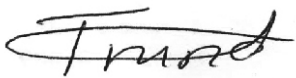


EVANGELICAL CHURCH

CONSTITUTION AS AT MHLOSHENI

19TH DECEMBER 2019

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELDERS



T.N. Mndzebele
Secretary



N.O. Simelane
Vice Chairman

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Section A – Definitions and Preamble

DEFINITIONS:

The following are definitions of terms as used in this document:

<i>National/Country Division</i>	A group of local churches in the Evangelical Church within common political boundaries
<i>National Council</i>	The steering board or committee of a country
<i>International Division</i>	An area of the Evangelical Church with local churches across political boundaries
<i>International Board of Elders</i>	The steering board or committee of this Denomination – see Article 1
<i>District</i>	A sub-section of a country
<i>District Council</i>	The steering board or committee of a District
<i>Sub-District</i>	A sub-section of a District
<i>Sub-District Council</i>	The steering board or committee of a Sub-District
<i>Pastor</i>	An authorized person to shepherd a local church
<i>Reverend Pastor</i>	The ordained leader of a local church
<i>Leader</i>	Servant leader like Daniel; also as Jesus in John 13:5; Matt 20: 25-28
<i>Local Church Board</i>	The main steering committee of a local church
<i>Assistant Pastor</i>	An ordained person who is an assistant to a pastor
<i>Board of Elders</i>	The board or committee of elders whose duty is to help lead the Evangelical Church and specifically act as custodians of the church doctrine and property as well as advise on disciplinary matters that may arise from time to time in the church
<i>Authorization</i>	The giving of duties or responsibilities to any church member or board or section committee as approved by an official of the Denomination
<i>Ordination:</i>	The process by which a Pastor is consecrated as the leader of the local church with a commensurate

	<p>authority to perform Christian rites and ceremonies as stipulated by the constitution of the Evangelical Church and on recommendation of a local church through the structures following certification by an institution recognized by the Evangelical Church.</p>
Fellowship	<p>A grouping of brethren according to a category, including Youth, Mothers, Fathers, Couples, Single Adults, and Children's Ministry and any other as approved by the church.</p>
<i>Steward</i>	<p>Any believer/Christian</p>
<i>State</i>	<p>The governing authority of a country</p>
<i>Legal or Gazetted</i>	<p>Lawful in terms of the laws of a particular country</p>
<i>Marriage Officer</i>	<p>A person who has been officially appointed or designated by government to officiate as a legal matrimonial officer</p>
<i>Elder</i>	<p>A person who has been accorded authority in a local church to help in shepherding the church members</p>
<i>Deacon</i>	<p>A person who has been authorized by a local church to help meet its spiritual, administrative and material needs</p>
<i>Support Organizations or Associations or Movements or Crusades</i>	<p>The organizations/associations/movements/crusades whose functions are within the accepted and authorized constitutional limits</p>
<i>Convention</i>	<p>A gathering of the churches, fellow-Christians for the main purpose of sharing the Word of God by way of sermons, Bible lessons, prayers, testimonies and discussions</p>

<i>Conference</i>	A gathering of local church representatives for the main purpose of discussing the business of the Denomination
<i>Bye- Law</i>	Supplementary regulation which elaborates on what has not been explained in the Articles
<i>Articles</i>	The main distinctive division of this Constitution
<i>The Christian Education Board</i>	A board which draws the curriculum of the teachings of the Evangelical Church
<i>Leading Elder</i>	An authorized person to shepherd a local church in the absence of a Pastor, as relief until a substantive Pastor is appointed.

PREAMBLE

- WHEREAS On June 9 1893, the Scandinavian Alliance Mission (SAM), now referred to as The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), established Christian work among the Nationals and people of the Republic of South Africa and Swaziland, hence, the Bantu Evangelical Church was subsequently established.
- WHEREAS In 1935 TEAM informed the indigenous Denomination that after some 10 years the church would be accorded full autonomy.
- WHEREAS In 1950 TEAM accorded to the Church full autonomy to govern itself under a constitution made and created by themselves, hence the Evangelical Church was established.
- WHEREAS In 1951 the Evangelical Church created their first constitution in consultation with TEAM.
- WHEREAS The Church has over the years undertaken various consultations amongst its members and effected constitutional amendments to better realise its objectives.
- WHEREAS It is necessary to advance, protect and promote the aims and objectives of the Church as laid down in the constitution and as guided by the Holy Spirit.
- WHEREAS We desire to proclaim, confirm, consolidate, propagate and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ for the good of humankind as well as the Kingdom of Heaven.
- WHEREAS The constitutional amendments are a product of collective consultations and consensus amongst our membership;

NOW THEREFORE We, the members of the Evangelical Church acting in unity of purpose, guided by the Holy Spirit and Teachings of the Holy Scriptures do re-affirm and bind ourselves to the aims, ideals and objectives of this Constitution for the good of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the spiritual growth and upliftment of our members. To that end, we commit and surrender ourselves to the service of the Almighty God, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

SECTION B – ARTICLES

Article I – The Name, The Constitution and The Emblem

1. The Name

The name of this Church Denomination shall be the Evangelical Church (EC). In countries where 'Evangelical Church' is already in use, the name shall be the Evangelical Bible Church International (EBCI). The Evangelical Church shall be a legal person with all the rights and obligations recognized in law therein. The Evangelical Church Headquarters in a country shall be decided by the National Conference.

2. The Constitution

This constitution is based on the principles and teachings of the Holy Bible, and, if any law, practice or custom is inconsistent with this constitution, that other law, practice or custom shall, to the extent of its inconsistency, be void.

3. The Emblem

The emblem of the Evangelical Church shall be as follows:

3.1 Top left corner, **a red** cross

3.2 **Bottom left corner**, a Bible joined to the cross

3.3 **Foot note:** For the Proclamation, Confirmation and Defense of the Gospel message.

3.4 The emblem is as presented on the cover page of this constitution.

3.5 All letterheads shall be prescribed as follows:

Evangelical Church - Local Church/ Fellowship/ District Council/National Council/Board of Elders/ International Council

3.6 All official documents shall resonate from a green cover page as displayed in this constitution.

Article II – Aims:

1. To bring honour and glory to God by following Biblical principles in the behaviour of its corporate body and individual membership.

2. To evangelize and establish local churches under this Denomination that give glory to God.
3. To disciple converted people in Biblical principles in order to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ and to grow in Christian service.
4. To promote fellowship among Evangelical local churches, and with other Evangelicals and para-church organizations throughout the world.
5. To build church structures and parsonages.
6. To raise finances and scholarships for students wishing to train for the ministry.
7. To be involved in services of social concerns and in civic duties whenever there is a need.
8. To establish and maintain Bible Institutions.
9. To establish home Bible studies and /or Theological Education by extension.

Article III – Statement of faith:

1. We believe in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, to be the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith, life and conduct (*II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Heb.1:1-2*).
2. We believe in One God, the Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit (*Gen. 1:25; Deut. 6:4-5; II Cor. 13: 14; I John 5:7*).
3. We believe in Jesus Christ, without any change in His eternal Deity, became man through conception by the Holy Spirit and virgin birth and that He died on the cross; a perfect and complete sacrifice, in our stead and for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He arose bodily from the dead and ascended into Heaven and seated at the right hand of His Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate (*John 16: 7-11; 3: 5-7; I Cor. 12: 12-13; Eph. 1: 13-14; 4: 30; John 14: 16-17; I Cor. 3: 16; Acts 4: 8, 31; Eph. 5:18; John 15:5; Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 1: 8; I Cor. 12: 4-11; Eph. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 12: 28-30*).
4. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age, to convict of sin and regenerate the sinner upon believing in Christ, at the time of regeneration baptizing the believer into the Only Body of which Christ is the Head, and to indwell, guide, instruct, fill and empower the believer for godly living and service (*John 16: 7-11; 3: 5-7; I Cor. 12: 12-13; Eph. 1: 13-14; 4: 30; John 14: 16-17; I Cor. 3: 16; Acts 4: 8, 31; Eph. 5:18; John 15:5; Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 1: 8; I Cor. 12: 4-11; Eph. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 12: 28-30*).

5. We believe that all the saved should manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit by living a life which brings honour and glory rather than reproach to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God commands that believers must stay clear from false doctrines, sinful pleasures, practices and associations (*John 16: 7-11; 3: 5-7; I Cor. 12: 12-13; Eph. 1: 13-14; 4: 30; John 14: 16-17; I Cor. 3: 16; Acts 4: 8, 31; Eph. 5:18; John 15:5; Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 1: 8; I Cor. 12: 4-11; Eph. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 12: 28-30*).
6. We believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit as revealed in Scriptures are given for the purposes of edifying the Church of Jesus Christ and are to be used in an orderly manner to avoid confusion and division among the believers (*John 16: 7-11; 3: 5-7; I Cor. 12: 12-13; Eph. 1: 13-14; 4: 30; John 14: 16-17; I Cor. 3: 16; Acts 4: 8, 31; Eph. 5:18; John 15:5; Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 1: 8; I Cor. 12: 4-11; Eph. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 12: 28-30*).
7. We believe that man (Adam) was directly created by God in His own image; but being tempted by Satan, Adam fell into sin. That resulted in him acquiring a sinful nature which spread from Adam to the entire human race. The entire human race is, therefore, lost. Only through repentance, faith in Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, can salvation and spiritual life be obtained (*Gen. 1:27-31; Psalm 51: 5; Is. 64:6; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 25:46; John 5: 5:29; Mark 17:21-23; John 3: 18; Rom. 8: 7-8; Rom. 3:10-18; Gal. 5: 19-21; I Cor. 15:12-44; Rom. 5:12*).
8. We believe that the atoning death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, provide the only way to justification and salvation for all who believe, and that only such as receive Jesus Christ by personal faith are born of the Holy Spirit and thus, become children of God (*John 1:2,14; Luke 1:28-34; I Peter 2:24; Heb 9:14,22*).
9. We believe that the Church is composed of all such persons who through the saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head (*John 14: 1-3; I Cor. 12: 12-13; Acts 2: 47; Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; 5:2*).
10. We believe that water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are ordinances that must be observed by the church even though they are not the means of salvation (*Matt. 3:16-17*).
11. We believe in the existence of the Devil/Satan as a veritable being who, in collaboration with the fallen angels, frustrate in numerous ways servants of God and the Church of Jesus Christ in fulfilling God's plan on earth (*Matt. 4:1-3; 3:16-18; Luke 10:18-19; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10-15*).

12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, of the believers to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and of the unbelievers to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment in the lake of fire (Hell) *Matt. 28; Acts 1:10-11; I Tim. 2: 5, 6; I John 2: 1-2*).
13. We believe in the personal pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this blessed Hope has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believers (*Matt. 24:44; I Thess. 4: 16-17; Titus 2:12-15; I John 3: 2; I Thess. 5: 23*).
14. We believe that the Commission to preach the Gospel and making disciples of every creature is directed to every believer in Jesus Christ (*Matt. 28: 19-20; Acts 1:8*).

Article IV – Administration of the Evangelical Church

A. A Local Church (LC) under the Evangelical Church Denomination

1. Its establishment:

- 1.1 It will be constituted by members who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- 1.2 The establishment of a local church shall require a minimum of eight saved members, who shall have been discipled in the Lord Jesus Christ and have accepted the authority of this constitution. The Sub-District Council, where it exists, will verify the membership in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of this constitution.
- 1.3 The District Council concerned shall give final authority for the establishment of the local church following recommendations by the Sub- District and/or relevant Evangelical Church structures.

2. Its Members:

- 2.1 Notwithstanding the provision of Bye-Law 62, a member can become or continue as a member of a local church only if he/she agrees and abides by this constitution.

- 2.2 The local church, as stated in Bye-Law 62 shall follow all procedures concerning membership and withdrawals and/or resignation of a member.
- 2.3 Membership shall be by individual conviction and choice and not by heritage.
- 2.4 Each member shall be expected to support the State provided it is not against the teachings of the Bible.
- 2.5 Each local church shall normally have a pastor, who, as its leader shall lead and monitor all its activities. It shall also have elders and deacons. The local church pastor (s) and elders shall be members of the local church board and they shall have the right to vote.
- 2.6 New elders shall be chosen by the pastor assisted by the local Church elders, deacons and the executive of the Church Board.
- 2.7 A local church may have an Assistant Pastor (AP) if a need arises. The AP must have qualifications as stated in Bye-Law 14.

B. Local church Board of Elders (LCBE):

- 1 Each local church shall have a Local Church Board of Elders (LCBE), which consists of all elders in a LC.
- 2 The Board shall consist of the local pastor or leading elder who shall be chairman of the (LCBE), and all other elders in the local church.
- 3 The LCBE shall assist the local pastor in leading and monitoring all the activities of the LC. The LCBE shall motivate all its visions and views about the LC through the LCB and/or other relevant LC structures before implementation.

C. Local Church Board (LCB):

- 1 Each local church shall be administered by a Church Board, which shall be chosen by the local church.
- 2 The Church Board shall consist of:
 - a) The Executive (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Vice – Secretary and Treasurer).

- b) The heads of departments of all local church fellowships and heads of activity sectors and deacons.
 - c) The Pastor/Leading Elder, Assistant Pastor, Elders are all ex-officio members. Normally local church elders shall not be in the executive.
- 3 The Pastor (or the Leading elder in the absence of a Pastor) shall be a leader member of all committees by virtue of his ministry.
 - 4 Normally a church board shall serve for a term of three (3) years and each member can be re-elected in accordance with Article XIV (6).
 - 5 Fellowship committees shall serve for three (3) years and each member may be re-elected in accordance with Article XIV (6).
 - 6 No one shall be elected into any Committee of the EC without being a member of a local church.

D. District/Sub-District Board of Elders (DBE/SDBE):

1. Each District/Sub-District shall have a District Board of elders, which shall be chosen by the pastors and other elders in the District.
2. The Board shall consist of three pastors and two other elders in the District.
3. The Chairman of the SDBE/DBE shall have been a Pastor/Elder in the Evangelical Church for at least Five (5) years. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall also assume the same positions at Council for purposes of continuity.
4. The Board shall serve for three (3) years.
5. Election/re-election of members shall be guided by Article XIV.
6. The Chairman of the DBE shall be the Chairman of the DC. He shall be the District/Sub-District leader of the Evangelical Church.
7. Pastors and elders fellowship shall elect a Secretary and Treasurer.

E. District/Sub-District Council (DC/SDC):

1. Each District/Sub-District shall be administered by a District/Sub-District Council, which shall function as an administrative arm of the National Council.
2. Each District may divide itself into Sub-Districts as the need arises.
3. It shall serve for three (3) years.
4. The District/Sub-District Council shall consist of:
 - 4.1 The Executive which shall comprise of:
 - a) Chairman, who shall be a Pastor/Elder with at least five (5) years' experience in the Evangelical Church. He shall be Chairman of the DBE/SDBE. He shall be the leader of the EC in the District/Sub-District. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall also assume the same positions at Council and Board of Elders for purposes of continuity in all administrative structures of the church.
 - b) Vice-Chairman, who shall also be the Vice-Chairman of the DBE as indicated in a) above
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Vice-secretary
 - e) Treasurer
 - 4.2 The Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Sub-District (s), who represent certain local churches in a District (where applicable).
 - 4.3 Heads of District/Sub-District fellowships (e.g. Youth District/Sub-District Fellowships).
 - 4.4 Members of the DBE/SDBE.

F. District/Sub-District Church Conference (DCC/SDCC)

1. Each District/Sub-District shall/may (respectively) have a District/Sub-District Church Conference, which meets at least once a year. A SCC shall happen

where, according to the DCC, the distance and/or number of LC's in the Sub-District is high enough to warrant a SCC.

2. All Evangelical Church local churches in a District/Sub-District are members of the DCC/SCC.
3. All the local churches in a District/Sub-District shall send three (3) delegates and the pastor and elders to the DCC/SCC.
4. Proceedings in a DCC/SCC shall be led by the Executive of the District/Sub-District.

G. National Board of Elders (NBE):

1. Each country shall have a National Board of Elders (NBE), which shall be chosen by Pastors and Elders at National level.
2. The Board shall consist of three pastors and two other elders at National level. There shall be a secretary and treasurer chosen by and from the members.
3. Normally, the Chairman of the NBE shall have been a Pastor/Elder in the Evangelical Church for at least five (5) years and have demonstrated leadership experience.
4. The Board shall serve for three (3) years.
5. Election/re-election of members shall be guided by Article XIV.
6. The Chairman of the National Council shall be the Chairman of the National Board of elders. He shall be the national leader of the Evangelical Church.
7. All specific issues relating to pastors and elders shall be discussed by the relevant Board of elders and reports will be made to other structures of the Evangelical Church.

H. National Church Conference/Convention (NCC):

1. There shall be a National Church Conference/Convention of all local churches in a country. The date and place of the NCC shall be announced by the National Council not later than 90 days in advance.

2. Attendance

- a. Each local church shall be represented by three delegates, the Pastor and Elder(s).
- b. All other Evangelical Church members are invited to the NCC but do not have voting powers.

3. Proceedings of the NCC

- 3.1 Such proceedings shall be organized, directed and recorded by the National Council Executive.
- 3.2 The NCC may elect ad hoc and other committees for specific urgent/specialized duties and thereafter such committees report back to the NCC.
- 3.3 The NCC may set up certain national programmes and projects in order to facilitate the operations of the Evangelical Church in the country.
- 3.4 The NCC shall receive and discuss compiled reports from the National Council pertaining the work of the Evangelical Church in the country.
- 3.5 All fellowship committees elected at all levels of the Evangelical Church shall report to the relevant councils and shall be represented in the various councils by their chairpersons.

I. The National Council (NC):

1. Each country shall have a National Council elected and authorized by the NCC to act on its behalf.
2. The National Council shall consist of the following:
 - 2.1 The Executive which shall consist of:
 - a) Chairman, who shall be a Pastor/Elder with at least five years Leadership experience in the Evangelical Church. He shall also be the Chairman of NBE; he shall be the national leader of the Evangelical Church.
 - b) Vice-Chairman, who shall also be the vice-Chairman of the NBE.
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Vice-Secretary
 - e) Treasurer

- 2.2 The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from each District/Sub-District in the country.
- 2.3 The NBE.
- 2.4 The NC shall meet at least four (4) times a year.
- 2.5 The NC shall serve for three (3) years subject to provisions of Article XIV.

J. The International Council (IC):

- 1. The International Church Conference (ICC) shall elect an International Council (IC).
- 2. The IC shall be the overall Administrative body of the Evangelical Church.
- 3. The International Council (IC) shall consist of the following:
 - 3.1 The Executive Committee
 - a) Chairman, who shall be a Pastor with at least five (5) years leadership experience in the Evangelical Church. He shall also be the Chairman of IBE; He shall be the International Leader of the Evangelical Church.
 - b) Vice-Chairman, who shall also be the vice – Chairman of the IBE
 - c) Secretary
 - d) Vice-Secretary
 - e) Treasurer
 - 3.2 The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from each National Council from each country where the Evangelical Church is represented.
- 4. The IC shall serve for three (3) years subject to the provisions of Article XIV.
- 5. The IC shall meet at least two (2) times a year.

K. International Board of Elders (IBE)

1. There shall be an International Board of Elders (IBE), which shall be elected by the International Church Conference (ICC).
2. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall also assume the same positions at Council and Board of Elders for purposes of continuity.
3. There shall be a Secretary, a vice-Secretary and Treasurer elected by and from the members at the Conference.
4. The IBE shall carry out its work under the authority vested in it by the International Church Conference.
5. The IBE shall serve for three (3) years.
6. The IBE shall meet at least twice a year
7. Elections/re-elections of members shall be guided by Article XIV.

L. The International Church Convention/Conference (ICC):

1. There shall be an annual International Church Convention/Conference of all the local churches in all the countries where the Evangelical Church exists. The date and place of the ICC shall be determined and announced by the International Council (IC)120 days in advance. The NC's and LC's shall pay for their delegates to the ICC.
2. **Attendance:**
 - 2.1 Each local church shall send three delegates plus the Pastor and Elders
 - 2.2 All other Evangelical Church members are invited to the ICC but do not have voting powers.
3. **Proceedings of the ICC:**
 - 3.1 Such proceedings shall be organized, directed and recorded by the IC.
 - 3.2 The ICC may elect ad hoc and other working committees for specific/urgent duties and thereafter such committees shall report back to the ICC.

- 3.3 The ICC shall receive and make decisions on national recommendations relating to the Evangelical Church doctrine, proposed future plans for the Evangelical Church work and constitutional changes.
- 3.4 The convention shall occupy most of each day and if necessary the conference shall be in the afternoon.
- 3.5 At the conference the IBE shall conduct ordinations when the need arises.

Article V - Ordination:

This Denomination shall ordain its members who have exhibited the gift of being a Pastor/Teacher, Evangelist and Missionary and have been certified by a recognized Bible School, College or Seminary after training for a period of not less than three (3) years.

All ordinations shall be conducted by the IBE at the annual ICC.

Article VI – Authorization

A local church shall authorize some of its members to perform certain church services (e.g. to be deacons and elders). Elders and deacons shall be chosen by the local pastor assisted by the current elders and the Executive of LCB. Such authorization shall be in writing using a common certificate designed by the IBE and relevant structures of the church shall be informed.

Article VII – Ownership of Property:

This Church shall own moveable and immovable property. Each country of the Evangelical Church shall have Boards of elders from the local church level up to the National Church Conference level. Boards of elders at local up to District level shall be custodians of the church property on behalf of the National Board of Elders, who are the custodians of the Evangelical Church property in a country under the IBE. All original documents of ownership of property (title deeds, letters from land lords or traditional leaders) shall be kept in a strong room or safe box by the National Board of Elders.

Article VIII – Partnership of the Evangelical Church with other churches, organizations, associations and missionary organizations.

This Denomination shall have working partnerships with other Christian organizations, e.g. The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) and other para-church Christian organizations.

Article IX – Acquisition of finances; gifts; and bequeaths of movable and immovable property; creation of special purpose vehicles (SPVs).

1. The Church will be authorized to receive finances, gifts and bequeaths of movable and immovable property, all of which shall be the property of the Evangelical Church.
2. The channels of receiving the above-mentioned will be:
 - 2.1 From the members, local churches, departments and fellowships of the Evangelical Church
 - 2.2 From individual, and
 - 2.3 From other organizations approved by the church. All such gifts and bequeaths shall be declared immediately to the Secretary of the National Council.
3. Where necessary there shall be a legal instrument to cover the gifts/bequeaths.
4. The Church shall, where necessary, create special purpose vehicles for purposes of establishing, operating commercial enterprises, including educational institutions, property acquisition, business ventures and other activities that shall be approved by the National Council. The SPVs may be in the form of body corporates (both companies for gain and not for gain), associations and savings and co-operative societies.
5. All special purpose vehicles that will be established, shall be accountable and report to the National Board of Elders. All SPVs shall have a minimum of three members who are appointed to the governing body by the National Board of Elders.

Article X – Discipline:

1. Any member of this Church who falls into grievous sin and/or willfully deviates from the beliefs (See Article III), policies and doctrine of the Evangelical Church adversely affecting its testimony, will be disciplined according to Scriptures (Mathew 18: 15-17). The grievous sin refers to I Corinthians 5: 11 and I Corinthians 6: 9-10.
2. S/he shall lose his/her membership from the Church if she/he does not show the spirit of humility, repentance and brokenness.
3. Any member who divides the church or promotes dissension or division shall be disciplined.

4. Any member or group that displays insubordination to the executive or committee or BOE, having not followed proper channels of expressing any grievance shall be disciplined

Article XI – Missions, Evangelism, Discipleship and Church-planting:

This Denomination expects all its members, local churches and crusades to do evangelism, mission work and discipleship.

Article XII – Ordinances and other services in the Evangelical Church:

1. This Denomination shall observe the following two ordinances of Jesus Christ:
 - 1.1 Baptism by immersion
 - 1.2 The Lord's Supper
2. And shall also conduct the following services:
 - 2.1 Dedication of Children
 - 2.2 Engagements
 - 2.3 Weddings
 - 2.4 Funerals
 - 2.5 Christmas
 - 2.6 Easter
 - 2.7 Ascension
 - 2.8 Conventions, workshops and seminars
 - 2.9 And any other services that the denomination may wish to establish from time to time.
3. All matters relating to each item in Article XII above are dealt with in the Bye-Laws.

Article XIII – Organizations and Crusades of the Evangelical Church:

1. This denomination shall have such departments and fellowships as Evangelism, Christian Education, Youth, Mothers, Fathers, Children's Ministry, couples, single adults, leaders and any other departments or fellowships which the denomination may wish to establish from time to time.
2. Each department shall have its own mode of operation guided by the constitution which will be approved and authorized by the National Church Conference.

Article XIV – Elections, Voting and Appointments:

1. Nominations if possible and elections in all levels of the church shall be by secret ballot (where possible). All committees shall fill positions vacated as a result of death, transfer to other places, resignations, failure to attend up to three consecutive meetings without valid reason and any reasons deemed fit by the relevant committee (s).
2. The method of filling the post will be by co-option from those who had been pre-nominated for the position and had the next highest votes or the post will be left vacant until the next conference where bi-elections will be conducted.
3. Elders shall be appointed by the pastor in consultation with the LCBE, deacons and Executive of the Local Church Board. Where there is no Pastor/Leading Elder, the appointment of elders shall be by the local church board executive in consultation with the District/Sub-District Board of Elders.
4. Decisions at all conferences shall be determined by the majority of the voters.
5. The Chairman of the respective meetings, committees, boards, convention or councils shall have a casting vote.
6. Each delegate at all conferences shall be allowed one vote only on any one issue.
7. An officer of the church may be re-elected into a position of the EC for any two consecutive terms after which s/he must relinquish the position for at least one term before s/he can be re-elected into the same position.
8. Pre-nominations shall be done for positions in the following: local church, Sub-District, District, Fellowships, National and International levels in consultation with Board of Elders at the respective levels. Pre-nominated candidates shall be well- groomed usable members of the church who participate in church matters.
9. All pre-nominations shall be conducted at one level below the level due for elections e.g. pre-nominations for national elections to be conducted at District level.
10. One member one portfolio of administration. A member elected at a higher level will relinquish a portfolio in a lower level (This is applicable from Sub-district to international level)

Article XV – Quorum:

1. The quorum of all meetings, committees, boards and councils of the Evangelical Church shall be 50% of the members concerned.
2. Co-option shall not be used as a means of achieving a 50% quorum.

Article XVI – Amendments of this Constitution:

1. There shall be Constitutional Review Committees (CRC) at the following levels:
 - Local Church Constitutional Review Committee (LCCRC)
 - Sub District Constitutional Review Committee (SDCRC)
 - District Constitutional Review Committee (DCRC)
 - National Constitutional Review Committee (NCRC)
 - International Constitutional Review Committee (ICRC)

The CRC committees at various levels shall report to the committees above them and CRCs are expected to report to their general conferences at least once a year.

2. The duty of the National CRC will be to submit proposed amendments on the Evangelical Church Constitution to the National Conference and subsequently to the ICRC. The amendments will come from the local churches via the District CRC and will be co-coordinated by the national CRC before they are sent to the ICRC.
3. The District and National CRC's must seek endorsement of such proposed amendments by the District and National Conference (respectively) before sending them to the ICRC. The ICRC must seek approval of the International Church Conference before the changes become valid. The ICRC must give reports at least every three (3) years.
4. CRCs at all levels shall serve for three (3) years
5. Final draft copies of the Constitution will be passed through a constitutional expert and/or admitted Attorney of the High Court with expertise in Constitutional Law.

Article XVII – Annual Conference of Pastors and Elders:

1. There shall be a convention/conference of the pastors and elders at the Sub/District, National and International levels. The purpose of the convention/conference is for members:
 - a) To fellowship, learn and grow together.

- b) To elect members of the Board of Elders (except the chairmen) at each level, whenever necessary.

Article XVIII – Dissolution:

In the event of being found impractical to carry out the stated aims of the Evangelical Church, a local church shall agree to dissolve itself in the following manner:

1. By the vote of not less than seven-eighths (7/8) of members in the local Church. The voting shall be conducted by the SDBE/DBE concerned.
2. By informing the District/Sub-District Council of the decision.
3. By transferring all movable and immovable property to the respective District Board of Elders.
4. By informing the National Church Conference of their decision through the District Board of Elders.

SECTION C- BYE-LAWS:

All procedures relating to each Article above are stated in the following Bye-Laws:

BYE-LAW 1 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

- 1.1 To uphold the entire Constitution of the Evangelical Church as given in the latest Evangelical Church Constitution booklet.
- 1.2 To particularly carry out all the aims and objectives of the Evangelical Church as stated in Article II of this Constitution.
- 1.3 To elect the five Executive members of the Church Board.
- 1.4 To elect five members of the various fellowships and activity sectors in the local church (with office designation). The fellowship/activity sector concerned nominates the officers and the whole church elects the officers from the nominations.
 - 1.4.1 To invite or suspend or terminate a local Pastor/Leading Elder (through LCBE and the Church Board)

after an agreement has been reached with the respective Local and District Board of Elders on the matter. On appointment of a pastor the LC shall enter into a written contract with him. The NBE shall design a form to be used by local churches in such cases.

- 1.5 To pay 10% of all tithes to the District/National Evangelical Church Treasurer (as agreed by the National Conference) to be used in promoting the aims of the Church .
- 1.6 To pay regularly an agreed amount towards a national pool of resources, which each country may decide from time to time, in order to further and facilitate the aims and operations of the Evangelical Church in the country.
- 1.7 To encourage and assist a pastor in building his personal home.
- 1.8 To pay the pastor's salary (unless otherwise arranged by the DCC/NCC) and assist him to:
 - a) Meet his other financial obligations including retirement fund.
 - b) Get him full - time or part - time training.
- 1.9 To provide a manse.
- 1.10 To organize services, studies and seminars with the goal of equipping its membership.
- 1.11 To give tithes and offerings.
- 1.12 To manage all conflicts and misunderstandings that may arise from time to time in the local church in a Biblical way demonstrating brotherly love and unity of faith.
- 1.13 To participate fully in, and to send and finance representatives to all the Sub/Districts, National and International activities of the denomination.
- 1.14 To obey and respect the leadership of the Evangelical Church.
- 1.15 To hold Local Church conferences at least four times a year. Departments/Fellowships are also expected to do the same.
- 1.16 To evangelize and plant churches.

BYE-LAW 2 PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CONFLICTS WITHIN THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The goal of all conflict resolution is as given in Matthew 18:15-20 to bring about forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration of broken fellowship between and among believers. The procedures are as follows:

- 2.1 To talk on a one to one basis between the party who is offended and the one who is perceived to have caused the offence.
- 2.2 If 2.1 fails, talk as in 2.1 but with 2 or 3 mature believers.
- 2.3 If 2.2 fails, take the matter to the local church in order to get more assistance.
- 2.4 If steps 2.1 to 2.3 fail, treat the unrepentant guilty party as an unbeliever.

BYE-LAW 3 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH/SUB-DISTRICT/DISTRICT BOARD OF ELDERS

3.1 Local Church Board of Elders (LCBE):

- a) To be custodians of the doctrine of the Evangelical Church at the local church level.
- b) To be custodians of the property (and property register) of the Evangelical Church at the local church.
- c) To advise the Church Board and the local church on spiritual and disciplinary matters referred to it by the Church Board.
- d) To handle disciplinary matters concerning elders and pastors.
- e) To refer all unresolved disciplinary matters concerning the pastor to the District/Sub-District Board of Elders.
- f) To work with the local pastor in leading and monitoring all the activities, fellowships including elections and committees of the LC.
- g) To exercise final authority on issues pertaining to all spiritual and disciplinary matters in the LC.

- h) After assisting in the selection of a new local pastor to take such names to the District and National Board of Elders for final ratification.
- i) To recommend to the DBE the ordination of LC pastors.
- j) To approve all teaching material intended to be presented to any group of fellowship in the Local Church. these materials should be received two months in advance for approval.

3.2 The Functions of the District/Sub-District Board of Elder (DBE/SDBE) shall be:

- a) The same as (a) and (b) in 3.1 except that the words "local church" are substituted by "District/Sub-District".
- b) The same as (c) in 3.1 except that the words "Church Board and local church" are substituted by "District/Sub-District Council".
- c) To arbitrate on problematic and disciplinary issues involving Church members, pastors and elders in the District/Sub-District.
- d) To keep a pool of prospective pastors for the District LC's and assist local churches in the District in the selection, transfer and suspension of the local pastor.
- e) To liaise with the National Board of Elders to which they refer all unresolved issues.
- f) To assist the chairman in guiding the activities of the DC.
- g) To recommend the ordination of District EC members to the NBE.
- h) To ensure that in the event that a pastor is incapacitated an interim arrangement with the local church concerned is made.
- i) To refer issues, they cannot resolve to the NBE.
- j) To approve all teaching materials intended to be presented to any group of fellowship in the S. these Sub/District. These materials should be received two months in advance for approval.

BYE-LAW 4 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH BOARD

- 4.1 To assist the local Pastor and Elders in setting up and/or coordinating and monitoring the goals, mission and operations of the local church as well as committees and fellowships in the local church.
- 4.2 To collect and manage the various finances of the local church.
- 4.3 To assist the pastor to meet the physical, social and spiritual needs of the local church.
- 4.4 To make frequent reports to the local church on various pertinent issues.
- 4.5 To consult the local church on issues that could cause dissension in the local church.
- 4.5.1 To recommend to the local church the appointment or suspension of a local church Pastor after consultation with the Local Church Board of Elders (LCBE). Where there is no local church BOE, to consult sub-district/district BOE. Approved maximum time frame without a Pastor is three (3) years.
- 4.5.2 Where there are delays or problems of the appointment of a Pastor exceeding a period of more than three (3) years, the SDBE/DBE shall assume a more active role and second an interim relief Pastor or /leading Elder until the church makes a decision, in consultation with the local church.
- 4.6 To assist the pastor in ensuring that the aims, doctrine, constitution and procedures of the EC are upheld by the local church.
- 4.7 To refer any matter/issue of the local church Board of Elders with which they disagree to the SDBE/DBE.

BYE-LAW 5 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT/SUB-DISTRICT COUNCIL AND CHURCH CONFERENCE

5.1 DISTRICT/SUB-DISTRICT COUNCIL:

- 5.1.1 To monitor the goals, missions and operations of the Evangelical Church denomination at the District/Sub-District level.

- 5.1.2 To ensure that the local churches in their district/sub-districts fulfill the decisions of the National Council and National Church Conference.
- 5.1.3 To plan and run the District/Sub-District Church Conference.
- 5.1.4 To submit District/Sub-District reports and discussion items to the District Church conference prior to the National Church Conference.
- 5.1.5 To prepare the annual budget for the District/Sub-District operations.
- 5.1.6 To handle administrative and disciplinary matters concerning local churches in the District/Sub-District (except discipline for pastors and elders).
- 5.1.7 To carry out Bye-Law 5.1 with the authorization from the District Church Conference and the guidance of the DBE.
- 5.1.8 To meet at least twice a year.

5.2 DISTRICT/SUB-DISTRICT CHURCH CONFERENCE (DCC/SCC)

- 5.2.1 To monitor the goals, missions and operations of the Evangelical Church at the District/Sub-District level under the authority of the NCC.
- 5.2.2 To recommend the formation of sub-districts and submit same to the National Council/Church Conference for approval.
- 5.2.3 To choose the Executive of the District/Sub-District Council.
- 5.2.4 To receive and discuss reports and recommendations from the District/Sub-District Councils, Local churches, District CRC and other committees and fellowships in the District.
- 5.2.5 To submit district reports to the National Council prior to the meeting of the National Church Conference.
- 5.2.6 To receive, discuss names of prospective Ordainees and recommend them to the IBE through the National Board of Elders.
- 5.2.7 To elect the five members of the District CRC every three (3) years subject to Article XVI.
- 5.2.8 To exercise final authority/decision on issues pertaining to the EC administration at District/Sub-District level and refer issues they cannot resolve to the next level of authority.

**BYE-LAW 6 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL CHURCH
CONFERENCE (NCC)**

- 6.1 To monitor the goals, missions and operations of the Evangelical Church in the country.
- 6.2 To carry out Bye-Law 6.1 in full co-operation with the Evangelical Church International Church Conference and the IBE.
- 6.3 To elect the Executive of the National Council after every three (3) years, subject to the provisions of Article XIV.
- 6.4 To elect ad-hoc committees, committees and commissions of inquiry at each conference to carry out specific urgent/special duties assigned to them.
- 6.5 To authorize the ordination of those pastors who have been recommended by the Districts.
- 6.6 To consider, co-ordinate and approve all the proposed national constitutional changes before submitting same to the ICRC.
- 6.7 To approve the establishment of a new district and/or sub-districts.
- 6.8 To provide and/or approve the establishment of a head office and its personnel for the country.
- 6.9 To approve the annual budget for the country.
- 6.10 To receive and approve all reports pertaining to the national work of the Evangelical Church.
- 6.11 To elect the five members of the National CRC every three (3) years subject to the provision of Article XIV.
- 6.12 To exercise final authority/decision at the national level on issues pertaining to the EC.

**BYE-LAW 7 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL (NC) AND
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL (IC)**

7.1 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL (NC)

- 7.1.1 To monitor the objectives, mission and operations of the EC at the national 1 level.

- 7.1.2 To carry out Bye-Law 7.1 with the authorization of the National Church Conference/Convention.
- 7.1.3 To encourage and ascertain that the District/Sub-District Councils fulfill the functions and decisions of the National Church Conference in a spirit of unity and co-operation.
- 7.1.4 To prepare the annual budget for the National Church Conference/Convention.
- 7.1.5 To submit reports of the work of the National Council to the National Church Conference/Convention.
- 7.1.6 To link up the work of the country with that of the other countries through the International Church Conference/Convention and to give annual national reports to the ICC and IBE.
- 7.1.7 To prepare for and lead the National Church Conference/Convention.
- 7.1.8 To represent the country in interdenominational and international Christian organizations.
- 7.1.9 To appoint church lawyers.
- 7.1.10 To exercise the right to acquire any inheritance and donations on behalf of the Evangelical Church at National Level.
- 7.1.11 To exercise the right to acquire any inheritance and donations on behalf of the Evangelical Church at National Level.

7.2 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL (IC)

- 7.2.1 To monitor the objectives, mission and operations of the EC at International level.
- 7.2.2 To carry out Bye-Law 7.2.1 with the authorization of the International Church Conference.
- 7.2.3 To encourage and ascertain that the National Councils fulfill the functions and decisions of the International Church Conference in a spirit of unity and co-operation.

- 7.2.4 To prepare the annual budget for the international Church Conference/Convention.
- 7.2.5 To submit reports of the work of the international Council to international Church Conference.
- 7.2.6 To link up the work of the countries through the International Church Conference and to give annual international reports to the ICC.
- 7.2.7 To prepare for and lead the international Church Conference/Convention.
- 7.2.8 To represent the church in interdenominational and international Christian organizations.
- 7.2.9 To appoint church lawyers.
- 7.2.10 To exercise the right to acquire any donations on behalf of the Evangelical Church at international level.
- 7.2.11 To act as the highest administrative leadership body of the Evangelical Church.

BYE-LAW 8 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF ELDERS

- 8.1 To make final national decisions on issues pertaining to the EC doctrine and Evangelical Church property in a country.
- 8.2 To carry out its work under the authority vested in it by the National Church Conference.
- 8.3 To carry out 8.1 and 8.5 in co-operation with the District Boards of Elders.
- 8.4 To give reports to the National Church Conference/Convention on their activities.
- 8.5 To act as advisor to the National Council on matters of discipline and spiritual growth.
- 8.6 To be responsible for all national Evangelical Church pastors in a country; to do this under the authority vested on them by the National Church Conference/Convention.
- 8.7 To keep a national register of assets of the church

8.8. To approve all teaching material intended to be presented to any group of fellowship at National level. These materials should be received two months in advance for approval.

8.9. To exercise authority on matters of discipline.

BYE-LAW 9 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELDERS (IBE)

9.1 To ascertain that the Evangelical Church doctrine is adhered to by the whole Evangelical Church

9.2 To carry out its work under the authority vested in it by International Conference of Pastors and Elders

9.3 To meet at least twice a year

9.4 To act as advisor to the International Council on matters of discipline and spiritual growth

9.5 To exercise final authority on matters of discipline referred to it by the NBE.

9.6 To be responsible for all Pastors in the Evangelical Church; to do this under the authority vested on them by the International Pastors and Elders Conference.

9.7 To be responsible for the development of spiritual Leaders in the church, including planning of training (both full-time and part-time)

9.8 To approve all teaching material intended to be presented to any fellowship at International level. These materials should be received two months in advance for approval.

9.9 To craft strategies for the furtherance of the Gospel Message

BYE-LAW 10 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE/CONVENTION (ICC)

10.1 To appoint temporary committees for specific assignments during the course of the ICC.

10.2 To have the final authority in the adoption, amendment, ratification and interpretation of the Evangelical Church Constitution.

- 10.3 To provide an opportunity for the 'Evangelical Church' to develop unity in Christ and maturity in the Christian faith.
- 10.4 To authorize the National Councils to submit those approved amendments in 10.2 to the authorities of their respective national Governments.
- 10.5 To elect the executive officers of the IBE in accordance with the provisions of Article XIV.
- 10.6 To have the IBE ordain the pastors that are recommended by the NCC at the ICC meetings.
- 10.7 To have the final authority on any issue pertaining the constitution.

BYE-LAW 11 THE FUNCTIONS OF ALL CHAIRPERSONS AND THEIR VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

- 11.1 To conduct meetings in accordance with universally accepted procedures.
- 11.2 To co-operate with their members in order to achieve the goals of the church.
- 11.3 To work with the pastor in representing the local church whenever required to do so.
- 11.4 To check all the relevant records and books.
- 11.5 To represent the Board or Committee whenever necessary.
- 11.6 To co-ordinate with the pastor, secretary and other officers in organizing future Board meetings.
- 11.7 To liaise with the pastor on all issues pertaining to the local church board.
- 11.8 The Vice-Chairperson will assume full responsibility in the absence of the Chairperson.

BYE-LAW 12 THE FUNCTIONS OF ALL SECRETARIES AND THEIR VICE SECRETARIES:

- 12.1 To keep records and files.
- 12.2 To compile relevant records and other information except finances.
- 12.3 To do all correspondence.
- 12.4 To announce meetings after consulting with their Chairman/Pastor.
- 12.5 To be the custodian of information in the Conference, Council, Board, and Committee about the Evangelical Church.

- 12.6 To do any other secretarial jobs assigned to them by their Council, Board, Conference and Committee.
- 12.7 To train other secretaries within the sphere of their mandate.
- 12.8 To write minutes.
- 12.9 To send minutes to all members, as agreed upon, within the specified time.
- 12.10 The Vice-Secretary will function fully and assume responsibility in the absence of the Secretary.

BYE – LAW 13 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TREASURER

The functions of the Treasurer will be:

- 13.1 To receive, record and bank all incoming finances.
- 13.2 To record all the receipts or received monies.
- 13.3 To keep all the receipts.
- 13.4 To issue receipts for income, when necessary.
- 13.5 To prepare the annual budget.
- 13.6 To give reports on income, expenditure and balance at least once in every three months (quarterly) and at the end of the financial year.
- 13.7 To consolidate financial reports of all the subordinate treasurers into one report.
- 13.8 Where necessary the senior treasurer will train and encourage all the subordinate treasurers.

BYE-LAW 14 THE BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF A PASTOR AND AN ELDER (I TIM. 3: 1-7; TIT. 1: 6-9)

The pastor or elder of a local Church:

- 14.1 Must be above reproach (I Tim. 3: 2)
- 14.2 Must be a husband of one wife (I Tim. 3:2)
- 14.3 Must be temperate or self-controlled (I Tim. 3:2)
- 14.4 Must be prudent (I Tim. 3:2)
- 14.5 Must have a good reputation or must be respectable (I Tim. 3:2)
- 14.6 Must be hospitable (I Tim. 3:2)
- 14.7 Must be able to teach (I Tim. 3: 2)
- 14.8 Must not be addicted to wine (I Tim. 3:3)
- 14.9 Must not be pugnacious (I Tim. 3: 3)
- 14.10 Must be gentle (I Tim. 3: 3)
- 14.11 Must not be violent (I Tim. 3: 3)
- 14.12 Must be free from the love of money (I Tim. 3:3)

- 14.13 Must be a good manager of his own household (I Tim. 3: 4 – 5)
- 14.14 Must not be a new convert (I Tim. 3: 6)
- 14.15 Must have a good reputation with those outside the Church (I Tim3: 7)
- 14.16 Must not be fond of sordid gain (Tit. 1: 7)
- 14.17 Must be devout (Tit. 1: 8)
- 14.18 Must subscribe to the EC Constitution, teachings and doctrine.

BYE-LAW 15 THE BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF A DEACON (I TIM 3: 8 – 13)

A deacon:

- 15.1 Must have a good character (I Tim. 3: 8)
- 15.2 Must not be double-tongued (I Tim. 3: 8)
- 15.3 Must not be addicted to wine ((I Tim. 3: 8)
- 15.4 Must not be greedy for money (I Tim. 3: 8)
- 15.5 Must hold the mystery of faith in a pure conscience (I Tim. 3: 9)
- 15.6 Must have a good reputation (Acts 6: 3)
- 15.7 Must be blameless (I Tim. 3: 10)
- 15.8 Must have a wife/ husband who is thoughtful, faithful, does not gossip and temperate (I Tim. 3: 11)
- 15.9 Must be a husband/wife of one wife/ husband (I Tim. 3: 8)
- 15.10 Must be a good manager of his/her own household (I Tim 3: 12)
- 15.11 Must be Spirit filled and wise (Acts 6: 3)
- 15.12 Must have been tested before she/he becomes a deacon (I Tim. 3: 10)
- 15.13 Must not be a new convert (1 Tim 3:6)

BYE-LAW 16 THE APPOINTMENT, DISCIPLINE, RESIGNATION AND SUSPENSION OF A PASTOR IN THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

- 16.1 The local church or the District Board of Elders (DBE) concerned may initiate the appointment, discipline or suspension of a local pastor. A pastor may initiate his appointment to or resignation from a local church.
- 16.2 The DBE can only refuse appointment of a pastor based on Bye-Law 14. Further, the said Board can initiate discipline and suspension on grounds that the pastor has violated Bye-Law 14.
- 16.3 In all four cases listed in Bye-Law 16 there must be consultation between the local church and the DBE.

- 16.4 In the case of discipline or suspension, if there is no agreement in 16. 3 above, the DBE shall withdraw the pastor concerned. In the case of suspension or resignation, the IBE shall withdraw his ordination certificate and where applicable shall withdraw his authorization as an Evangelical Church marriage officer.
- 16.5 In the case of appointment, if there is no agreement in 16.3 above, the District Board of Elders will refer the matter to the National Board of Elders for a final resolution.
- 16.6 In the case of appointment if there is agreement in 16.3 above the local church shall write a letter inviting the pastor concerned.
- 16.7 A new pastor in a local church shall be introduced at the National and International Church Conference by the District or National Board of Elders concerned (respectively).
- 16.8 In the case of suspension or discipline, if there is agreement in 16.3 above, the District Board of Elders shall withdraw and/or discipline the pastor concerned. During the period of suspension or discipline no local church of the EC should engage such a pastor in any ministry.
- 16.9 The local church must discuss all issues leading to appointment, discipline and suspension of a pastor in a joint meeting of the Local Church Board of Elders and the Executive of the Local Church Board.
- 16.10 The District Board of Elders working together with the local church concerned must take care of the pastor spiritually and/or materially until he recovers. His salary shall be decreased or cut off.
- 16.11 Should the views of any pastor relating to any of the items in the statement of faith, constitution or procedures subsequently change so that he is no longer in agreement therewith, he must write a letter of resignation to the District Board of Elders through the local church board; otherwise the DBE will automatically withdraw the pastor concerned.

BYE-LAW 17

TRANSFERRING A PASTOR FROM ONE LOCAL CHURCH TO ANOTHER

- 17.1 The two local churches concerned or the District Board of Elders concerned may initiate the transfer of a pastor from one local church to another.

- 17.2 A pastor can initiate his own transfer through the local church he is pastoring. The District Board of Elders shall implement the transfer.
- 17.3 The District Board of Elders must ensure close consultation a year in advance among the parties (church being transferred from; church being transferred to and pastor) concerned at all times.
- 17.4 If transfer is to another district in the same country, the same procedure as in 17.3 above must be followed except that the parties concerned shall include the District Board of Elders to which the pastor is transferred.
- 17.5 A transfer of a pastor can only be considered if there has been no violation of Bye-Law 14 by the pastor.
- 17.6 If a pastor is transferred to a different country, consultation in accordance with 17.3 above must include the two National Councils involved and the DBE involved.
- 17.7 The consultations leading to a transfer must take at most three (3) months.
- 17.8 Transport expenses in transferring the pastor shall be borne by those responsible for the transfer.
- 17.9 A new pastor in a local church shall be introduced to the church by the DBE working with the DC concerned.

BYE-LAW 18 OTHER SERVANTS OR STEWARDS OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

- 18.1 All those who serve in the Evangelical Church in different capacities will be regarded as its servants or stewards or serving laity. They will be encouraged to contribute their expertise in God's service.
- 18.2 The steward will be consulted by those who need his/her service upon the following conditions:
- 18.2.1 A defined job description.
 - 18.2.2 An agreed salary payment.
- 18.3 The terms of reference will be clearly explained and understood by all parties concerned before embarking on the work or project.

BYE-LAW 19 MISSIONARIES OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

- 19.1 The missionaries of the Evangelical Church will be those fellow-workers who have been sent to open a new mission field by way of evangelism and church planting.
- 19.2 a) Local missionaries are those which the Evangelical Church sends within a country/community for the purpose of carrying out the work in 19.1 above.
b) International missionaries are those that are sent by the Evangelical Church outside their own countries to carry out the work stated in 19.1 above.
- 19.3 a) International missionaries will be commissioned by the IBE in consultation with the NBE's and NC's concerned.
b) Structures within a country shall commission local missionaries in consultation with other relevant local bodies.
- 19.4 The sending agency will sign an agreement with the missionary which must be consistent with the Evangelical Church doctrine and procedures.
- 19.5 Irrespective of who the sending agency is, the said missionary must be approved by the National Board of Elders and must be introduced at the National Church Conference.

BYE-LAW 20 AN ORDAINED PASTOR WHO COMES FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION

- 20.1 Any pastor wishing to become a member of the Evangelical Church will do so through the local church.
- 20.2 The local church will take the following steps:
 - 20.2.1 It will investigate his background.
 - 20.2.2 It will demand his testimonial from his previous leadership.
 - 20.2.3 It will make sure that he has fully accepted the Statement of Faith and the Constitution of the Evangelical Church; he shall also serve internship for one year under a pastor appointed by the DBE/NBE.
 - 20.2.4 It will take this matter to the District Board of Elders for consultation and final approval.
 - 20.2.5 He must have been trained at an institution recognized by the Evangelical Church for a period of not less than three (3) years.

- 20.2.6 Should the feeling be that his training is inadequate he will be sent to a Bible School approved by the International Board of Elders.

BYE-LAW 21 THE FUNCTIONS OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

- 21.1 A local church will have an elder or elders who will assist the pastor in the spiritual welfare of the church.
- 21.2 The local church will also have deacons or helpers who will look after the material and spiritual needs of the church.
- 21.3 The elders: –
- 21.3.1 May be authorized to dedicate children, preach, baptize, conduct the Holy Communion, and teach and to solve problems in a local church.
 - 21.3.2 May or may not receive pension when they reach the retirement age – depending upon the circumstances and the financial resources.
 - 21.3.3 Normally elders shall not serve as church office bearers.
 - 21.3.4 The deacons: -
 - 21.3.5 Will be co-workers together with the elder(s) and/or pastor.
 - 21.3.6 Will be selected in keeping with provisions in Article XIV for a period of three (3) years at a time.
 - 21.3.7 The church board or the local Church Board of Elders may recommend elections of new deacons prior to the end of term.

BYE-LAW 22 PENSION AND RETIREMENT

- 22.1 Pension will be the support of a retired Pastor.
- 22.2 Retirement will be the discontinuation of the service or stewardship of a Pastor as a full-time worker.
- 22.3 The retirement age of a Pastor shall be sixty-five (65) years of age. A retired Pastor shall continue to be an Elder in a Local Church of his choice.
- 22.4 A pastor will be free to apply to the Local Board of Elders to retire before he reaches the retirement age and to draw his periodical pension.
- 22.5 The compulsory retirement age of a Pastor shall be sixty-five (65) years. A local church may re-engage a retired Pastor in consultation with the Sub/District Board of Elders, on contract basis but not exceeding 75 years of age. The effective date of retirement shall be based on the date of birth.

- 22.6 The retired pastor will vacate the local church premises within six (6) months from the date when he was officially notified in writing by the District Council working together with the District Board of Elders.
- 22.7 In connection with the pension fund:
- 22.7.1 All National Councils shall establish retirement funds for their pastors.
 - 22.7.2 A pastor will contribute a stipulated amount into the fund.
 - 22.7.3 All local churches will contribute towards the pastors' pension fund.
 - 22.7.4 The church members and any other donor will be asked to contribute towards the fund.
 - 22.7.5 The National Board of Elders shall monitor all matters concerning pensions and retirements.
- 22.8 Special recognition in honour of the retiring pastor will be held at the local church and at international levels.
- 22.9 Leading Elders shall retire at 65 years of age. A retired Leading Elder may be re-engaged as a Leading Elder until the age of 75, thereafter revert to ordinary eldership.

BYE-LAW 23 THE PASTOR'S SALARY (I TIM. 5: 17–18)

- 23.1 A pastor shall be paid by the local church he is serving (unless otherwise agreed by the DCC/NCC).
- 23.2 In connection with his support the National Board of Elders:
- 23.2.1 Will stipulate the monthly salary based on criteria the Board sets from time to time.
 - 23.2.2 Will ensure that the Pastor's annual increment is effected at the end of each church year.
- 23.3 The local church will pay for his travelling expenses which are related to the church work.
- 23.4 At the end of each church year, the pastor shall be paid a 13th cheque.

BYE-LAW 24 THE DUTIES OF A PASTOR/LEADING ELDER

The pastor/leading elder shall be the leader of the local church he is pastoring.
His duties shall be: -

- 24.1 To teach the local church the Word of God and the Constitution of this Denomination.
- 24.2 To lead, train and preach to the local church and develop its leaders.
- 24.3 To chair the local elder's meetings.
- 24.4 To organize and administer the local church with the assistance of various committees, ministries and fellowships of which he is a full member and overseer.
- 24.5 To evangelize and establish new work wherever and whenever the Lord leads.
- 24.6 To be involved in certain social activities and/or civic responsibilities in the community.
- 24.7 To represent the local church in all meetings of the Evangelical Church requiring his presence or services.
- 24.8 To help resolve problems in the local church.
- 24.9 To evangelize inside and outside the church.
- 24.10 To execute the ordinances of the Lord and other services of the Evangelical Church, like dedication of children, baptism, performing marriages and Holy Communion.
- 24.11 To ascertain that the local church and the Denomination's goals are fulfilled.

**BYE-LAW 25 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH TOWARDS
THE PASTOR**

- 25.1 It will support him in his church programs.
- 25.2 The local church will provide a parsonage.
- 25.3 The Pastor becomes disabled while on duty, the church shall assist him.
- 25.4 The local church will give him leave of twenty –eight (28) working days per annum. Such leave can only be accrued up to 56 days; provided there is prior approval by the local church, after which it shall be forfeited.

BYE-LAW 26 THE PASTOR'S WIFE

- 26.1 Being the wife of the pastor will not automatically guarantee that she shall hold office in the local church.
- 26.2 She will be elected, like any member of the local church, to serve in accordance with her spiritual gifts.
- 26.3 She will have to vacate the parsonage of the Evangelical Church and its premises not later than one year after the death of her husband unless a special arrangement has been made.

BYE-LAW 27 THE WITHDRAWAL OF A MEMBER FROM LEADERSHIP

- 27.1 Any member of any board or committee shall be withdrawn from leadership if-
 - 27.1.1 That person commits sins of immorality.
 - 27.1.2 That person becomes an apostate.
- 27.2 The Biblical procedure in resolving conflicts (Mat. 18: 15 – 17) will always be followed before withdrawing the person from leadership.
- 27.3 The withdrawal shall be effected by the body which appointed the leader concerned.

BYE-LAW 28 HOLY COMMUNION (I COR. 11: 17 – 34)

- 28.1 Holy Communion participants shall be the saved and baptized members.
- 28.2 Those who are under discipline shall not partake in Holy Communion.
- 28.3 Saved persons from other denominations may take part in the Holy Communion service.
- 28.4 The Holy Communion service will be conducted by any E.C. ordained pastor or authorized elder.
- 28.5 This service shall be held at least once a month.
- 28.6 Non-Alcoholic wine or red grape juice shall be used for the service.

BYE-LAW 29 BAPTISM (MAT. 28: 19)

- 29.1 All persons who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour shall be baptized (Mat. 28: 19)
- 29.2 Baptism shall be by single immersion.
- 29.3 It shall be done in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mat. 28: 19).
- 29.4 There shall be no infant baptism.
- 29.5 Baptism shall be conducted by any ordained pastor or an elder in the church.
- 29.6 Before being baptized, the candidates shall –
 - 29.6.1 Be counseled and confirm that they have already accepted Jesus as their Saviour.
 - 29.6.2 Be given Bible lessons on the meaning of baptism.
- 29.7 After baptism, the candidates shall –
 - 29.7.1 Be officially accepted into membership of their local church.
 - 29.7.2 Be given a baptismal certificate.

BYE-LAW 30 CHRISTMAS (LUKE 2: 1 - 7)

- 30.1 The local church or local churches shall hold a service on Christmas Day.

**BYE-LAW 31 THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST –EASTER
I Cor. 15: 1 – 11**

- 31.1 Local churches of the District or Sub-District shall hold services together.
- 31.2 The District or Sub-District may select any appropriate theme depending on the current needs of the churches.
- 31.3 The participating local churches shall bear all the expenses thereof.

BYE-LAW 32 ASCENSION DAY (Acts 1: 9 – 11)

- 32.1 The local church shall hold a service/s to commemorate the ascension of our Lord.

- 32.2 The local church may select any appropriate theme depending on the current needs of the church.

BYE-LAW 33 DEDICATION OF CHILDREN (MARK 10: 13 – 16)

- 33.1 The Evangelical Church shall dedicate/bless children for the sole purpose of asking God to give the parents/guardian wisdom in raising the child in a God – fearing way.
- 33.2 The parents of the children and the local church shall be given the relevant teaching.
- 33.3 The dedicated child will be given a dedication certificate.
- 33.4 The child will be brought in by both of his/her parents to the assembly, provided that they are married (Bye-Law 36) or by his/her guardian.
- 33.5 Dedication shall be done by any ordained pastor or elder.

BYE-LAW 34 ENGAGEMENTS

- 34.1 This Church shall practice engagement service.
- 34.2 The service can be held at a place or time with the full support and knowledge of the two local churches (including Local Board of Elders) of the couple.
- 34.3 The Evangelical Church does not encourage excessive spending on this service.

BYE-LAW 35 MARRIAGE/WEDDING (I COR. 7: 1 – 5)

- 35.1 Marriage officers shall be: -
- 35.1.1 Ordained pastors or authorized elders.
 - 35.1.2 The legal or gazetted marriage officer.
 - 35.1.3 Marriage officers in the Evangelical church shall also be registered by the National Council and be accountable to it.
- 35.2 Marriage in this Denomination shall be governed by the Christian rites as stated in the Bible (Hebrews 13: 4, Romans 7: 1 – 3).

- 35.3 If the sin of fornication was committed, the situation will be handled according to the disciplinary procedures of the Evangelical Church as stated in Bye-Law 63.
- 35.4 There shall be no divorce (Matt 19: 3- 12).
- 35.5 If one of the partners dies, the remaining spouse is free to re-marry.
- 35.6 Ancestor worship in a marriage ceremony shall not be allowed.
- 35.7 The relationship between husband and wife shall be guided by Scripture (I Peter 3: 1 – 7, Gal. 3: 28)
- 35.8 Whilst Children are a blessing from God, marriage is complete without children.
- 35.9 A married person is not allowed to have another spouse unless the first one is dead.
- 35.10 Marriage shall not be allowed between persons of same sex.
- 35.11 Marriage between two individuals must be solemnized by an ordained pastor or authorized elder in the church or in a place of the couple's choice.
- 35.12 According to Genesis 2: 24 – 25, the two married persons are one flesh and, therefore, form a new family unit. They, and they alone, are accountable to God for their decisions and actions in their marriage.
- 35.13 Church members shall be expected to care for and respect their parents.
- 35.14 The couple to be married is encouraged to be moderate in their wedding expenses.
- 35.15 An all - night reception shall not be allowed.
- 35.16 Rituals and customs which are against the Word of God are not allowed. A couple intending to marry must go through marital counselling by a trained and approved marriage officer before they are married.

BYE-LAW 36 FUNERAL

- 36.1 Funeral services shall be administered by the Evangelical Church.

- 36.2 This service shall be administered by a pastor or any elder of the Evangelical Church.
- 36.3 Unchristian rituals will not be allowed.
- 36.4 This denomination shall encourage spiritual and material assistance to the bereaved. I Cor. 4: 13; Acts 4" 32)
- 36.5 There shall be no post –funeral services such as ‘ritual cleansing of water’.
- 36.5.1 Being unclean before God is caused by sin in a person’s life (Mark 7: 1 - 23); real cleanliness is being holy before God.
- 36.5.2 Christian doctrine is based on the Biblical teachings, not on any culture or tradition.
- 36.5.3 The Evangelical Church bases its doctrine on the Biblical teachings.
- 36.5.4 The Evangelical Church, therefore, considers her members who are bereaved to be clean.
- 36.5.5 Evangelical Church members in mourning are entitled to full participation in all church activities.
- 36.6 Other rituals such as unveiling the stone feast, candle lighting, taking the corpse via the cattle kraal shall not be allowed.

BYE-LAW 37 EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia is not supported by this Denomination

BYE-LAW 38 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (CEC)

- 38.1 Christian Education will operate at all levels of the Church and shall be an ordinary department at the local church level.
- 38.2 Christian Education in a local church shall train all members of the local church, leaders at any church level.
- 38.3 Duties of the Christian Education Committee at the national church level shall include:
- 38.3.1 Designing and preparing lessons on the Bible and church administration.
- 38.3.2 Organizing venues and times for lessons.
- 38.3.3 Sourcing funds to meet its expenses.
- 38.4 The Christian Education mode of activity will operate from the local church level as its base, to the country level.

**BYE-LAW 39 ASSOCIATIONS AND CRUSADES OR CAMPAIGNS OF THE
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

39.1 This denomination allows the establishment of various associations, fellowships, crusades or campaigns whose main purpose will be to accomplish its goals, including:

- 39.1.1 Gospel Crusade or Evangelistic Campaign.
- 39.1.2 Christian Education Board.
- 39.1.3 Youth Fellowship.
- 39.1.4 Mothers' Fellowship.
- 39.1.5 Fathers' Fellowship.
- 39.1.6 Children Ministry Teachers' Fellowship.
- 39.1.7 Missionary Society.
- 39.1.8 Scholarship Society.
- 39.1.9 Pastors and Elders Fellowship.
- 39.1.10 Building Society.
- 39.1.11 Talent Society.
- 39.1.12 Relief Society.
- 39.1.13 Pastors and Elders Couples' Fellowships.
- 39.1.14 Couples' Fellowships.
- 39.1.15 Single Adults' Fellowships.

39.2 The mode of operation at the National level of each of them shall be authorized by the National Annual Conference.

39.3 Any alteration in the mode of operation of each one will be authorized by the National Annual Conference.

39.4 All fellowships shall have fellowship advisors at all levels of the Evangelical Church. The advisors shall be appointed by the Board of Elders at the various levels of the church. The advisors must be mature persons who thoroughly understand the Evangelical Church doctrine and constitution.

- 39.5 a) This Denomination shall establish primary and high schools; Bible colleges and seminaries, universities, training institutions and special schools.
- b) A Schools' Manager and Board of Governors composed of five members, will be appointed by the National Church Conference to run the primary and high schools. Their modes of operation will be established by the National Church Conference.

- c) Heads of the various Evangelical Church learning institutions shall be born again members of the Evangelical Church.

BYE-LAW 40 QUALIFICATION OF A PERSON TO BE ORDAINED

- 40.1 He shall be a person who has sacrificed himself to the work of the Lord.
- 40.2 He shall bear the qualifications of a person called of the Lord.
- 40.3 The local church shall bear witness about his spiritual gifts and character. He shall sign a contract that binds him to the Evangelical Church.
- 40.4 He must have studied the Bible in a Bible School/Seminary approved by the International Board of Elders for a period of not less than three (3) years.
- 40.5 The steps below shall be followed in his ordination:
 - 40.5.1 Successfully completing the term of training in an approved Bible School/Seminary.
 - 40.5.2 Pastoring a local church or carrying out any other work assigned to him by the Evangelical Church.
 - 40.5.3 The District Board of Elders may, after consultations with the local church concerned, recommend the ordination of a member to the National Board of Elders, which in turn makes recommendation to the IBE for the process to be finalized by the ICC.
 - 40.5.4 Ordination shall be at the International Church Conference.
- 40.6 Internship of a new pastor shall be for at least one year under the guidance of an experienced Evangelical Church pastor appointed by the District Board of Elders.
- 40.7 He must be willing to teach the Evangelical Church Statement of Faith.
- 40.8
 - a) The Evangelical Church shall authorise the members according to their gifts.
 - b) The church believes that the functions of an elder or pastor should be assigned to qualifying male members.
 - c) Women are authorised to serve in any other capacity e.g. Chairpersons of church boards, Preachers, Teachers, Evangelists, Missionaries etc., except as Elders and Pastors.

**BYE-LAW 41 THE AGREEMENT AND AFFIRMATION OF THE
AUTHORISED OR ORDAINED PERSON**

- 41.1 Every Ordainee (person being ordained) or authorized person shall affirm his/her stewardship, before the International Church Conference/local church respectively.
- 41.2 This affirmation by the Ordainees/authorized person shall be recited and signed by him/her before the International Church Conference/local church respectively.
- 41.3 The prayer of dedication including the laying on of hands will be made for the Ordainee/authorized person.
- 41.4 The Ordainees/authorized person will be given a certificate of ordination/ authorization signed by the Chairman of the IBE/local pastor respectively; in both cases there shall be two witnesses.
- 41.5 The affirmation by the Ordainee/authorized person will be signed in a similar way as in 41.4 above.

BYE-LAW 42 ACQUISITION OF MONEY AND PROPERTY

- 42.1 This Denomination shall acquire property, money and other articles in the following ways:
 - 42.1. 1 Buying,
 - 42.1. 2 Accepting gifts and offerings,
 - 42.1. 3 By inheritance.
- 42.2 These will be accepted and confirmed by the following official signatories:
 - 42.2.1 Local Church Board of Elders' Chairman shall sign on behalf of the denomination, or
 - 42.2.2 The National Board of Elders' Chairman.
- 42.3 By other means which agree with the Christian principles and which the National Church Conference has authorized.

BYE-LAW 43 TYPES OF OFFERINGS

- 43.1 Every local church shall have different types of free will offerings collected from willing hearts, (2 Cor. 9:7) which shall be reflected in its records, including:

- 43.1.1 Gospel/Mission fund, for evangelizing (Mat. 28: 19-20)
- 43.1.2 Relief fund, for relief work (Rom. 15: 26)
- 43.1.3 Pension fund, for retired pastors.
- 43.1.4 Transport fund, for sending delegates/representatives.
- 43.1.5 Bursary/scholarship fund.
- 43.1.6 Sunday school fund.
- 43.1.7 Sunday school teachers' fund.
- 43.1.8 Mothers' fund.
- 43.1.9 Fathers' fund.
- 43.1.10 Youth fund.
- 43.1.11 Bible school fund.
- 43.1.12 Building fund.
- 43.1.13 Talent fund, for fund raising.
- 43.1.14 Any other offering which the Denomination authorizes.

BYE-LAW 44 TITHES (MAL 3:8)

- 44.1 Every Christian shall tithe.
- 44.2 Tithing shall apply to the Christian's total income: i.e. money, livestock, crops and other possessions.
- 44.3 The Christian is expected to tithe at the local church where he attends.
- 44.4 The tithes shall be used as follows:
 - 44.4.1 Ten percent (10%) of the tithes shall support the programmes of the District/National office of the Denomination through the District /National Treasurer as agreed by the National Conference.
 - 44.4. 2 Ten percent (10%) of all tithes shall be paid to the District/National Treasurer to be used as indicated in 44.4.1 above.
 - 44.4. 3 Help meet the pastors' and elders' needs where possible.
 - 44.4. 4 Pay invited guest speakers.
- 44.5 The Pastor/Leading Elder shall pay his tithes to the local church.

BYE-LAW 45 BUILDING FUND

- 45.1 This fund shall be used for building projects of the Denomination.
- 45.2 Neighbouring local churches will be encouraged to help one another.
- 45.3 The building fund shall be used to:

- 45.3.1 Build churches.
- 45.3.2 Build parsonages.
- 45.3.3 Renovate churches and parsonages or any other building and related projects that the local church may deem necessary.
- 45.3.4 Buy property or houses.

BYE-LAW 46 SAFE KEEPING OF EVANGELICAL CHURCH MONEY

- 46.1 All the monies of the Evangelical Church shall be kept in a bank account.
- 46.2 The following procedures of keeping money in the bank must be observed:
 - 46.2.1 It shall be deposited into the account, whose signatories must have been approved by the local church, Sub/District, or National. The account must not be in the name of an individual but the church.
 - 46.2.2 The local church, Sub-District or National will authorize three signatories, depending on the bank's requirements.
 - 46.2.3 The local Church will authorize the validity of the name of the account.

BYE-LAW 47 SALE OF EVANGELICAL CHURCH PROPERTY

- 47.1 The sale of immovable property shall be authorized by the National Church Conference/Convention on recommendation by the National Board of Elders.
- 47.2 The actual sale will be executed by the local Church Board of Elders concerned and its District Board of Elders on behalf of the National Church Conference/Convention.

BYE-LAW 48 LOCAL CHURCH RECORDS AND BOOKS

- 48.1 The local church records and books shall include the following:
 - 48.1.1 Records/Books/Files/Soft copies/ Hard copies/ external drives for all departments/Fellowships and the local church. It must be clear where such church records are kept whenever references are made.
 - 48.1.2 Membership books for all departments and the local church.
 - 48.1.3 Financial records for all departments and the local church.
 - 48.1.4 Records and books for local church property (assets register).
 - 48.1.5 Register of dedicated children.

- 48.1.6 History of the local church.
- 48.1.7 Report files for the local church and its departments.
- 48.1.8 Minute files for the local church and its departments.
- 48.1.9 Correspondence files for the local church and its departments.
- 48.1.10 Membership forms file.
- 48.1.11 Evangelical Church constitution file.
- 48.1.12 Evangelical Church constitution amendments file.
- 48.1.13 Any other records and books the local church may deem necessary.

BYE-LAW 49 RECORDS AND BOOKS OF THE DISTRICT/SUB-DISTRICT

- 49.1 The Sub-District or District Secretary shall be the recorder and organizer of all records and books, other than financial records.
- 49.2 Its secretary will be responsible to train the secretaries of the local churches.
- 49.3 The Sub-District or District records and books shall include the following:
 - 49.3.1 Minute books for all departments.
 - 49.3.2 Membership books for all local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.3 Financial records for all local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.4 Stewards register for all local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.5 Asset registers for all local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.6 Statistics books for local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.7 Report files for all local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.8 Log book of the Sub-District or District.
 - 49.3.9 File for the constitution and working programmes of the Evangelical Church in the Sub-District or District.
 - 49.3.10 Correspondence files.
 - 49.3.11 Receipt files for all local churches in the Sub/District.
 - 49.3.12 Any other records or book which the Sub-District or District may deem necessary.

BYE-LAW 50 RECORDS AND BOOKS OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE

- 50.1 The national record books shall include the following:
 - 50.1.1 Minute books of the International and National Church Conference.
 - 50.1.2 Minute books of the National Council.
 - 50.1.3 Financial records.
 - 50.1.4 Log book of the country.
 - 50.1.5 Stewards register.
 - 50.1.6 Asset registers.

- 50.1.7 Register of local churches in the Sub-District /District.
- 50.1.8 Report files.
- 50.1.9 File for the constitution and working programmes of the Evangelical Church in the Country.
- 50.1.10 Correspondence files.
- 50.1.11 Receipt files.
- 50.1.12 Any other record or book which the national office may deem necessary.

BYE-LAW 51 RECORDS AND BOOKS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE/CONVENTION

- 51.1 Minute book for ICC.
- 51.2 Register of local churches, Sub-Districts, Districts and Nationals.
- 51.3 File of Evangelical Church constitution and working programmes.
- 51.4 Correspondence files.
- 51.5 Attendance registers at International General Conference/Convention.
- 51.6 Report Files.
- 51.6 Any other record or book which the IC may deem necessary.

BYE-LAW 52 RECORDS AND BOOKS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ELDERS

- 52.1 Minute book for IBE.
- 52.2 Register of local churches, Sub-Districts, Districts and Nationals.
- 52.4 Organizations register.
- 52.5 Reports files.
- 52.6 Any other record or book the IBE may deem necessary.

BYE-LAW 53 OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

- 53.1 The Evangelical Church will use its official documents whenever necessary.
- 53.2 The following certificates will be issued when appropriate:
 - 53.2.1 Dedication
 - 53.2.2 Baptism
 - 53.2.3 Ordination/ authorisation
 - 53.2.4 Local church membership
- 53.3 The following testimonials will be issued when appropriate:
 - 53.3.1 Membership
 - 53.3.2 Transfer or removal.
- 53.4 Any other document the Evangelical Church may deem necessary.

BYE-LAW 54 QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ORGANISED OR MATURE LOCAL CHURCH

- 54.1 A mature local church will show and practice works of salvation and be aggressive in evangelism.
- 54.2 All of its departments will be functioning properly with the relevant records or books.
- 54.3 It will teach the Bible in all its departments.
- 54.4 It will co-operate with other local churches of this denomination.
- 54.5 It will know and identify with the Evangelical Church Constitution and programmes.
- 54.6 It will be a praying Church.

BYE-LAW 55 REPORTS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- 55.1 Each local church will provide time for all fellowships to present their reports any time when required and especially at the end of their term of office.
- 55.2 Financial reports will be presented quarterly and annually.
- 55.3 All incoming/outgoing reports will be filed.

BYE-LAW 56 CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

56.1 Each local church under this Denomination shall be represented at the meetings in 56.1.1 to 56.1.3 below by the Pastor, Elders, Chairman of the Board, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Pastor and Elder (s) are ex-officio members.

Meetings:

56.1.1 Sub-District Council

56.1.2 District Council

56.1.3 National Council

56.1.4 Annual Sub-District/ District Conference/ Convention

56.1.5 Annual National Conference/Convention

56.1.6 International Convention/Conference

56.1.7 At each of the meetings in 56.1.4 – 56.1.6 a local church shall be represented by three delegates, the pastor and the elder (s).

56.2 Fellowship representatives:

Each fellowship under this denomination shall be represented at the various levels of the fellowships by their Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

56.3 The representatives will be responsible for reporting back to those they represent.

56.4 The representatives' expenses will be borne by those they represent.

BYE-LAW 57 POLYGAMY

57.1 A converted woman or man in a polygamous relationship can become a church member, but will be exempted from leadership in any sphere of the church.

57.2 Any church member who intentionally joins a polygamous life will be considered to have fallen into sin and will be disciplined according to Bye-Law 63.

BYE-LAW 58 DIVORCE (Mark 10: 1 – 12)

58.1 The Evangelical Church strongly opposes divorce. Its principle is based on Matthew 19: 1 – 12.

58.2 While a couple could divorce on account of adultery, the Denomination believes in the Biblical teaching of forgiveness and reconciliation even in that instance.

58.3 A divorcee will not be allowed to marry someone else while the first partner is still living and the Evangelical Church marriage officer shall not officiate in such a marriage.

58.4 A divorcee will not be allowed any leadership role in the Evangelical Church.

BYE-LAW 59 STUDENTS AT BIBLE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

59.1 Admission to Evangelical Church Bible Schools and Colleges will be open to all denominations.

59.2 The Bible Schools or Colleges will give first preference to Evangelical Church applicants.

59.3 The EC shall establish a bursary fund that will assist bible school students. This fund will be controlled by the National Council. Rules of the fund will be done by the respective National Councils for approval by the National Conference.

59.4 The local church, Sub-District, District or National shall be responsible for tuition and other financial needs of the Evangelical Church students they send to the Bible School. They shall pay the finances through the bursary fund in 59.3 above.

59.5 Any student on completion will not automatically be posted to his/her local church but shall report to the National Board of elders, which shall post him according to Bye-Law 16.

BYE-LAW 60 WITCHCRAFT, ANCESTRY WORSHIP AND IDOLATRY

60.1 This denomination condemns witchcraft, ancestral and idolatrous worship.

60.2 Parties organized and held in honour of the dead and idols shall strictly be prohibited.

BYE LAW 61 CHANNELS OR PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING NEW WORK OR NEW LOCAL CHURCHES

61.1 This can be achieved through: -

61.1.1 A member or members who are far from the nearest local church of this denomination.

- 61.1.2 A local church- the newly established local church will remain responsible to the local church which established it until it reaches maturity.
 - 61.1.3 A few local churches.
 - 61.1.4 A Sub-District, a few Sub-Districts, a District, or a few Districts.
 - 61.1.5 A National church planter or crusade by one or more countries.
- 61.2 Any church planting must work hand in hand with the nearest local church, which will carry out the necessary follow-up work.

**BYE-LAW 62 MEMBERSHIP, RESIGNATION, WITHDRAWAL AND
INCEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER**

- 62.1 Membership, resignation and inception of all Evangelical Church members will first be received and/or conducted at the local church level, to which the member is affiliated or wishes to affiliate.
- 62.2 A new member from another denomination joining the Evangelical Church shall, before his/her acceptance, normally produce a remover or a letter of transfer (or any such relevant document as may give sufficient base for his/her acceptance); such a member's case will be scrutinized by the Local Church Board of elders before acceptance.
- 62.3 A member of the Evangelical Church who is being transferred (perhaps by his employer) shall produce a letter of transfer from the previous local church.
- 62.4 In the case of a pastor from another denomination intending to join the Evangelical Church, the application will be processed by the National Board of elders on the basis of his beliefs. His case shall be handled according to Bye-Laws 15 and 16 of this Constitution.
- 62.5 Membership will be open to anyone: -
 - 62.5.1 Who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal Saviour.
 - 62.5.2 Who promises to support all the activities of this denomination in all spiritual and material aspects and has reaffirmed his membership on an annual basis.
 - 62.5.3 Who agrees with the Constitution and the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Church.

62.5.4 Who is baptised in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

62.6 A new member can be accepted into the local church in one or all of the following ways: -

62.6.1 Born again believers stand up and say "Amen".

62.6.2 Born again believers will lift up their right hands.

62.6.3 All born again believers shake the hand of the new member.

62.7 Withdrawal of a member shall be by written or verbal notice to the Local Church Board to that effect.

BYE-LAW 63 DISCIPLINING A CHURCH MEMBER (Math 18:15-18)

63.1 The aim of all discipline is to bring about forgiveness and restoration of broken fellowship with the Lord as well as fellow believers.

63.2 A church member who has fallen into sin will be handled according to the Bible (Gal. 6:1 – 2)

63.3 Such a church member will be disciplined by the local church concerned.

63.4 Such a member will not partake in the Lord's Supper and other services until the discipline period has elapsed.

63.5 The length of time of his/her discipline will depend on his/her spiritual recovery.

63.6 The pastor or spiritual leader shall do everything possible to have such a person fully recovered spiritually.

BYE-LAW 64 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRICT:

64.1 A District will be established with a minimum of ten local churches and a maximum of twenty-five local churches.

64.2 The nearest District or the District which has these local churches will first scrutinise the validity of establishing a District and then recommend to the National Conference.

64.3 The District concerned shall contact the local churches in order to find out their views.

64.4 The establishment of the District shall be done by the National Annual Conference.

64.5 A District shall normally not be more than one hundred kilometres wide.

BYE-LAW 65 THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF A SUB-DISTRICT:

65.1 A Sub-District will be established with a minimum of five local churches and a maximum of ten local churches.

65.2 The Sub-District will be established:

65.2.1 At the request of the local churches concerned.

65.2.2 If the District or National finds it necessary.

65.2.3 If the local churches concerned accept the suggestion from the District Council or National Council.

65.3 The establishment of a Sub-District shall be authorized by the National Church Conference.

65.4 The function of a Sub-District shall be to assist the District in facilitating the organization of the local churches in the Sub-District.

BY – LAW 66 ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES:

66.1 The Church has a number of commercial activities that are of an income generating nature.

66.2 All such activities will be carried out through various special purpose vehicles that will be established by the Church from time to time in order to further the aims and objectives of the Church as contained in Article ii of the Constitution.

66.3 The special purpose vehicles shall be responsible for operating the various commercial activities on behalf of the Church.

66.4 Ownership of movable and immovable property shall remain with the Church but may be administered where appropriate by a special purpose vehicle.

66.5 Activities that may be carried out through a special purpose vehicle shall be determined and approved by the National Board of Elders from time to time. Activities that may be dealt with through special purpose vehicles include, but not limited to, pre-schools, private schools, stationary distribution projects,

facilities such as National Church Centre, real estate that is let out on a commercial basis.

- 66.6 All special purpose vehicles shall be obliged to maintain separate audited books of account and will be obliged to present such books of accounts annually to the National Board of Elders and National Church Conference.
