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FOUNTAIN OF HOPE SOCIETY

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

OPEBI IKEJA, LAGOS.

THE CONSTITUTION OF

Christ is our Cornerstone

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THE CONSTITUTION OF FOUNTAIN OF HOPE SOCIETY

OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, OPEBI, IKEJA

NAME:

We, brothers in Christ, have formed a society in the Anglican Church of the Ascension, Opebi, Ikeja. The name of the Society shall be known as **“FOUNTAIN OF HOPE SOCIETY”** (hereinafter referred to as the **SOCIETY**) - a Chapter of Fountain of Hope International.

THE PLEDGE

O heavenly Father, guide and govern me, that in all words, thoughts and deeds, I may always remember that I belong to a Chapter of Fountain Of Hope International and that I am a member of Fountain of Hope International.

I promise to avoid anything that will bring the Church and my chapter into disrepute, to work for the upliftment of my Church, that of my Chapter and of Fountain of Hope International at all times. To spread the gospel to all people and to my household in particular, and to do other things that will lift up the banner of the Church and the ideals of Fountain of Hope International. **“So help me God.” Amen.**

Motto: “CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE”.

MODE OF ADDRESS:

Members shall address one another with the prefix **“BROTHER”** before that Member's other names.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To share and promote spiritual and social fellowship amongst the Members of the Society;
- (2) To actively participate in all the activities of Anglican Church of the Ascension, Opebi, Ikeja;
- (3) To foster unity, progress and peace within the said Church;
- (4) To involve all members in the development of the said Church;
- (5) To show leadership by examples of humility, dedication to duty and;
- (6) To do every other thing necessary for the promotion of God's glory, through Jesus Christ.
- (7) While not subsuming its peculiarities as a Chapter of the FOHI, the Society in its programmes and activities to actualize the above set aims and objectives, shall as much as possible, co-operate with other constituent chapters and even Christian organizations irrespective of creed or denomination.

ARTICLE 1

MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Every adult **MALE** member of the Church shall be eligible to join the Society.
- (b) Application for membership, which must be in writing and duly sponsored by not less than two financial and active members of the Society shall be addressed and delivered to the Secretary. The expression “financial member” shall be accorded the meaning specified in Article 12 (A) below.
- (c) The Secretary shall invite the prospective applicant to the subsequent meeting of the Society where he would be presented to the members present. The applicant could only be seen and not to be heard at such a meeting. The sole purpose of his invitation to attend the meeting is for him, on one hand, to make up his mind having watched the proceedings of the Society, whether or not to join it and on the other hand, it affords the members of the Society an opportunity to know him and form their own impressions on him.

Subsequent to the one attended by the applicant, the application for membership would be fully considered by the membership of the Society in the applicant's absence.

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The applicant's absence. The Secretary shall communicate in writing the decision of the Society, together with all the necessary dues payable, to the applicant.

An application for membership shall be successful only if supported by the votes of not less than three-fourths % of the members present at such meeting. Voting shall be by show of hands.

(e) The provisions in sections b, c and d of this article shall be deemed inapplicable in the case of the founding members whose names appear in the register of members as such.

ARTICLE 2**REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS**

(a) The financial members of the Society prior to the date of this Constitution shall be deemed to have been duly registered.

(b) With respect to new applications for membership from the date of this Constitution, a successful applicant under Article 1 (d) above shall not be registered as a member of the Society until the Secretary had communicated to him the decision of the Society. He must also have physically been present at any of the subsequent meetings of the Society, and paid either on or before the said meeting the current admission fee and the current Annual Subscription fee, on a pro-rata basis.

ARTICLE 3**FUND AND EXPENDITURE**

(a) The funds of the Society shall comprise the following:

(i) Annual Membership Subscription and Admission fee: As shall be determined by a resolution at an Annual General Meeting.

(ii) Levies: As may be imposed at general meeting for a worthy cause.

(iii) Donation and

(iv) Such other monies that accrue to the Society.

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(b) Every member shall have paid to the Financial Secretary or Treasurer, not later than the 30th day of September of that year.

(i) All annual Church Dues fixed by Anglican Church of the Ascension, Opebi, Ikeja for the year in question.

(ii) Annual membership subscription and levies specified from time to time by the society.

(c) Any expenditure to be incurred must be authorized at the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 4

MEETINGS

(a) Ordinary General Meeting

(i) Unless otherwise decided by a resolution supported by a simple majority of the registered members of the society, members shall meet on the second Sunday of every month.

(ii) Meeting shall be held on rotational basis at the residences of members.

(iii) A Roster for the meetings shall be prepared by the Secretary who shall submit it to the General Meeting for approval.

(b) Emergency Meeting

(i) Notwithstanding the foregoing, emergency meetings may be summoned at the instance of the President or eight financial members.

(c) Annual General Meeting

Shall be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month of October preceding Society's Annual Anniversary.

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ARTICLE 5

QUORUM

A meeting shall be held if a quorum is formed, that is if eight members are in attendance at least two of who must be members of the Executive of the Society.

ARTICLE 6

Before decisions are taken at meetings, resolutions shall be voted upon by show of hands and a simple majority system shall be followed unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

ARTICLE 7

OFFICERS AND ELECTION

(a) The Officers of the Society shall be the following:

(i) President

(ii) Vice President

(iii) Immediate Past President

(iv) Secretary

(v) Assistant Secretary

(vi) Treasurer

(vii) Financial Secretary

(viii) Director of Socials

(ix) Assistant Director of Socials

(x) Auditors

(xi) Chaplain

(xii) Two un-official members

(xiii) Welfare Officers

(xiv) Sergeant At Arms

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(B) The above said officers shall form the Executive of the Society. They shall meet at least once every month before the monthly General Meeting.

(c) Members reserve the right to create new office(s) and/or discontinue with any of the existing office(s) as they may deem fit.

(d) Officers shall be elected at the Annual General meeting, which is held before the Anniversary Day Celebration.

(f) Voting shall be by show of hands and a simple majority system shall be followed.

(g) No officer shall hold the same office for more than three (3) years consecutively.

(h) A non-financial member as defined under Article 12 of this Constitution is disqualified from voting and/or being voted for in the contest for any office of the Society.

ARTICLE 8

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

(a) President:

(i) Shall preside over all monthly and executive committee meetings and at all other meetings of the Society.

(ii) Summarize proceedings of the Society.

(iii) Exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

(iv) Present an Annual Report on the activities of the Society at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

(ii) Vice President:

The Vice President shall assist, and act for the President when necessary in the performance of his duty as President.

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(iii) Secretary:

The Secretary shall carry out all secretarial functions including but not limited to, handling of all correspondence, writing minutes, preparing agenda for meetings, communicating all necessary information to members, keeping records and all other functions, which the Society may authorize from time to time.

(iv) Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary shall assist the Secretary in the execution of the latter's duties specified in Article 8 (iii) above. In the absence of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary shall carry out the normal duties of the Secretary.

(v) Financial Secretary

(i) Collect all monies due to the Society and keep appropriate records of same.

(ii) Issue receipts for all monies collected.

(iii) Pay all monies so collected to the Treasurer within 24hrs of collection and obtain receipts of same.

(vi) Treasurer

(i) Receive and sign for all monies handed over to him by the Financial Secretary.

(ii) Deposit all monies so received into the appropriate bank account within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt.

(iii) Keep passbooks, cheque books, tellers and other related documents.

(iv) Present the passbook for checking at monthly meetings of the Society.

(v) In the absence of the Treasurer or the Financial Secretary at a General meeting of the Society, the Secretary shall collect and record all financial contributions and later account to the Treasurer at the earliest possible time.

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(vi) Present an Annual Report at the end of the financial year.

(vii) Director of Socials

Director of Socials shall organize and co-ordinate all the social activities of the Society.

(viii) Auditor

(i) The Society shall appoint its auditor(s) at the Annual General meeting or as occasion demands to examine the account.

(ii) The Auditor(s) shall have access to all the financial records of the Society which are kept by the Treasurer.

(iii) The Auditor shall submit a report of the Accounts of the Society to the Annual General Meeting or to an appropriate set-up committee.

(ix) Chaplain

The Chaplain shall lead the Society in congregational services and worshipping at meetings or Social functions and all spiritual activities of the Society.

(x) Welfare Officer

(i) The welfare officer shall be responsible for the welfare activities of the Society and shall report on the welfare of individual members as and when necessary.

(ii) Arrange for visitations to members as and when necessary especially if reported indisposed or long absence from meetings of the Society or attendance to the Church.

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(xi) Sergeant at Arm

Shall assist the presiding officer at meetings to keep order and discipline.

Welfare Benefits Only to Financial Members

(i) On members birthday of 40, 50, 60, 70 and 80 years and every successive 10 years till death, celebrated and to which the Society is invited, the celebrating member shall be entitled to a financial benefit of **N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only)** from the Society.

(ii) On the wedding of a member's child, limited to a maximum of four (4) children, in the lifetime of membership, the member shall be entitled to a purse of **N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only)** from the Society.

(iii) On the Statutory wedding of a member, the member shall be entitled to a purse of **N15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Naira Only)** gift from the Society.

(iv) On the death of a member's parent the member shall be entitled to a purse of **N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira)** gift from the Society.

(v)(a) On the death of a member's spouse, the member shall be entitled to a purse of **N20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira Only)** gift from the Society.

(v)(b) On the death of a member, the Estate of such member shall be entitled to a purse of **N50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira Only)** from the Society.

(vi) Apart from the purse gift provided under (v) (a) and (v) (b) above, the Society is to sponsor a service of songs at the residence of the deceased member/spouse.

(vii) To meet expenses under Article 8 (B) the Society shall impose an adequate levy on each member, as the occasion shall demand.

(viii) Attendance at each of the occasions listed under Article 8 (B) above is compulsory for each member of the Society. Failure to attend without an acceptable reason/reasons shall attract a monetary fine as shall be fixed by the Society on scheduling the occasion.

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(ix) On grave physical, financial and material loss to a member due to accidental cause(s), such member shall be entitled to a purse of **N50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira)** gift from the Society.

(x) On the hospitalisation of a member, within Lagos metropolis, the Society shall send appointed members to visit the hospitalised member. On such visit, the Society shall present a purse of **N5,000.00 (Five Thousand Naira Only)** to the member. The “get-well visit” could be repeated even for more than once but such subsequent visit(s) shall not be with financial gift.

(xi) On the hospitalisation of a member outside Lagos metropolis, the Society shall send a “get well” card and a purse of **N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only)** to the hospitalised member.

ARTICLE 9

BANKING

(A) The Society's Bankers shall be appointed by resolution at a General Meeting.

(b) A Savings, and/or Current Account shall be opened in the name of the Society forthwith.

(c) There shall be three (3) signatories for the purpose of operating the Savings/Current Account of the Society.

The Signatories are:

(i) The President

(ii) The Secretary

(iii) The Treasurer

(d) Any two (2) of the signatories, which must include the Treasurer, shall be valid for the operation of the said account.

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(e) The Savings Book/Cheque booklet as well as other bank statements regarding the Account so kept shall be in the safe custody of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE 10

BOOKS OF THE SOCIETY

(a) The Books of the Society shall comprise the following:

(i) Register of attendance at meetings and minutes of meetings to be kept by the Secretary.

(ii) Register of Contributions to be kept by the Financial Secretary.

(iii) Savings Book/Cheque Booklet as well as other Bank Statement to be kept by the Treasurer.

(iv) The register of members.

(v) Other properties of the Society shall be kept by the Secretary unless otherwise directed by members.

ARTICLE 11

Official Address of the Society

The official address of the Society shall be c/o. The Secretary of the Society and shall bear the address of the incumbent of the post of Secretary as at the time such correspondence is being addressed.

ARTICLE 12

(A) Financial Member

(i) A financial member is a member who has fully paid his monthly dues and levies at any given time **OR** who owes the Society **NOT more than one third 1/3** of monthly dues and

levies put together at any given time or at a time he or his estate applies for his financial benefits from the Society.

(ii) A member shall have the right to withdraw from the Society as and when he desires.

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(iii) Any member who withdraws from the Society shall forfeit the benefits under Article 8 B.

(iv) A withdrawing member may re-apply to join the Society in accordance with the provisions of Article 1 above but must settle his outstanding dues of Annual Membership Subscriptions and Levies at the time he ceases to be member and pay the current admission fee before he can be readmitted.

(B) Discipline

(i) **Censor Motion:** where a censor motion is duly moved against the Executive Committee of the Society or any member of the Executive Committee of the Society and duly carried by a two thirds (2/3) majority of the financial membership of the Society, such Executive Committee or Member of the Executive Committee shall be called upon to relinquish office forthwith.

(ii) **Noise Making:** A noise maker at meeting shall be cautioned and admonished by the officer presiding but where such Noise maker(s) persist(s), the House, that is the general meeting of the Society, shall impose, on two-thirds (2/3) majority of the financial membership of the Society agreeing, a monetary fine of **N1,000.00 (One Thousand Naira Only)** or even a suspension of such member(s) for three months.

(iii) **Disorderly Behaviour:** Any disorderly behaviour of a member(s) in a meeting of the Society or in public to the extent of embarrassing the Society shall be duly investigated and an appropriate disciplinary action of a monetary fine of not less than **N5,000.00 (Five Thousand Naira Only)** shall be imposed on each of the members found guilty.

Where such member(s) found guilty under B (iii) above, fail to comply, such member(s) shall each be liable to six months suspension at the end of which, outright expulsion if such member(s) still refuse to abide by the penalty hereto for prescribed under B (iii) of this Constitution.

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(C) Absence from Meetings:

(i) Any member who fails to attend three consecutive monthly General Meetings of the Society, without sending acceptable apology, shall be suspended for three months during which period of suspension he shall cease to be entitled to any of the benefits under Article 8 (B) above if he were to fall within any of those categories.

(ii) Any member who fails without acceptable apology to attend six consecutive monthly general meetings shall be deemed to have withdrawn his membership from the Society.

ARTICLE 13

Vote of No Confidence

If at a General Meeting a vote of no confidence in the Executive or any Officer is carried by a two third majority of the financial members of the Society present and voting, then the Executive shall be dissolved, or the officer shall be relieved of his post forthwith and another Executive/Officer shall be elected at the next meeting which shall be presided over by whoever is nominated for that purpose at the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 14

Amendment of the Constitution

(a) Before any of the Articles of this Constitution can be amended, repealed, or suspended either in part or wholly, such amendment, repeal or suspension shall be supported by two thirds of the financial members of the Society.

(b) A notice in writing of any proposed amendment shall be given by the Executive Committee of the Society not later than two weeks before such proposal can be considered for debate.

(c) Where such proposal for amendment comes from a Member or group of members there shall be not less than eight signatories of members supporting the proposal which they are to send in writing through the Secretary to the Society.

(d) Voting shall be by secret ballot.

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ARTICLE 15

INTERPRETATION AND COMMENCEMENT

(a) Interpretation: In this Constitution, unless it is otherwise provided or the context otherwise requires:

i. The Society means The Fountain of Hope (19NG) Anglican Church of the Ascension, Opebi Ikeja.

ii. One third or two thirds of members or of financial members for the avoidance of doubt where the determination of $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ does not give round figure of such members during voting, it shall be approximated to the nearest whole number.

iii. Statutory wedding means either wedding in the Church or wedding in the Marriage Registry.

iv. Member's child shall be interpreted to mean member's biological child and/or adopted child.

(B) Effective Date:

This Constitution shall come into effect from

Date of Approval:

The Constitution was approved by the Society on

Membership No

Date:

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President's Signature

Secretary's Signature

SOCIETY ANTHEM

(1) For the Lord leads us forever
Fountain of Hope of Ascension
To do His will among us now
To do His will for evermore

(2) Halleluyah! The Lord be praised
For His love endures forever

His banner over us is love
He protects us for evermore.