

# **TUMAINI MINISTRIES CENTER**

**BY LAWS  
NAIROBI-  
KENYA  
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## **ARTICLE 1- PREAMBLE**

### **Our Birth and goal**

In 1992, Tumaini (hope) Ministries started as a daughter organization of Diguna (a German abbreviated word meaning “Good news for Africa”), a German evangelical mission working with the Africa Inland Church in Kenya. The goal of its two founders, Alfred Wetindi (Kenya) and Andreas Ruh (Switzerland) was to provide humanitarian help to the poor, and reach and disciple the nations with the gospel.

Tumaini Ministries center is a christian organization registered in the republic of Kenya with societies’ rule 1986 of registration No. 31225. Tumaini Ministries center seeks to develop a whole person physically an spiritually through sustainable community development activities which will meet the needs of the slum dwellers and other areas of needs. Some of these activities which are Church planting, Tumaini discipleship and Rehabilitation program, skill training like computer, sewing, health clinics, Schools and sponsorship program.

We are interdenominational and visionary, and therefore champion the potential of a wide range of people for Christian service. We value all human beings and actively participate in fulfilling the great commission.

Our goal is to have a life changing impact on our members of our congregation by evangelizing and in depth teaching of the word of God, and planting new churches through the young people in the discipleship programs of our churches. We specially emphasize on low income areas.

### **Mission**

“To establish leadership and fellowship of christian believers, healthy and stable spiritually, socially and psychologically in the slums and other areas of need. In order to fulfill this vision to have a life changing impact on the slum dwellers, we equip our church members in the word of God by in depth teaching of the word, to enable them to evangelize the community.

As a church we respect and value all people created in the image of God. We believe in the Bible as the inspired word of God and supreme authority for the church in the matters of faith and doctrines. We believe the church is called to proclaim the gospel and demonstrate holistic ministry through love and faith”

## ARTICLE 2- DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We believe in the following;

1. The divine Inspiration, authority and sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures: 2 Tim.3:14-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalms 19:7-11
2. The unity of the Godhead with the distinction of person in that unity, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Co-equal and Co-eternal, to whom equal honor is due: Duet. 6:4; Gen. 1:2,26; John 5:17,22,23; John 14:25-26; John 16:7,27,28; Phil.2:6; Heb. 1:1,3,7,8
3.
  - a. That the Son of God truly became man being begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and His righteousness is imputed to all believers John 14:3; Rom. 4:22-24; Rom.8:3; Gal. 4:4; Mat 1:20-25; Luke 1:35
  - b. That His death was a sacrifice to God and a propitiation for the remission of the sins of His people: Rom. 4:25; 2Cor.5:21; Heb.9:24-28; Heb.10:12-14
  - c. That He rose from the dead: Mat. 28:5-7; 1Cor. 15:20-30
  - d. That He ascended to the right hand of God, and is now the sufficient High Priest of His people Mark. 16:19-20; Luke 24: 50-51; Acts 1:9; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb.4:14-16; Heb.7:25
  - e. That He will come again to receive His people unto Himself and to set up his Kingdom: John 14:3; 1 Thess.4:13-18; Luke 1:32-33; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 2:44-45; Daniel 7:13-14.
4. That in consequence of the fall of Adam, man become “lost” and at “eternity against God”; Psalms 53:2-3; Luke. 19:10; Romans 3:19; Romans 5:6:12-19; Romans 8:5-7.
5.
  - a. The need of the Holy Spirit’s work in regeneration and sanctification; John 3:5-8; John 16:8-11; Tit 3:4-7; 2Thess. 2:13-14; 1Peter 1:2.
  - b. Sanctification is a state to be coveted but the doctrines of perfection in the flesh is contrary to the teaching of the Holy scripture: 2Tim 2:21; 1John 1:8.
6.
  - a. That the justification of the sinner before God is by faith alone: Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 4:4-5 Rom 5:1; Gal. 2:16
  - b. That every Justified is also born of God: John 1:12-13; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23
  - c. That such new birth should result in and be made evident by holiness of life and good works: Eph 2:10; Eph 4:24; Titus 3:4-8
7.
  - a. That at death the Spirit of man does not cease to exist or become unconscious: Eccl. 12:7; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43; 2Cor 5:6-8

- b. That the dead will be raised either to life or to condemnation and that the blessedness of the righteous and the punishment of the unrighteous will be alike, eternal: 1 Cor 15:51-57; Phil 3:20-21; Rom 14:9-10; 2 Cor 5:10; Dan 12:2; Acts 17:31; Rev 20:11-15
8. That Satan is a real personality: he was created perfect by God and given power but through pride he fell and became the father of sin, the arch enemy of God and of the souls of men: Job 1:6-7; Ezek 28:14-15 Isaiah 14:12-13 1 Peter 5:8
  9. The church owns no denominational bonds but regards all believers in the Lord Christ as members of one body of Christ in common with themselves and therefore welcome in the fellowship of the holy Spirit all in Christ irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, nationality provided they sound in the faith and seeking to live godly in Christ Jesus.
  10. The church meets on the First day of each week to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread understanding this to be the pattern of corporate worship as revealed in the New Testament.
  11. The oversight of the church shall be entrusted to the local church Council who shall have the qualification specified in the scripture.

### **Summary of our beliefs**

We recognize Jesus Christ as God's living word and sacrifice for sin. It is through God's initiative in sending Jesus in to the world that receives the knowledge of God in such a way that through faith in Him one comes to the life of the believer to give direction for the living.

We recognize that the Bible is God's written word to man, revealed to and recorded by his apostles and prophets without error and it is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

We also believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as the guarantee of God's final victory over sin, evil and death. It is the privilege of those who know Christ to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation. This privilege is never to be occasioned for sin, but rather leads to a fruitful, God-pleasing life.

The Church is Christ's Body on earth in this present age. Every person who has trusted Christ is incorporated in the church.

We believe that the Lord established two ordinances to be observed until His return – baptism and the Lord's Table and we encourage participation in these by all believers. We look forward to the second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth for His own people and for the righteous judgment of all.

## **ARTICLE 3 -MEMBERSHIP**

### **a. There will be three categories of membership in Tumaini Ministries Centre:**

- I. Active/Full member
- II. Inactive/Dormant member
- III. Affiliate member

#### **Active/Full member**

One who attends regularly the meetings in the church, who contributes and participates in the work of his/her church according to the biblical teachings. An active member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church including:

- a ) The right to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Table, Baptism and marriage
- b ) To participate in the meetings of the congregation.
- c) To vote and to hold office.

#### **Inactive/Dormant member**

When a member without just cause or reason satisfactory to the local church council, shall fail to attend or manifest any interest in the church for a period of at least three months and does not participate along with other members of the congregation in church worship and church work. An inactive member cannot take part in the pastoral and administrative decisions, including voting regarding the congregation. The local church council and other members shall make every effort to re-establish the member's fellowship with the church and may restore an inactive member to active membership whenever such a person indicates a desire to be re-instated by their regular church attendance and contributions. Before a member is placed on an inactive list or dropped from the local church he/she shall be notified, where applicable.

#### **Affiliate member**

- a) This is a member of a particular Tumaini Ministries Center church who is an active member of another Tumaini Ministries Center church, that is; one who has temporarily moved to that church and has presented a recommendation letter from his/her previous church council.
- b) The member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of an active member except the right to vote and hold office. Through their conduct the affiliate member may eventually turn their status into full membership.

### **b. Responsibilities of church members.**

- I. Diligent in prayer and reading of the scriptures as per the faith of the christian church.

- II. Faithfully supporting the work of the church through the monetary giving, giving of property, time and talent.
- III. Manifesting a Christian attitude and patience in all interactions with others and especially those who are in need, sickness or distress.
- IV. Participating in evangelistic ministries.
- V. Working for peace and unity of Christ's church on earth as well as the society.
- VI. Cultivating relationships of Christian love and fellowship with all Christians in other denominations.
- VII. Sharing in the spiritual care, nurture and governance of the church in the conduct of the public worship including the administration of the Lord's Table and sharing in the pastoral work of the church with the pastors.

**c. Rights and privileges of members.**

- I. Right to participate in the public worship of the church – participation in church service in such varied forms as lay teaching, Sunday school teaching, youth work, visitation of the sick and social welfare.
- II. Right to full time engagement in the service of the church ministries.
- III. Rights to participation in the sacraments of the church.
- IV. Right to participate in the voting process of the church.
- V. Right to hold any elective office in the church.
- VI. Right to access a copy of the constitution, by laws and any other pertinent documentation.
- VII. Every member shall have a right for representation.

## **ARTICLE 4-CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

### **a. Offices of the local Church.**

- I. There will be the pastor and where necessary the assistant pastor who will deputize and carry out the duties of the pastor in his/her absence or by delegation.
- II. The sitting church councils shall consists of less than 5 members and not more than 11 members.
- III. The senior pastor shall be the chair of the local church.
- IV. The local church council will in consultation with the Pastor and Tumaini Ministries Center Executive committee (TMCEC) decide the office necessary for the local church (E.g Administrator, Evangelist etc).
- V. After the consultation, the name of the proposed office and officer will be forwarded to the Tumaini Ministries Center Executive Committee for ratification.

### **c. Duties of the Local Church Council.**

- I. To support the officers of the church to carry out their responsibility.
- II. To advise and make decisions concerning the vision of the church.
- III. To vote on issues concerning the growth and the ministry of the church members and the local church council.
- IV. To regularly attend the local church council meetings.
- V. To deliberate and make decision on issues of discipline of the church members and the local church council.
- VI. To attend the Annual General Meeting and any other meetings as would be required by the Tumaini Ministries center.
- VII. To manage the church for the purpose of giving direction to the church officers.
- VIII. To create sub committee as may be necessary, deal with various issues or matters of the church.
- IX. At least one member of the local church council shall be incorporated in any of the formed sub committees.



**d. Formation of Local Church council**

- I. The pastor and the associate/assistant pastor will be automatic member(s) of the local church council.
- II. The different departments of the church shall choose their representatives to the local church council (i.e, men, women, youth and children ministry).
- III. The representatives together with the pastor/s will then choose the other members to represent the special interests as per the need of the church.
- IV. If not elected, the senior pastor's spouse shall be ex-officio member having an automatic place in the council with no voting right.
- V. For the new church plants, the sending authority will serve the role of the local church council until such a time that the church will institute able people to take the offices.
- VI. The local church council upon its formation will vote for the office of the vice chair, secretary and the treasurer.
- VII. The assistant pastor is excluded from bearing the office of treasurer and the vice chair.

**c. Functions of the office bearers of the local church council.****1. Chairperson**

- I. The senior pastor shall be the chair and shall convene and preside over all the meetings of the local church council.
- II. Shall supervise all the affairs of the local church.
- III. Shall represent the local church in forums and shall make correspondences on behalf of the local church.
- IV. Should be one of the principal signatories to the church's bank account/s.
- V. Shall be the official correspondent of the resolutions of the local church council meetings.

**2. Assistant Chairman**

- I. Shall deputize the chair in his functions.

### **3. Secretary**

- I. Shall maintain and take care of all the church records.
- II. Shall write down and distribute the same after the meeting without delay.
- III. Shall write the letters to invite members for meetings.

### **4. Treasurer**

- I. shall disburse appropriately, under the direction of the local church council all the monies belonging to the church.
- II. Shall issue receipts of all the monies received and paid to the church.
- III. Shall ensure proper books of account of money received and paid by the church are written, preserved, and available for inspection.
- IV. Shall be a signatory to the church's bank account/s.
- V. Shall be an interested party of all money transactions in the church.