

Association of Evangelical Churches of SVG

Established May 1979

Articles of Association

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God to call a people out of the world to constitute the body of Christ who shall be a witness to the World, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Body Christ are to live in UNITY, despite their diversities in service to each other and the world at large through their Divine gifts, talents and abilities, and

WHEREAS, it is generally understood that no one denomination or local Assembly has all the resources to accomplish God's divine plan and purpose for mankind and therefore is dependent on each other

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves as an Association of Evangelical Churches to carry out the Scriptural mandate of making Disciples of all Nations, being equipped by the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Association shall be "The association of Evangelical Churches of St. Vincent & The Grenadines, and its duration shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this Association shall be:

1. To strengthen the evangelical witness in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
2. To provide a forum for discussion among various evangelical churches in St. Vincent & The Grenadines.
3. To help various evangelical churches in St. Vincent speak a common voice on matters of common interest.
4. To assist the evangelical churches in SVG in various areas of service.

5. To erect and maintain office buildings, fellowship halls, multipurpose facilities and such other structures as are deemed necessary, and to organize and promote activities for the upkeep and continuance of said buildings and facilities, to carry out the objectives of the Association
6. To collect, solicit, and accept funds, gifts and other revenues, to hold in trust, use, mortgage, lease, sell or otherwise acquire or dispose of property, real or chattel in keeping with the recited purposes of this Association and it shall have and exercise all powers that are necessary or convenient to effect any and all of the purposes for which this Association is organized.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

We, the members of this Association, identify ourselves as Evangelicals by subscribing to the following basic statement of beliefs:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative word of God, without error in the original writings, and the only rule of faith and conduct (11 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13).
2. We believe in one God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. We believe that all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God and that for salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, is absolutely essential (Romans 3:23; Titus 3:5)
4. We believe in the deity and virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, that died upon the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of the world, that arose from the dead and ascend into heaven, whence he will return with power and glory (Luke 1:26 – 35; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18).
5. We believe in the doctrine of justification by faith, realizing that it is impossible for man through works to save himself (Romans 5: 1 – 2; Ephesians 2:8 - 9)
6. We believe that all Born-again Believers should live an exemplary life (Ephesians 5: 18-20; 2 Corinthians 5: 17, 6: 14 – 18).

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES:

1. QUALIFICATIONS

The membership of “The Association of Evangelical Churches of SVG” shall consist of those groups and individuals who meet the following qualifications:

- a. An unconditional confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- b. Agreement with the Statement of Beliefs as stated under article III
- c. A lifestyle that is consistent with Christian conduct and Doctrine
- d. Regular attendance at the activities of the Association
- e. Financially support the Association by dues and other donations, gifts etc.
- f. Voluntary submission to the leadership of the Association
- g. Approval of application for membership on the prescribed application form to the membership committee and Association. The Association reserves the right to accept or reject any application for membership

2. CLASSIFICATION

Membership shall be limited to those who fulfill the above requirements and have expressed their desire for membership and a willingness to co-operate with the purposes of the Association.

There shall be three classes of membership of this Association designated as follows: Active Members, Associate Members, and Individual Members.

The members of this Association shall be those groups and individuals who have subscribed to the objectives and statement of beliefs in accordance with the provisions of this Article IV; and the membership shall be composed of three classes of members to be known as, Active Members, Associate Members and Individual Members.

a. ACTIVE MEMBERS

An Active Member shall be a denomination, synod, convention, or other similar organized church group with five churches or more or a para-church group or inter-church group or organization which works along with various denominational groups which has been approved for active membership by the Association. An active Member shall be entitled to select and replace five delegates in accordance with its own form of government, and each of its delegates shall be entitled to participate in debates, make or second motions, vote, hold office, etc.

b. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

An Associate Member shall be a denomination of 1-4 churches, synod, convention, or other similar organized church group, or a para-church or inter-church group or organization which works along with various denominational groups, which has been approved for associate membership by the Membership Committee and has been accepted for associate membership by the association. An Associate Member shall be entitled to select and replace two members in accordance with its own form of government and each of its delegates shall be eligible to participate in debates, make or second motions, vote hold office, etc.

c. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

An individual Member shall be a pastor, evangelist or other leader of a congregation or of a denomination that works along with various church groups, who has been approved for individual membership by the Membership Committee and has been accepted for individual membership by the Association. An Individual Member is entitled to one vote and shall have the same rights as a delegate of an Active Member to participate in debates, make or second motions, vote, hold office, etc.

3. MEMBERSHIP DUES

- a. The amount of Dues set by the Executive Committee shall be payable by the year in advance. The same amount of Dues shall be required from each member within a class.
- b. Any member of any class who becomes two months in arrears beyond the date when dues are payable will be suspended by the Membership Committee and he or its delegates will not be permitted to vote or hold office while in a suspended status. Such member will be re-instated on payment of all arrears. Any member of any class who becomes six months in arrears beyond the date when dues are payable will be dropped from membership by the Membership Committee. Such member in a ny class can re-apply for membership.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS:

1. OFFICERS

The Officers of this Association shall be a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7). Should there be three (3) there shall be the President, Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer and one (1) Elected Officer. The elected officers shall perform the duties of such positions, in accordance with these Articles of Association as stated in Article 11.

2. THE PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chairman of the meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee, and shall be responsible for the publicity and public relations.

3. THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall substitute for the President whenever requested to do so by the President, or in his absence.

4. THE SECRETARY

The Secretary shall record all minutes of the meetings of the association and of the Executive Committee, and shall maintain current membership lists of each class of members of voting purposes, and shall issue membership certificates, and shall give notice of all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Association.

5. THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect the dues from the members and issue receipts and shall notify the Membership Committee when members are in arrears. The Treasurer shall receive all other funds of the association, issue receipts, and make disbursements as authorized by the association or the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall maintain accurate records of all amounts received, disbursed and on hand in the different accounts, and shall submit the records to the Auditing Committee as required. The treasurer shall report regularly to the Executive committee and to the Association at annual meeting. The treasurer shall be co-signatory on all Association's authorized checks.

6. NOMINATIONS

Nominations for each officer or Member of the membership committee, whose term of office expires at the annual meeting, shall be submitted to the annual meeting by the Nominating Committee; and before each election additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted. Nominations shall be made by and on behalf of only those persons eligible to vote and hold office in accordance with article IV.

7. ELECTIONS

The Officers and Members of the Membership Committee shall be elected by ballot in accordance with Article VII, to serve their terms as elected or until successors are elected, beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

8. LIMITS

An Officer shall not hold more than one office at a time, except in the case of Secretary/Treasurer, but he may succeed himself as often as he may be elected.

ARTICLES VI MEETINGS

1. The regular meetings of the association shall be held once a quarter unless otherwise ordered by the association or the Executive Committee.
2. A special meeting may be called by the president or the Executive Committee at any time.
3. A notice for each regular meeting shall be sent to each Member at least fifteen days in advance of the meeting. The notice shall include the time, date, place, purpose and agenda of the meeting and any other information deemed pertinent.
4. The regular meeting held during the second quarter of the calendar year April, May or June, shall be known as the Annual General Meeting and shall be for the of receiving reports of all officers and committees, electing officers and committees and carrying on any business that may rise.
5. The quorum for a regular or special meeting for which proper notice has been sent in accordance with Section 3 above, shall consist of one-third all persons eligible to vote who are present and voting.
6. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with applicable laws of St. Vincent & The Grenadines the Articles of Association, and common parliamentary practice.

ARTICLE VII – VOTING AND ELECTIONS

1. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles of Association, these Articles of Association shall initially be adopted by majority vote of these persons present and voting at the organizational meeting. After adoption, those persons who wish to enroll as Individual Members shall be enrolled upon their agreement to subscribe to Articles II and III and to pay their dues within two months of assessment, subject to their later confirmation as Individual Members by the Membership Committee following enrollment, the president and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years, the Vice President, the Secretary and elected officer shall be elected for a term

of three years, one membership committeeman shall be elected for a term of two years, and one membership Committeeman shall be elected for a term of one year, with all of the elected persons taking office immediately upon election. Thereafter all these officers can be elected for two consecutive terms of 2 years. In the organizational meeting, following the adoption of the Articles of Association, a majority vote by ballot of all enrolled Individual Members present and voting shall be sufficient to elect or to do any other business and in the event that any Individual Member who was enrolled and voted at the organizational meeting shall not be later confirmed by the Membership Committee; the legality to the voting shall not be affected hereby.

2. Following the initial organizational meeting of the association, any ordinary business of the association that does not require a specific and accurate count of the votes may be conducted at a regular or special meeting of the association by voice, vote or by showing of hands of those persons eligible to vote who are present and voting, without regard to the class of membership, with each eligible person having a vote.
3. Following the initial organizational meeting of the association, in all elections and other matters that require a specific and accurate count of the votes, the following procedure will be used. The Secretary shall provide two types of ballots, distinguishable by color or by title or otherwise; one will be typed for the use of delegates of Active Members and the other will be for the use of Individual Members. The Secretary and the Tellers shall assure that each person eligible to vote receives the appropriate ballot or ballots, particularly seeing that each person entitles to vote as a delegate of an Active Member and as an Individual Member receives one ballot of each type. When the ballots have been marked, the Tellers will sort and count the ballots used by the Individual Members. If the necessary majority of the Individual Members has been obtained, the Tellers will then fill out three ballots of the type used by delegates in accordance with the choice of the majority of the Individual Members present and voting; in the event of a tie vote, the Tellers will fill out one ballot of the type used by the delegates for each alternative tied; and in the event of no majority for tie, no ballot of the typed used by delegates will be filled out by Tellers. When this has been completed, the tellers shall then count the ballots of the delegates including the ones prepared by themselves as the result of counting the Individual Members' ballots. The report of the Tellers shall include all of all the above steps, counting invalid ballots but not counting blank ballots to determine the

number of votes cast at each step. A majority of counted delegates ballots will be necessary to elect or to pass any matter that requires a ballot vote, except as provided in Section 4 below.

4. These articles of association may be amended after their initial adoption at any regular meeting of the association by two-thirds majority vote of those persons eligible to vote who are present and voting, by ballot in accordance with Article VII, section 3 above provided that the proposed amendment has been sent to all delegates, observers, and Individual Members by ordinary mail at least fifteen days in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Elected Officer shall constitute the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the association between its meetings and shall fix the time, date and place of meetings, plan the agenda and make recommendations to the association, appoint the Nominating Committee to prepare for the annual meeting, prepare a budget for submission to the annual meeting, set the amounts of dues payable by the various classes of members and have the power to act in emergencies on behalf of the association.
3. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the decisions of the association and none of its acts shall conflict with the article of association taken at regular or special meetings.
4. The Executive Committee shall set the time and place of its own regular meetings and may be called by the president for special meetings.
5. The Executive Committee shall manage and control gifts, legacies, beneficiaries of any kind, investments etc.
6. The Executive Committee shall meet any costs, expenses and liabilities from such funds as may be needed in the Association.
7. The Executive Committee shall employ such staff as may be required in the functioning of the association and to dismiss such staff.

8. The Executive Committee shall open bank accounts and discuss, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, bills of lading, warrants, debentures and other negotiable and transferable instruments.

ARTICLE IX – THE TRUSTEES

1. The Trustees:

The Executive Committee shall constitute the Trustees

2. Powers and Duties of Trustees

The powers and business of the Association in so far as they relate to dealings with real and/or personal property of the Association shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the Trustees for the promotion of the purpose of the Association as set forth in ARTICLE 11.

The Powers and Business of the Trustees shall include:

- a. To buy, sell, lease, or otherwise deal in real and personal property being trust property in the Name of the Association
- b. To hold trust property and manage trust funds in Trust for the Association
- c. To sell, mortgage, charge or pledge trust property as affirmed by a seventy-five majority of the voting members of the Association present at a General or Special Meeting of the Association held to approve such sale, mortgage, charge or pledge
- d. To exercise all the powers and duties of the Executive Committee as described in ARTICLE VIII SECTION 5

In respect of matters of financial decisions, no authority is vested in these members for payment of sums in EXCESS OF TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLARS EC. (OR A DETERMINDED UPON AMOUNT). Sums in EXCESS of the aforementioned shall be authorized by a SEVENTY-FIVE MAJORITY of the voting members of the Association present at a General or Special Meeting of the Association held to approve such AMOUNT.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES:

1. Membership Committee

The Membership committee shall be composed of the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer who shall be ex officio chairman of this committee and 2 persons elected by ballot at the annual meeting in accordance with Articles V and VIII. This committee shall confirm the membership of the original enrolled Individual Members, and shall screen all additional candidates for Active, Associate and Individual Membership, assuring itself that such candidate do subscribe to the objectives and statement of beliefs in accordance with Articles 11 and 111, and shall recommend such candidate as it may approve to be ratified by the Association. This committee shall review the status of all members for non-payment of dues in accordance with Article IV. This committee shall also make recommendations to the Association concerning discipline or dismissal of members for conduct contrary to the Scriptures and/or violation of the Articles of Association. The discipline of members shall always be consistent with the instructions given in Matt. 18: 16-20 and Gal. 6:1, 2.

2. The Auditing Committee

The Auditing Committee shall be composed of three persons eligible to vote or hold office and shall be appointed by the Executive Committee each year. The Treasurer's records shall be submitted at least 3 months before the annual meeting.

3. The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of three persons eligible to vote or hold office and shall be appointed by the Executive Committee each year. Nominations should be submitted at least 2 weeks before the annual meeting.

4. Other Committees

Such other committees shall be appointed by the President as the Association or the Executive committee shall deem necessary to carry on the objectives of the Association. The President shall be EX Officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.