

CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUMMARIZED AND SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE

CONSTITUTION

(OFFICIAL PUBLIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT)



CONSEIL SUPERIEUR DE TRANSITION

SUPREME TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL

CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUMMARIZED AND SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

2026

This document presents, in accessible language, the broad orientations of the Constitution of the Celestial Church of Christ. It does not replace the official text, but facilitates its understanding by the faithful, the leaders, and the organs of the Church.

Table of contents

Introduction.....	3
1. The Identity of the Church.....	3
2. The Mission of the Church.....	3
3. The Apolitical Character of the Church	4
4. The Supreme Headquarters of the Church	4
5. The Emblem of the Church.....	4
6. Membership of the Church	4
7. The Nativity, Pilgrimage, and Heritage Sites	5
8. World-Level Governing Organs	5
9. The Pastor of the Celestial Church of Christ.....	5
10. The Synod of the Celestial Church of Christ	6
11. The Pastoral Council of the Celestial Church of Christ	6
12. The Board of Trustee of the Celestial Church of Christ.....	7
13. The Executive Committee of the Celestial Church of Christ	7
14. The Departments of the Executive Committee of the Celestial Church of Christ.....	7
15. The Conclave	8
16. The Diocese	9
17. The Organs of the Diocese	9
18. The Diocesan Assembly	9
19. The Diocesan Council	9
20. The Diocesan Board of Trustee	10
21. The Diocesan Executive Committee	10
22. The Cabinet of the Diocesan Head	10
23. The Decentralized Ecclesiastical Constituencies	10
24. The Parish	11
25. Zones, Districts, Provinces and Regions	12
26. Amendment of the Constitution	12
27. Transitional Provisions	12
28. What the Member Must Remember.....	13
Conclusion	13
CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST CHARTS	14

Introduction

The Constitution of the Celestial Church of Christ is the foundational text that organizes the life of the Church at the world, diocesan, and local levels.

It defines the identity of the Church, its mission, its headquarters, its governance organs, its holy sites, its pilgrimages, its heritage, its administrative organization, and the principles that must guide its functioning.

It was developed within the framework of the Church's reunification process, in order to strengthen the unity, peace, discipline, good governance, and world outreach of the Celestial Church of Christ.

1. The Identity of the Church

A religious institution called the **Celestial Church of Christ** has been established.

The Celestial Church of Christ is a Church of divine and universal essence, one and indivisible.

It came from heaven on 29 September 1947 in Porto-Novo, in the Republic of Benin, formerly called Dahomey, through a spiritual revelation made to the Prophet Pastor Founder Samuel Biléou Joseph OSHOFFA.

2. The Mission of the Church

- The Celestial Church of Christ has the mission of leading the faithful to God, spreading the Gospel, and sanctifying the world.
- Bringing together persons who have faith in God and in Jesus Christ ;
- Training its members in accordance with Christian doctrine, the dogmas, and the rites of the Church ;
- Spreading the Gospel ;
- Praying for the sick and for persons in difficulty ;
- Creating fraternal bonds among the faithful ;
- Contributing to the fight against injustice, isolation, intolerance, and exclusion ;
- Promoting the realization of social, cultural, and spiritual works.

3. The Apolitical Character of the Church

The Celestial Church of Christ is apolitical.

This means that it does not identify with any political party and must not be used for partisan purposes. It welcomes the faithful in a spirit of faith, peace, unity, and fraternity.

4. The Supreme Headquarters of the Church

- The Supreme Headquarters of the Celestial Church of Christ is established in Porto-Novo, in the Republic of Benin.
- Porto-Novo is the spiritual, administrative, and institutional center of the Church at the world level.
- The main pastoral residence is located in Porto-Novo. A secondary residence is planned at Imèko, in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- Any country from which the serving Pastor originates may also have a secondary residence.

5. The Emblem of the Church

The emblem of the Celestial Church of Christ is composed of a white background, a seven-color rainbow, the eye, the golden four-cornered hat, and a cross bearing the image of our Lord Jesus Christ with the inscription "INRI."

The name of the Church, revealed to Alexandre YANGA, is inscribed in French as "Église du Christianisme Céleste," in English as "Celestial Church of Christ," and may be transcribed in other languages according to the places of establishment.

6. Membership of the Church

Any person may freely join the Celestial Church of Christ.

However, no one may be considered a member until they have received baptism by immersion in the Celestial Church of Christ.

The new member undertakes to comply with the foundational texts, doctrine, rites, liturgy, and prescriptions of the Church.

7. The Nativity, Pilgrimage, and Heritage Sites

The Constitution recognizes the importance of the holy sites and historical sites of the Church.

The Nativity is commemorated each year on 24 and 25 December at the historical site of Sèmè-Kpodji, in the Republic of Benin.

The celestial city of Imèko, in Nigeria, site of the burial of the Prophet Pastor Founder Samuel Biléou Joseph OSHOFFA, is recognized as Holy Land and a place of pilgrimage for the members of the entire world.

A pilgrimage is also instituted at Imèko during the third week of October each year to celebrate the life and works of the Prophet Pastor Founder.

The sites of Sèmè-Plage, Agonguè, Houngon-Godro, Ahouantinkomey, Dassa-Tré, Imèko, Kétu, Makoko, Danyi-Elavagnon, and other sites to be identified constitute the spiritual, historical, and cultural heritage of the Church.

8. World-Level Governing Organs

The Constitution organizes the Church around the following governing organs:

- The Pastor ;
- The Synod ;
- The Pastoral Council ;
- The Board of Trustee ;
- The Executive Committee ;
- The Conclave.

9. The Pastor of the Celestial Church of Christ

The Pastor is the only Head of the Celestial Church of Christ worldwide.

He leads the Supreme Headquarters of the Church. He is the supreme authority of the Church throughout the entire world.

He embodies the unity of the Church, supervises its organization and functioning, and ensures respect for the foundational texts, liturgy, rites, and sacraments.

No one may commit the Church or speak in the name of the Pastor without his prior written authorization.

The Pastor holds his functions for life. In the event of death or abdication, the interim is assumed by the Dean of the Pastoral Council until the designation and investiture of a new Pastor.

10. The Synod of the Celestial Church of Christ

The Synod is the highest authority of the Church after the Pastor.

It is presided over by the Pastor or by the Dean of the Pastoral Council.

It brings together in particular the members of the Pastoral Council, the Board of Trustee, the Executive Committee, the Diocesan Heads, the Diocesan Delegates, and the diocesan delegations.

The Synod meets twice a year in ordinary session and may be convened in extraordinary session.

It has the mission of :

- Amending and adopting the foundational texts ;
- Creating new dioceses ;
- Approving the Church's strategic plan ;
- Reviewing and adopting annual work plans and budgets ;
- Providing major strategic orientations ;
- Reviewing the Church's financial and moral reports.

11. The Pastoral Council of the Celestial Church of Christ

The Pastoral Council is a spiritual organ attached to the Pastor.

It is responsible for managing spiritual matters of high importance.

It provides its opinion on spiritual matters submitted by the Pastor, carries out high-level missions, identifies dysfunctions in the world organs, and draws the Pastor's attention to acts likely to undermine the constitutional framework or the image of the Church.

It also has jurisdiction, as a last resort, over disciplinary appeals.

It is composed of senior Church dignitaries aged at least sixty, experienced and having good knowledge of the Church.

12. The Board of Trustee of the Celestial Church of Christ

The Board of Trustee is a collegial organ placed under the authority of the Pastor.

It is responsible for the approval, monitoring, mobilization of resources, and support of the Church's major projects.

It approves the Church's budget, monitors the management of the Executive Committee, provides opinions on development projects, and may carry out study, representation, partnership, or fundraising missions.

It is composed of resource persons from diverse sectors, capable of putting their expertise, networks, and means at the service of the Church.

13. The Executive Committee of the Celestial Church of Christ

The Executive Committee ensures, under the authority of the Pastor, the administrative and financial management of the Church.

It draws up the budget, ensures its execution after approval by the Board of Trustee, coordinates the departments, and oversees the daily functioning of the world administration.

The Executive Committee comprises an Executive Bureau and specialized departments.

It is presided over by the Pastor, who may delegate certain powers to the Permanent Secretary.

The Permanent Secretary ensures the daily management of the Executive Committee. He is appointed by the Pastor after the opinion of the Pastoral Council, for a five-year mandate renewable once.

14. The Departments of the Executive Committee of the Celestial Church of Christ

The Departments, numbering at most twenty-four (24), are attached to the Executive Committee of the Celestial Church of Christ. Each of these Departments specializes in one or more areas of intervention specified in the Charter of the Executive Committee of the Celestial Church of Christ.

The list of these areas is not exhaustive.

The different areas are :

- Liturgy ;
- Religious training ;
- Ecclesiastical hierarchy ;
- Relations with the dioceses ;
- Relations with States and other religious denominations ;
- Organization of religious events ;
- Regulation, justice and security ;
- Financial affairs ;
- Accounting ;
- Heritage ;
- Human resources ;
- Planning and programming ;
- Infrastructure ;
- IT services and archives ;
- Communication and publishing ;
- Translation ;
- Health ;
- Environment ;
- Education ;
- Social affairs ;
- Women's affairs ;
- Youth affairs ;
- Choirs ;
- Prophets ;
- Audit and management control ;
- Procurement and supply.

The assignments and functioning of these Departments are specified by the Internal Regulations of the Celestial Church of Christ.

15. The Conclave

The Conclave is the assembly responsible for designating the Pastor of the Celestial Church of Christ in the event of a vacancy of the pastoral seat.

It brings together the members of the Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Heads.

It rests on prayer, fasting, sanctification, the secrecy of deliberations, and voting in conscience.

The Pastor is elected by a majority of four-fifths of the members of the Conclave, after seventy-two hours of sanctification and prayers.

The election takes place at the Supreme Headquarters of the Church, by secret ballot.

16. The Diocese

The Diocese represents the entire Church at the level of a country.

A country constitutes in principle a single diocese. The diocese groups at least twenty-five parishes.

The Diocese is led by a Diocesan Head appointed by the Pastor.

The Diocesan Head represents the Pastor in his country. He coordinates the spiritual, administrative, and institutional activities of the Church at the national level.

17. The Organs of the Diocese

The Diocesan Head is assisted by the following organs:

- The Diocesan Assembly ;
- The Diocesan Council ;
- The Diocesan Board of Trustee ;
- The Diocesan Executive Committee ;
- The Cabinet of the Diocesan Head ;
- The diocesan departments.

18. The Diocesan Assembly

The Diocesan Assembly is the highest authority in the diocese after the Diocesan Head.

It reviews the diocese's major orientations, adopts the strategic plan, votes the budget, reviews financial reports, and prepares the diocese's participation in the Synod and the major annual gatherings.

It meets twice a year in ordinary session and may be convened in extraordinary session.

19. The Diocesan Council

The Diocesan Council assists the Diocesan Head in managing spiritual matters.

It provides opinions, carries out missions, ensures harmony, peace, and cohesion within the diocese, and may draw the Diocesan Head's attention to acts contrary to the constitutional framework.

It is composed of experienced senior dignitaries of the Church.

20. The Diocesan Board of Trustee

The Diocesan Board of Trustee is responsible for the approval, monitoring, and support of the diocese's development projects.

It approves the diocesan budget, monitors the management of the Diocesan Executive Committee, and mobilizes the resources needed for the realization of the diocese's structural projects.

21. The Diocesan Executive Committee

The Diocesan Executive Committee ensures the execution of the decisions of the Diocesan Assembly and the operational coordination of the diocese's structures.

It ensures planning, monitoring of activities, and implementation of the diocese's development strategy.

It is composed of the heads of departments and an Executive Secretariat.

The Diocesan Coordinator ensures the daily management of the Diocesan Executive Committee under the authority of the Diocesan Head.

22. The Cabinet of the Diocesan Head

The Diocesan Head is assisted by a Cabinet composed of at most seven members:

- A Chief of Staff ;
- A Cabinet Head ;
- A Private Secretary ;
- A Protocol and Security Officer ;
- A Press ;
- An Administrative Secretary ;
- A Missions Officer.

23. The Decentralized Ecclesiastical Constituencies

To better organize the Church at the grassroots level, the Constitution provides for several levels of constituencies:

- The Region ;
- The Province ;
- The District ;
- The Zone ;
- The Parish.

The type of decentralized ecclesiastical constituencies mentioned is adapted to each Diocese according to its realities and needs, following four (4) options :

1. **Option No. 1** (Parishes/Zones) : Parishes grouped in clusters into one or more Zones ;
2. **Option No. 2** (Parishes/Zones/Districts) : Parishes grouped in clusters into several Zones, themselves grouped into Districts ;
3. **Option No. 3** (Parishes/Zones/Districts/Provinces) : Parishes grouped in clusters into several Zones, themselves grouped into Districts constituting the subdivisions of Provinces ;
4. **Option No. 4** (Parishes/Zones/Districts/Provinces/Regions) : Parishes grouped in clusters into several Zones, themselves grouped into Districts, these being grouped into Provinces which are themselves the subdivisions of several Regions.

The practical terms for territorial division and the elevation of territories into supra-parochial ecclesiastical constituencies are specified in the Internal Regulations.

24. The Parish

The Parish is the place of prayer, worship of God, and local religious activities.

It is created with the prior authorization of the Diocesan Head.

It is led by a Parish Officer, responsible at the spiritual, administrative, and financial level.

The Parish Officer represents the Diocesan Head in his parish. He is assisted by :

- The Parish Committee,
- The Parish Mother,
- The Youth Committee,
- The Women's Committee,
- The Visionaries' Cell and the Choir.

The Parish Committee ensures the administrative, financial, and accounting management of the parish.

25. Zones, Districts, Provinces and Regions

- The Zone groups several parishes.
- The District groups several zones.
- The Province groups several districts.
- The Region groups several provinces.

These structures allow better coordination of Church activities, a good flow of information, and better implementation of the decisions of the diocese and the Supreme Headquarters.

26. Amendment of the Constitution

The Constitution is adopted by the Synod by a qualified majority of four-fifths (4/5) of its members.

It may be amended under the same conditions, after a conforming opinion from the Pastoral Council.

Any amendment must be notified to the dioceses and to the political and administrative authorities of the countries where the Church is established.

The Constitution is the root document of the Church.

27. Transitional Provisions

The transitional provisions allow for a progressive transition from the old organization to the new organization provided for by the Constitution. They provide in particular for :

- The provisional maintenance of the current remuneration system for parish officers until a new system is put in place ;
- The creation of the Supreme Implementation Council responsible for the application of the Constitution, the Internal Regulations, and other texts ;
- The recognition of the historical site of Sèmè-Kpodji as the main venue for the Nativity commemoration ;
- The possibility of provisionally recognizing Imèko as a second venue for the Nativity commemoration on 24 and 25 December each year, subject to validation by a Synod ;
- The designation of the Pastor in accordance with the principles of the Synod, the special Conclave, the principle of intangibility, and family representation ;
- The stability of the organs of the unified Church for a period of seven years ;
- The presence of representatives of the OSHOFFA family on the Pastoral Council and the Board of Trustee for thirty years ;

- The prohibition of amending the Constitution for ten years in order to stabilize the general organization of the Church.

28. What the Member Must Remember

The member must remember that :

- The Celestial Church of Christ is a Church of divine, universal, one, and indivisible essence ;
- It came from heaven on 29 September 1947 in Porto-Novo ;
- It was revealed to the Prophet Pastor Founder Samuel Biléou Joseph OSHOFFA ;
- Its Supreme Headquarters is in Porto-Novo ;
- The Pastor is the only Head of the Church of worldwide ;
- The Synod is the highest authority after the Pastor ;
- The Pastoral Council oversees spiritual matters ;
- The Board of Trustee supports management and major projects ;
- The Executive Committee ensures administration and finances ;
- The Diocese represents the Church in a country ;
- The Parish is the basic unit of the Church ;
- The Constitution must be respected by all leaders and members.

Conclusion

The Constitution is the foundational cornerstone of the Celestial Church of Christ.

It gives the Church a clear organization, a recognized authority, structured organs, institutional discipline, and a world vision.

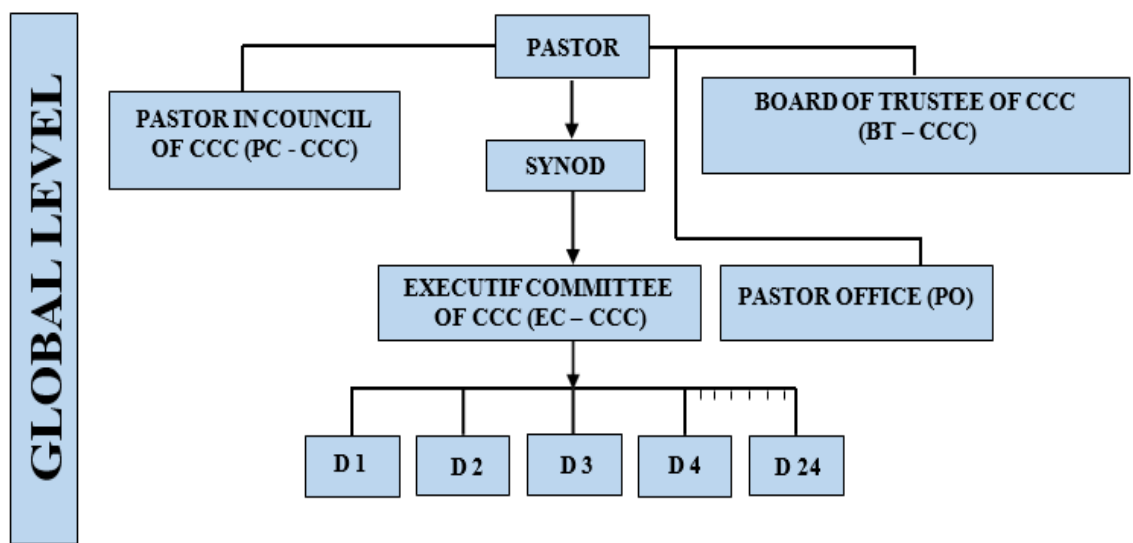
It must be understood, respected, and applied in a spirit of faith, peace, unity, obedience, responsibility, and fidelity to the prescriptions of the Church.

May God bless the Celestial Church of Christ, its leaders, and all its member throughout the entire world.

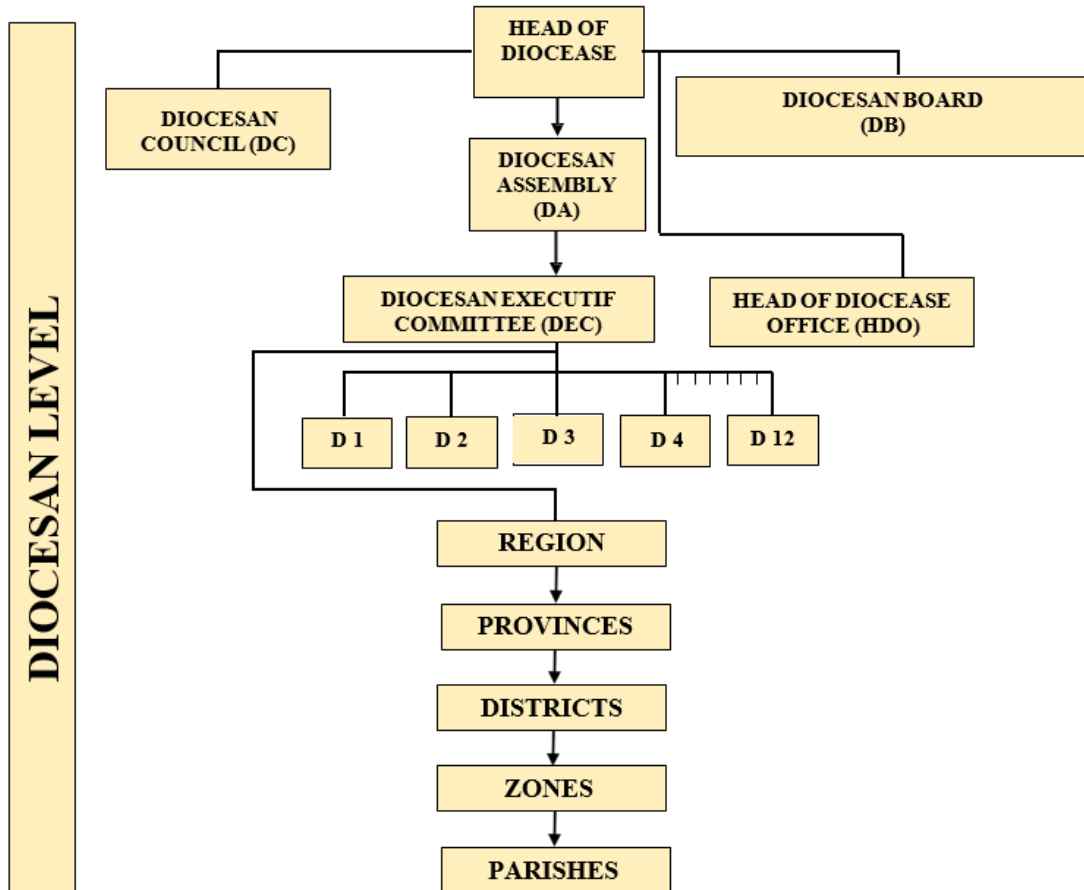
Amen.

CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST CHARTS

CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST CHARTS AT WORLDWIDE LEVEL



CELESTIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST CHARTS AT DIOCESAN LEVEL





**TOGETHER FOR
UNITY, PEACE AND RESTORATION**