AGM MARCH 2012

1. **Name**

The name of the Church is “Christ is the Answer Ministries” (CITAM) (in this constitution referred to as “the Church”).

2. **Identity**

CITAM is: -

2.1 A Pentecostal Church that is submitted totally to the one true God who eternally exists in three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2.2 Primarily English speaking, targeting the urban populace.

2.3 Missions oriented within her context and to the wider community of unreached people groups.

2.4 A community of believers open to people of all tribes, races and diverse socio economic status.

2.5 Committed to reaching out to the whole person with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ through a holistic ministry approach.

3. **Vision**

Kenya and the rest of the world impacted with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

4. **Mission**

To know God and make Him known through evangelism and discipleship.

5. **Objective**

5.1 To establish and maintain places of worship of Almighty God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only Begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit.

5.2 To promote Christian fellowship and edification among Christians of like faith, in accordance with scriptural teaching, method and conduct.

5.3 To obey the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:18; 8:4) and assume the privileges of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus by every means available in all the nations.
5. **Motto:** Christ is the Answer.

6. **Statement of Faith**

The Church believes that Jesus Christ is the Answer to all human problems. The Church undertakes to fulfill her divine mandate of making disciples of all nations within the philosophy and of her ministry (Colossians 1:28-29 and Mathew 28:18-20)

**6.1 We believe in** the one eternal God who exists in the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the Creator and Lord of the world, who governs all things according to the purpose of His will, calling out of the world a people for Himself and sending them back into the world to be His servants and witnesses for the extension of His Kingdom, the building of Christ’s church to the glory of His name.

**6.2 We believe in** the one Saviour, Jesus Christ Himself being the only God-man, who died for the sins of mankind and was raised from the dead according to the scriptures; the only ransom for sinners and mediator between God and man; who is exalted above every other name as Saviour of the world; who offers forgiveness of sins and the liberating gift of the Spirit to all who repent, believe and come to him personally; and those who reject Him, by so doing, also reject the joy of salvation and condemn themselves to eternal separation from God.

**6.3 We believe in** God the Holy Spirit who bears witness to Jesus Christ, and whose power works among men to lead to the conviction of sin, faith in Christ, new birth and Christian growth; and speaking through Scriptures illumines the minds of God’s people in every culture to perceive the truth and disclose to the whole church of the wisdom of God;

**6.4 We believe in** the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament Scriptures as the infallible Word of God with power to accomplish His purpose of salvation;

**6.5 We believe in** the return of Jesus Christ personally and visibly in power and glory to consummate His salvation and judgment; the interim period being filled with evangelism by the people of God, who eagerly await for Christ’s return, the coming of the new heaven and new earth in which righteousness will dwell and God will reign forever.
6.6 We believe in water baptism by immersion of believers as a public declaration of a believer’s identity with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; and as a public declaration of the initiation into the body of Christ (the Church) (Romans 6:3-4).

6.7 We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4).

7. Core Values
The Church is committed to nurturing the following core values:

7.1 Family: We are committed to building strong and effective families that serve the purposes that God ordained for them. We believe that the family constitutes a union between a man and a woman who are united in marriage, and their offspring.

7.2 Ministry: We are committed to living, preaching and teaching the word of God. Our love for God and His calling shall be our driving force. The power and influence of the Holy Spirit is the key agent of transformation. We value, appreciate and recognize the diversity of gifts in the body of Christ.

7.3 The Sanctity of Life: We uphold and respect the sanctity of life from conception to death.

7.4 Partnership: We are committed to partnering with like-minded ministries, churches, Para-church organizations and other agencies that subscribe to our philosophy of ministry.

7.5 Excellence: In keeping with our identity and ministry target, we are committed to a culture of excellence in all our services and ministries.

7.6 Community: We exist and work in a community. We believe that it is our responsibility to impact them in a holistic manner. We stand in solidarity with those who are vulnerable within our society.

7.7 Integrity: We are committed to personal integrity and holiness. We are committed to teaching and practicing sound biblical doctrine.

7.8 Accountability: We are committed to a culture of transparency and accountability with our members and the general public.

7.9 Leadership: We are committed to godly transformational leadership in Church and society that equips believers to participate in the Great Commission. People are our greatest asset both within and without the church.

8.0 Ordinances and Practices
8.1 Ordinances
8.1.1 The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins, and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).
8.1.2 The ordinance of the Holy Communion shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

8.2 Practices
8.2.1 Dedication of the children to the Lord Jesus Christ.
8.2.2 Prayer for the baptism and infilling with the Holy Spirit.
8.2.3 Prayer for the healing of the sick.
8.2.4 Christian marriage consistent with the Church’s statement of faith and core values.
8.2.5 Christian burial rites and disposal of the dead.

9.0 Prerogatives
9.1. The Church brings together Christian believers subscribing to the teaching of the Holy Bible and more particularly, to the doctrines detailed out in the statement of faith.
9.2. The Church shall be non-political.
9.3. The Church shall be centrally governed. However, the management of the ministry shall be decentralized as need arises, in line with the growth and expansion of the ministries.

9.4 In furtherance of its Vision and Mission, the Church will do all or any of the following:

9.4.1 Purchase, take, receive, lease as lessee, take by gift, devise or bequest, or otherwise acquire, and to own, hold, use, and otherwise deal in and with any real or personal property, or any interest therein situated in or out of Kenya,

9.4.2 Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease as lesser, and otherwise dispose all or any part of its property and assets,

9.4.3 Purchase, take, receive, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, use or employ shares or other interests in or obligations to societies in Kenya or foreign countries whether for profit, associations, partnerships or individual,

9.4.4 Enter into contracts and incur liabilities; to borrow money; to issue its notes, bonds, and other obligations by mortgage, pledge, or deed of trust of all or any of its property, franchises, and income, as appropriate, to enable it to accomplish any or all of its purposes.
9.4.5 Invest its funds from time to time in any real or personal property; to lend or borrow money for its purposes and to take and hold real and personal property as security for the payment of funds so invested, borrowed or lent,

9.4.6 Exercise such powers as necessary and convenient in ensuring efficacy of the Regional Advisory and Branch Advisory Committees, Departments and Ministries of the Church, and Institutions and Companies created and affiliated to the Church.

9.4.7 Employ staff and volunteer individuals in the work of the Church as per the existing policy.

10.0  Church Governance, Leadership and Management

The Church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures (Ephesians 4:3,13)

10.1 The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be the supreme organ of the Church.

10.2 The Annual Delegates Conference (ADC) shall prepare and process decisions for approval and ratification by the AGM as appropriate.

10.3 The Presiding Bishop (herein after called The Bishop), shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Church, providing spiritual leadership for the Church, and accountable to the Church membership; through the Deacon Board and the Elders’ Council.

10.4 The Bishop shall be the Chairman of the AGM and the ADC.

10.5 The Deputy Bishop shall deputize the Bishop as appropriate.

10.6 The Deacon Board (DB) shall oversee all the legal and administrative matters of the Church. The Board shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the AGM and ADC.

10.7 The Elders’ Council shall take responsibility for safeguarding the vision and mission of the Church and to oversee all spiritual matters of the Church including the recruitment, redeployment of the Pastors, and all disciplinary matters touching on the members of the Church, Pastors, Leaders of the Church and volunteer workers.

10.8 The Deacon Board in consultations with the Elders’ Council will provide a mechanism for effective decentralization and coordination of the Church, to cater for administration and management of growth of the Ministry in Kenya and beyond.

10.9 Every Assembly shall have an Advisory Committee, which shall be chaired by the Senior Pastor or Pastor in Charge, to manage and coordinate Assembly affairs as appropriate.
11. **Membership**

The Church is open for membership, upon fulfilling certain mandatory requirements as per the membership policy, to all persons who:

11.1 have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ;

11.2 willingly subscribe to the practices and beliefs of the Church;

11.3 have regularly attended the Church services in any Branch or assembly for at least one year; and are willing to be regular financial supporters of the Church.

11.5. **Categories of Membership**

11.5.1 **Full Membership**: This is open to all people who are born again, who have attended the church regularly for a period of at least one year, who are over 18 years of age and who wish to join themselves fully to the Church and who accept all the duties, responsibilities and rights of membership.

11.5.2 **Associate Membership**: This is open to all who are over 18 years of age, but who are members of other non-localised churches and who wish to fellowship with the Church fully. These members have no voting rights at meetings but may attend all such meetings. Associate membership shall be valid for a period of two years by which time one may be requested to take full membership.

11.5.3 **Junior Members**: All persons between the ages of 12 and 18 who fulfill the requirements of membership shall be eligible for junior membership. Such members do not qualify for voting rights at any business meetings.

11.6 **Privilege of Full Membership**: It shall be the privilege of those who are full members of the Church to receive ministry from the Church. A member shall also be eligible to take part in all the activities of the Church and may fill official positions in the Church if eligible, to receive a membership card stating they are full members, and to have full voting and speaking rights in all business meetings.

11.7 **Application for membership**

All applications for Church membership shall be made in writing on the official forms provided by the Church, upon which the applicant shall be interviewed and appropriate recommendations made in accordance with the Membership Policy. Application for membership shall be made in the assembly where the applicant has been a regular attendant.

11.7.1 **Rejection of Application**

If for any reason, an application should be rejected, the applicant shall be notified accordingly.
11.7.2 Reception of new members

Following the interviews, the Church shall receive into membership, all those whose applications have been accepted. The new members shall be admitted into membership during a church service. Prior to the acceptance into membership, the names of successful applications shall be published using appropriate media, before receiving the right hand of fellowship into membership. A membership card shall be issued subsequent to the formal admission.

11.7.3 Register of members

Membership application forms shall be kept in safe custody. A register of names and addresses of Church members shall be extracted from the application forms. The register, both hard copy and electronic, shall be kept by the Senior Pastors in each assembly while the overall register (including electronic) shall be kept by the Church Secretary in the Head Office. The register shall also be updated regularly to take into account membership suspensions and terminations in accordance with clause 10.6 below. Grounds for deregistration shall be recorded in the register.

11.7.4 Transfer of members

The Church shall allow membership transfers in accordance with the Membership Policy. Members transferring from one assembly to another shall fill a transfer form, which shall be duly signed by the Senior Pastor of the branch that he/she is transferring from.

11.8 Suspension or termination of Membership

Grounds for suspension or termination of membership shall include the following-

11.8.1 Voluntary resignation or withdrawal from membership.

11.8.2 Continuous absence from the regular services of the Church for three consecutive months without a valid reason.

11.8.3 Any proven immoral act, or unchristian conduct after full investigation or evidence and exhaustion of mechanisms outlined in 10.8.

11.8.4 Issuances of a transfer letter to another Church other than a CITAM Assembly.

11.8.5 The propagation of doctrines and practices contrary to those set out in the CITAM Statement of Faith and Core Values, which cause serious discord, disunity and dissention with malicious intent – Romans 16:17 and 18, Proverbs 6:19.

11.8.6 Open defiance of the church governance direction and disciplinary measures.
Upon exhaustion of warnings, directions and advice to unregistered members of the church, whose conduct is not in keeping with the Church’s stated beliefs and practices, the leadership of the church shall alert the respective congregation as appropriate.

**11.9 Dispute Resolution**

11.9.1 In the event of serious differences between members of a branch, the affected persons shall endeavor to reconcile their differences. If the parties involved at the Branch level cannot effect reconciliation, they shall refer the dispute to the Assembly Elders. In the event any of the parties is still aggrieved, he/she shall have the right to appeal to the Council of Elders and the decision by the Council of Elders shall be final.

11.9.2 In the event of a dispute between members of different assemblies, the parties affected shall refer the dispute to a joint committee of the respective assembly Elders through the respective Senior Pastors. Any aggrieved parties shall have the right to appeal to the Council of Elders as in (i) above.

**11.10 Disciplinary measures:**

11.10.1 Where a member is alleged to have contravened the statement of faith or doctrine, or accused of misconduct or an act justifying suspension or termination of membership, the Advisory Committee and Assembly Elders may use their discretion to commence investigation.

11.10.2 Before any complaint or personal charge against a Church member formally proceeds, the Advisory Committee and Assembly Elders must satisfy themselves that the matter has been dealt with privately and in a brotherly manner, according to Matthew 18:15-17.

11.10.3 Upon establishment of guilt by the Assembly Elders and/or the assembly advisory committee, a member is at liberty to appeal, in writing, against the verdict of the assembly elders and/or the assembly advisory Committee, to the Elders’ Council.

11.10.4 Where the person charged is a member of the Assembly of Elders or the Assembly Advisory Committee, the charge shall be brought before the Elders’ Council. The Council shall exhaust the mechanism envisaged in Matthew 18:15-17 before proceeding further, if necessary, with disciplinary measures.

11.10.5 Where the person affected is not satisfied with the decision of the Elders’ Council, he/she shall lodge an appeal to a Special Appeals Board established by the Bishop, from among the retired elders and deacons of the church of good standing, whose decision shall be final.
11.10.6 If at the Assembly level guilt is established and the member is repentant, he/she may be warned, counselled and restored. If the member is found guilty and the verdict of suspension recommended, and contrition, sorrow and repentance are not evident, he/she shall be suspended and the matter referred to the Council of Elders for a decision as to whether or not he/she should be expelled in accordance with clause 10.6 of the Constitution.

12 Resignations

12.1 Any member desiring to resign from the Church shall submit his/her resignation in writing to the Church Secretary through the Senior Pastor of the respective assembly. The resignation shall take effect from the date of receipt of such notice, by the Church Secretary.

12.2 Any person who resigns or is removed from membership shall not be entitled to a refund of any part of monies or gifts contributed by him/her at any time.

13 Waiver of claim

13.1 In accepting membership in the Church, each member agrees that in the event of withdrawal of his or her certificate of membership, on suspension and/or expulsion for reasons ascertained by the Council of Elders, no member thus disciplined, suspended, expelled and publicly so announced shall take legal action against the Pastors, Advisory Committee, Assembly Elders, the Deacon Board, the Council of Elders, the Church or any other member taking part in the disciplinary proceedings.

13.2 Acceptance of the certificate of membership in the Church shall be evidence of a waiver by the member of all rights of action, causes of action and all claims and demands against the Church, or any officer of the Church, or against any member or its Pastors by virtue of disciplinary proceedings and withdrawal of certificate of membership from the Church and all disciplinary matters and proceedings shall be dealt with exclusively internally and by the members only.

14. The Financial Year and General Meetings
There shall be two classes of general meetings - Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting.

14.1 The Financial year shall run from January 1st to December 31st of each year.
14.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th April following the end of the Financial Year.
14.3 Notice to convene the Annual General Meeting shall be given at each church service held in the Assemblies on the two Sundays preceding such meetings.
14.4 A copy of the notice and agenda shall be displayed, for fourteen days prior to the meeting, on the respective Church notice boards.
14.5 A statement of accounts shall be made available for inspection on request.
14.5 The agenda for Annual General Meeting shall consist of the following:

14.5.1 Prayer and Devotion,
14.5.2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting,
14.5.3 Chairman’s Report and its Adoption,
14.5.4 Consideration of the Statement of Accounts,
14.5.5 Appointment of the Auditor,
14.5.6 Ratification of the Deacon Board,
11.5.7 Notification of appointment of Elders

11.5.8 Such other matters as the Deacon Board may decide on as to which notice shall have been given in writing by a member or members to the Church Secretary at least seven days before the date of the meeting,

11.5.9 Any other business with the approval of the Deacon Board.

14.6 A special general meeting

14.6.1 The Deacon Board may call for a special meeting for any purpose. An announcement of such special general meeting shall be given at each Church service held in the assemblies on the two Sundays immediately preceding such a meeting and a copy of the agenda shall be displayed on the Church notice board for fourteen days prior to the meeting.

14.6.2 A special general meeting may also be requisitioned for a specific purpose by request in writing to the Church Secretary signed by not less than the number required for quorum by this constitution with representation from the whole Church and such meeting shall be held within twenty-one days of the date for the request. The notice for such meeting shall be as per the appropriate rule and no other matter shall be discussed other than that stated in the request.

14.6.3 The quorum for any general meeting shall be 500 members drawn from at least a third of the Church assemblies. In the alternative, quorum shall be drawn when attendance is assessed to represent one third of representatives from at least half of the Assemblies of the Church.

14.7 Procedures at Meetings

14.7.1 The Presiding Bishop shall preside over the Annual General Meeting of the Church. In the absence of the Bishop, the Deputy Bishop shall preside over the meeting.

14.7.2 Resolutions, other than resolutions to alter the constitution or to dissolve the Church in accordance with the articles on the amendment of the constitution and
dissolution of the Church, shall be decided by a simple majority of votes taken by a show of hands. In the case of a tie in votes, the chairman shall have a second casting of vote.

15. Auditor

15.1 The Annual General Meeting shall appoint external auditors to serve for one year, renewable no more than five consecutive years.

15.2 All the Church accounts, records and documents shall be open for inspection by the Auditor at any time. The Treasurer shall produce an annual Statement of Accounts containing a summary of the receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for the financial year preceding the AGM.

15.3 The Auditor shall examine the annual Statement of Accounts and either certifies that it is correct, duly vouched and in accordance with the law or report to the Church what is found to be incorrect, un-vouched or not in accordance with the law.

15.4 A copy of the Auditor’s report on the annual Statement of Accounts together

15.5 No member of the Church shall be appointed as the Church Auditor unless a Christian external Auditor cannot be identified.

16. Delegates Conference

There is established a Delegates’ Conference whose responsibility shall be to provide general guidance on the Vision and Mission of the Church; a forum where every region, branch assembly and ministry will be represented and all matters relating to the Church, regions, and branches discussed extensively for the approval and or, ratification by the Annual General Meeting.

16.1 Composition

The Delegates’ Conference shall comprise of CITAM members only. Non-members may however attend on invitation as ex-officio. Ex-officio members shall have no voting rights.

The members of the Delegates’ Conference shall be:

16.1.1 All representatives of Assemblies and Regions as stipulated in the by laws.
16.1.2 The Senior Pastors and their spouses, Pastors in-charge and their spouses, and the Deputy Senior pastors.
16.1.3 Representatives of the men and women ministries, Youth, Children ministries
16.1.4 Co-ordinators of CITAM Ministries (e.g. Missions, Youth, Women, Christian Education, as per the approved policy)
16.1.5 Fellowship of Elders.
16.1.6 All members of the Deacon Board.
16.1.7 All members of the Elders’ Council.
16.1.8 All Trustees of the Church.
16.1.9 The Chairman and Secretary of the CITAM Companies and Units.

16.2 Meeting

The Delegates’ Conference shall meet at least once in a year before the Annual General Meeting or any such times as the Deacon Board shall deem necessary.

16.2.1 The Deacon Board shall set the agenda.
16.2.2 Voting shall be by simple majority.

17. Spiritual Leadership of the Church

17.1 The Bishop, with the assistance of the Senior Pastors and the pastoral team, shall provide the Spiritual leadership for the Church.
17.2 The Church shall appoint, into its Pastoral team, both men and women pastors.

18. The Office and Seat of the Bishop

18.1 There is established the office of the Bishop.
18.2 The Seat of the Bishop shall be at the designated Assembly.

18.3 Criteria for appointment

18.3.1 The Bishop must have a Christian testimony in line with the Biblical teachings of 1Tim 3:1-7; and Titus 1:7-9 in addition to the under-listed;

18.3.2 Must have served previously, with distinction, in the leadership of CITAM either as a Senior Pastor or its equivalent for five years or as a Deputy Bishop;

18.3.3 Must have proven leadership skills and capabilities.

18.4 The appointing process

18.4.1 The Fellowship of Elders and the Deacon Board shall constitute the Selection Board, which shall prayerfully, select through a secret ballot, and recommend candidates to the Elders’ Council.

18.4.2 The quorum of the Selection Board shall be two thirds of the expected membership.

18.4.3 The selection panel shall present three candidates to the Elders’ Council for consideration. In the event however, that only one person qualifies for the position, the name shall be forwarded to the Elders’ Council with an explanation of the exception.
18.4.4 The recommended candidates shall be interviewed by the Elders’ Council following which, the successful person shall be appointed. The decision of the Elders’ Council shall be final.

18.4.5 The Elders’ Council shall present the appointed person (referred to as the Bishop designate) for ratification by the Annual Delegates Conference (ADC).

18.4.6 In the event there is no scheduled ADC within two months of the appointment of a Bishop, a Special Delegates Conference shall be convened for the purpose of ratifying the appointment.

18.4.7 Following the ratification, the Bishop designate shall be consecrated in a duly convened public ceremony, within two months of the ratification by the Delegates Conference.

18.5 Duties of the Bishop

18.5.1 The Bishop is the Chief Executive of the Church and shall preside over all the affairs of the Church.

18.5.2 He shall chair the AGM, the ADC, the Deacon Board, the Council of Elders and the Fellowship of Elders meetings.

18.5.3 He shall be the Church spokesman and represent the Church in National and International forums.

18.6 End of Tenure

18.6.1 The Bishop shall serve for a maximum of two contract terms of five years each or until attainment of retirement age of 65 years whichever comes earlier.

18.6.2 The Bishop, who has served the full two terms of five years contract and has not reached the retirement age, may be deployed to other duties.

18.6.3 The Bishop may resign voluntarily before the expiry of his/her term. In such instances, he/she should give at least six months’ notice.

18.6.4 The Bishop may have his/her services terminated on disciplinary grounds under the Human Resource policy.

18.6.5 There shall be a transition period between the appointment and consecration of the Bishop designate, during which period the presiding Bishop shall continue in office where practical, until the Consecration ceremony after which the Bishop designate shall assume office.
18.6.6 The Consecration of the Bishop shall be carried out in accordance with the Ordination Policy.

19. **Deputy Bishop**

19.1 There is established the office of the Deputy Bishop.
19.2 The Deputy Bishop shall deputize the Bishop and may have a seat at a designated assembly.

19.3 **Appointment**

19.3.1 The Deputy Bishop shall have a consistent Christian testimony in line with the Biblical position of 1Tim 3 and Titus 1: 7-9.

19.3.2 Shall have served with distinction, as a Senior Pastor or its equivalent, within CITAM for a period of not less than five years;

19.3.3 Shall have proven leadership skills and capabilities.

19.4 **Process of appointing a Deputy Bishop**

19.4.1 The Fellowship of Elders and the Deacon Board shall constitute the Selection Board, which shall prayerfully, select through a secret ballot, and recommend candidates to the Elders’ Council.

19.4.2 The quorum of the Selection Board shall be two thirds of the expected membership.

19.4.3 The selection panel shall present three candidates to the Elders’ Council for consideration. In the event however, that only one person qualifies for the position, the name shall be forwarded to the Elders’ Council with an explanation of the exception.

19.4.4 The recommended candidates shall be interviewed by the Elders’ Council and the successful person shall be appointed.

19.4.8 The decision of the Elders’ Council shall be final.

19.5 **End of Tenure**

19.5.1 The Deputy Bishop shall serve for a maximum of two contract terms of three years each, or retire at the age of 65 years, whichever comes first.

19.5.2 The Deputy Bishop who serves out their two terms, and has not attained the retirement age of 65 years, may be deployed to other duties.
19.5.3 The Deputy Bishop may resign voluntarily before the expiry of his/her term.

19.5.3 The Deputy Bishop may have his/her services terminated on disciplinary grounds under the Human Resource policy.

19.6 Vacancy in the office of the Bishop

19.6.1 Upon the position of Bishop falling vacant for whatever reason, the Deputy Bishop shall act as the Bishop for a maximum of ninety (90) days, within which period, the Elders’ Council shall appoint a Bishop in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

20 Senior Pastors

20.1 There is established the office of the Senior Pastor to be in charge of a designated Assembly.

20.2 Senior Pastor shall lead a Church Assembly with a minimum of three (3) pastoral staff. Assemblies with less than three Pastors shall be led by a Pastor-in-Charge.

20.3 The Senior Pastor shall be appointed by the Elders’ Council upon the recommendations of the Bishop, from among serving Pastors in the church, with five (5) distinguished years of service in the ministry of the gospel.

20.4 The Pastoral Staff

The Church shall appoint men and women with relevant theological training at first degree level, to be deployed to serve at Assembly and in respective ministries as need arises. Such pastors will serve under the leadership of the Senior Pastors or pastors-in-charge.

21. The Deacon Board

There is established a Board of Deacons whose overall responsibility will be to provide leadership in administrative and legal matters, effective governance and fiduciary oversight for the Church.

20.1 Functions of the Deacon Board

20.1.1 The Deacon Board shall oversee the execution of all statutory and other legal instruments required by the government in conformity with the laws of Kenya.

20.1.2 To serve the Ministry in all matters pertaining to its administrative, financial, Human Resources, administrative and business affairs.
20.1.3 To provide oversight to the acquisition, management, upkeep, maintenance and disposal of the Church property.

20.1.4 To consider, review, and give oversight to the implementation of the decisions of the Delegates’ Conference and General Meetings.

20.1.5 To provide oversight in the formulation and implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Church.

20.1.6 To assist in the ministry of Ordinances at the Assembly level.

20.2 Composition of the Deacon Board

20.2.1 The composition of the Deacon Board shall be as follows:

20.2.2 The Bishop and the Deputy Bishop as the chairman and deputy chairman respectively;

20.2.3 The Church Administrator who shall sit as an “ex-officio” member.

20.2.3 Not more than 12 elected members.

20.2.4 Where necessary, for the smooth and efficient running of the business of the Church, the Board may co-opt a maximum of three members who meet the qualifications of a Deacon as stipulated in this constitution.

20.2.5 Co-opted members shall serve only for the duration of the current Board but may be co-opted again by the newly elected Board, provided that such co-option shall not exceed two years. Co-opted members shall have full voting rights.

20.3 Qualifications

20.3.1 The Deacon Board shall be composed of men and women with a mix of professional skills, who meet qualifications for Deacons as stipulated in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3: 8-13.

20.3.2 Anyone who is 21 years of age and above and who is a member of the Church is eligible for election to the Board provided that he or she:

20.3.3 Has been a member and a regular attendant of the Church for not less than three years

20.3.4 Has served in a ministry of the church where commitment and leadership qualities have been demonstrated
20.3.5 Has such professional qualifications and abilities and availability as to be able to participate and contribute to the business of the Board in its discharge of the functions.

20.3.6 Does not drink intoxicating liquor, smoke or engage in substance abuse.

20.4 Elections

20.4.1 An election to the Board shall take place annually to replace those whose terms have expired. The Details of the nomination and election process are contained in the Church by laws.

20.4.2 The elected members will be presented to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.

20.5 Meetings of the Board

20.5.1 The Bishop shall, in consultations with the Secretary, convene and chair the Deacon Board meetings. In the absence of the Bishop, the Deputy Bishop shall chair the meetings and in the absence of the Deputy Bishop the Deacon Board shall appoint one from among them as the Chair.

20.5.2 The Church Secretary shall, in consultations with the Bishop, set the agenda, issue notices of meetings, and keep a record of the proceedings at all meetings of the Deacon Board. In the absence of the secretary, the deacon Board Members shall appoint a recording secretary to record the minutes of meetings.

20.5.3 The meetings of the Board shall be held at least once every quarter. Seven days’ notice for such meetings shall be given to all the members of the Board.

20.5.4 On matters requiring urgent attention, a meeting may be held on one day’s notice provided that a quorum of the Board is present.

20.5.5 The day-to-day business of the Church shall be conducted by the Bishop and the Executive Committee of the Deacon board, which shall meet at least once every month.

20.5.6 For efficiency and effectiveness, the board shall constitute, with clear terms of reference, thematic committees to deal with Finance, Human Resources, Building and Maintenance, among others.

20.6 Resignation of a Deacon Board member

A member of the Board shall cease to hold office as such if he or she:

20.6.1 Resigns from office by notice in writing to the Church Secretary;
20.6.2 becomes bankrupt;
20.6.3 becomes of unsound mind;
20.6.4 is requested to resign in writing by the majority of fellow members of the Board;
20.6.5 ceases to be a member of the Church;
20.6.6 he or she no longer meets the qualifications of a deacon as set out in the by-laws;
20.6.7 fails to attend three consecutive Board meetings without apology and reasonable cause.

20.7 Office Bearers and the Executive Committee

20.7.1 The Deacon Board shall appoint from among its members the Secretary, and Treasurer and two other members to form the Executive Committee under the chairmanship and deputy chairmanship of the Presiding Bishop and Deputy Bishop respectively.

20.7.2 The members shall, from among themselves during the first meeting immediately after the AGM, appoint the Secretary and Treasurer.

20.7.3 For one to be appointed as the Secretary or Treasurer, he/she should have served as a Deacon for at least one term.

20.8 Duties of the Executive Committee and Office Bearers

20.8.1 The Executive shall be responsible for day-to-day oversight of the business affairs of the Church.

20.8.2 The Church Secretary shall deal with all the general correspondence of the Church under the supervision of the Board.

20.8.3 The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping a list of members

20.8.4 The Secretary shall be responsible for convening all meetings of the Board including all general meetings of the Church and the keeping and preserving of records of all such meetings.

20.8.5 The Treasurer shall receive and shall also disburse, under the direction of the Board, all moneys belonging to the Church and preserve vouchers for all moneys paid by him.

20.8.6 The Treasurer shall be responsible to the Deacon Board and to the members for proper books of accounts of all the moneys received and paid by the Church.

20.8.7 The Treasurer shall ensure that books and records are up to date, preserved and made available for inspection.
20.8.8 Any member of the Church may inspect the books of accounts and the list of members of the Church upon giving seven days’ notice in writing to the Secretary.

20.8.9 The Board may appoint a Church administrator to deal with Church business as delegated.

20.9. Resignation

Where any office bearer resigns or be called upon to resign by the Board, they will surrender to the Bishop all official documents in connection with their office.

21. The Office the Church Elders

21.1 The office of the Church Elders is hereby established.

21.2 The office of the Elders shall have three categories i.e. Assembly Elders, Fellowship of Elders and the Elders’ Council, to cater for effective and efficient management of spiritual matters of the church.

21.1 Qualification

Elders shall be members of the Church who:

21.1.1 Are of mature spiritual judgment;
21.1.2 Have rendered valuable service in the assembly;
21.1.3 Have been regular members in the assembly for at least three (3) years;
21.1.4 Are highly respected within and without the congregations;
21.1.5 Meet the scriptural standards as outlined in 1 Timothy Chapter 3 and in Titus Chapter 1.
21.1.6 Do not drink intoxicating liquor, smoke or engage in substance abuse.

21.2 Local Assembly Elders

21.2.1 Criteria for appointment
The criteria for the appointment of Local Assembly Elders shall be as stipulated in this constitution and the by laws.

12.3 The appointing process

21.3.1 The Pastoral team shall forward names to the Local Assembly Advisory Committee for prayerfully consideration.

21.3.2 The suitability of the candidates for the post of Elder shall be considered and those who meet the criteria shall be appointed. The details of the nomination and appointment process are enumerated in the by laws.
21.4 Tenure and Separation

21.4.1 The tenure of a Local Assembly Elder shall be a term of three years, which may be renewable once, for a further three years.

21.3.2 Local Assembly Elder may resign voluntarily before the expiry of their term. Such resignation shall be in writing to the Bishop through the Senior Pastor.

21.4.3 A Local Assembly Elder may be requested to step down on disciplinary grounds as per the existing policy.

21.5 Functions of the Assembly Elders

21.5.1 The Elders duties shall among others, include assisting the Pastors in:
21.5.2 The administration of ordinances of the Church;
21.5.3 Ministries to shut-ins and the needy;
21.5.4 Pulpit ministry
21.5.5 Such other duties as may or shall be assigned to them from time to time by pastors.

21.6 Fellowship of Elders

21.6.1 The Fellowship of Elders shall be composed of: -
21.6.2 The Bishop as the Chairman;
21.6.3 The Deputy Bishop;
21.6.4 A total of twenty-four (24) elders representing assemblies and regions as stipulated in the by laws.
21.6.6 The fellowship shall have the power to co-opt not more than three persons as shall be deemed necessary, to assist the Bishop and the Pastoral staff as appropriate.

21.7 Duties of the Fellowship of Elders

21.7.1 Provide a forum for fellowship among Elders of the Church.

21.7.2 To assist the Pastoral Staff and the Church in the overall spiritual care and doctrine as shall be called upon by the Bishop from time to time.

21.7.3 To jointly with the Deacon Board assess and recommend candidates for the positions of the Bishop and deputy Bishop as appropriate.

21.7.3 To deal with such other matters as shall be brought to its attention by the Bishop or the Elders’ Council, for its action.
21.8. Meetings

Meetings for the Fellowship of Elders shall be convened by the Bishop, who shall also set its agenda as need arises. Such meetings will take place every quarter.

21.9 Criteria for appointment

The criteria and process of appointment to the fellowship of elders shall be outlined in the Church by laws. Persons appointed to the Fellowship of Elders must have served for two years, as an Assembly Elder in the appointing Local Assembly or region.

21.10 Separation

Persons serving in the Fellowship of Elders shall serve for as long as they are Elders in their Local Assembly.

21.10.1 A member of the Fellowship of Elders may resign voluntarily before the expiry of his/her term. Such resignation shall be in writing to the Bishop through the Senior Pastor.

21.10.2 A member of the Fellowship of Elders may be requested to step down on disciplinary grounds as per the Church Constitution the Code of Ethics.

21.11 Elders’ Council

Criteria for appointment

21.11.1 Any Elder, who has served for more than two years as an Elder of a Local Assembly, shall be eligible for appointment to the Elders’ Council. The Members of the Fellowship of Elders shall make the appointment

21.11.2 The criteria and process is detailed out in the by laws.

21.12 Separation

The tenure of a member of the Elders’ Council shall be a maximum of four years, provided that one shall cease to be a member of the Council of Elders upon ceasing to be an Assembly Elder.

21.12.1 An Elder may resign voluntarily before the expiry of his/her term. Such resignation shall be in writing to the Bishop, who shall thereafter notify the Fellowship of Elders.

21.12.2 An Elder may be requested to step down on disciplinary grounds as per the Disciplinary process.
21.13 Composition of Elders’ Council

The Elders’ Council shall comprise of the following members:

21.13.1 Not more than seven members to be appointed by the fellowship of Elders,

21.13.2 The Bishop shall be its chairman, while the Deputy Bishop shall its vice Chairman.
21.13.3 The Council shall appoint a Secretary from among its members.

21.14 Duties of the Elders’ Council

21.14.1 The Elders’ Council shall bear responsibility for, and provide the general oversight of the vision and mission of the Church.

21.14.2 The Council shall exercise responsibility for safeguarding and articulating the doctrines of the Church.

21.14.3 The Council shall review and approve principles of partnerships and affiliations with other ministries and churches seeking relationships with the CITAM.

21.14.4 To approve and determine places of worship, church planting and missions.

21.14.5 To appoint the Bishop and or the deputy Bishop, upon the recommendation of the Fellowship of Elders and the Deacon Board.

21.14.6 To appoint pastors upon the advice of the Bishop.

21.14.7 To assist the Bishop and the pastoral staff in the overall spiritual care and doctrine.

21.14.8 To oversee and make decisions on matters relating to the discipline of members, deacons, elders, pastors and the Bishop of the Church.

21.14.9 To assist in such other matters of spiritual care and doctrine as shall be called upon by the Bishop from time to time.

21.15 Meetings of the Elders’ Council

The meetings of the Council shall be convened by the Bishop and his absence, the deputy Bishop, in consultations with the Secretary at least four times a year, or as need arises.

21.15.1 The Bishop shall chair meetings of the Council or in his absence, the Deputy Bishop. In the absence of both the Bishop and his deputy, the Elders’ Council shall appoint one from among them as the Chair.
21.15.2 The Secretary of the Council shall, in consultations with the Bishop, set the agenda, issue notices of meetings, and keep a record of the proceedings at all meetings of the Council. In the absence of the secretary, the Council Members shall appoint a recording secretary to record the minutes of meetings.

21.15.3 The meetings of the Council shall be held at least once every quarter. A minimum of Seven days’ notice for such meetings shall be given to all the members of the Board. 21.15.4 On matters requiring urgent attention, a meeting may be held on one day’s notice provided that a quorum of the Council is present.

21.15.5 For efficiency and effectiveness, the Council shall establish, with clear terms of reference, committees to deal with Christian education, Missions and outreach, Church planting, Scholarship Support, youth, Women, Men, Family Care, and such other committees as may be determined from time to time by the Council.

22. The Pastors Forum:

There is established the Senior Pastors’ Forum. The membership to the Senior Pastors’ Forum, which shall meet at least once in a month at the Head office or regional level as per the approved policy, shall include Pastors-in Charge, Ministry Coordinators. The Head office Senior Pastors’ Forum shall be chaired by the Bishop or in his absence, the Deputy Bishop.

22.1 Duties of the Senior Pastors Forum:

22.1.1 To Implement the Overall Strategic plans through the development of specific and measurable annual targets.

22.1.2 To develop holistic programmes in the ministries of the church in line with the vision and mission of the Church.

22.1.3 To put into place systems of mutual accountability aimed at enabling the pastoral staff to offer maximum pastoral care and quality ministry in the various assemblies and ministries.

22.1.4 To implement the decisions of the Deacon Board and the Elders Council as appropriate.

22.1.5 To develop annual staffing and resource needs for the approval of the Deacon Board and Elders Council as per policy.

22.1.6 To establish and manage important networks and relationships with other churches and other organisations locally and internationally in order to continue to expand the impact of the ministry of the church.
22.1.7 To provide quality leadership through clear direction, strong pastoral care and effective performance management so that staff motivation will be sustained and the performance level of the church will continue to rise.

22.1.8 To create a forum for benchmarking and learning from one another best practices that would enhance the ministry of the various assemblies.

23. Funds

The funds of the Church shall be used for such purposes as shall be determined by the Deacon Board which shall have authority to disburse the funds of the Church for, among others the following purposes:

23.1 General expenses;
23.2 Evangelistic activities;
23.3 Benevolence;
23.4 Uptake of buildings and necessary contents.
23.5 Capital Development
23.6 Tithe to other institutions outside of the Church.
23.7 All monies and funds shall be received by and paid to the Treasurer and shall be deposited by him/her or by a person to whom he has delegated responsibility, in the name of the Church in any bank or banks approved by the Board.

23.8 No payment shall be made out of the Church bank account without the authority of the Church Treasurer.

23.9 All cheques drawn on the Church bank account shall be signed by any two of the authorized signatories who shall be the Chairperson of the Deacon Board, the Church Treasurer and the Church Secretary.

23.10 A sum to be determined from time to time by the Deacon Board may be kept in petty cash and/or bank accounts to be operated by persons appointed by the Deacon Board for petty disbursements for Head Office, assemblies, business units and ministries for which proper accounts shall be kept.

23.11 No funds of the Church shall be distributed among the members of the Church for personal gain.

24. Trustees

24.1 All land, buildings and other immovable property and all investments and securities acquired by the Church shall be vested in a Trust of the Church.

24.2 Trustees shall be appointed under the Trust for a five (5) year term by a resolution at a general meeting of the Church. Upon the expiry of the first term, they may be re-
appointed for a further term of 5 years. A Trustee shall however serve for a maximum term of 10 years.

24.3 There shall be a minimum of three and a maximum of five Trustees. Three Trustees may sign for any given legal transaction.

24.4 The Trustees shall pay to the Treasurer all income from property vested in the Trustees. Any expenditure in respect of such property, which is, in the opinion of the Trustees, necessary or desirable shall be reported by the Trustees to the Board. The Board shall authorise the expenditure of such money as they think fit.

24.5 The Trustees shall be registered under the Land Act (Perpetual Succession).

24.6 The Trustees shall act at all times in accordance with any directions given to them by the Church in General Meetings relating to assets held by the Trustees on behalf of the Church.

25. Branch Assemblies

Branch Assemblies may be established with the approval of the joint approval of the Elders’ Council and the Deacon Board.

26. Relationships

Christ is the Answer Ministries hereby recognizes itself to be a Church in fellowship with the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Kenya.

26.1 Whilst accepting the inherent rights to independence in the conduct of its own affairs, this Church agrees to voluntarily continue in partnership with all other Churches of like faith in the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Kenya in its local, regional and national conferences, and shall share in the privileges, and assume the responsibilities enjoined by such affiliation.

26.2 The Church agrees also to continue in partnership with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, with Head Offices in Nairobi, Kenya, and in Ontario, Canada. However, the partnership with these two fellowships shall be mainly and exclusively for the advancement of the Kingdom of God and not to govern the affairs of the Church.

27. By-Laws

For efficient administration and operation of the day-to-day affairs of the Church and its related ministries, the Deacon Board and the Council of Elders shall approve the by-laws and working arrangements as are necessary.
28. Amendments to Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution of the Church shall be approved by at least a two-third majority of members present at a general meeting of the Church but they shall not be implemented without the prior consent in writing of the Registrar of Societies obtained upon application to him made in writing and signed by two of the office-bearers of which one shall be the Church Secretary.

29. Dissolution

29.1 The Church may be dissolved by a resolution passed at a general meeting by at least a two-thirds majority of the total registered membership. If no quorum is obtained, the proposal to dissolve the Church shall be submitted to a further general meeting which shall be held thirty days later with two thirds majority of the registered members present. Notice of this meeting shall be displayed on the Church notice boards and advertised in one local newspaper at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

29.2 Provided, however, that no dissolution should be effected without prior permission in writing from the Registrar of Societies. Such permission shall be obtained upon application to the Registrar of Societies in writing and signed by two of the office bearers of the church, one shall be the Church Secretary.

29.3 When the Registrar of Societies approves the dissolution of the Church no further action shall be taken by the Office Bearers of the Church in connection with the objects of the Church. The office bearers and trustees shall get in and liquidate for cash all the assets of the Church.

29.4 Subject to the payment of all the debts of the Church, the balance of the moneys of the Church and the immovable buildings and land shall be distributed only for purposes consistent with the Vision and Mission of the Church to such similar entities as shall be identified in the meeting at which the resolution for dissolution is passed.