

ASSEMBLIES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST



JUDICIAL PROCEDURE

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OF THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST***

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The purpose of the Judicial Procedure is to resolve Grievances, Complaints, of Ethical, Moral, and Tenets of Faith violations brought against Ministers of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, an International organization.

Since the Bible instructs us to resolve ministerial and Church problems within the Church (I Corinthians 1:8-10), the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ does not approve of any minister in this organization resorting to the civil courts to seek resolution of conflicts that arise within the structure of the organization. This Judicial Procedure is designed to be the instrument by which the organization resolves Grievances, Complaints about the conduct of ministers, charges filed against ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ strongly condemns any attempt to prejudice the fellowship for or against the accused through any process outside this Judicial Procedure, moreover, any attempt to obstruct the Judicial Process or to intimidate, malign the character of, threaten recrimination of the accused minister, the person making the complaint, the District Representative, the Presiding Officer, Jurors, Counselors, Witnesses, or any others involved in the Judicial Process, may result in substantial disciplinary action, including the loss of one's ministerial License or Credentials.

This Judicial Procedure seeks a simple means of solving Ministerial problems in an orderly and Christian atmosphere without requiring legal training.

Pronouns, nouns, and terms used in this Judicial Procedure shall include the masculine, feminine, singular, and plural forms thereof whenever appropriate to the context.

This Judicial Procedure is to be administered by firm competent hands, of those understanding its process, governed by truth and holiness, clothes with respect, brotherly kindness, and love.

AMENDMENTS

The Judicial Procedure is a part of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ General Constitution. As such it can only be amended at the organization's regularly scheduled business meeting at the annual session of the General Conference by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting in accordance with the General Constitution.

ARTICLE I. PRESIDING OFFICERS-AT-LARGE

Section 1. Appointment

1. Two presiding officers-at-large shall be appointed by the General Board of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ for a term of two years. He shall serve wherever needed, as he is directed by the General Superintendent.

2. In the event he should resign or become disabled, if one is needed before the next General Board meeting, the General Superintendent shall be authorized to appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term.

Section 2. Qualifications

1. He shall meet the same qualifications as those established for general officers in Article IV, Section 3 of the General Constitution and By-Laws of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. He shall be of wise judgment, oriented in the Judicial Procedure and capable of discreetly and honorably presiding over a trial.

Section 3. Duties

1. To preside over judicial review committee in hearing appeals from administrative action under Article III.

2. To preside over trials, meetings of the judicial review committee as directed by the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. To set the place, date, and time of a trial under his jurisdiction. He shall notify in writing all persons involved in the trial of the place, date, and time of the trial. In case of a trial postponement or other changes, he is to reset the place, date, and time, to notify in writing all the persons involved of the changes.

4. To follow the procedure in Article VIII in selecting a jury, notifying venire men of their selection, and securing their commitment to serve.

5. To appoint an ordained minister from the area to serve as recording secretary for a trial. The recording secretary cannot be a member of the District Board that referred the case for trial.

6. To conduct a fair and impartial trial according to Article IX, and to conduct himself in a manner that will not prejudice the jury.

7. To instruct the jury on their responsibility as jurors and on the proper procedure in reaching a verdict.

8. To take appropriate post-trial actions according to Article IX.

ARTICLE II TYPES OF ACTIONS

Section 1.

1. Administrative
2. Grievance
3. Complaint
4. Charges

ARTICLE III ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Section 1.

1. An Administrative action is the action taken by the district board or national administration of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ to resolve a minister's failure, to fulfill district or national obligations when there is no trial.

2. The district board shall have the authority to request a meeting with any minister to discuss matters of ministerial and district concerns.

3. The district board shall have the authority to summon a minister for alleged failure to comply with ministerial obligations as described in the General Constitution of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, Rules and Obligations, Article VIII, Section 4; as well as all other applicable Articles, Sections, and Paragraphs, of the General Constitution and By-Laws,

4. The district taking the action may be the district of the minister or the district in which the failure or violation allegedly occurred.

5. The summons shall be by official notice, (hereafter in this judicial procedure,) OFFICIAL NOTICE, refers to a written communication sent by **Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested** or delivered in person by someone who obtains a written receipt or is accompanied by a person as a witness.

6. The summons shall cite the alleged violation and to give the place, date, and time the summoned minister is to meet with the District Board. Refusal to comply with the summons may result in severe measures to the extent that the minister may be dropped from fellowship in the organization.

7. If the District Board determines that the minister has violated one of his obligations, it may recommend to the General Secretary that the minister be dropped, or it may take other disciplinary action.

8. A minister may be dropped without trial by the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ if he fails to pay his ministerial dues in accordance with General Constitution and By-Laws (Article VIII, Section 4) of the General Constitution and By-Laws of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV GRIEVANCE

Section 1.

1. A Grievance is a problem, disagreement, or offense between ministers.

Section 2. Meeting Together

1. First, ministers should meet together alone in an effort to resolve a Grievance between them, Matthew 18:15-16 ...”Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother, But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”

2. In the event the differences are not settled in above suggested manner, the two witnesses shall consult the District Superintendent and give him opportunity to settle the matter.

3. If the foregoing steps have not brought about a satisfactory solution to the differences, the District Superintendent shall bring the matter before the District Board for further arbitration or conciliatory measures.

4. Since a grievance is defined (Article IV, Section I) as a problem, disagreement, between ministers; the decision of the District Board shall be final in such matters. The exception being: that the District Board did in some way violate the Constitution and By-Laws of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, in taking the action. The ministers must follow the appeal process as contained in this Judicial Procedure.

ARTICLE V COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION

Section 1. Complaint

1. A Complaint is a written signed allegation that a minister has failed to abide by the ministerial rules and obligations, broken his ministerial trust, violated ministerial ethics, deviated from a tenet of faith or exhibited conduct unbecoming a minister of the gospel.

Section 2. Investigation

1. When a complaint of an alleged violation is received in writing, the Superintendent of the district in which the violation allegedly occurred shall appoint two members of the District Board to serve as the investigating committee. The District Superintendent shall serve as the chairman of the committee. If the District Superintendent has a conflict of interest he shall disqualify himself and appoint a third member of the District Board to take his place as chairman.

2. A conflict of interest hereafter shall be known in this Judicial Procedure, as a conflict between a person's self-interest and his obligation to act for the fellowship.

(a). No immediate relative of the accused minister, the District Representative, the Executive Representative, shall serve on the jury, investigating committee, on the judicial review committee, or the presiding officer. An immediate relative is a spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of a person or his spouse.

3. The committee may investigate the alleged violation, taking care to safeguard the welfare of all concerned: the person making the complaint, the minister, the district, the International Organization.

4. If the committee determines at any point the investigation has no merit, it has the authority to terminate the investigation and dismiss the case. If this should be the case, the Superintendent shall notify the accused minister and the person who initiated the complaint.

5. In the investigation of a complaint, the committee is authorized to take the following steps:

a) The Superintendent shall notify the accused minister that a complaint of a ministerial violation has been received, stating the nature of the complaint.

b) The committee shall conduct an interview with the person reporting the alleged violation to ascertain its factual basis.

- c) The Superintendent shall notify the accused minister, and get his response to the complaint.
- d) The committee may interview any other persons who may have knowledge of the alleged violation.
- e) If the accused minister confesses to a violation during the investigation, the accused minister shall appear before the District Board for disposition according to Article VI, Section 4.

ARTICLE VI HEARING

Section 1. Hearing

1. A hearing is a meeting at which evidence is presented and testimony is given relative to a complaint against a minister to determine if the evidence warrants referring the case to a trial.

Section 2. Notice

1. If the investigative committee determines that the investigation indicates a need for a hearing, the District Superintendent shall submit to the District Board a written investigative report setting forth the nature of the alleged violation as the basis for a hearing.

2. The District Board shall conduct the hearing.

3. The District Superintendent shall set the place, date, and time for the hearing. The date for the hearing shall not be less than ten (10) days and not more that sixty (60) days from the time the accused minister receives notice of the hearing.

4. The District Superintendent or the District Secretary shall issue a summons to the accused minister listing the designated place, date, and time of the hearing. The summons shall be by official notice, (Article III, Section 1, Paragraphs 5, 6). He shall provide him a copy of the investigative report by official notice.

5. If a minister refuses to attend the hearing, the District Board may recommend to the General Secretary that he be dropped, without recourse to a trial.

Section 3. Procedure

1. The hearing before the District Board gives the accused minister an opportunity to explain the evidence and the District Board an opportunity to question and discuss the matter with him as brothers. The hearing should be conducted in brotherly love, with respect for all present.

2. The accused minister may have one or two counselors to assist him during the hearing. (A counselor is a person selected by the District Board, Executive Board, or the accused minister to assist during a hearing or a trial.) He must be a licensed or ordained minister affiliated with the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ. A counselor cannot be a member of the General Board unless he is assisting an Executive Representative. He shall notify the District Superintendent in writing of the names of his counselors at least five (5) days before the date of the hearing. Failure to notify the Superintendent after this manner may cause the accused to forfeit his right to counselors during the hearing.

3. The District Superintendent shall preside at the hearing and the District Secretary shall serve as recording secretary.

4. Only the members of the District Board, the accused minister, and his counselors may attend the hearing. A witness shall be present at the hearing only during his testimony. The District Superintendent shall request the recording secretary to read the investigative report before the presentation or discussion of the evidence.

5. The accused minister and his counselors may respond to the complaint stated in the report.

6. The accused minister and his counselors may present witnesses and other evidence on his behalf. The District Board may hear other witnesses who may have knowledge about the evidence stated in the investigative report.

7. Members of the District Board and the counselors for the accused minister may question any witness. In the event the accused minister does not have a counselor, he may question witnesses himself.

Section 4. Disposition

1. If the District Board determines that the evidence does not warrant a trial, it shall dismiss the complaint against the minister.

2. If the District Board determines that the evidence warrants a trial, it shall draft a charge or multiple charges, (A charge, shall hereafter be known in this Judicial Procedure, as a formal written and signed allegation that a minister has failed to abide by the ministerial rules and obligations, broken his ministerial trust, violated ministerial ethics, deviated from a tenet of faith, or exhibited conduct unbecoming as a minister of the gospel. It is the basis for a trial. It shall identify the alleged violation, specifying who committed it, where it occurred, and when it occurred.

Multiple charges may be submitted at the same trial if they are based on violations of the same nature or if they arise from the same events. It shall then forward the charge or charges to the presiding officer-at-large, as a basis for a trial. *The accused minister cannot appeal this decision of the District Board.*

3. If the accused minister confesses to the charges, as listed in Paragraph 2, then there shall be no trial. The District Board shall take one or more of the following actions on this confession.

(a) Warn and advise the minister.

(b) Take appropriate action.

(c) Recommend to the General Secretary, that the minister be dropped from membership in the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The action of the District Board shall be communicated to the minister by official notice. (See Article III, Section 1, Paragraph 5, 6).

ARTICLE VII NOTICE OF A TRIAL

Section 1. Trial

1. When the District Board refers the accused minister to the presiding officer-at-large for trial, the presiding officer shall designate place, date, and time for the trial. The date for the trial shall be set no less than thirty (30) days and not more than sixty (60) days from the date the accused is referred to trial. With the approval of the General Superintendent, the presiding officer may extend the time of sixty (60) days in the event of interruptions such as illness, disability, or other valid reasons.

Section 2. Summons

1. The presiding officer shall summon to trial the accused minister by official notice, (See Article III, Section 1, Paragraph 5, 6), and send a copy of the charge against him.

Section 3. Appear For Trial

1. The accused minister has fifteen (15) days after the receipt of the summons to trial to state whether or not he will appear for trial. If the accused minister refuses a summons to trial he shall forfeit his license or credentials without right of appeal.

Section 4. Place, Date, and Time

1. The presiding officer shall inform the District Superintendent and the accused minister by official notice (See Article III, Section 1, Paragraph 5,6), of the place, date, and time for the trial (according to Article VII, Section 1, Paragraph 1). In case of postponement, he can make an exception to the time of notice with the approval of the General Superintendent.

2. An accused minister who refuses to appear at a scheduled trial shall forfeit his license or credentials without right of appeal.

Section 5. Counselors

1. A Counselor is a person selected by the District Board, or an accused minister to assist and advise during a hearing or a trial. He must be a licensed or ordained minister of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ. A counselor cannot be a member of the general board unless he is assisting an Executive Representative.

2. The accused minister and the District Board (district representative), shall both be allowed to have one or two counselors to assist and advise during the trial proceedings.

3. The accused minister and the District Superintendent shall notify the presiding officer in writing of the names of their counselors at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the trial.

Section 6. Recording Secretary

1. The presiding officer shall appoint an ordained minister to serve as recording secretary for the trial. The recording secretary shall not be a member of the District Board that referred the case to trial.

ARTICLE VIII SELECTION OF THE JURY

Section 1. Jury

1. The jury shall consist of seven (7) ordained ministers and three (3) alternate ordained ministers.

2. Each district shall keep a venire of ten (10) or more ordained ministers. If the district does not have ten (10) ordained ministers that are eligible, the District Board shall select as many venire men as possible. They shall write the name of each venire men on a paper, place each paper in a sealed envelope identified by the name of the district, and mail the envelope to the General Secretary, who shall keep the envelopes on file until the presiding officer calls for them. The names of the venire men shall be kept secret until they are requested to serve on the jury.

3. The District Board shall up date the names of the venire men each year, preferably change the names when possible.

Section 2. Selection

1. At the request of the presiding officer, the General Secretary shall forward to him as many sealed envelopes as he requires.

2. A venire men who is a member of the accused minister's district or the district in which he is being tried shall not serve on the jury.

Section 3. Approval-Disapproval

1. The presiding officer shall send a list of the names so selected to the accused minister and the District Superintendent involved for their approval or disapproval, not more than thirty (30) days before the trial.

2. The accused minister and the District Superintendent must indicate their approval or disapproval not less than twenty (20) days before the trial date. Failure to respond may cause a forfeiture of the right to disapprove of any name.

3. In the event the accused minister or the District Superintendent disapprove a name, he shall send reasons satisfactory to the presiding officer.

Section 4. Notification

1. The presiding officer shall notify the ministers who have been selected to serve on the jury. If a selected minister has formed an opinion on the case or has a conflict of interest according to (Article V, Section 2, Paragraph 2), the presiding officer shall disqualify him from serving.

2. The presiding officer shall admonish each selected jurymen, to keep his selection a secret. He shall not discuss the case, and to approach the trial with an unprejudiced mind.

ARTICLE IX THE TRIAL

Section 1. Attendance

1. Only the presiding officer, the parliamentarian, the recording secretary, the jury and alternates, the accused minister, and his counselors, the district representative and his counselors may attend the trial. A witness may attend the trial only while giving his testimony.

Section 2. Order

1. The presiding officer shall preside over the trial. He has the authority to maintain order, rule on questions and objections, and act on any matter that will bring about a fair and impartial trial.

2. In the event the accused minister, the district representative, or any counselor becomes unruly the presiding officer shall sequester the jury and warn the person misbehaving that a continuation of such behavior could result in serious consequences; he could be dismissed from the trial and he could be dropped from the ministry of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(a) If a counselor persists in being unruly, the presiding officer shall dismiss him from the trial.

(b) If the accused minister persists in being unruly, the presiding officer shall terminate the trial and recommend to the General Secretary that the minister be dropped from fellowship in the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(c) If the district representative persists in being unruly, the presiding officer shall terminate the trial in favor of the accused minister. He shall also recommend to the Executive Board that disciplinary action be taken.

Section 3. Records

1. The recording secretary shall keep a written record and shall make one official tape recording of all the proceedings at the trial. No other tape recording of any part of the proceedings is permitted.

2. No copies of the tape recording shall be made of the court records.

3. All records of the trial shall be the property of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, held in custody during the trial by the presiding officer, who shall, if necessary, make them available to the accused minister, the district representative, and their counselors, only under his supervision.

4. No copies or tape recording shall be made of the court records.

5. After the final disposition of the case, the presiding officer together with the recording secretary shall seal the records and mail them to the General Secretary with a signed report of the action. These sealed records shall not be opened except with the approval of the General Board.

Section 4. Procedure

1. The district representative shall present the case against the accused minister first, including all testimony intended to prove the charges made against the accused minister. No questions shall be asked or evidence presented unless such questions and evidence presented have a bearing on the charge already filed in writing.

2. The accused minister shall be given time and opportunity to present his side of the case. Statements by the accused minister or his counselors must be confined to the alleged violations and must not include counter accusations against anyone. All testimony must be pertinent to the charges on which the minister is being tried.

3. A witness for either side may be cross-examined by the opposing side with due respect; no discourteous acts or words shall be permitted. The presiding officer shall be permitted to question the witness for clarification. The jury shall not be permitted to question a witness.

4. The accused minister may testify in his behalf. However, if he chooses to testify he may be cross-examined. If he chooses not to testify he shall not voice himself in any manner during the trial. Opportunity for rebuttal testimony shall be granted to both sides. After both sides have made a second rebuttal, the presiding officer may end the rebuttals, even if one or both sides wish to continue. After rebuttals, each side shall be granted an opportunity for a closing statement, with the accused minister's side being last.

5. When both sides finish their closing statements, the presiding officer shall close the proceedings.

Section 5. Deliberations of the JURY

1. At the close of the trial proceedings, the presiding officer shall give the jury a written copy of the charge.

2. The presiding officer shall instruct the jury on the procedure to reach a verdict. He may also inform the jury that it may reach one of the following verdicts:

(a) The accused minister is innocent of the charge.

(b) The accused minister is guilty of the charge as stated.

(c) The accused minister is guilty of a lesser violations that is not specified in the charge but is logically included in the charge by implication. For example, if the jury does not find the accused minister guilty of the charge of adultery, based on the evidence presented it may still find him guilty of conduct unbecoming a minister, which is a lesser included violation.

3. Only the jury shall retire to themselves to consider the verdict. They shall elect a member of the jury to serve as foreman.

4. The foreman shall preside during the deliberations. He shall call for a vote at various intervals to determine if a verdict has been reached.

5. The vote shall be by secret ballot. No verdict can be reached except by a two-thirds majority vote.

6. The foreman may come before the presiding officer and in the presence of the accused minister and the district representative or their counselors, to ask questions concerning the general constitution or the Judicial Procedure that may not be clear in the minds of the jury. Such conferences must be limited to the purpose of clarification and must not be used to discuss any evidence or testimony.

Section 6. Verdict

1. When the jury reaches a verdict, the foreman shall so inform the presiding officer, who shall call for the announcement of the verdict.

2. The verdict must be in accordance with the instruction given the jury by the presiding officer. If it is not, the presiding officer shall instruct the jury to resume deliberations.

3. When multiple charges are filed, the jury must render a verdict on each charge.

4. The presiding officer shall present a written copy of the verdict signed by the jury foreman to the accused minister and to the district representative by official notice. (See Article III, Section 1, Paragraph 5, 6).

5. If the accused minister is found innocent, the verdict shall be final. He shall not be tried the second time on the same charge.

6. If the accused minister is found guilty of immoral conduct as defined by the General Constitution and By-Laws, (Article VIII, Section 4, Paragraph 7), the presiding officer shall recommend to the General Secretary that the minister be dropped from membership in the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. If the accused minister is found guilty of any charge other than immoral conduct as defined by the General Constitution and By-Laws, (Article VIII, Section 4), the District Board shall determine the sentence within ninety (90) days after the accused minister receives notice of the verdict, by taking one of the following actions:

- (a) Warn and advise the minister.
- (b) Take appropriate disciplinary action.

(c) Place the minister on probation. Any minister placed on probation shall submit his fellowship card to the District Superintendent for the duration of the probation. He shall support the district and pay his ministerial dues. He shall not be permitted to preach or transfer his membership to another district.

(d) Recommend to the General Secretary that the minister be dropped from membership in the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. A minister who is found guilty may appeal the verdict to the Executive Board, (Article X, Section 4, Paragraphs 1-4).

9. In the event the jury cannot reach a verdict, the presiding officer shall declare a mistrial. He shall set the place, date, and time for a new trial, and follow the provisions in Articles VII, VIII, and IX of the Judicial Procedure. No juryman or alternate on the first trial shall serve on the second.

ARTICLE X APPEALS

Section 1. An Administrative Action

1. The decision of the District Board shall be final in such matters. With the exception being: that the District Board did in some way violate the Constitution and By-Laws of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ, in taking the action. The appeal shall be to the Judicial Review Committee, which shall consist of a presiding officer, an Assistant General Superintendent, and a District Superintendent (he shall not be the Superintendent of the district whose case is being reviewed). The Judicial Review Committee shall be appointed by the General Superintendent; the presiding officer shall be the chairman of this committee. The committee hears appeals from administrative action under Article III.

2. The presiding officer shall set the place, date, and time for the meeting of the committee to review the appeal notifying the members of the committee, the minister making the appeal, and the District Superintendent. The date of the meeting shall not be less than thirty (30) days and not more than sixty (60) days from the day the presiding officer received the appeal.

3. After examining the appeal, the Judicial Review Committee may:

- (a) Sustain the District Board's action.
- (b) Reverse the District Board's action.

4. The District Board may appeal the decision of the Judicial Review Committee to the General Board whose decision shall be final.

Section 2. A Grievance

1. Since a Grievance is defined in, (Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph 1), as a problem, disagreement, or offense between ministers: The decision of the district board shall be final in such matters.

Section 3. A Hearing

1. There shall be no appeal from a decision of the District Board to refer a case to trial, after a hearing.

Section 4. The Verdict of a Trial

1. A minister who has been found guilty by a trial may appeal the verdict to the Executive Board.

2. A minister who appeals a verdict must do so within thirty (30) days after he receives notification of the verdict or else he forfeits his right to an appeal.

3. He must send the appeal by official notice to the General Secretary.

4. He may appeal this verdict on one or both of the following:

(a) The trial was not conducted according to the Judicial Procedure.

(b) The evidence presented at the trial is insufficient to support the verdict.

5. The General Secretary shall send by official notice a copy of the appeal to the district representative and the presiding officer.

6. The General Superintendent shall set the date, place, and time for the Executive Board to hear the appeal. The General Secretary shall communicate this information by official notice to the minister who has appealed, to the district representative and the presiding officer.

7. The district representative and the presiding officer may submit written responses to the appeal.

8. The Executive Board shall not conduct a trial, but must limit its inquiry to the grounds allowed for an appeal.

9. Only the presiding officer and one counselor for each side shall appear before the Executive Board. Their presentations shall be kept pertinent to the grounds stated for the appeal.

10. The counselor for the minister making the appeal shall present the case for the appeal first.

11. After the Executive Board hears the counselors, receives information from the presiding officer, reviews the records of the trial, appeal, and the written responses, it shall take one of the following actions:

(a) Upholds the verdict.

(b) Reverse the verdict if the evidence is insufficient to support the verdict.

(c) Order a new trial if it finds that the Judicial Procedure was not followed and that the error could have had a material effect on the outcome of the trial. In case of a new trial, the Executive Board:

I. May designate another presiding officer for the trial.

II. Shall refer the case to the presiding officer, who shall set the place, date, and time for the new trial and follow the procedure in Articles VII, VIII, and IX.

12. The General Secretary shall communicate to the minister who appealed, to the District Superintendent and the presiding officer within ten (10) days of the decision.

13. In the event the Executive Board overturns the verdict of the jury or rules a mistrial, the District Board may appeal the decision of the Executive Board to the General Board, whose decision shall be final.

(a) The appeal shall review the decision of the Executive Board. (See Article X, Section 4, Paragraph 11, Items b and c).

(b) The General Secretary shall send by official notice a copy of the appeal to the district board, the accused minister, and the presiding officer.

(c) The General Superintendent shall set the place, date, and time for reviewing the appeal, preferably at the next General Board meeting. He shall communicate this by official notice to the accused minister, presiding officer, the District Superintendent, and if a special General Board meeting is necessary, to the members of the General Board. He shall be the presiding officer at the appeal.

(d) At an appeal only members of the General Board, the presiding officer, the district representative, and one of the counselors for the accused minister may be present. However, the parliamentarian may be present at any meeting called for in this Judicial Procedure.

(e) During the appeal process, the district representative shall present the side of the District Board first.

(f) The counselor for the accused minister shall be allowed to present the side of the accused minister.

The General Board shall:

I. Sustain the decision of the Executive Board.

II. Overturn the decisions of the District Board in favor of the verdict of the jury.

(g) The General Secretary shall communicate by official notice the decision of the General Board to the accused minister, the district representative, and the presiding officer. The decision of the General Board shall be final.

ARTICLE XI GENERAL OFFICIALS

Section 1. Investigation of a Complaint

1. A complaint against a General Official except the General Superintendent, shall be filed with the General Superintendent.

2. The General Superintendent shall notify the general official that a complaint has been received, stating the nature of the complaint.

3. The General Superintendent shall give the official an opportunity to meet with him to respond to the complaint.

4. If a committee consisting of the General Superintendent and three (3) General Board members determine that the complaint has no merit, it may dismiss the complaint with no further investigation.

5. The General Superintendent shall appoint five (5) members of the General Board, excluding himself, to serve as an investigative committee, which shall follow Article V, Section 2, Paragraphs 2, 5.

The General Superintendent shall appoint one of the committee members to serve as chairman.

6. A complaint against the General Superintendent shall be filed with the General Secretary, who shall designate one of the Assistant General Superintendents to serve as investigative officer. He shall follow the guidelines given for the General Superintendent (See Article XI, Section 2, Paragraphs 1 through 4). He shall select two (2) members of the Executive Board to serve as investigative committee, which shall follow Article V, Section 2.

Section 2. Hearing

1. A hearing for a General Official shall follow the procedure in Article VI, with changes as noted in this section.

2. The General Superintendent and the General Secretary shall take the place of the District Superintendent and the District Secretary respectively, and the Executive Board shall take the place of the District Board.

3. In a hearing of a complaint against the General Superintendent, as Assistant General Superintendent shall take the place of the District Superintendent, consequently, he shall take the place of the General Superintendent when necessary.

4. In implementing Article VI, Section 4, Paragraph 2, the charge or charges shall be given to the General Superintendent rather than to the presiding officer.

5. The minister who confesses may appeal the sentence to the General Board, rather than the Executive Board.

Section 3. Trial of a General Official

If the Executive Board refers the case to a trial, the procedure shall be the same as in Article VII and IX, with the following changes:

1. The Executive Board shall take the place of the District Board, the General Superintendent shall take the place of the presiding officer, and the General Secretary shall be the recording secretary.

2. The Executive Board shall select one member to present the evidence at the trial. The executive representative shall take the place of the district representative.

3. The jury shall consist of seven (7) members with two (2) alternates, selected from the General Board by a drawing conducted by the General Secretary. Someone who formed an opinion on the case or who has a conflict of interest, according to Article V, Section 2, Paragraph 2, shall not serve on the jury. Members of the Executive Board and the District Superintendent of the district of which the official is a member shall not serve on the jury. (This Paragraph takes the place of Article VIII).

4. Only the General Superintendent, Parliamentarian, General Secretary, the jury and alternates, the accused official and his counselors, and the Executive Representative and his counselors may attend the trial. A witness may attend the trial only while giving his testimony.

5. Counselors may be members of the Executive Board or the General Board.

6. In the event the executive representative becomes unruly, and after being warned by the General Superintendent, persists in being unruly, the General Superintendent may dismiss him from the trial and recommend that the Executive Board take disciplinary action against him.

The dismissed executive representative may appeal the disciplinary action to the General Board. One of the counselors for the Executive Board shall then present the evidence against the accused General Official.

7. A General Official who is found guilty may appeal the verdict, in accordance with Article X, Section 4, except that the appeal shall be made to the General Board instead of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XII HOME MISSIONS DISTRICTS

Section 1. Procedure

1. The procedure for an administrative action, grievance, investigation, hearing, charge, trial, and appeal shall be the same as in Article III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X, except the Executive Board shall serve as the District Board, and the General Secretary shall serve as the District Secretary, and the Home Missions Director as the District Superintendent, and any appeal is to be made to the General Board instead of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XIII FOREIGN MISSIONS AREA

Section 1. Definition and Scope

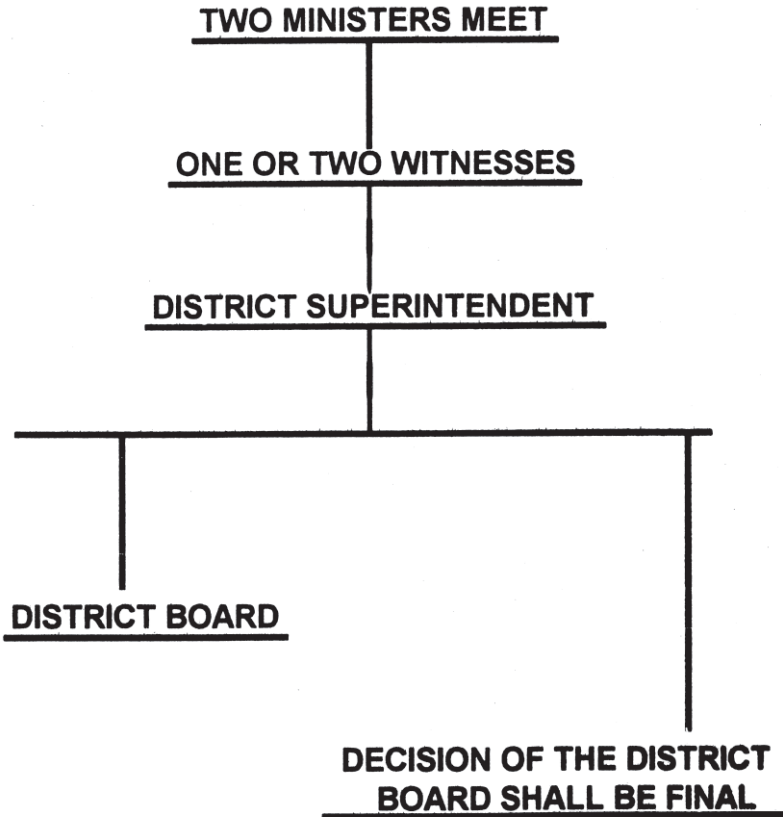
1. This article of judicial procedure shall apply to anyone under appointment to serve in missionary work outside the United States and Canada or to any other minister holding licenses or holding credentials with the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ living outside the continental United States and Canada.

Section 2. Administrative action, Grievance, Investigation, Hearing, Charge, Trial, and Appeal

1. The procedure shall be the same as in Article III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X, except that the Foreign Missions Board shall serve as the District Board, the Foreign Missions Director shall serve as the District Superintendent. The Secretary of Foreign Missions shall serve as District Secretary. Moreover, Presiding Officer and the Judicial Review Committee shall be from the area in which the accused minister was most recently affiliated, unless decided otherwise by the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

GRIEVANCE



COMPLAINT

TRIAL