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Celestial Church of Christ U.S.A Diocese

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE USA DIOCESE 2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION
WITH THEME ‘THE CLARION CALL’ HOSTED BY REGION B HELD AT PHEASANT RUN RESORT,
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS, USA
MAY 16TH - MAY 19TH, 2019**

There were 1060 Registrants for the 2019 National Convention and \$250,000.00 was raised and expended towards the success of the Convention.

Approved Resolutions taken and ratified by the collective wisdom of over eight hundred delegates physically in attendance:

1. Establishment of a dynamic, resourceful and responsive Directorate of Public Relations.

A Directorate of Public Relation shall be established for the implementation of strong strategies that can bring improvement in the church relationships with the public, other religious organizations and even among members. The need to process information through a central professional directorate before being released to the public cannot be over-emphasized. It will save the church from the current confused multiple sources of information and enhance the corporate image of the church.

2. The Quality of Preaching in Celestial Church of Christ:

Research unveiled that most of our current sermons are too long, boring, story-telling, poor grammatically, and conveying no serious message of Salvation. This is a result of poor preparation and the church rank/position/seniority syndrome rather than ability and talent.

Henceforth, sermon should be concise, informative, pragmatic, fearless, interesting, uplifting, convicting and piercing. Story-telling and politics on the pulpit and position-based selections should henceforth give way to ability and talent. A system of evaluation should also be instituted in every parish to assess quality of sermons and provide appropriate feedback to the preacher.

3. Church Planting

Aims to bring Jesus to a lost and fallen world for the transformation of minds and redemption of souls; to populate all communities with spiritually matured churches and globalize the vision and mission of Celestial Church of Christ.

Four models are identified:

Regional Supervisors

S/E S. Oyelade
East Coast Region A

S/E M. Adekale
Great Lakes Region B

S/E J. Awosika
South West Region C

S/E P. Olaniyan
South East Region D

S/E A. Adeyefa
Washington Region E

S/E S. Olorunnshola
Texas Region G

- Mother-Daughter: Where an existing Parish provides the initial resources and leadership to get a new parish started at another optimal location.
- Pioneer Planting: Where a Shepherd or a planter and family move into a new location to start a Parish from the scratch. The planters and their families are pioneering new territory.
- Multi-Site Parish: An existing parish opens new location either to reach more non-Christians or making room for the significant growth at the existing Parish.
- The wealthy benefactor who single-handedly sponsors a new parish providing all the facilities and funding the ‘take-off’ but releasing the administration to the HQ.

Protocol

- Must first obtain a written approval of the Pastor who is the ultimate authority or an approval from the HOD representing the pastor, subject to the ratification of the Pastor.
- Must ensure that the title deed or Receipt of land/building acquisition or rental is in the name of the church.
- The incorporators must be at least three families.
- Must ensure that the Pastor and his local representatives names are on the Certificate of Incorporation.
- Must be located outside a distance of 30km or approximately 20miles to an existing parish.
- At least seven families are required to form a parish, otherwise it will be known as a House of Fellowship.
- The entire formation process must carry the approval of the State, Regional and Diocesan Supervisors. Further details can be obtained from “Church Planting Research Document of the Diocese’s “Byelaws and Manual of Instructions.”

4. Stemming Youth Emigration

- The Diocese should organize National Leadership Seminars with a pragmatic and effective well-thought-out curriculum for the youth. A curriculum designed to equip youth with the truth that Leadership is not about being in charge, it is about taking care of those in your charge.
- The Diocese should set clear codes of conduct and rules which predefined penalties for unchristian-like behavior in the church. The youth see indiscipline among the elders and parents in the church as a major factor that is sending youth out.
- Correction of youth by Elders and Shepherds are often done in a hostile, brutal and unchristian manner. If the current youth emigration must be curtailed, correction should be done with love, civility and in privacy. Shepherds and elders must listen and adjust.
- Youth should be engaged in critical areas of the church activities such as management of Information Systems, Streaming Online Services...etc. They should be used also in Sabbath days Worship Service, shall be represented in the Parochial Committee and effectively mobilized into a number of ministries in the church. Make use of their talents.
- Make your worship Service more inclusive by conducting it in English.
- Youths are required to take the initiative, do not wait to be called. Identify the gap in your parishes and fill them. If you feel as youth, there are things you can add to help the

church administration spiritually or technologically, then bring it forward to the church and take control of it.

5. Women Council

- Resolved that it is compelling for Shepherds wives to join the council and all adult women from the age of 21 years.
- It is compelling for shepherds to encourage women Evangelism at the end of Sunday Service by allocating 10 minutes to women to present the Good News of the Messiah to the Church. A Roster shall be maintained on topics and presenters on weekly basis.
- Women should be given opportunity and empowered to head some ministries, harvest committees, parochial committees...etc. Except that they cannot enter the Altar or serve as Shepherd or General Secretary for Announcement.
- But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he had denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. It was resolved that men including shepherds should create quality time including holidays with their wives. It is not only compelling but Godly.

6. Central Choir

The satisfactory performance and sacrifice of the Executive Members of the Central Choir was acknowledged and blessed with another term subject to discussion with members of the Executive. Other regions whose participation in the Central Choir is still not visible are strongly encouraged to wake up. The Central Choir is expected to continue to improve on their existing level of discipline and professionalism.

7. Abuses

Convention research paper: Diocese warned seriously on the need for every shepherd, elder and member to exercise restraint, caution and self-discipline in their relationship with spouses, children and members to avoid **Prison Ministry**. Domestic violence and abuse of spouse or children and public violence and abuse within the church through touching, groping, unholy embracing, reckless utterance and physical/verbal altercations may result in litigation and Prison Ministry. Care, Caution and self-restraint should be exercised by all.

8. Crisis resolution and Disciplinary Procedure.

A comprehensive mechanism for crisis resolution and exhaustive disciplinary procedure for various misbehaviors in the church have been promulgated for injection into the Diocesan Byelaws and Manual of Instruction. It is an Instrument of enforcement of peaceful co-existence and cordial personal inter-relationship.

9. Shepherds and Members Welfare.

Until the diocese is sufficiently stabilized financially to arrange a subsidized welfare Umbrella, every parish shall ensure that:

The shepherd is provided with a Life Policy of at least \$20,000.00.

10. The Corps of Compliance Officers.

- A National Corps of Compliance Officers was Inaugurated on Oath to operate on a national basis. All the parishes, shepherds, officers and members within the entire network are required to give them the fullest co-operation. Their Mission is Internal Control. Internal Control System consists of Internal checks and internal audit. It is a procedure established by any Corporate Entity to ensure that no individual is allowed to initiate, process and authorize any transaction in its entirety; that assigned officers perform their jobs diligently, honestly and timely; that assets are safeguarded; that liabilities are duly authorized and that losses are prevented or minimized through early detection and correction. They also ensure that the doctrines and tenets of the church are strictly observed and there is uniformity in practice from one parish to the other. The Church is a public institution run with public funds. It is therefore mandatory for every parish to comply.

11. USA Diocese's Imeko Guest House and USA Diocese's Convention Center in USA.

Presentation was made and unanimously approved by the delegates to proceed with the construction of a befitting Guest House at Imeko Celestial City, for the comfort stay of members whenever they are at Imeko. This project is scheduled for completion before the Christmas Convocation at Imeko in December 2019. Also ratified is the acquisition of land and construction of an imposing Convention/Events Center at Maryland USA as a major Income generating Investment Outlay for the diocese. A total sum of \$135,435.00 (One hundred and thirty-five thousand, four hundred and thirty-five dollars) was raised to jump-start the projects.

USA Diocese Shepherds & Church Worker's Council:

- Shepherds are encouraged to use the USA Diocese Manual of Instructions in running their Parishes to avoid litigation. We want to standardize and bring uniformity to our operations in our parishes.
- **Lighting of The Altar Candles** shall be in **Ascending Order**, by lighting the topmost candle first and the bottom right next, then the bottom left in the ascending order.
- Materials used for Naming Ceremony shall be and applied in the following order. Water, Salt, Honey with seven different fruits as prescribed in the Order of Service. Sugar is not required.

- Emphasis should be on names given to the child by the Holy Spirit and accommodation can be made to other names presented by the parents. Footnote; hands should be washed before administering water to the child.
- During Procession and Recession with the child, three male members and four female members are needed for Female Child; while four male members and three female members are needed for Male child. However, for Twins, two sets of materials shall be provided with 2 bowl of water. 3 females and 4 males would do the Procession and Recession. Where this mix is not available do what is expedient.
- Prayer point rendered before handing the child to the mother should be directed towards taking the child from Blood into Flesh, and to the Holy Spirit.
- Sanctification exercise should be duly performed in the Sanctuary after the conclusion of the naming ceremony
- The configuration of candles during **Amissa** is: For one Person Amissa, 9 Candles needed – 7 on the Altar and 1 each at the leg and 1 at the head of the Katafa, with Katafa head towards the Choir end. If more than 1-person Amissa Service, the 7 Candles will be arranged at the Altar side of the Kantaffa in a V shape while 2 candles will be added to the ones for the ‘Principal’ at the head and leg sides respectively
- For other aspects and for details please refer to CCC Order of Service.

The Flag for 2019 CCC, USA Diocese's National Convention was brought down, and the Convocation declared closed at 2.46pm (EST) after a glorious Thanksgiving Service at Prince of Peace Parish Carpentersville, IL. by the Head of Diocese.

The next USA Diocese National Convention will be held by God's grace in Washington DC Metro Region in May 2021. Until then, may God's Peace, Grace and Mercy remain abiding with all.

Sup. Evangelist Victor Adewusi
Diocesan General Secretary

VSE Joseph O Olorunnisola
Head of Diocese

USA Diocese Executive Council