chief Electoral Commissioner or Deputy shall publish the results in the conference within twelve (12) hours of them being counted.



21. ELECTORAL COMMISSION

- a. The appointment of the Electoral Commission shall be done by the Executive and the Teaching Team.
- b. The Electoral Commission shall comprise of the following;
 - i. Chief Electoral Commissioner
 - ii. Deputy Chief Electoral Commissioner
 - iii. Secretary
- c. The Electoral Commission shall operate in accordance with the Electoral Commission Code of Ethics formulated by the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- d. The names to be included in this Commission must be submitted by each region and the Executive and Teaching Team will develop the terms of reference and the criteria of appointment.
- e. The people nominated to serve in the Electoral Commission must be endorsed and cleared by the Local Assemblies and Regional Councils of the regions under which they fall.
- f. The term of office for the Electoral Commission shall be 4 years.



22. REGIONAL COUNCILS & REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

a. Boundaries

1. Regional Council's Boundaries shall be established by the AOG (BTG) Conference and any subsequent changes shall be recommended by the AOG (BTG) Executive and the BTG Teaching Team to the next Conference.
2. All Local Assemblies shall be members of the Regional Council into which they fall in terms of demarcation.
3. There is Ministers' fellowship in each region.
4. The term of office for the Regional Council Committees shall be 4 years.

b. Eligibility to attend the regional council

1. The Regional Council shall be composed of all Accredited and Probationary Ministers, Pastor's wives, Supervisors, Recognized Elders, Deacons, Organizers, delegates from local assemblies, and Missionaries recognized by the Conference who are resident in the Region.
2. Assemblies shall send one delegate for the **first 25 members** and thereafter one for every **additional 100 members**.
3. Every Local Assembly of the Regional Council must receive a written invitation to every meeting or series of meetings of the Regional Council.



23. RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

- a. The Regional Council is the highest decision-making body of the Church within the Region. The Regional Council may adopt or reject some or all decisions made by the Regional Council Committee (RCC).
- b. Appoint and/or dissolve sub-committees as and when necessary to carry out any task and/or function of the Regional Council.
- c. Regional Council, through Regional Council Committees, have a mandate and authority to examine and recommend candidates to the Executive Committee for ministerial recognition.
- d. The Regional Council shall nominate and elect a chief trustee, who will not form part of the Regional Council Committee. The chief trustee should be an ordained minister who has served the AOG (BTG) for **10 years excluding the period of probation.**
- e. The Regional Council, through the RCC, shall arrange for its meeting in conformity with the Constitution of the Assemblies of God and the Rules of Procedure of the AOG (BTG). Elections shall be conducted by Secret Ballot in the event that there are more than one nominees for any given portfolio.
- f. The Regional Council, through the RCC, shall endeavour to co-ordinate the activities of the assemblies in its area of jurisdiction without infringing on the autonomy of the Local Assemblies.
- g. The Ministers or Assemblies so affected shall have the right to utilize appeal if dissatisfied with the decisions of the Regional Disciplinary Tribunal.
- h. Collect the Annual Contribution for the General Executive Funds from all Assemblies and forward these, giving a list of Assemblies and amounts received from each to the Conference Secretary.
- i. Collect the monthly Subscription from the Local Assembly for the Region Council's Fund. It shall solicit and accept funds and subscription, which may be required for the work of the Region.



- j. All movable and immovable properties belonging to or acquired by or on behalf of the church shall be registered in the name of the church, which may, where applicable be preceded by the name of the relevant Local Church or Region.
- k. Consider the advisability or inadvisability of a new Minister or Local Preacher performing tasks in the Region, it being a recognized principle that the Region shall not hinder, but rather foster the complete evangelization of the whole Region.
- l. Ministers desiring to minister in the Region shall notify the Regional Secretary of their desire, and he shall advise them of the outcome after the matter has been considered by the Regional Council.
- m. Receive all applications for church sites for approval before being forwarded to the AOG (BTG) Secretary for processing.
- n. The fellowship shall meet every three months, if convenient for the spiritual fellowship and seasons of united prayer and transact any necessary business. Notice of such meetings, with an Agenda, shall be sent by the Regional Secretary to all Assemblies.
- o. Each Regional Council, through the Regional Council Committee, shall have powers to acquire by purchase, gift, bequests, lease, and exchange or in any other manner any property movable or immovable and any rights and interests therein and may sell, lease or otherwise dispose of or alienate any such property belonging to the Assembly or any of the Church's rights or interests therein.
- p. The transactions reflected in (o) above shall be reported to the Regional Council Committee.



24. QUORUM FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCILS

- a. A quorum of the duly constituted meeting of a Regional Council shall be 50+1% of the total number of all Recognized Local Assemblies in that particular region.
- b. The notice for the Regional Council General Meeting (RCG) will be issued twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting.
- c. The Local Assemblies shall submit the names of their delegates to the Regional Secretary seven (7) days before the date of the Regional Council General.
- d. If there is no quorum at the time the Regional Council meeting is scheduled to start, the Regional Council Committee shall add 25 minutes more to allow other representatives from Recognized Local Assemblies before the meeting can either commence or be rescheduled.
- e. The meeting that cannot sit due to lack of quorum, shall be rescheduled for another date which shall not be later than one (1) month.
- f. If, at rescheduled meeting, there is no quorum at the time scheduled for the meeting, the meeting shall duly commence as though there was a quorum and the resolutions taken at such meeting shall be binding to all Recognized Local Assemblies.

25. SPECIAL REGIONAL COUNCILS

- a. The provisions of the Special Conference shall apply in the case of Special Regional Councils.
- b. The procedures and regulations that shall be followed with regards to a Special Regional Council shall be the same as Ordinary Regional Council. The resolutions of a Special Regional Council shall be tabled at the Ordinary Regional Council for ratification before implementation.



26. REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1. The Regional Council shall elect from fully accredited and ordained ministers its own Office Bearers, i.e. Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Regional Secretary, Deputy Regional Secretary, Two (2) Trustees and one additional member.
2. The Regional Council Committee is the highest Administrative Decision-Making body in the region between Regional Councils.
3. For ministers to qualify to be elected into the Regional Council Committee, one must have been two years ordained and must have served the Assemblies of God (BTG) as a minister for at least six (6) years including the period he served before one's ordination.
4. A Minister shall not be eligible for election to the Regional Council Committee if he had been found guilty of an offense in terms of the Biblical principles and Rules of Procedure of AOG (BTG).
5. In order to qualify for election into RCC, the Minister shall have been reinstated and had served the church period of four (4) years after the upliftment of suspension, discipline or reinstatement.
6. The term of office of the Regional Council Committee shall be four (4) years.
7. Regional Council, through Regional Council Committee, has a mandate and authority to examine and recommend candidates to the Executive Committee for ministerial recognition.
8. The Regional Council Committee is empowered to institute discipline when ministers and/or Assemblies have engaged in conduct not befitting a Minister or a Recognized Assembly.
9. The Regional Council Committee may suspend ministers and/or Assemblies, which have been found guilty, and shall inform the Executive within fourteen days from the date of such decision.
10. The Ministers or Assemblies so affected shall have the right to appeal to the AOG (BTG) Executive if dissatisfied with the decisions of the Regional Council Committees.
11. Sub-sections (h)-(j) herein above will be to be implemented in conjunction with Section 13 dealing "Discipline" under "Roles and Powers of the Executive".



- 12.** Regional and National Conventions shall be planned with the co-operation of the Regional Councils.
- 13.** The Regional Council Committees shall issue Local Preachers Certificates to those whom it considers qualified, provided that they shall have a written recommendation from their Local Assemblies.
- 14.** Such certificates shall be on the forms prescribed and shall be duly signed before the Regional Councils by Chairman and Secretary.
- 15.** All Regional Councils shall submit copies of Minutes of all their meetings to the Secretary of the AOG (BTG) Executive.
- 16.** The Regional Council Committee shall collect the Annual Contribution for the Assemblies of God General Office Funds and bank these monies into the relevant bank account. The list of Assemblies and amounts received from each Assembly shall be forwarded to the relevant national office.
- 17.** The Regional Council Committee shall collect the monthly subscription from the Local Assemblies for the Regional Council Fund. It shall solicit and accept funds and subscriptions, which may be required for the work of the Region.
- 18.** Examine carefully all the applications for Marriage Officership with the purpose of ascertaining if the applicants have the necessary qualifications and are serving a sufficiently large community to warrant Marriage Officership and to forward applications to the AOG (BTG) Secretary with the Regional Council's recommendations and/or observations.
- 19.** Compile and keep registers of all the statistics in the area of their jurisdiction.
- 20.** Regional Council Committee shall have the mandate and authority to examine and approve candidates for ministerial recognition and recommend them to the Executive for Credentials.
- 21.** The Regional Council Committee shall satisfy itself that such person seeking admission into fulltime ministry are qualified according to the Scriptures and have the recommendation of their Local Assemblies before it recommends them to the Executive.
- 22.** Examine the letters of authorisation of Delegates who are to represent recognized Assemblies at the Assemblies of God (Back to God) and the General Conference to ascertain if such have been approved by the Local Assemblies overseers.



23. Minister in the Region shall notify the Regional Secretary of their desire, and he shall advise them of the outcome after the matter has been considered by the Regional Council Committee.
24. Consider the advisability or inadvisability of a new Minister or Local Preacher performing tasks in the Region, it being a recognized principle that the Region shall not hinder, but rather foster the complete evangelization of the whole Region.
25. Receive all applications for church sites for approval before being forwarded to the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Secretary **for record purposes**.
26. Examine the letters of authorization of Delegates who are to represent recognized Assemblies at the Assemblies of God (Back to God) and the General Conference to ascertain if such have been approved by the Local Assemblies overseers.
27. Have power to investigate cases of accusation against Ministers overlapping and causes of schisms in the Assemblies, frictions and appeals from Assemblies in its area of jurisdiction.
28. The RCC shall refer matters of alleged misconduct to the Regional Disciplinary Tribunal for initiation of investigation, disciplinary processes and recommendations.
29. The Regional Disciplinary Tribunal shall convene disciplinary processes after investigation and make recommendations to the RCC for implementation.
30. The RCC shall implement the recommendations after ten (10) calendar days from the date of communication of the outcome to the leader/s concerned.
31. Shall receive and deal with appeals from Local Assemblies.
32. The Ministers belonging to the Local Assembly of a disciplined member shall recuse themselves from the Regional Council Committee when an appeal from the disciplined member is being heard or dealt with. They shall only join the proceedings when they are called to make their representations.

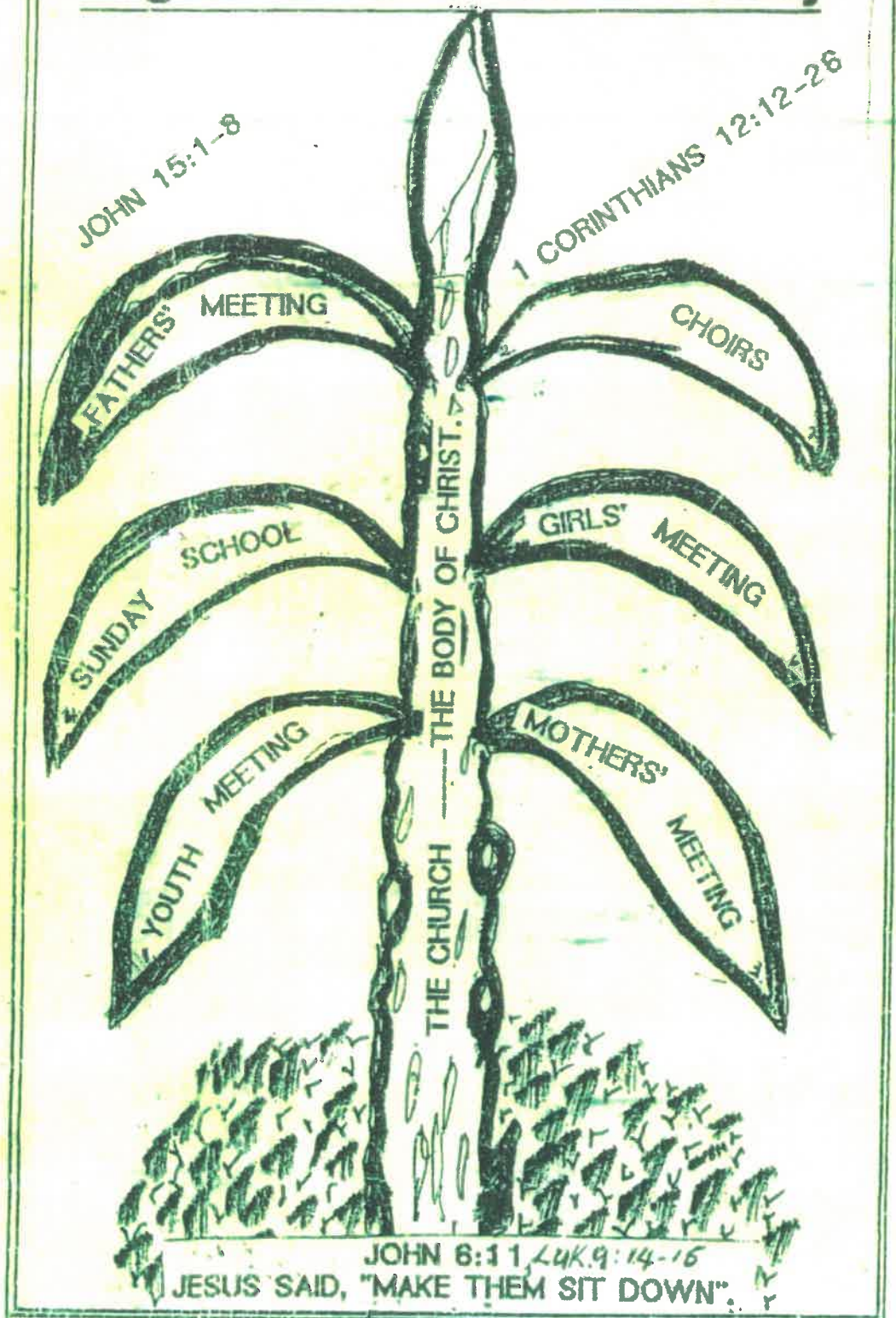


27. ASSEMBLIES – RECOGNITION OF LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

- a. Any Assembly desiring recognition within Assemblies of God shall apply to the AOG (BTG) Executive on the prescribed form through their respective Regional Councils.
- b. In case of Preaching Point desiring recognition as Local Assembly, the Mother Church of that Preaching Point should be the one making application for recognition of that Preaching Point as a Local Assembly. No direct application from Preaching Point shall ever be entertained.
- c. Recognition may be granted or withheld at the discretion of the Executive if the Executive, on evidence presented, believes that the application is not convincing.
- d. The Executive shall in turn recommend such an Assembly to the General Executive for recognition.
- e. In the event of recognition application being declined, reasons should be furnished to the Assembly concerned and be advised of the corrective steps of improvements that would help the Assembly to gain the recognition it so desires.
- f. An Assembly on being granted recognition immediately falls under The Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) and the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.



Organisation of the Assembly





28. AUTONOMY OF RECOGNISED ASSEMBLIES

- a. All recognised Assemblies shall enjoy autonomy
- b. Autonomy does not equal independence from the governing framework of Assemblies of God and Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- c. Each recognised Assembly shall have the right to self-government under the sovereign headship of the Lord Jesus Christ within the framework and context of the definition of the Constitution of the Assemblies of God (Blue Book), Rules of Procedure (Green Book) and in full co-operation and fellowship with all recognized structures of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- d. A Recognized Assembly does not have, as its object the acquisition of profit for itself or for any of its members, and no member or minister has any right, by reason of his membership or ministry, to property of a recognized Assembly.
- e. A recognised Assembly shall generally exercise any of the powers of which a true corporate body, whose purpose is not the acquisition of gain, is capable.
- f. No minister or unauthorized person of the Assemblies of God shall hold title to property which purports to be the property of the Assemblies of God.
- g. A recognised Assembly has the right to raise its own funds, to discipline its own members and to transact all business pertaining to its life as an Assembly.
- h. The Local Assembly has the right to administer and use its powers while such an Assembly remains a recognized Assembly of the Assemblies of God



29. ORGANISATION OF ASSEMBLIES

- a. The Spiritual and Administrative Leadership of a recognised Assembly is exercised by a local oversight being Elders and Deacons chosen by and acceptable to the said recognised Assembly. The resident Minister in the Local Assembly assumes the role of Chairmanship.
- b. The Recognized Assembly dictates discipline. Elders may not effect final discipline of any member without the concurrence of the Assembly.
- c. Membership of a Recognized Assembly shall be determined and/or terminated by the Local Assembly in terms of the criteria outlined in these Rules of Procedure in accordance with the Bible.
- d. A Local Assembly consists of at least **twenty-five (25)** Scripturally Baptized Saints, Elders, Deacons and a Minister.
- e. Every disciplined member has the right to appeal to the Regional Council Committee with full knowledge of the local leadership within 14 days.
- f. When the member forwards the appeal to the RCC, the Local Assembly Leadership must be given an opportunity to sign the appeal just to show that they are aware of the appeal. If the leadership does not want to sign, the member still has the right to lodge the appeal.
- g. Every Recognized Assembly shall recognize that the Local Leadership has the responsibility, obligation and right to approve and/or disapprove unscriptural doctrine or conduct and discipline members in accordance with the Bible, The Rules of Procedure, Code of Ethics and/or the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- h. Every Recognized Assembly shall recognize that the Assemblies of God (BTG) Teaching Team has the right to approve Scriptural Doctrine or conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine or conduct.
- i. When in need of counsel or advice or guidance, a recognized Assembly shall approach the Regional Council.



- j. A Local Assembly or individual members may appeal to the Regional Council, or to the Back to God Executive, when the Regional Council is not functioning or where dissatisfaction arises from the decision/s of the Local Leadership.
- k. If the Regional Council fails to effect settlement, appeal shall be made directly to the AOG (BTG) Executive.
- l. For all appeals, the decision of the Assemblies of God General Executive is final and binding.



30. CONDUCT OF ELDERS, DEACONS AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL ASSEMBLY

- c. The Elders, Deacons and Members in any Recognized Assembly are duty bound to exercise their responsibilities and functions within the framework of the Biblical Principles, Rules and Procedures, Code of Ethics for Ministers and People in Leadership within the AOG (BTG) and in full co-operation and fellowship with all recognized structures of the Assemblies of God (BTG).
- d. In relation to matters affecting a Minister, the Elders and Deacons in any Recognized Assembly do not have exclusive powers from the Church. They do not take and implement decisions without tabling those decisions before the Men's General for approval and/or rejection. Then, from the Men's General, the consolidated recommendation must be taken to the Local Assembly for final decision.
- e. In line with **(b)** above, the Local Assembly shall be meaningfully consulted with the purpose of consolidating the final decision before the matter is reported to the Regional Council Committee if the Local Assembly has failed to find an internal amicable solution.
- f. The Elders, Deacons and Men alone in any Recognized Assembly do not have powers to either accept or turn down the posting or allocation of a Minister in a Recognized Assembly in isolation of the entire Recognized Assembly. The entire Recognized Local Assembly has a final say.
- g. All decisions taken by Elders, Deacons and General Men concerning a Minister in any Recognized Assembly shall not be implemented without prior proper and meaningful tabling, discussions or deliberations for final approval and/or rejection by the Recognized Assembly concerned with the guidance of the Regional Council and/or Executive and Teaching Team, as the case may be.
- h. All decisions taken by the Recognized Assembly shall be recorded and kept by the Secretary of the Recognised Assembly concerned. Such records shall be produced or made available to members of the Recognized Assembly, Regional Council, Executive and Teaching Team on request.



- i. In the event that a conduct not befitting a Minister is being alleged, the leadership of a Recognized Assembly may recommend removal of a Minister to the relevant structures of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) in line with the Biblical Principles, Rules of Procedure, Code of Ethics for Ministers and People in Leadership Positions in the Assembly of God (Back to God) and the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- j. Any Elder, Deacon or Man and any individual member or group of members acting individually and/or collectively shall not engage in any conduct or behaviour that has a potential of causing an uprising against a Minister posted or allocated to a Recognized Assembly. Members must always know and remember that they are bound by the Declaration of Oath
- k. Any Elder, Deacon or member (acting individually and/or collectively) that is found guilty of a conduct not befitting a Christian or Leader in the Assemblies of God (Back to God) shall be dealt with in terms of the Biblical Principles, Code of Ethics for Ministers and People in Leadership in the AOG (Back to God) and the Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- l. Any Elder, Deacon or member of the Local Assembly (acting individually and/or collectively) that has been found guilty of conduct or behaviour not befitting a Christian or Leader, whichever the case may be, in the Assemblies of God (Back to God) may be admonished for a period of time that may be determined by the Local Assembly, if the person is in leadership, he may be removed from the office he holds or expelled completely from the church.
- m. Any Elder or Deacon or member (acting individually and/or collectively) that has been found guilty of conduct or behaviour not befitting a Christian or a Leader in the Assemblies of God (Back to God) may follow the appeal procedures. The Teaching Team shall be the Final Tribunal of Appeals and the decision of the Teaching Team shall be final and binding.
- n. Any Elder or Deacon who has been removed from office or expelled (excommunicated) shall not automatically resume any leadership position. when he comes back to the Church but he shall start all afresh as an ordinary member.



- o. Any member (acting individually and/or collectively) found guilty of conduct or behaviour not befitting a Christian in the Assemblies of God (BTG) may follow the appeal procedures.

31. FINANCES OF ASSEMBLIES

- a. The financial needs of Recognized Assemblies are supplied by Tithes and Offerings contributed by the members of such Recognised Local Assemblies, with tithes solely used for the support of Ministers and humanitarian purposes.
- b. Every recognized Assembly shall keep books which shall be **audited once a year.**
- c. Each Recognised Assembly shall be regularly acquainted with its financial position. This shall be done not less than once in three months.
- d. The general procedure for the administration of an Assembly's finances follows below. Any major deviation from this procedure must first be approved by the general meeting of the Local Assembly. If a major deviation has not been tabled before the general meeting of the Local Assembly, the people who did it shall be guilty of financial misconduct.
- e. Each individual offering is to be conducted in front of the congregation by three persons, preferably Deacons or persons delegated by the Deacons.
- f. The amount shall be entered into a Note Book and on two A1 forms. These forms are to be signed by an elder and two other people on the meeting. The amount is then to be announced to the Congregation.
- g. All monies must be banked on the first business day, (or Saturday if the monies were collected on a Friday), after it was collected. The amount to be banked must be equal to the balance in the note book and in an A1 Form.



- h. Deposit slips are completed in triplicate in the following order:
 - i. One slip remains in the Bank,
 - ii. The second remains in the Assembly and
 - iii. The third slip is posted to the Regional Office together with a set of A1 Forms which reflect the amount deposited.
- i. The Regional Office and Assembly shall have identical Ledger Books. All church accounts are itemized in the books and offerings entered under the specific funds as shown on the A1 forms.
- j. Assemblies are encouraged to computerize their finances to ease the work of compiling financial reports.
- k. Each Assembly opens its own account with a Bank and purchases a cheque book. The Cheque book is then deposited with the Regional Office. If an Assembly's finances are very small, it may open a savings accounts.
- l. At the end of the month, the Assembly must decide what its financial needs are:
 - i. Deacons discuss the Assembly's expenditure and fill in the Expenditure Requisition forms (A2 forms).
 - ii. The Elders examine the expenditure with the Deacons.
 - iii. The Deacons then present the matter to the Assembly. If the Assembly approves these figures, then the A2 forms must be signed by three persons. Both forms are posted to the Regional Office; the Office retains one and returns the other to the Assembly concerned.
- m. On the **A2** form the Assembly enumerates how the requested amount of money for that month should be used. The Regional Office checks two things:
 - i. That there is money in that Assembly's accounts to cover their request. A bank statement of the previous month shall be produced together with the request.



- ii. If an Assembly wishes to supplement funds for one particular project with money from another fund, then it must make this request in writing to the Regional Council.
- iii. That all requests are legitimate and reasonable.
- iv. Signatory and the other two are elected by the Assembly.
- n. If an Assembly has Associate Assemblies/Preaching Points, these shall bring their offerings to the parent church, using A1 forms.
- o. The monies are itemized in the Associate Assembly's name in the parent Assembly's ledger book. The Associate Assembly shall be issued with a receipt.
- p. When the Associate Assembly requires money, it makes representation by letter to the parent Assembly.
- q. This request will be included together with the other items listed on the A2 requisition form that is sent to the Regional Office at the end of the month.
- i. Under no circumstances should the parent Assembly use the Associate Assembly's / Preaching Point's monies without the consent of such Associate Assembly/ Preaching Point.

32. EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT

- a. Each Recognised Local Assembly keeps its own Evangelistic Campaign Fund for use by that Local Assembly.
- b. Each Regional Office has an Evangelistic Campaign Fund for use in Regional Evangelistic Campaign for which it can solicit funds when necessary.



33. TITHES ACCOUNTS

- a. In line with the model of payment of stipends for ministers agreed upon by a region, tithes will be used for the support of ministers.
- b. Each Regional Office keeps a separate Tithes Account. Into this account, the Regional Office Credits:
 - i. Tithe of Tithes from all Recognised Local Assemblies.
 - ii. Tithes from all Ministers
- c. Tithes Account is used for:
 - i. Stipends for Ministers in the Region.
 - ii. Salaries for Office Employees.
 - iii. Maintenance of the Regional Office



34. SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES

- a. Young people's work, Sunday school work, Men's Fellowships, Mother's Meeting, Girl's Meetings, Bible teaching and such activities are commendable. It is stressed that such activities must be carried on in a manner consistent with the principles and practices of the Assemblies of God.
- b. United rallies/quarterly conferences and the like must be arranged with the full consent of those recognized Assemblies who could be directly affected, and shall in every way be so arranged and conducted that friction with recognized Assemblies is avoided.
- c. All Groups' Meetings should have their own Officers and where practical, their own separate accounts and signatories otherwise funds must be deposited in the Local Assembly's account, but entered in the books under their name.
- d. Regular meetings should be conducted at local, regional, provincial and national levels.



35. PROPERTIES

- a. Each Recognized Local Assembly has a right to own property, (movable or immovable).
- b. A Recognised Local Assembly must inform AOG (BTG) Secretary of all properties leased, rented or purchased by them and report the termination of such agreements through their Regional Councils.
- c. All immovable properties (land and church buildings) pertaining to a Recognized Local Assembly shall be held in trust by the Assemblies of God unless a particular Recognised Assembly has elected to have the property registered under its name in terms on the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- d. Such powers include acquisition by purchase, gift, bequests, lease, and exchange or in any other manner any property movable or immovable and any rights and interests therein and may sell, lease or otherwise dispose of or alienate any such property belonging to the Assembly or any of the Church's rights or interests therein.
- e. Notwithstanding such delegation of administration, which entails proper maintenance, upkeep, servicing of dues, etc.; no transaction of any kind in relation to above shall be valid without the approval of the Executive, including power of attorney, declaration, consent, agreement or other legal document appertaining thereto.



- f. Each Recognized Local Assembly shall keep in safe custody all copies of title deeds, leases, certificates or other documents of the church properties and of all mortgage bonds or other documents or security belonging to the church, provided that originals of such documents shall be filed with the Regional Office.
- g. In pursuit of such custody, the Executive through Head Office shall request a list of all existing properties under the jurisdiction of the Assemblies of God (BTG) and NBTGC Committee and thus determine the safe keeping or security of all title deeds and related documents referred to herein above, in recognised and approved financial institution where the funds of the church are banked.
- h. There shall also be Asset Register which should be maintained in and by all assemblies (local churches) subject to the oversight of the leadership and office of the RCC Notwithstanding this, the Head Office shall reserve the right to inspect or delegate a committee or task team to inspect on sporadic visits, and ensure compliance of all the above stipulations.



36. ADMISSION OF MINISTERS INTO FULLTIME MINISTRY

1. Any person desiring/seeking to be admitted as an Accredited Minister in the Assemblies of God (BTG) must first establish some work that confirms the calling and write a letter of request for admission into ministry to his Local Assembly in terms of his calling from God.
2. The request for admission into fulltime ministry, envisaged in (a) above, **is not an “application for employment”** but it is a response to the calling from God.
3. If the person seeking admission into ministry in the Back to God has not established some work, the Local Assembly shall assign or place him to the work that has already been established and subject him to various spiritual activities to test and evaluate his calling in confinement of ***Ephesians 4:11***.
4. The request for admission into ministry, when recommended by the recognized Assembly to which the brother belongs, shall be submitted together with a letter of recommendation to the Regional Council for further consideration and/or support.
5. The recognized local assembly must scrutinize the application and establish whether the applicant is suitable for such admission into the ministry. Some of the qualities that must be checked, include but not limited to the following:
 - a. Whether an applicant lives a clean and holy life.
 - b. Whether an applicant subscribes to sound Biblical doctrines as well as Assemblies of God (Back to God) policies, principles and standards.
 - c. If married, whether an applicant has a stable marital life.
 - d. Whether an applicant has not been declared insolvent.
 - e. Whether an applicant is a faithful tither or not.
 - f. Whether an applicant is reasonably healthy and fit for deployment to any local assembly.
 - g. Certified Copy of the Identity Document.



6. If the recognised Local Assembly is satisfied that the applicant meets all the above pre-requisites, it shall forward the application with recommendation to the Regional Council Committee with the following documents:
 - a. Application letter from the person desiring to be admitted into the ministry.
 - b. If married, this application letter must be accompanied by a letter from the spouse of the applicant, confirming that she is supporting the calling of her husband, and that she understands the conditions of the application.
 - c. A recommendation from the recognised local assembly with a motivation supporting the recommendation made.
 - d. The application shall be accompanied by Certified Copy of Identity Document
7. Upon receiving the application, the Regional Council Committee must check whether the application is accompanied by all required documents mentioned in **Clause 36(6) above.**
8. The Regional Council Committee must also make a verification of all the information in the documents that have been supplied before presenting the application to the Regional Council for **endorsement.**
9. If the application is **e n d o r s e d** by the Regional Council, the Regional Council Committee shall issue a Ministerial Admission Form/s to the applicant, who will complete them and return them to the Regional Council Committee through his recognised local assembly.
10. Once the Ministerial Admission Form/s are submitted to the Regional Council Committee, the latter shall scrutinize it for correctness, and ensure that all relevant structures have signed the Form/s, before submitting it to the National Office of the Assemblies of God (BTG).



11. The Ministerial Admission Form/s together with the accompanying documents shall be forwarded to the National Office of the Assemblies of God (BTG) as soon as all the documentation has been completed correctly. The documents that must accompany the Ministerial Admission Form/s are the following:
 - a. Letter of Request for Admission of the person seeking admission into ministry.
 - b. If married, letter of consent by the spouse of the person seeking admission into the ministry.
 - c. Letter of recommendation from the recognised local assembly signed by the Elders and the Pastor.
 - d. **Endorsement** letter from the Regional Council Committee.
12. Once **supported** by the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive Committee, the said request shall be forwarded to the Assemblies of God General Executive Committee for final approval.
13. An applicant is not a Probationary Minister until he receives a **Probationary Card/certificate** for Probation from AOG General Executive Committee.
14. Once approved by the AOG General Executive, the applicant shall be issued with a Probationary Credential Certificate. Such Credential Certificate shall be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary of the AOG General Executive.
15. The person shall serve a probationary period of four (4) years under a Senior Minister for mentoring and coaching purposes.
16. Probationary Ministers may exercise all the functions of a Minister before being ordained but are not eligible for election into Regional Council Committee, AOG (BTG) Executive and AOG General Executive.
17. At the Annual AOG-BTG Conference, after the probationary period has been satisfactorily completed, and recommendations have been filed by the senior Minister that rendered mentorship and coaching, the Probationary Minister shall be ordained for full recognition as a Minister of the Assemblies of God (Back to God). [The Teaching Team shall develop guidelines for mentorship criteria.](#)



18. The Senior Minister that mentors and coaches the Probationary Minister, must assess, evaluate and appraise the performance of the latter on regular basis, which assessment, evaluation and appraisal must be drawn to the attention of the Probationary Minister, with a view of giving him an opportunity to correct the shortcomings and improve his performance, where necessary.
19. In the event of the Probationary Minister failing to improve his performance during the four years of probationary period, the probationary period shall be extended by a maximum period of two years. During this extended period, another Senior Minister may be assigned to mentor and coach the Probationary Minister.
20. In the event that the Probationary Minister still fails to improve on his shortcomings during this extended probationary period, the application for admission into the ministry shall be **declined**.
21. In the event that the Senior Minister who has been mentoring and coaching the Probationary Minister is satisfied that the latter has served the probationary period successfully, he shall complete a report with his recommendation, which will be submitted to the Regional Council Committee, which will in turn forward it to the Back to God Teaching Team through the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive.
22. A Probationary Minister who has completed his probationary period satisfactorily shall be ordained or set apart by the laying on of hands by the Back to God Teaching Team and given an Ordination Certificate which will be issued not later than January of the following year after the ordination.
23. The office of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive shall receive a list from the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Teaching Team of all Probationary Ministers who have been ordained at each annual Conference, and the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive will submit such a list to the office of the Assemblies of God General Executive so that Credential Certificates for Ordained Ministers can be issued.



24. Any person making a request for admission into ministry in the Assemblies of God (Back to God), such a person must first have been a member of one Recognised Local Assembly for at least seven (7) years before his request for admission into ministry can be considered. The person seeking admission into ministry must be below fifty (50) years of age. An extraordinary Spiritual Gift operation will be treated differently if the person is fifty (50) years and above.
25. If a person, making a request for admission into ministry in the Assemblies of God (Back to God), is not and never has been a member of any recognized Local Assembly, prior to request for admission into ministry being forwarded to the Regional Council, such a person first shall take membership of a local assembly for at least seven (7) years before his request for admission into ministry can be confirmed, provided that the person is already saved or born again according to the Bible.
26. In the event that such a person seeking admission into ministry in the Assemblies of God (BTG) is not saved according to the Bible, that person's request shall not even be entertained or considered at all.
27. The Regional Council shall issue Ministerial Admission Forms for person/s seeking admission into ministry which he must fill in and submit to the National Office duly signed by all the necessary structures including Local Church and the RCC.
28. Once supported by the AOG (BTG) Executive, the said request shall be forwarded to the Assemblies of God General Executive for final approval. It must be noted that the person is not a probationer and as such does not qualify for an appointment in any office, save the office he operated as at the time of his request for admission. (Eldership or Deaconship Office).
29. Every minister shall take an approved course in Bible Training at NBH Bhengu Theological School but academic accomplishment shall not be a primary condition affecting the recognition of applicants for ministerial credentials.



37. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (BACK TO GOD) AND HER MINISTERS

- a. The nature of the relationship between the Assemblies of God (Back to God) and her Ministers is Ecclesiastic or spiritual in nature.
- b. The position of a Minister in the Assemblies of God (Back to God) is not that of a person who undertakes work defined by contract of employment but it is that of a person who holds an ecclesiastic calling or holds a spiritual calling from God functioning in accordance to God's calling, in terms of ***Ephesians 4:11 and 12***, whose intention is ***"the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church)"***.
- c. There is no intention of creating any employment or civil contract between the Ministers and the Assemblies of God (Back to God) and as such Ministers are not employed nor are they employees of the Assemblies of God (BTG).
- d. The relationship between the Minister and the Assemblies of God hinges on the state of holiness demanded by the Holy Canon of the Scriptures, full respect for the Church (the Body of Jesus Christ), upholding of the Biblical Principles, Code of Ethics for Ministers, Rules of Procedure and the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- e. All cases of the Assemblies of God Ministers shall be dealt with in accordance with the Holy Canon of Scriptures or Ecclesiastic Law, Code of Ethics for Ministers, Rules and Procedures and the Constitution of the Assemblies of God.
- f. Ministers know and accept that they are not employees of the Church by virtue of being admitted into fulltime ministry in the Assemblies of God (Back to God).



38. MINISTERIAL COURTESY

- a. Accredited Ministers and Probationary Ministers are precluded from interfering with person bearing the oversight in Recognized Assemblies as might hurt, whether by intruding upon their work without consent, or by such contact with members of the said Recognised Assembly as might hurt, or reasonably be deemed to have a potential to hurt the function of the oversight of the said Recognised Assembly.
- b. Correspondence with a Recognised Assembly shall be addressed to the recognised officers of the said Assembly before the other minister may visit the other Local Assembly.

39. CHANGE OF MINISTRY

- a. The transfer of Ministers is the responsibility of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive as an administrative organ of the church.
- b. The AOG (BTG) Executive shall consult with the Back to God Teaching Team in making transfers where and when necessary, provided that the Back to God Teaching may make recommendations to the AOG- BTG Executive regarding transfers of certain Ministers where there are deserving cases.
- c. The Regional Council Committees shall make recommendations to the AOG (BTG) Executive, not later than **30 July** of each year about the possible transfers. In making these recommendations, the RCC shall provide a clear motivation for the transfer of a Minister, however it shall remain the prerogative right of the AOG (BTG) Executive to effect the transfers.
- d. The reasons for a transfer of a Minister may be one of the following:
 - i. Where after a year or so no fruit can be seen in the work.
 - ii. Quarrelling with members of the Assembly (either the Minister himself, or his wife, or children).
 - iii. At the request of the Minister.
 - iv. Whenever there is a division in an Assembly and no reconciliation can be effected.
 - v. At the request of the Assembly (not individual brethren, or individual grouping in the group).
 - vi. When the Ministry is needed in another area.
- e. Notwithstanding all the above, a Minister should ideally spend at least a minimum of five (5) years in one Assembly.



40. DISCIPLINE

- a. The Assemblies of God (Back to God) shall apply discipline in terms of “The Code of Ethics for Ministers and People in Leadership” within the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- b. The Assemblies of God (Back to God) has National and Regional Disciplinary Tribunals.
- c. The National Tribunal shall comprise of five Ministers. The National Tribunal shall be comprised of Chairman, Evidence Leader, Scribe and two Assessors.
- d. The Regional Tribunal shall comprise of the Chairman, Evidence Leader, Scribe and two Elders assuming the role of Assessors.
- e. The disciplinary action against a minister must be facilitated by the Regional Council Committee without any unreasonable delay.
- f. The Assemblies of God (Back to God) Accredited and/or Probationary Ministers shall be disciplined for the following and/or any other reasons;
 - i. A clear infringement of these Rules of Procedure.
 - ii. A clearly proven inefficiency in the ministry.
 - iii. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit or ill-discipline.
 - iv. When a minister rejects Ecclesiastic Authority of the Regional Council, Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive, Teaching Team and the General Executive in whatsoever manner.
 - v. An assumption of dictatorial authority over a recognised Assembly.
 - vi. A declared and/or open shift (mild or radical) in doctrinal views, which change would conflict with the standards accepted in the Assembly of God (Back to God).



- vii. A habit of asking for money from congregants and of running into debts.
 - viii. A marriage in violation of the position adopted by the Assemblies of God (Back to God) on marriage, re-marriage while the ex-spouse is still alive, marrying a divorced person, estrangement in marriage or separation and the actual divorce, as provided for in the Bible, Code of Ethics for Ministers and People in the Leadership Positions in the Assemblies of God (Back to God), Rules of Procedure (Green Book) and the Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
 - ix. Sexual immorality, evil speaking, drunkenness, dishonesty, or any other form of ungodliness.
 - x. No anonymous charge or faceless accusations shall be taken up against any person.
- g. Every person shall have the opportunity to answer charges brought against him/her and have the right to defend him/herself.
- h. Where a Minister is found guilty, any of the following sanctions can be applied:
- i. A censure may be administered by the RCC (Any such action shall be communicated to all Accredited and recognised Assemblies where the said guilty person ministers).
 - ii. A person that has been found guilty may be suspended temporarily on such conditions as the **Disciplinary Tribunal** shall impose.
 - iii. The person found guilty may have his recognition as an Accredited Minister or Probationary Minister withdrawn either temporarily or permanently, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense.



41. MINISTRY OF DISCIPLINED PERSON

- a. Recognised Assemblies must co-operate with the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive and the Assemblies of God General Executive in all matters of discipline.
- b. All Recognized Assemblies shall respect and abide by the decision of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive.
- c. A Recognized Assembly shall be guilty of an offense if, after having been notified of the decision of the AOG (BTG) Executive during suspension and/or after final verdict, as the case may be, regarding the status of a person as a Minister or Probationary Minister, continues to utilize that person, that is, continues to receive ministry from any one whose status or whose credentials have been either suspended or permanently revoked as a Minister.
- d. If after admonishing and warning, the said Recognized Assembly still continues to utilize that particular person, the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive shall be at liberty to exercise the power to institute disciplinary processes that may lead to withdrawal of recognition of the stubborn Local Assembly.
- e. In all matters of Ministerial Discipline and discipline against the Recognized Assembly, the Minister or the Recognized Assembly concerned shall have the right to follow the appeals if they so intend. The decision of the General Executive is final and binding.



42. EXCOMMUNICATION

- a. A minister that has been found to be at fault must leave the ministerial parsonage, and all allowances and benefits shall be cut off forthwith.
- b. The recommendation/s of the Disciplinary Tribunal shall be implemented after ten (10) calendar days if no appeal has been filed.
- c. Any Minister found guilty may appeal to the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Teaching Team (Internal Tribunal of Appeals) against the sanction of the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- d. In the case of such appeal, the decision of the Assemblies of God General Executive is final and binding.
- e. Should a person be acquitted or sanction upheld on appeal, the matter shall be communicated to all Accredited Ministers, Probationary Ministers and all Recognized Locals of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- f. If a person, seeking re-admission, was a minister before he was excommunicated, he will not be automatically re-admitted back to the Assemblies of God (Back to God) as a minister. He will have to start all afresh.
- g. After a Minister who is under admonishment has repented, he shall not immediately come back to ministry but rather follow the same process as was followed when one first seeks admission into the ministry through the Local Assembly.



- i. Where a Minister is found guilty, any of the following sanctions can be applied:
 - iv. A censure may be administered by the RCC (Any such action shall be communicated to all Accredited and recognised Assemblies where the said guilty person ministers).
 - v. A person that has been found guilty may be suspended temporarily on such conditions as the **Disciplinary Tribunal** shall impose.
 - vi. The person found guilty may have his recognition as an Accredited Minister or Probationary Minister withdrawn either temporarily or permanently, depending on the nature and seriousness of the offense.



43. INTERNAL TRIBUNAL OF APPEALS

- a. The Teaching Team is the Assemblies of God (BTG) **Internal Tribunal of Appeals**.
- b. A Minister may appeal a finding or sanction in terms of the procedure laid down in the **Code of Ethics for Ministers and People in Leadership within AOG (GTG)**.
- c. The Minister must, **within seven (7) calendar days** of the receiving notice of the final outcome of a Disciplinary Tribunal, submit the appeal if the Minister so intends.
- d. The Internal Tribunal of Appeals may condone the late lodging of an appeal, on good cause shown.
- e. The Internal Tribunal of Appeals shall notify the Minister concerned of the date and place.
- f. The Internal Tribunal of Appeals may:
 - i. uphold the appeal.
 - ii. reduce the sanction.
 - iii. confirm the outcome of the
Disciplinary Tribunal.
- g. The Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive shall immediately implement the decision of the Internal Tribunal of Appeals.
- h. Where the Internal Tribunal of Appeals decides to reduce the sanction or confirm the outcome of the Disciplinary Tribunal (e.g. excommunication cases), the sanctions will be implemented by the AOG (BTG) Executive from a current date.
- i. The Internal Tribunal of Appeals must finalize appeals **within 30 days**.



- j. If the disciplined person remains dissatisfied by the outcome of the Internal Tribunal of Appeals, they shall have the right to lodge an appeal to the General Executive within 30 days from the date of the outcome of the Internal Tribunal of Appeals.
- k. The Assemblies of God General Executive is the **Supreme and Final Tribunal of Appeals and its decision is final and binding.**



44. DIVORCE, RE-MARRIAGE AND ESTRANGEMENT

(Leaders, but not limited to, ministers, elders, deacons, and organizers)

- a. Ministerial Credentials will not be given to persons who were the guilty party in a divorce, or who have been divorced and re-married, or whose spouses have been divorced. Accredited Ministers or Probationary Ministers who have been divorced not being guilty party, are free to exercise their Ministry while remaining unmarried, but should such re-marry during the life-time of their erstwhile partner, Ministerial Credentials will automatically be withdrawn from them.
- b. Accredited or Probationary Ministers who have been divorced shall **not** be free to exercise their ministry while the reasons for the divorce have not yet been established to determine their level of contribution to their divorce.
- c. Any person, across all levels, structures and groups in the Assemblies of God (Back to God) who holds any leadership portfolio and yet has been divorced, remarried while their ex-spouse is alive or married a divorced person and/or estranged from their spouses, shall **not** be free to exercise their ministry while the reasons for the separation and/or estrangement have not yet been established to determine their contribution to their divorce.
- d. The Accredited or Probationary Ministers who have been divorced shall face automatic suspension from ministry with full provision of Ministerial Stipend or Support only until such time that their role or contributions and/or actual reasons in the collapse of their marriages have been well established to determine their innocence. This shall apply to Elders, Deacons and Organizers.



- e. Any person who holds any leadership portfolio and yet has been divorced and/or estranged from the spouse, shall face automatic suspension from their ministry or position until such time that their role or contributions and/or actual reasons in the collapse of their marriages and/or estrangement have been well established to determine their innocence.
- f. Any person who holds leadership position across all levels, who have been divorced and/or estranged from their spouses, shall appear before a disciplinary tribunal to give an account as to the “WHAT, HOW, WHEN, and WHY” regarding the collapse and/or estrangement of their marriages.
- g. Should it be established that Accredited or Probationary Ministers and/or any person holding leadership position is innocent, they shall be free to exercise their Ministry or hold their leadership positions while remaining unmarried
- h. Should a person re-marry during the life time of their erstwhile partner, or marry a divorced person, Credentials and/or Leadership Positions will automatically be withdrawn from them permanently.



45. BACK TO GOD CRUSADE

- a. The Back to God Crusade is the evangelistic arm of the Assemblies of God (BTG), spreading the Gospel throughout Africa and the world.
- b. Assemblies once established, fall under the Constitution of the Assemblies of God and the Rules of Procedure of the Assemblies of God (BTG). To that end, all structures that operate within established assemblies function under the direct control and supervision of the Executive in consultation with the Teaching Team.
- c. The structures include all organisational work such as;
 - i. Sunday School
 - ii. Youth
 - iii. Girls
 - iv. Mothers and
 - v. Men
 - vi. District Councils).
- d. The BTGC shall have a seven (7) member Committee (National Back to God Crusade Committee) appointed by the Executive of the AOG (BTG), and who are bona fide members and Pastors within the Assemblies of God (BTG).
- e. The National Back to God Crusade Committee carries the Evangelistic Mandate of the Church.
- f. Funds that are received from the mother's work will be used primarily for the BTGC operations.
- g. The BTGC shall prepare proper reports on the general administration of the BTGC work (informed by proper regional reports on revivals) for the NBTGC, Executive and Annual Conference.
- h. The NBTGC together with the BTGC Board of Trustees is responsible for the safeguard and administration of all its equipment, property and finances as delegated to it by the AOG (BTG) Executive.



46. BACK TO GOD CRUSADE (NPO)

The Assemblies of God (Back to God) shall register a Non-Profit Organisation (Entity) with its primary goal being to work for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).

- a. The name of the Non-Profit Organisation is Back to God Crusade.
- b. The Back to God Crusade (NPO) shall have a Board of Trustees of seven (7) members appointed by the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive.
- c. The Candidates for Board of Trustees shall be identified by the Teaching Team and forwarded to the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive for appointment.
- d. The Teaching Team shall identify a reasonable number of people from whom the Executive shall make appointments. These must possess necessary and relevant skills, expertise and knowledge for the appointment as trustees.
- e. All members of the Board of Trustees shall be bona fide and Accredited Ministers of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- f. For the purposes of ensuring accountability, a serving member of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive shall **NOT** be eligible for appointment to serve in the Back to God Crusade administrative work. If that happens, the member shall cease to serve in the Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive.
- g. Board of Trustees shall carry the fiduciary mandate for the BTGC (NPO) on behalf of the AOG (BTG) Executive.
- h. The BTGC Board of Trustees shall serve for a term of four years to run concurrently with the term of office of the Executive of the Assemblies of God (BTG).
- i. The Directorate of Non Profit Organisations shall be informed of the changes in the Trustees as well as provide annual reports to the same directorate.



- j. The BTGC Board Trustees are autonomous in function, accountable to the AOG (BTG) Executive and also supplying annual reports to the Directorate of Non Profit Organisations of the Republic of South Africa.
- k. The Assemblies of God (Back to God) Executive and Teaching Team members are "Ex-officio" members in all meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- l. Neither a member of the Executive nor Teaching Team nor any other sub-committee shall be eligible for appointed to serve in the Board of Trustees.



47. COMING INTO EFFECT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

- a. The **2016 Amendments** to these Rules of Procedure shall come into force on the date of the adoption by the Ordinary Conference of the Assemblies of God (Back to God).
- b. **These** Rules of Procedure **came** into force on the date of the adoption by the Ordinary Conference of the Assemblies of God (Back to God) being the **6th – 10th October 2014**.
- c. The Constitution of the Assemblies of God Movement 2006 establishing the “Movement” is hereby repealed.
- d. Notwithstanding the coming into effect of these Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee, The Regional Council Committees and/or other structures elected or appointed prior to the coming into force of these Rules of Procedure shall continue in office until the expiration of their term of office under repealed Constitution of the Assemblies of God Movement.
- e. Insofar as the Term of Office for Structures of the Assemblies of God (Back to God), the provisions of these Rules of Procedure shall apply with effect from **2015 Elective Conference** which will mark the beginning of the new dispensation under these Rules of Procedure.



48. DECLARATION AND ADOPTION

This serves to declare that these Rules and Procedures were adopted by the Extra-Ordinary 24th – 27th February 2014 and Ratified by the Ordinary Conference on 6th – 10th October 2014. The first Rules and Procedures were adopted at Madadeni, Newcastle in June 1989.

Pastor M.S Tembe: Secretary AOG (BTG)

Pastor O.B.M Hleza: Chairman AOG

On behalf of Back to God Teaching Team:

Pastor F L Shabalala
Member of the BTG Teaching Team

Pastor WL Didi
Member of the BTG Teaching Team