

# **USA DIOCESE CONVENTION 2015**

## **RESURGENCE 2015**

### **COMMUNIQUE**

Location: USA Diocese, Region C

L.A Airport Westin Hotel  
5400 West Century Blvd  
Los Angeles, California 90045

Date: Saturday, May 14-17, 2015

Time: 9:00 am 7:00 pm Eastern Std. Time daily.

2015 National Convention of USA Diocese was attended by 450 members from the entire 7 Regions of the Diocese, all Supervisors and / or their Representatives, Women Council, and Youths Council under the chairmanship of the General Superintendent, USA Diocese. Also in attendance were renowned Ministers from Nigeria and Europe. The Convention commenced at 9:00 am and concluded at 7:00 pm daily.

The following resolutions were approved for immediate implementation by all Parishes, States, and Regions within the Diocese.

It was unanimously agreed and resolved by the Convention that:

#### **PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

1. Any Shepherd who is not a Prophet shall not wear Four Corner Sutana in the Sanctuary. It can only be worn to sleep or worn under your normal sutana.
2. To award Four Corner Sutana to any member, he/she must have been prophesying for a period of at least 3 years.
3. Four Corner Sutana can only be granted to an individual contingent upon the recommendation of the Head of Prophets for the Parish and approved by the Shepherd-in-Charge.
4. Any child wearing Four Corner Sutana, who has not prophesied by the attainment of age 18 must stop wearing the Four Corner Sutana and change to Round Neck Sutana.

5. There shall be Head of Prophets at the Parish, State, and the Regional Levels.
6. It is mandatory that Head of Prophets from each Parish in addition to 1 male and 1 female prophets shall meet with the State and Regional Heads of Prophets on a quarterly basis to discuss the way forward.
7. During Services, all prophesying shall stop at the commencement of the reading of 'The Creed'. Any prophets/prophetess prophesying must be sanctified once 'The Creed' is being read.
8. A well-structured and organized Prophets Convention shall be held at an agreed location and schedule (annually, or every other year) with the Convention Program approved by the General Superintendent (GS) USA Diocese.
9. An ongoing Mentoring Program shall be set up for Prophets/Prophetesses. A respectable, disciplined, and well-seasoned Prophet/Prophetess shall take a newly indoctrinated Prophet/Prophetess under his or her wings for training, mentoring, and providing spiritual support (i.e. like Elijah taking Elisha under his wings).
10. Issue of excessive make-up, transparent sutana, improper styles/design of loins, improper dancing or display shall be addressed at the Parish Level. It shall be under the purview of Parish Head of Prophets, the parish shepherd and Compliance Committee.
11. Public humiliation of Prophets/Prophetesses must stop. If there is an issue, such must be addressed privately with the affected Prophets/Prophetess.
12. All spiritual messages must be signed by the Shepherd-in-Charge and not the Head of Prophets before they are performed.
13. Only Sanctification/holy water alone and NOT perfume shall be used for prophets/prophetesses Services.

**Wardens- Sides men /Sides women: .**

The Convention decided that the Ministry is charged with the responsibility of:

1. Providing security during services in Celestial Church of Christ.
2. Sanctification of the church and homes of members.
3. Maintaining orderliness and peace during services.
4. Joining the Prayer warriors in effectively executing prayer assignments.

5. Working with and under the guidance of the Shepherd-in-Charge.
6. Writing spiritual messages given by Prophets/Prophetesses.
7. Being voluntary helpers in all Church matters.
8. Gatemen/women during all services.
9. Always assisting in all Church sanctification exercises.

The Convention resolves the following:

1. Provision of training both practical and academics for the personnel at parish, state and regional levels.
2. Setting up National Ministry to share experience among one another.
3. Elevation with Certification.
4. Monthly meetings between the Shepherds and Sides men and women.
5. Organizing Night Vigil.

### **Evangelists' Ministry**

Upon the deliberation of the group tasked with reviewing the current state of evangelism with the Celestial Church of Christ, North America, region, the following proposals were approved for immediate implementation-

1. Evangelical assignments – Harvest convocations, Revivals, Naming and Wedding Ceremonies, etc. – should no longer be based on rank, robe or tenure in the church, but rather should be strictly considered based on the evidence and demonstration of the gift and the successful completion of the requisite training curriculum of the selected individuals.
2. Biblical education and training should be a requisite condition for all shepherds and evangelists. They are the face and epistle of Christ and the Church, and therefore should be able to understand and handle the word of God truthfully and convincingly, while providing a proper exegesis of the Gospel to promote and foster a congregation of spiritually learned and spiritually armed membership.
3. A uniform biblical training syllabus for training should be created within the regional evangelical group, which should be employed universally by all elders of the church (including current and future shepherds) to help meet evangelical training criteria.
4. Secular education and continual refresher courses are mandatory for every aspiring evangelist and shepherd to avoid mediocrity or becoming an obsolete tool in the current fast changing knowledge environment.
5. Wednesday and Friday services should serve as a minimum training podium for elders in the church who aspire to feature regularly on the

Sunday pulpit. And promotion to the Sunday pulpit may not occur until after the shepherd has certified that such individuals have fulfilled the aforementioned criteria to the satisfaction of the shepherd.

6. Shepherds should be encouraged to recognize talent within their respective parishes, help build the talent and provide a platform to showcase such talents not only within their parishes, but also within sister parishes, in order to promote the Word of God.
7. Growth may not be fostered without providing room for constructive feedback. To this end, congregants may be encouraged to fill out short, anonymous surveys at the end of the sermon to evaluate the preacher on the content of the sermon, relevance of the sermon, delivery of the message, and overall effectiveness. The shepherd should then review all comments in a scheduled 30-45 minute one-on-one meeting with the preacher to provide constructive feedback; all of which may only help the individual improve.
8. The Church may only disabuse its current dogmatic practices – in accordance with the spiritual zeitgeist of our times – and impart a shift from “works” to the “Word”, by ensuring informed men and women are taking the podium and preaching and teaching the truth and power of the Word of God. Where the word is absent or spoken amiss, the people will continue to turn to tradition and fetish inclination, which will only continue to stymie the growth and expansion of the church, particularly in the Western hemisphere.
9. A focus should also be placed on supporting our women and providing them a platform to evangelize. While they may not mount the Pulpit, they should however be given a podium for 10-15 minutes each Sunday to showcase their talents as well. They should also be featured regularly within our revival programs and symposiums. The talents of God aren't exclusive to any sex. Let us include them and feature them; it will only help retain our ladies and women and help attract more into the church.
10. A media expansion of Celestial Church of Christ into television, radio and print is ripe. But it must have the right leadership and representation, not based on sentiment or tradition, but rather, based on the demonstrated qualification of such individuals in such positions.
11. There shall compulsorily be established a regional Evangelical Committee/Department within the next three months by every region to coordinate and ensure the execution of the aforementioned duties. The committee shall ensure an effective planning and execution of regular and random open crusades over the entire region, pre-harvest revivals and

symposiums, hospital, shelter and prison ministries and shepherds quarterly pulpit exchange.

12. Evangelists shall wear full regalia on Sundays to conduct services or sit in the altar and maintain the lifestyle of Jesus and the mindset of Christ.

It is the staunch belief of this Convention that if these resolutions are largely or wholly embraced, the current apostasies of the church and the injured reputation of the church lacking in the Word of God, will invariably be disabused, and the Ship will be set in the course for which it was sent.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

1. There should be annual Youth Conference.
2. Time management on Sundays so as to allow Youth prepare for the school week. Services should end on or before 1.30pm
3. Parishes to ensure there is Sunday school for toddlers and Pre-teens to be managed by Youths.
4. Middle aged adults who are up with the times to act as Youth Mentors for the Youths.
5. Encourage marriages among Celestial Youths as well as Marriage Mentors.
6. Youths to officiate one Sunday in a month.
7. Improve Networking between the Youths through annual National Youth Convention and semi- annual retreats and workshops at state and regional levels.
8. Youths should compulsorily be used effectively within the various activities of each parish particularly in the areas of information technology and administration.
9. Dynamic, resourceful and understanding coordinators should be appointed for the youths ministries at State, Regional and Diocesan levels.

### **CENTRAL CHOIR**

1. Discipline be maintained at all times, for example No use of Phones. in the Choir Stall. Going in and out should be controlled.
2. Indiscipline such as talking, joking and insubordination shall be avoided.
3. Will ensure that no spraying of money is enforced.
4. No praising of individuals during harvests or service.
5. No wearing of mufti in the Choir Stall.
6. Central Choir to review the differences in hymnal rendition.
7. Maintain Standard of Choir capes. Pictures of proper color and style will be sent to all Choir Masters.

8. Shall indulge in regular practice to ensure perfection of rendition during Service.
9. Shall conduct most Service hymns in English to reflect the operating environment.
10. No drumming during rendition of hymns.
11. Shall ensure effective time-management during thanksgiving rather than waiting for orders from the alter.

### **WOMEN COUNCIL**

1. All women and Shepherd wives to be members of Women Council (W/C).
2. All the W/C Annexes should operate under the auspices of the National Women Council Ministry.
3. Adultery and fornication should be totally discouraged. Materials for Sutana must be nice, good looking and not transparent or lace material.
4. Church loin should be yellow and white fringes for all ranks except for the Prophetesses which is blue and white fringes. No use of furs or shining materials.
5. Sutana should be in gathers rather than sunray or pleats.
6. No tying of caps at the back but use instead, elastic bands to expand the cap.
7. Talking or chewing gums generally in the Church should be discouraged.
8. The use of make-ups and painting of nails should be to moderation.
9. Shepherds-in-Charge should scrutinize members properly before conferring the post of Mother Celestial.
10. Head of National Women Council should be well respected, of good character and widely accepted.

### **Shepherds Council**

1. There shall be a National Shepherds Council established at the Diocese Level. This council will regulate the shepherds and enhance the welfare, education and spiritual growth of the shepherds.

The Convention resolved that there shall be a:

2. **Renewal of Oaths of Office** annually. The renewal of oaths shall take place during Annual Convocation where members congregate in one accord and fellowship, mediating and debating church affairs and progress of the Church.
3. **Payment of Salary instead of Stipend for Shepherds.**

It was resolved that Shepherds and Church Workers should be treated as employees of the Church and therefore must be on payroll instead of being under unaccountable funds. This is to ensure social security and other retirement benefits like Medicare and Medicaid.

**4. Award of Vacation on Yearly Basis**

It is resolved that Shepherds be awarded at least mandatory two weeks fully paid yearly vacation. This takes effect from this year 2015.

**5. Arrangement of minimum \$10,000 Life Insurance for Shepherds (Not Term) This shall be in place for every shepherd on or before September 01, 2015**

This is a Re-approval of minimum life insurance of \$10,000 for Shepherds as recommended in previous USA Diocese memorandum.

**6. The following regional regulatory committees shall be established by every region by August 31, 2015:**

1. Compliance Corp.
2. Reconciliation and Disciplinary Committee.
3. Parish Establishment, Anointments, Ranks and Robes.
4. Evangelism and Crusades  
Please refer to the Manual of Instruction for the modus operandi.  
Proof of establishment must be sent to the Diocese.

**7. Parishes shall be graded into A-C, based on numerical strength and level of pastoral payments. This is the assignment of the regional Parish Establishment Committee.**

8. Merchandizing on the pulpit shall remain completely prohibited. Materials for revival shall remain only water, candle and fruits and shall be freely given.

9. Spraying of money in the Sanctuary of God is totally prohibited. Where it is practiced without regard for the fear of God the officiating Minister and other elders shall be free to leave that Sanctuary.

10. Pouring or spraying of perfume on members shall remain totally prohibited. Only sanctification water shall be used.

11. Shepherds, parochial committees, all states and regional committees, states, regional and diocesan supervisors shall refer to the Manual of

Instructions and Bye-laws of the diocese in their administration for equity and uniformity.

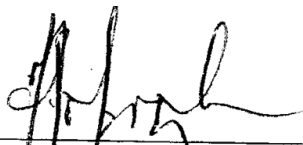
12. Proliferation and abuse of Evangelism by independently registered evangelical movements is totally prohibited in the diocese.
13. Visiting Ministers shall obtain clearance from the region and diocese before parading or officiating in any parish.
- 14. Class cards:** \$5 per member per month. 25% of the proceeds shall be given to the parish, 25% to the Directorate of Fundraising for developmental projects approved by Exco., 10% to diocese and 40% for Imeko development. This takes immediate effect and disbursement by each parish through the diocese shall be as at December 31, yearly. Class Cards shall be issued to every member and updated monthly by the parish assigned officer. A separate Savings Account shall be opened for this collection.
15. The Convention approved the payment of \$5.00 per month per member towards project funding of the Directorate of Fund Raising. This will enable the diocese to acquire income generating Properties/Investments.
- 16. Church property title deeds** should not be in any body's name but Celestial Church of Christ.
- 17. Shepherds training** should be universal, using reputable trainers and curriculum approved by the diocese. Until the diocese is able to acquire a standard permanent training facility, the diocese shall continue on circuitry and on-the-job training.
18. During **harvests, free** hotel reservations may be made only for Clergies.
19. Internet monitoring Council shall be established at the diocesan level to check and control internet abuses by parishes. Only images that edify Christ, promote godliness and enhance the divine reputation of the church shall be encouraged.
- 20. SOLEMNITY IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE**
  - Service conductors must report to church on time.
  - Conductors should not leave the altar till the end of service.
  - No drums during Service Hymns.
  - Choir cape should compulsorily be the standard color and design.



- There should be no praise-worshiping of any human being by the Choir.
- **Avoid excessive ritualistic assignments in the Church by our Shepherds / Prophets. We should move from work to the Word.**


The next National Convention was unanimously approved for May 2017 in Region A.

And to the Immortal King of the Universe, God of all creations and the Everlasting Holy Trinity we give all thanks, profound gratitude, glory, and exaltation for the re-sounding success of the Convention and safe trips of all participants.Amen.



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Sup. Evan Jacob Popoola  
Diocesan Gen. Secretary



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Sup. Evan. Joseph Olorunnisola  
Gen. Superintendent