

WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL



THE CONSTITUTION

BY

THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP BOARD

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the desire and vision to pioneer and establish a Christian society of a Pentecostal nature for expansion of kingdom of God in Tanzania was first found in the heart of the minister and servant of God brother Sylvester Gamanywa in the year 1984; AND

WHEREAS, the establishment of the said society was made possible in the year 1990, being constituted and legally registered as “The World Apostolic Ministries” under the Societies Ordinance, 1954; now the Societies Act [Cap. 337 2002]; given registration number SO. 7291; AND

WHEREAS, the first amendment of the constitution of 1990 of the aforesaid society was made in the year 1997, thereof changing its name from the “World Apostolic Ministries” to the “Word and Pentecostal Organizations” and abbreviated as “WAPO”; AND

WHEREAS, in the year 2000 another major amendments of the said constitution were carried out, thus, changing the name of the said society from the “Word and Pentecostal Organizations” to the Word and Peace Organizations” [WAPO]; AND

WHEREAS, the so far made amendments in the said constitution had been over passed by both social and Christian needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THIS MEETING THAT, the third amendments of the said constitution include: the change of the name of the said Christian society from the “Word and Peace Organizations” to “**WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL**”; reflecting new vision, missions, core values, guiding principles and structure of the said Christian society in working with not only Local Christian Community but also International Christian Community in new global context in adhering to the greatest commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE I

Section 1: Name

The name of the Association shall be “**WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL**” (hereinafter to be referred to as “Christian organization”).

Section 2: Status

WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL shall be interdenominational, non-partisan, non-profit making, designed to provide biblical and social services to the whole society. *The Word and Peace Organizations* no longer exists as such all its properties, assets, objectives and functions were legally assumed by WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL.

Section 3: Mission Statement

To mobilize, educate, and restore Biblical moral values to individuals in the society.

Section 4: Focused Areas

1. Mobilization
- 2 Restoration
- 3 Education
4. Media development

Section 5: Headquarters

The Headquarters of WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL shall be in Dar Es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania.

Section 6: Emblem

The emblem shall be as is indicated on the cover of this Constitution and shall be used on all its official documents and communications.

Section 7: Official Languages

The official languages of WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL shall be Kiswahili and English.

Section 8: Interpretation

In this constitution, unless the context requires otherwise:

1. “**Affiliate membership**” means associate membership allowed under section 3 of article IV;

2. **“Board of Trustees”** means the Registered Trustees of WAPO Mission International;
3. **“Congregation”** means an assembly or gathering of WAPO members for the purpose of worship;
4. **“Congregational member”** means a member of WAPO as established under article V;
5. **“Executive Secretary”** means the administrator under article VII sections 4 and 5;
6. **“Founder member”** means a person who participated in the first stages of establishment of WAPO as stipulated under article IV section 1;
7. **“Mission”** means WAPO Mission International;
8. **“Organization”** means WAPO Mission International;
9. **“Overseer”** means a supervisor of spiritual affairs at a particular geographical area;
10. **“Society”** means WAPO Mission International as registered under Societies Act [Cap. 337 2002];
11. **“WAPO”** means WAPO Mission International.

ARTICLE II

Section 1: Tenets of Faith: We believe that:

1. The scriptures of both Old and New Testament are verbally inspired of God, Inerrant in the original writings, the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
2. There in one God and only one, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, died a vicarious and substitutionary death upon the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, rose again the third day for our justification. He is now our Mediator and High Priest at God’s right hand, from whence He will come to earth as “King of kings and Lord of lords” to set up His Kingdom and to judge the world in righteousness.
4. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead. His ministry is that of convicting unbelievers of their sin, and their need of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. He baptizes believers into the Body of Christ, indwells, instructs, and seals them unto the day of redemption
5. Man was created in the image of God. He sinned and thereby incurred physical and spiritual death which is a separation from God. Salvation for sinful man is by grace through faith in Christ “who by His own self bore our sins in His own body on the cross”. All those who refuse to avail themselves of this divine provision for redemption will suffer the eternal retribution of the wicked

in hell; while those who avail themselves of this are kept by the power of God, shall never perish, shall never be separated from the love of God, and shall enjoy the eternal bliss and felicity of heaven.

6. The Church is an elect company of believers, the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head, and is without denominational boundary. God has purposed that Church, as the Bride of Christ, glorify Him in an aggressive effort to disciple all nations through the preaching of the Gospel. This Body will be caught up to meet the Lord prior to His appearing to set His Kingdom.

ARTICLE III

Section 1: Objectives

The broad objects and aims of the Mission shall be:

1. To make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our fellow citizens here in Tanzania and beyond, according to the great commission given to the church by the Lord Jesus himself.
2. To establish local body of believers under the cell-church system as it is reflected in the book of Acts in the holy Bible.
3. To function properly as a body of Christ in agreement with the scripture.
4. To provide legal umbrella to any International Christian organization or Ministry for the purpose of partnership and networking.
5. To establish and operate Biblical Counseling Centres such as Marriage Counseling, Pre-marriage Counseling, Theological Counseling, including running orphan and vulnerable children rehabilitation centres, Drugs Abuse, and any other destructive habits, and temporary receiving homes and facilities for new born-again Christians thrown out of their families on account of their righteous faith.
6. To promote and maintain a genuine Biblical Movement that will operate as congregations within established procedures. The congregations shall always conduct their services freely as long as they adhere to general principles of the Biblical sound doctrines.
7. To promote and defend freedom of worship in accordance with Christian faith, state constitution and other international declarations and instruments.
8. To establish and run social and Christian services like educational, health and environmental services in both rural and urban areas.
9. To receive donations, contributions, grants, offerings, loans, and money from Individuals, Organizations, Business Companies, Financial Institutions, Foundations, Charitable Organizations,

Churches, Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Governments, and International institutions or Organizations; the funds received shall be used for implementation of these objectives.

10. To acquire and own property for the purpose of serving the community socially and spiritually.
11. To establish and run a Trust Fund to be provided in the Deed for supporting vision and missions of WAPO.
12. To publish books, newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, and any other Christian materials for the purpose of educating and informing our society.
13. To establish, own, and operate both print and electronic media like Television and radio stations for provision of information, education for both social and Christian communities.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Founder Members

Any person who was among people who met for the first time to form and establish WAPO, including the first person to conceive a vision of founding WAPO since 1990, and who will continue to respect it and live according to the quality standards of this constitution will remain and be honoured as founding member of WAPO. However, for the security of future of WAPO, Bishop Sylvester Gamanywa who received divine revelation to establish this Mission Organization as long as he lives shall continue to be a member of WAPO and be the Chief Advisor in regard of vision and missions of WAPO.

Section 2: New Membership

The right of beginning of membership within WAPO shall follow the established procedures from the time of conversion. However, any born-again Christian of majority age and sound mind who agrees to the objectives, statement of faith and the vision of WAPO may be eligible for membership.

Section 3: Affiliate Membership

This type of membership shall be available for international Christian ministries and organizations especially that want to partner and network with WAPO for mutual benefit. Such shall be reduced into legal agreement.

Section 4: Application for affiliate membership

The applicants of membership in section III above shall apply in writing and fill an application form and submit the same to WAPO. Their applications shall be accompanied with their Constitutions or memoranda, including application fee.

ARTICLE V

There shall be WAPO congregations whose establishment and administration shall always reflect the established cell –church system philosophy.

Section 1: Congregational membership

To be received into congregation as per section 1 above, any person who wants to be a member must have:

1. Confessed that Jesus Christ is his/her personal Lord and Saviour;
2. Experienced Christian believer's baptism by immersion;
3. Voluntarily registered as congregational member of WAPO

Section 2: Duties of congregational Members

1. Members are expected to be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life; faithful in attendance in services and activities administered by congregational leaders; supporting the programs through giving regularly in supporting activities of WAPO and finding an active place of service in the work of God;
2. To be faithful and truthful to the written word of God, and the statement of faith and objectives of this constitution;
3. To attend all meetings or services of WAPO to which he/she is eligible to attend;
4. To love all people as Jesus Christ commanded His disciples in order to show the world that we are really His disciples.

Section 3: Rights of congregational Member

Any member of congregations of WAPO, regardless of his/her membership category, shall have the following rights:

1. The right of access to any leader of WAPO by following established procedure for consultation, or any other purpose;
2. The right to defend himself/herself and be heard before committees against any accusations/allegations, and the right of appeal to higher authority of WAPO if she/he feels aggrieved by the decisions taken by lower authority;
3. The right to elect or to be elected to any leadership position within WAPO in accordance to qualifications and established procedures;
4. The right to receive all the services available (if he/she deserves) within WAPO through its various units/departments.

Section 4: Cessation of congregational Membership

Membership can be lost by any of the following grounds:

1. Resigning;
2. Violation of this constitution and any general Christian morals;
3. Turning against God and his Word by living in sin just like an apostate;
4. Divorce and remarrying contrary to correct interpretation of scriptures;

Section 5: Membership claims

Any person who ceases his or her congregational membership by any reason shall have no claim(s) against Mission or any leader on behalf of Mission for his or her registration, membership fee paid, annual fees, tithes, offerings or any other contributions he/she might have paid; and shall lose all rights as a member that he/she was entitled in accordance with this constitution before cessation.

ARTICLE VI

Section 1: Organs of WAPO

There shall be the following organs that shall hold their meetings on regular basis as shall be provided in this constitution.

1. National Leadership Board
2. Board of Trustees
3. National General Conference

Section 2: National Leadership Board

There following shall be the members of National Leadership Board

1. National Overseer General
2. Vice- Overseer General
3. Executive Secretary
4. National tTreasurer
5. International Coordinator
6. All Zonal Overseers

Section 3: Functions of National Leadership Board

The following shall be the functions of National Leadership Board:

1. To safeguard the Mission's core values, focused areas and broad goals
2. To be the custodians of the vision and missions of WAPO
3. To supervise the implementation of strategic plan in place
4. To perform day to day administration of the affairs of the Mission;
5. To be the policy-maker of the Mission;
6. Shall at due time propose name(s) of Trustee(s) for approval by National General Conference;

Section 4: National General Conference

The composition of National General Conference shall be as follows:

1. All members of National Leadership Board
2. All members of registered Trustees
3. All District overseers

Section 5: Functions of National General Conference

1. To receive and discuss reports presented by the National Leadership Board.
2. To make deliberations and endorsement on Annual Financial Report and Annual Budget presented by National Treasurer of WAPO;
3. In event of discussion where the National General Conference is divided into two colliding parties, the Overseer General shall have a special vote in order to conclude that discussion peacefully;

ARTICLE VII

LEADERSHIP

Section 1: Biblical overseers

The following shall be the categories of the overseers of WAPO in different categories as follows:

1. Overseer General
2. Zonal Overseers
3. Regional Overseers
4. District Overseers
5. Assistant District Overseers
6. Ward Pastors
7. Ward Cell Overseers

8. Section Cell Leaders
9. Cell Leaders
10. Assistant Cell Leaders

Section 2: Senior Leaders

The following shall be the leaders of the Mission who after being elected or appointed shall form the National Leadership Board of the Mission:

1. National Overseer General;
2. National Vice Overseer General;
3. National Executive Secretary;
4. National Treasurer;
5. International Coordinator;
6. Zonal Overseers.

The number of zonal overseers shall depend on the number of zonal areas at a time.

Section 3: Leadership Qualities and Qualifications

In addition to fulfilling the membership conditions as specified in this constitution, whoever would like to be a leader, must have the following qualities: -

- a) Must be a member of Mission for a reasonable duration of time and manifesting readiness to work for God;
- (b) Must have a legal and Christian Marriage, and be responsible for his/her family;
- (c) Should not be a new convert;
- (d) Must have a good Bible knowledge, including having completed Bible school/college which is recommended and approved by Mission authority;
- (e) Must have all spiritual qualities as mentioned in the Bible;
- (f) Must meet all other academic qualifications which must have been specified for particular position of leadership;
- (g) Must have a specific gifted ministry or skills in a particular profession according to the requirements of a particular position or post

Section 4: Recruitment and Appointments of Leaders

There shall be established policies, rules and procedures that will be applicable for appointments and recruitments of leaders of all categories and levels within WAPO

Section 5: Tenure of Office

The tenure of office for leaders shall depend on the category and position of leadership within the structure of the Mission for leaders whose tenures are not described in this constitution.

Section 6: Cessation of Leadership

Any leader of the Mission shall cease to be a leader on any of the following grounds:

- (a) Expiry of tenure;
- (b) Termination;
- (c) Resignation;
- (d) Ceasing to be member of the Mission;
- (e) Unsatisfactory performance of duties without good cause;
- (f) Bad Testimony according to the standards of Christian faith;
- (g) Divorce or marital separation;
- (h) Backsliding or falling away.

Section 7: Disciplinary Action against Leaders

Where a need arises for resolving any problem with a leader who has abused his or her authority contrary to this constitution, the following procedures shall be applicable:

1. In disciplining the senior leaders of Mission, the Overseer General in consultation with Vice-Overseer General and Executive Secretary shall form a Disciplinary Committee that will investigate the problem and give their recommendations to the Overseer General who will take appropriate action against that leader. However, the recommendations shall not bind the Overseer General to act otherwise.
2. Where the Overseer General is the subject of any disciplinary investigation, other senior leaders of WAPO from National Leadership Board or any other higher organ shall form a disciplinary committee that shall investigate the matter and recommend to the appointing authority any action to be taken against the Overseer General. The appointing authority may include other people of wisdom from outside WAPO in handling such a situation.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1: Handling of Lawsuits against Members of WAPO

1. It is prohibited for all congregational members and leaders of the Mission to take their conflicts or disputes to the courts of law against their fellow member(s) or leader(s) contrary to the Scriptural admonition and faith as provided in the Holy Bible.
2. Where any conflict or dispute as to the meaning or interpretation of this Constitution arises; the authority to interpret any provision of this constitution is hereby vested exclusively in the National Leadership Board.

3. Notwithstanding anything contrary to this constitution, in the event of any person not being a member or leader of the Mission, taking Mission or any of its organs to any court of law, Mission or its member shall, upon being served with summons to appear as defendant or witness, shall be free to do so and shall enjoy the same rights as any other person under the court's jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1: The Secretariat

The National Leadership Board, whole or its part as may be appropriate shall have powers to hire a reasonable number of staff to administer and run the affairs of the Mission at various levels of administration and management. Nevertheless, the Leadership Board may as it deems fit appoint or hire any authority to carry out duties and responsibilities of appointing part of the management of the Mission.

There shall be secretariat which will comprise the following:

1. Overseer General
2. Executive Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. International Director
5. Program Coordinator
6. Project Coordinator

Section 2: Duties of the Secretariat

1. Overseer General

- a) shall be the chief executive officer of WAPO
- b) shall preside over meetings of National Leadership Board and National General conference
- c) shall be the spokesperson of WAPO on major issues
- d) shall be senior spiritual leader of WAPO

2. Executive Secretary

- a) He shall conduct all official correspondence of the Mission.
- b) He shall co-ordinate and supervise implementation of all policies and program underlined by the Mission;
- c) He shall enter the minutes of all meetings of the Mission into a permanent record;
- d) He shall be the secretary to all meetings presided by the Overseer General;
- e) He shall be among signatories; shall be the Accounting Officer and shall ensure all funds of Mission are properly used in accordance with the objectives of the Mission;
- f) He shall receive progressive reports from all departments and present the same to the Overseer General for more deliberations.

3. National Treasurer

There shall be Mission's Treasurer who shall head Mission's Finance Office and shall be the Mission's Financial Controller. The treasurer shall be employed on contractual terms of service made under the scheme of service of the Mission. Specifically the National Treasurer shall do the following:

- a) He/she shall be a Financial controller of Mission;
- b) To institute and implement basic internal controls and accounting manual and to ensure that funds are properly safeguarded against losses including securing insurance cover against cash-in-transit and imprest account

ARTICLE X

Section 1: Registered Trustees

1. The National Leadership Board shall appoint not less than 5 and not more than 9 persons to be registered trustees of the Mission.
2. All property, whether movable or immovable of the Mission shall rest in the trustees who will hold the same in Trust for the Mission.
3. The Trustees of the Mission shall be incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act, [Cap. 375 2002] or any other law amending or repealing the same.
4. Upon incorporation the trustees shall become a body corporate and capable of maintaining a common seal.
5. The Common Seal shall be inscribed with the words the REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF WAPO MISSION INTERNATIONAL and shall be affixed to documents in which WAPO is involved and be affixed to documents in the presence of at least two trustees.
6. The National Leadership Board shall ensure that of the trustees appointed are fully committed members of the Mission and shall hold office for 3 years subject to being reappointed.
7. Persons to be appointed as Trustees must have spiritual qualifications mentioned in the book of (Acts 6:1-3.)
8. For the sake of integrity and transparency the National Leadership Board may appoint not more than three outsiders as Trustees although the spiritual qualifications for membership in WAPO may be used to determine their character and conduct.

9. Persons appointed to be Trustees of the Mission but are not members of WAPO, if they accept this appointment, they shall be recognized as Associate members of WAPO.
10. Trustees are leaders like any other leaders of WAPO and may lose trusteeship for the same reasons as provided

Section 2: Audit

Whereas the internal auditing of the Mission shall be administered by the treasurer, the Board of Trustees shall appoint any person or audit company to be retained by the Mission and audit its accounts on regularly basis.

Section 3: Formation of the Trust Fund

1. For purposes of complying with the writings in the book of Acts in the Bible that, “when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose complaints against the Hebrews by Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said; `It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, which we appoint over this business”. (Acts 6:1-3), WAPO shall establish a Trust Fund to cater for that.
2. The Trust Fund shall separate these two things, which are Spiritual and Material activities.
3. The Trust Fund to be established shall be governed by the Trust Deed and shall be independent of WAPO.

ARTICLE XI

Joint Economic Ventures/Business Association

1. In its approved endeavors to execute the purposes and objectives herein set out, National Leadership Board acting as such or the Registered Trustees acting within their respective areas of competence shall have power to associate by contract or agreement with individual technical experts or any affiliated society or person(s) or any incorporated bodies including International Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations, or Charitable Organizations (the assisted party) engaged on any specific social-oriented and or community oriented ventures, projects or programmes, whether local, regional, or foreign such person(s) or bodies and on such terms and on such conditions as may, in the opinion of the Registered Trustees, as the case may be, enhance the technical and or economic or organizational status or functional capacity of the Mission.
2. In such cases above mentioned, the Mission shall endeavor to facilitate the timely obtainment within Tanzania of any official approvals consents exemptions concessions opinions, options or discretions as may

be necessary but without necessarily acquiring any costs or any legal obligation to do so and without any personal or any implied liability or guarantee.

3. The assisted party may reciprocate with any acceptable charitable grant, gift, award, endowment or assistance to the Mission as the parties may deem fit to promote their mutual benefit.
4. In particular, the Mission shall endeavor itself to obtain official or legal status as a Religious Organization for purposes of tax and other exemption mandates powers, benefits, awards, merits and privileges or immunities available generally to religious organizations throughout the world and such exemptions or privileges etceteras (advantages) shall be deemed to extend to suspended or withdrawn from such projects or programs herein described without prejudice to any immunities privileges approval concessions and such like that the assisted party may be otherwise entitled to independently of the Mission by law or convention.
5. PROVIDED that any obligations, functions or duties acquired by the Mission under these provisions or any such advantages accruing to the assisted party shall not extend beyond the expiry or sooner determination of such contract or agreement unless the parties so agree in writing.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1: Amendment to the Constitution

Amendments to this Constitution will be made by the National General Conference Meeting, subject to a 2/3rd majority vote or by acclamation, and provided that a NOTICE in writing for such amendment has been given together with the notice convening the meeting. A motion for amendment shall be carried only if at least three founder members are in support.

Section II: Declaration

We, the several persons who have jointly and collectively agreed to become founder members of Mission whose names and addresses are subscribed and registered with the Registrar of Societies, are desirous of being formed into a registered society within the meaning of the Societies Act, Cap. 337 of 2002 of the laws or any subsequent amendments thereof and pursuant to this Constitution as amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions hereof.

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