THE CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN

Of

JAMAICA, INCORPORATED

And

OVERSEAS FELOLOWSHIPS

YOUTH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I **AIMS**

Under the leadership and direction of the pastors and the Executive Committee of ***The Church of The Firstborn of Jamaica, Incorporated*** (hereinafter referred to as ***THE CHURCH***), the youth of the Church, locally and nationally shall be organised in a formal manner, in order to make their contribution for effective ministry.

a. To give spiritual oversight to programmes and activities relating to the youth within THE CHURCH.

b. To encourage the youth of THE CHURCH to be fully involved in the ministry of THE CHURCH.

c. To develop and implement programmes which will provide training for the youth in THE CHURCH.

d. To create the opportunities which will facilitate the development of meaningful fellowship among the youth of THE CHURCH.

e. To motivate the youth of THE CHURCH towards an evangelistic awareness, and to create avenues for meaningful evangelistic encounters.

f. To develop and encourage interaction between the youth of THE CHURCH in Jamaica and the Overseas Fellowships.

g. To foster dependence on the Holy Spirit to create a vision of THE CHURCH'S role in the world.

h. To develop programmes and activities which will enhance the development of the youth and THE CHURCH in general.

ARTICLE II **NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

There shall be a National Youth Council within THE CHURCH, (hereinafter referred to as THE COUNCIL). THE COUNCIL shall consist of the Youth Directors of all the congregations within THE CHURCH, and two other delegates, one of whom shall be an Officer of the local Executive.

SECTION I ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

a. To set general policies that relate to the youth and their ministries within THE CHURCH.

b. To approve the objects set by the Executive of THE COUNCIL

SECTION II EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNCIL

There shall be an Executive of THE COUNCIL which shall consist of the following Officers, who shall be appointed by a Selection Committee:

a. National Youth Director

b. Deputy National Youth Director

c. The Superintendent of THE CHURCH or any other member of the Executive of THE CHURCH, as nominated by him

d. National Secretary

e. National Treasurer

f. Training/Camp Coordinator

g. Prayer/Evangelism Coordinator

h. Four Zone Coordinators

i. Two other persons who may be co-opted by the Selection Committee in its discretion, one of whom shall be a Cultural Coordinator

SECTION III CRITERIA FOR THE EXECUTIVE

The following are the criteria to be used in the selection of all officers of THE COUNCIL.

a. Persons should be in a growing relationship with the Lord and demonstrate Christian maturity.

b. Persons should be able to identify with and relate to the issues affecting the Youth.

SECTION IV NOMINATION AND ELECTION PATTERN

a. THE COUNCIL shall nominate not more than five (5) persons for each office.

c. The Selection Committee may nominate additional persons for any or all the offices.

c. The Selection Committee shall choose one (1) person from the list nominated by THE COUNCIL and /or by itself to fill each office.

d. The decisions of the Selection Committee shall be final and conclusive.

SECTION V MECHANISM OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee shall comprise:

a. The Superintendent of THE CHURCH.

b. One other member of the Executive Committee of THE CHURCH.

c. The immediate past National Youth Director (if any)

d. A Pastor of THE CHURCH appointed by the Ministerial Council, but who is not a member of the Executive Committee of THE CHURCH.

e. Three persons selected by THE COUNCIL

f. Two persons who may be co-opted by the persons mentioned in Sections V (a-e) in its discretion.

SECTION VI ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

NATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR

a. To be responsible for the coordination and functioning of THE COUNCIL

b. To represent THE COUNCIL on the Executive Committee of THE CHURCH

c. To interface with other youth bodies in Jamaica and overseas

d. To delegate responsibility where he/she sees fit

DEPUTY NATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR

a. To assist the National Youth Director and to act in his/her absence

b. To be the Public Relations Officer for THE COUNCIL

NATIONAL SECRETARY

a. To assist the National Director in preparing meeting agendas

b. To inform members of Council and Executive meetings

c. To record the Minutes of both meetings and make proper distribution to the members

Criteria:

a. Should be able to communicate effectively

b. Should be able to keep timely and proper records

NATIONAL TREASURER:

a. To present regular financial statements

d. To keep proper financial records

e. To be responsible for the collection, distribution and safe-keeping of THE COUNCIL'S funds

d. To submit to the authority of THE COUNCIL and/or The Executive

Criteria:
Should possess basic accounting / bookkeeping skills.

NATIONAL TRAINING/CAMP CO-ORDINATOR:

a. To be responsible for the organisation and execution of training activities within the Youth Departments of THE CHURCH

b. To organise and execute THE COUNCIL'S annual camps

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NATIONAL PRAYER/EVANGELISM CO-ORDINATOR:

a. To initiate and promote prayer and evangelistic/outreach activities

b. To mobilise local Youth Fellowships towards involvement in evangelism/outreach

c. To organise and promote an awareness for prayer and fasting among Local Fellowships

ZONE COORDINATORS

There shall be at least four Zones which may be increased or decreased by THE COUNCIL, with the composition of each zone to be determined by THE COUNCIL. Each zone will have a Coordinator, whose functions will be:

a. To implement THE COUNCIL'S programmes in each Zone

b. To promote integration among Youth Fellowships within each Zone

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Co-opted members shall be selected by the Executive in consultation with the Superintendent.
The Executive, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall co-opt not more than two persons as members of the Executive:

SECTION VII DISCIPLINE

a. The Executive shall exercise disciplinary control over its membership and in relation to any matter affecting the smooth running of the Executive and/or THE COUNCIL.

b. The Executive shall have the authority to recommend to the Superintendent and/or relevant Pastor that a member on the Executive and/or Youth Fellowship be disciplined.

SECTION VIII PERIOD OF SERVICE

a. THE COUNCIL and the Executive shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

c. The Executive of the Council shall exercise the right to fill by resolution, any vacancies created during its' tenure, except for that of the National Youth Director, for whom the mechanism of Article II Section V, shall apply.

SECTION IX MEETINGS

a. THE COUNCIL shall meet at least two times per year, one of which shall be known as the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

b. Any ten (10) members of THE COUNCIL may, in writing, request an extra-ordinary meeting of THE COUNCIL.

c. The Executive shall meet at least four (4) times for the year.

d. The National Youth Director may call additional meetings of the Executive from time-to-time as he sees fit.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a. To select the Executive of THE COUNCIL in the manner outlined above

a. To establish and approve general policies and plans

b. To adopt reports from the various portfolios within the Executive

ARTICLE III LOCAL FELLOWSHIP

Each local fellowship shall have an Executive of no more than seven members to serve for one year. The Youth Director shall be the Chairman.

SECTION 1 OFFICERS

Each Youth Fellowship Executive shall have at least the following officers:

a. Youth Fellowship Director

b. Deputy Youth Fellowship Director

c. Secretary

d. Treasurer

e. Prayer and Evangelism Coordinator

f. Two other members shall be elected

SECTION II SELECTION PROCESS

a. YOUTH DIRECTOR: The Youth Director shall be appointed in the following manner:

i. The Youth Fellowship of the congregation shall elect by secret ballot three persons from among themselves

ii. The Pastor shall select one of the three persons elected and the person chosen shall serve as Youth Director for a period of **two (2)** years

b. MEMBERS: The members of the Executive of the Local Fellowship, except the Youth Director, shall be elected by majority vote of the members of the Fellowship present, and those elected shall serve for **one (1)** year. This shall be done within the first month of the calendar year.

SECTION III ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The roles and functions of the Officers of the Local Fellowship shall be similar (where relevant) to those of the Officers of the Executive of THE COUNCIL.

ARTICLE IV LIMITATIONS

The National Youth Council and the Executive of the Council, in all their activities, planning and programmes, shall be subject to the leadership, direction and general authority of the Executive of THE CHURCH, and nothing in this Constitution shall or shall be deemed to contravene the Constitution of THE CHURCH, and the provisions of the Constitution of THE CHURCH shall be deemed to be a part of this Constitution where relevant.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

a. This Constitution may be amended at an Annual General Meeting by a **two-thirds** majority vote of all the members of THE COUNCIL.

b. Notice of amendment shall be circulated within the Fellowships at least **two (2) months** before the Annual General Meeting.

c. Amendments to this Constitution shall not take effect until they are ratified by the Executive Committee of THE CHURCH.