

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

FELLOWSHIP OF DEACONS

CONSTITUTION

as approved at the

Third Provincial Conference of the Fellowship of Deacons, Stellenbosch,
September 2018, as amended by majority consent of a majority of members
approached through e-mail in August 2024

1. Name of the Association

The name of the Association shall be “The Anglican Church of Southern Africa Fellowship of Deacons” hereinafter referred to as **The Fellowship**.

2. Aims of the Fellowship

The aims of the Fellowship are;

- a) To promote the restoration and growth of the Diaconate within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (hereinafter referred to as ACSA) as a distinctive vocation of Word and Service.
- b) To give support to Deacons in the Dioceses of ACSA and to encourage the formation of Diocesan Fellowships of Deacons as well as the formation of Regional Fellowships of Deacons drawn from several Dioceses.
- c) To clarify the role and ministry of the historic Order of Deacon within the Church.
- d) To work with the relevant structures in ACSA towards the acceptance of minimal standards of education and training for the Diaconate.
- e) To encourage relations both inter-denominationally and worldwide with Diaconal Orders, both at Diocesan and Provincial level.

3. Membership

Membership shall be open to all Deacons within ACSA holding a valid licence to officiate or a letter of Permission to Officiate from a Bishop of ACSA as well as to retired Deacons who previously held such a licence.

4. Associate Membership

Associate membership shall be open to ordained ministers of ACSA or of any church in communion with or in the process of seeking some form of unity with ACSA.

5. Provincial Conference

The Fellowship shall meet in Provincial Conference from time to time and where possible at least every second year for mutual encouragement and to conduct such business as shall be necessary.

6. General Meeting

- a) At some convenient point in the Provincial Conference the Fellowship shall convene itself into a General Meeting to conduct such formal business as may be necessary, including inter alia;
 - i) The election of an Executive Committee
 - ii) The reception and acceptance of independently verified statements of the financial affairs of the Fellowship.
 - iii) The appointment of an independent financial verifier
 - iv) The annual membership fee for members and associates
 - v) Any amendments to the Constitution
 - vi) Any matters of which notice has been formally given in writing to the Secretary by a Diocesan or Regional Fellowship at least two weeks before the Provincial Conference
 - vii) Any other matters at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- b) The quorum at the General Meeting shall be two thirds of the number of members present at the Conference or 12 members whichever is greater.
- c) Associate members present shall have the right to attend and speak at the General meeting but not to vote.

6. Executive Committee

Between each meeting of the Fellowship in Provincial Conference, the affairs of the Fellowship shall be conducted by an Executive Committee.

7. Composition of the Executive committee

The Executive Committee shall comprise from seven to eleven members:

- a) Chairperson
- b) Deputy Chairperson
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer
- e) Deputy Treasurer
- f) Two to six other Members

8. Election of the Executive Committee

- a) The election of the Committee shall take place during the General Meeting convened during each Provincial Conference.
- b) Only members shall be entitled to vote.
- c) Where possible the election shall be chaired by an associate member failing which it shall be chaired by a member not included in the list of candidates as envisaged in 8. (d) below.
- d) The members present from each Diocese of ACSA may nominate up to two of their number to go forward to a Candidates List for election to the Executive Committee.
- e) Where none of the members within a Diocese are able to be present at the Conference, the members within that Diocese may submit nominations by e-mail to the Secretary, provided that the nominations are signed by at least two members other than those being nominated.
- e) From the List of Candidates, the members will elect the Executive Committee office bearers in turn according to the order in 7. a) to f) above and thereafter the ordinary members of the Committee.
- f) Should the Conference fail to elect a Chairperson, or vote by a two thirds majority to refrain from electing office bearers, the Conference shall elect 7 to 11 Executive Committee Members who shall as soon as possible thereafter meet to elect office bearers from their number.

9. Term of office of the Executive committee

- a) The Committee shall hold office from one meeting of the Conference to the next, after which they shall be eligible for re-election.
- b) Office Bearers in the Committee may continue in a particular office for a maximum of two terms only.
- c) Where a Committee member fails to fulfil his or her obligations to the Committee, the member may be dismissed by a unanimous vote of the remaining members and replaced by co-optation of a Member from the Candidates List in 8. (d) above.

10. Duties, responsibilities and powers of the Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for convening the Provincial Conference
- b) The Secretary shall as soon as possible after each election inform the Office of the Archbishop and Metropolitan of ACSA of the outcome of the elections, and petition the Archbishop to appoint to attend Provincial Standing Committee as Representatives of the House of Deacons the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, or in their being unable to or not desirous of doing so, two other members of the Executive Committee as determined by the Executive Committee.
- c) The Executive Committee shall promote communication and fellowship among the Deacons of ACSA.
- d) In order to fulfil the above or any other tasks, the Executive Committee shall have the right to establish such sub-committees as it may determine.
- d) The Executive Committee may encourage the formation of Regional groupings of Deacons and the holding of Regional Conferences in between the meeting of the Provincial Conference.
- e) The Executive Committee shall seek to establish and maintain membership of such International and Interdenominational bodies as shall promote the aims of the Fellowship.

11. Financial matters

- a) The Financial year of the Fellowship shall run from the 1st April to the 31st March.
- b) The moneys of the Fellowship shall be banked in a Bank Account as approved by the Executive Committee and affirmed by the General meeting.
- c) The signatories for the account shall be the Treasurer, or in the absence of the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer, and one other of the Chairperson, deputy Chairperson or Secretary.
- d) Subscriptions shall become due each year on the 1st April and shall be payable before 30th April.

12 Amendments to the Constitution

- a) The Constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority of the members present at the General Meeting.
- b) Notice of any motion to amend the Constitution shall be given in writing to the Secretary at least 90 days before the commencement of the Provincial Conference.
- c) The Secretary shall ensure that a Member from each Diocesan Fellowship or Regional Fellowship, or where these are not included, a Member of each Diocese, is given notice of the motion at least 60 days before the commencement of the Provincial Conference.
- d) In the event of a General Meeting at a Provincial Conference not taking place within a three year period, this constitution may be amended, at the instigation of any member, by majority consent achieved from members approached through e-mail or other digital means.

13. Dissolution of the Fellowship

In the event of the Dissolution of the Fellowship, all assets of the Fellowship shall be transferred to ACSA.