

# **THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST DENOMINATIONAL STATUTE**

## **ART. 1. NAME AND SEAT**

The Foundation bears the name St. The Church of Pentecost Holland and has its seat in Amsterdam. It is a religious denomination as referred to in Article 1 of our constitution and of the Civil Code and therefore has legal personality.

## **ART. 2. BASIS AND PURPOSE**

The church, based on God's word, as expressed in Mark 16:15 – 16 and Matthew 28:19 – 20, aims to practice, propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ, and deepen the spiritual life of the saints to achieve God's purpose as described in 2 Timothy 3: 16-17.

Among other things by which the church endeavors to achieve its goal are:

- Holding services and meetings (worship & prayer services).
- Preaching and teaching of the Gospel.
- Furtherance of the gospel through evangelistic work
- Naming and Ordination of Children, Baptismal Services, Wedding/Funeral Services
- Conducting seminars and campaigns
- Leading music and singing in the aforementioned gatherings
- Men's, Women's, Youth and Children's ministries
- Religious Education (Bible Studies, training conferences, seminars, counseling etc.)
- The provision of pastoral care.
- Visitation to senior homes, rehabilitation centers, hospitals and prisons.
- All other lawful and appropriate means.

## **ART. 3. MEMBERSHIP**

Both adult and children are admitted as members of the church. (see art.24 of the church constitution.)

**3.1 Adult Membership:** People are admitted as members on the basis of their personal faith and confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour (Romans 10:9) and have been baptized by immersion. (Luke -3:21; Mark 16:16).

Having accepted the scripture as the foundation of his life in word and deed, and by actively acting and wanting to bear joint responsibility for the church, one is accepted as a member.

Furthermore, a membership condition is that the person concerned fully subscribes to the tenets of the church as refer to in article 1 of the church constitution and declares that he is willing to comply.

When registering as a member, the personal details must be entrusted to the secretariat of the particular location of the church call the "Assembly".

The church presbytery decides on admission and any refusal shall be made to the board stating the reasons.

To be baptized into the church, one must be at least 13 years and above.

**3.2 Children Membership:** Children below thirteen years of age and have been dedicated by a Minister of the Church become members. However, such members shall not be communicants until baptized into The Church.

#### **ART. 4. DISCIPLINE / SUSPENSION AND END OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership ends by:

- The death of a member.
- Withdrawal by the member.
- When the member lives contrary to the doctrines and statue of the Church.
- Withdrawal or suspension by the church presbytery / board will be done with the policy outlined in Matthew 18:15 – 17 and in the church constitution. (ref. to art. 25).
- That is to say after several discussions with the elders and the member concern after which a final discussion and decision is taken with the entire presbytery and the board.
- Written termination by the church presbytery and the board will then be given to the member concern with stated reasons.
- When the member does not demonstrate his/her joint responsibility for the church.
- The church public will be informed of the outcome of these discussions.
- The church presbytery / board can temporarily discipline or suspend a member in accordance with the policy. (ref. to art.25 of the constitution). This too can only be done in writing and stating reasons to the member concerned.
- A suspended member does not have the right to vote in the church meetings. The suspension will be reported to the congregation.
- The suspension can be lifted after a period of time or can be converted into an end of membership.
- There shall be a right of appeal in all cases of sanctions through first the presbytery and then to the board.

#### **ART. 5. FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

The resources of the church consist of voluntary contributions from members, gifts, donations and other income.

Members give their financial support to the congregation based on Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7. They prefer to do this in a fixed monthly contribution termed as “tithe”.

#### **ART. 6. DURATION, FINANCIAL YEAR, ACCOUNT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (Nat. off. preferably)**

- The church is entered into for an indefinite period of time.
- The church year, as well as its financial year, runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- Financial Committee is set up in every assembly to administer the central fund of the church.
- The treasurers of the committee are obliged to keep a record of the financial position of every Assembly in such a way that the rights and obligations of the church can be recognized at all times.
- Not later than three months after the end of each financial year, the financial secretaries and treasurers prepare the annual accounts, i.e. the balance sheet and a statement of income and expenditure for the past financial year, as well as a budget of the income and

expenditure for the coming year.

- Each member of the church board receives a copy of these annual reports and the budget. Subsequently, the church board – excluding the finance committee will check the books and booking documents of the committee in order to determine the authenticity and correctness of their work.
- The board thereafter report to the presbytery and the congregation of the work of the committee.
- No later than four months after the end of the financial year, the church presbytery and board adopt the annual accounts and approves the budget.
- Before approving the annual accounts, the church board is authorized to have them audited, if necessary, by an accountant, who will issue a statement in response.
- The municipality will be informed about this.
- The established annual statements must be kept for at least 10 years.
- After adoption, the annual accounts are signed in duplicate by the secretary, the Head Minister and the Board Chairman of the church, who then both take care of their safekeeping at the church secretariat.
- All documents concerning the church in the possession of the chairman, secretary and treasurer always remain the property of the church and must be accessible and retrievable by the entire board.

#### **ART. 7. LEADERSHIP/CHURCH GOVERNANCE**

- The leadership of every local Assembly is according to biblical pattern which Jesus Christ placed in the hands of the church board, consist of the minister and wife, elders, deacons, and deaconess, possibly supplemented by appointed congregation members.
- This leadership can be referred to with the terms “**presbytery, leadership, officers or team**”.
- The Presbytery or the leadership selects a secretary from among its members. A treasurer is chosen outside the Presbytery but approved by them. The presidency of the local Assembly is chosen by the Pastor and approved by the presbytery or the leadership and is called “**the Presiding Elder**”.
- The members of the leadership are selected by the Presbytery from among the congregation and introduced to them.
- Criterion for the nomination will be a proven reliability and expected spiritual ability according to the Biblical standards, as expressed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. At a meeting conveyed for this purpose two –thirds of the members of the Presbytery must approve this proposal not counting blank votes. The appointment requires the approval of the church.
- Every presbyter shall be responsible to the church in accordance with the functions outlined in articles 16 & 23 of the church constitution.
- The proposed nominated members undergo lay leadership training on the tenets, core values, duties, etc. as demanded by the church in accordance with the constitution.
- The trained nominees are accepted and ordained into the church leadership after passing the interview of the board.
- In case of incapacitation as a result of which the functioning as a presbyter or leader is

hindered too much, the presbytery is at all times entitled to discuss this with the person concerned in order to obtain an exemption from his/her position.

- A presbyter or leader can resign from his/her position at any time with a written note stating his/her reasons. Termination by the team member preferably takes place in such a term that the relevant vacancy can be filled.
- The presbytery may suspend its member at any time, stating reasons. In that case, the suspended leader cannot actively function in the church activities and has no voting rights in its leadership meeting. (ref. to art. 25.3 – constitution)
- In the event of suspension, certain tasks and powers of the relevant leader can also be temporarily assumed by other team members.

**7.2 LEADERSHIP DISMISSAL:** A presbyter or officer, if it turns out not to meet the standards as described in art. 23.4 -23.5 (see constitution) can be removed from his/her position on the proposal of the other presbytery members.

- If desired, an investigation committee can be set up, before dismissal is made.
- The committee must consist of at least five people. A Presbytery with vacancies remains authorized by the board and may be filled as soon as possible.
- The church Presbytery takes decisions by a majority of votes, (two – thirds vote) provided that at least half of the team is present at the meeting. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- Decision-making outside the meeting is permitted, provided this is done in writing and all members of the team can agree with this method of decision-making.
- Decisions in the presbytery and the board are taken unanimously.
- Minutes or lists of decisions of the presbytery and the board meetings are drawn up, adopted and signed in duplicate by the secretary and the chairman. These documents are, as they usually concern matters of a personal nature, strictly confidential. Non-personal and/or non-confidential matters may be brought to the attention of the church.
- The presbytery and the board members are bound to secrecy about all its matters and decisions.
- This will remain in effect even after their termination of office.
- The presbytery is entitled to appoint working groups, ministries, committees or persons for specific tasks.
- Any goods delivered to the presbytery and board members or to those referred to in art. 7, paragraph 16 (see constitution) which are made available for the purpose of carrying out their duties in the church, shall at all times remain the property of the church.

## **ART. 8. CHURCH GOVERNING POWER**

- The church presbytery /board are divinely charged with and authorized to govern the church according to Biblical standards; the minister, elders, deacons and deaconesses are to provide pastoral care within the congregation.
- The minister is the leader within this presbytery based on his calling and ministry. He is the spokesperson for the team and bears ultimate responsibility for the denomination and the doctrine proclaimed in the congregation.
- The board chairman has the right to intervene and take appropriate measures. According to 1Timothy 5:17, he will mainly focus on preaching and teaching.

- In addition, the church is represented in and out of court by the board members with the team or presbytery.
- The presbytery is authorized to conclude agreements to acquire, alienate or encumber registered property. If obligations are entered into that exceed the amount of €10,000, the presbytery requires the approval of the church.

#### **ART. 9. DEACONS / DEACONSES**

The church council is supported according to a biblical pattern by a team of deacons and deaconesses as office bearers in the congregation, distinct from the elders, to whom certain parts of the work in the congregation are delegated in consultation with the church council.

As already stated in article 7, the members of the deacon / deaconess team are chosen by the presbytery from among the members of the congregation and presented to the congregation. Criterion for the nomination will be a proven reliability and expected spiritual ability according to the Biblical standards, as expressed in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

The appointment requires the approval of the church. At a congregational meeting convened for this purpose, two-thirds of the votes cast must support this proposal, not counting blank votes.

If, for any reason, physical or mental disabilities occur, which hinder the functioning as a deacon or a deaconess too much, the church presbytery is at all times entitled to discuss this with the person concerned in order to obtain exemption from his/her position.

A deacon/ deaconess may resign from his/her position at any time. Termination shall preferably be accepted in writing and shall take place in such a period that the relevant vacancy can be filled.

The church presbytery may suspend a deacon/deaconess at any time, stating reasons. The respective deacon's/deaconess' duties may be temporarily fulfilled by other deacons/deaconess or elders.

A deacon/deaconess may, if he/she does not meet the standards as described in art. 23, paragraph 5, may be removed from his/her position on the proposal of the presbytery. Any exemption may require the approval of the church at a meeting convened for this purpose, of which two-thirds of the votes cast will have to support this proposal, not counting blank votes.

If desired, an investigation committee can be set up, consisting of reliable people from the presbytery and the board, before dismissal is made.

Deacons/ Deaconesses are obliged to maintain secrecy about what comes to their knowledge. This will remain in effect even after their termination of office.

Any property made available to deacons/deaconess for the performance of their duties in the congregation shall at all times remain the property of the church.

#### **ART. 10. CHURCH OR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

In the congregational meeting convened by the church presbytery, all important matters (not pastoral) will be presented and discussed to the congregation.

Congregational meetings are held as often as the presbytery deems desirable, but at least twice a

year.

The meeting is convened in writing by the secretary and also announce to the congregation. This will take place within a minimum of two weeks, with an agenda stating the items to be discussed.

Members have access to the congregation meeting. An attendance list must be signed by the members on site.

If this proves necessary in the interest of the proper functioning of the church, a majority of the votes cast by the members present must support the decisions taken, not including the blank votes.

For a valid vote, at least half of the members must be present at the meeting. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

The church presbytery decides whether or not a certain matter will be voted on at a congregation meeting in the interest of the proper functioning of the congregation.

In the congregation meetings, the treasurer/financial secretary provides an up-to-date overview of the financial position of the church. Once a year this will be done in writing on the basis of the annual accounts approved by the presbytery.

The congregation meeting is led by the pastor or, in his absence, by the Presiding Elder of the presbytery.

Minutes or lists of decisions of the congregation meetings are drawn up, adopted and signed in duplicate by the secretary and the chairman. Members can inspect these documents at the secretariat.

#### **ART. 11. REGULATIONS**

If necessary, other necessary provisions can be made by the presbytery in the form of regulations. These may not conflict with the act or the statute of the church.

In all cases not provided for in the statute, the spirit of the statute must be acted upon.

#### **ART. 12. AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTE**

The statute of the church can only be amended by a decision at the church meeting, which has been convened with the announcement that an amendment to the statute will be discussed there, accompanied by a copy of the proposal to that effect, in which the proposed amendment verbatim is included.

#### **ART. 13. DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION**

The dissolution of the municipality can only be decided if two thirds of the members of the church will vote in favor of such a proposal, not counting blank votes.

The liquidation shall be effected by the board, unless one or more persons, whether or not from the board, are appointed as liquidators from the church meeting.

All that which remains after payment of all debts of the assets of the dissolved church shall be allocated in a manner to be determined in the congregation meeting for a purpose that is as close as possible to that of the church.

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