

UFAI COLLEGE OF BISHOPS DOCUMENTATION

Adapted for UFAI by *Chief Apostle M. Christopher Wilson, Sr*

Information acquired ¹The Reformed Catholic Church Code of Canons

Act 15:4-6 KJV And when they were come to Jerusalem (*church*), they were received of the church, and of the *apostles and elders (bishops)*, ... **(5)** But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses. **(6)** And the *apostles and elders (bishops)* came together for to consider of this matter.

Act 15:13 KJV And after they had held their peace, James (*Bishop of the Church at Jerusalem*) answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: (*James had the final say and decision in the matter and all the other Apostles & Bishop submitted to his authority.*)

To: Bishops & Overseers of the UFAI

Date: 15 April 2006

Grace and Peace, in the Matchless Name of Our King and Chief Apostle, the Christ

First I would like to thank each of you for your dedication to see the vision of UFAI comes to past. I'm humbled by the fact that you would see fit to allow me to be a '*James*' in the mist of some many of you talented and gifted men of God.

The time is at hand that we must set forth our College of Bishops, where as to establish proper ecclesiastical protocol for our reformation (network). Those that will be elected to this College will serve as the governing body for our church.

The forgoing documentation has been drafted and upon adoption will serve as initial guidelines for the College and the groundwork of our Code of Canon Law.

From the Apostolic Desk of:

+*M. Christopher Wilson, Sr*

International Presiding Prelate & General Overseer

¹ www.holyinnocents.com/Canons.pdf

UNITY FELLOWSHIP ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL
BISHOP M. CHRISTOPHER WILSON, SR
Chief Apostle & Presiding Prelate



UFAI College of Bishops Basic Guidelines

What is the College of Bishops?

The College of Bishops is made up of all active bishops in the Church and is chaired by the Chief Apostle of the Church. The Chief Apostle is to be understood as operating within the context of a "Chairperson" of the governing body of the College with the authority to act on the articulation of the vision of the Church and the advancement of major policy initiatives. The Bishop Coadjutor (*1st Presiding Prelate*) will serve as the equivalent of a "CEO" with operational authority as regards all matters of policy formulation in collaboration with the Chief Apostle and other Bishops, and policy implementation.

Every bishop forming the College shall have an equal vote on matters of decision-making and a 2/3rds vote is needed for a policy to be approved. The Chief Apostle will have the authority to veto any vote that is not unanimous. If the Chief Apostle gives a veto, he must (within a 30 day window) present in writing his position of why he believes the vote is not in the best interest of the vision of the Reformation.

UFAI Overseers may be invited to sit on the College of Bishops and have a voice, as the Council deems appropriate, and shall be entitled to a vote on the Council. While ecclesiastical primacy rests with the Council as a whole, the Chief Apostle chairing the Council shall be the titular (so-called) Ecclesiastical Primate of the Church and as such, shall symbolically represent the Council. [The Chief Apostle may delegate this role to the Coadjutor as he sees fit in certain circumstances.]

Authority of Bishops.

In accordance with accepted tradition, the fullness of the priesthood rests with the bishops. Accordingly, the ecclesiastical authority of all other ministers is obtained from the bishops through delegation of their ecclesiastical authority as the acting successors of the apostles. All ministers of the Church hold their ecclesiastical authority through their ordaining bishop, who shall retain this position unless it is formally transferred to another bishop by a mandate of the Chief Apostle and with the concurrence of the College of Bishops.

Clergy may petition the College of Bishops for such transfer for any reason submitting the request to the Vicar (Secretary) General of the Church. The Vicar General will make the decision after consultation with the Coadjutor or defer the judgment for reasons of special complex circumstances directly to the Chief Apostle. The Chief Apostle has the right to appoint vicars and Bishops to serve in various capacities. He also retains the right to revoke appointments and make reassignments depending upon the needs of the Church and the performance of incumbents. [A Coadjutor may have these responsibilities delegated to him or her by the Chief Apostle.]

The Chief Apostle & Bishops of the Church may terminate the delegation of ecclesiastical authority of any subordinate clergy at any time for due cause but doing so is a matter of great gravity and should be done with enormous care and prayerful reflection, and fulsome consultation with other senior Bishops of the Church. The College of Bishops shall arbitrate matters regarding just cause in particular cases. Members of the clergy deprived of authority by their bishop who are not delegated ministerial authority by another bishop of the Church shall desist from performance of ministerial functions and cease representing themselves as ministers of the UNITY FELLOWSHIP ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL (*Respectfully referred to as UFAI*). They will have the right to appeal their case.

Responsibility of the College of Bishops.

The College of Bishops is charged with the responsibility for maintaining the ecclesiastical integrity of the Church, especially with respect to preserving the apostolic tradition and apostolic teaching (*Act 2: 42*).

Authority of the College of Bishops.

The bishops are entrusted with the gifts of the Spirit attending Episcopal office. As such, they are charged with the responsibility for preserving the ecclesiastical integrity of the Church and therefore they have the ecclesiastical authority to do so. Hence, the College of Bishops shall have the authority and responsibility to establish unilaterally such ecclesiastical requirements as it deems necessary in order to regulate sacerdotal (*priestly*) and non-sacerdotal (*not related to*

the priestly ministry) ministries and their ministers with respect to preserving apostolic teaching, the administration of the sacraments & baptism, as well as to maintain appropriate standards of ecclesiastical dignity. This shall include the authority to establish qualifications for Holy Orders (UFAI Credentialing Board) and also training and performance regulations for clergy and ministers of the Church in conjunction with the appointed Vicar of Formation (Bishop of Protocol).

The College of Bishops shall have the authority to create or endorse publications and other materials in order to establish and to define the spiritual and religious orientation of the Church, without erecting binding requirements for belief thereby. The College of Bishops shall have the authority to require clergy and ministers to cease and desist from conducting that which it deems contrary to UFAI Principles or from anything, which threatens the ecclesiastical integrity of the Church, under threat of suspension from the ecclesiastical authority they have delegated.

Those who do not meet the requirements of the College of Bishops are liable to have their ecclesiastical authority revoked. The College of Bishops may suspend ecclesiastical authority pending the outcome of a fair investigation that they shall cause to have initiated, involving the appropriate adjudicatory tribunal, but they shall not revoke such ecclesiastical authority without due process, including the opportunity of the party under investigation to present a defense. The decision of the College of Bishops shall be final in matters regarding ecclesiastical authority and its delegation to clergy, ministers and ministries. Clergy and ministers who have had their ecclesiastical authority revoked by the Council shall cease representing themselves as clergy or ministers of the Communion.

Authority of the College of Bishops to remove a fellowship Bishop

The College of Bishops shall have the sole authority to remove any of its members who contravene (disobeys, breaks) UFAI Principles as set forth in the Canons, Constitution, and Statement of principles, or who seriously breach the ecclesiastical integrity or dignity of the Church. Bishops who have been removed from the Council shall cease representing themselves as bishops of the Church.

Episcopal Jurisdictions

Vicariates (*regions without a diocesan/regional Bishop of diocese*), establish diocese, and their formation and organization are the responsibility of the Chief Apostle. This shall not be interpreted as conflicting with the delegation of sacerdotal (*priestly*) and ecclesiastical authority by the bishops to priests, deacons, and other ministers and to ministries or in delegation of the authority for management and oversight by the Executive Council.

Selection of Bishops.

Priests being selected for the episcopacy of the Church shall be affirmed and presented by the laity and/or members of the College of Bishops, yet the final approval rest with the Chief Apostle of the Church. The Chief Apostle may seek the advice of the Full College of Bishops in cases where the candidates are best known to other members of the College. Lay assemblies may petition the Chief Apostle to consider candidates of their own choosing. Candidates shall be named "bishops-elect or bishop designate" upon selection by the Chief Apostle and the issuance of a proper mandate, and they alone shall have the right to the use of this title until the time of their consecration.

The Chief Apostle in collaboration with the College of Bishops shall establish standards for the selection of bishops. As a general rule, only those will be considered as candidates for the episcopate who have met the following conditions:

- 1) Have mastered their chosen spiritual path,
- 2) Have been ordained to the priesthood at least five years previously, and
- 3) Have developed an active ministry.

Bishops requesting to be admitted to the church in that office shall meet similar requirements, in addition to proving to the satisfaction of the College of Bishops the validity of their calling.

The Chief Apostle serves a perpetual term or until formal resignation from office, or incapacitation. The Chief Apostle may be removed by the College of Bishops in the case of serious violations of the Professional standards as set forth in the standards document, and behavior that directly contravenes (disobey, break) UFAI Principles of Conduct, Constitution or Code of Canons. The same due process established for the Bishops applies equally to the Chief Apostle.

The Chief Apostle shall appoint a bishop coadjutor of the Church (1st Presiding Prelate) to share the leadership role for the welfare of the life of the Church. Upon resignation of the Chief Apostle, serious illness, or incapacitation, any previously appointed coadjutor is assumed to have the right of succession and the right to name a coadjutor from among the ranks of the Bishops.

Should both the Chief Apostle and the coadjutor resign or be incapacitated, the College of Bishops may elect another Chief Apostle from among its ranks. A unanimous election is mandatory.

Consecration of Bishops.

Every Rite of Consecration shall follow a rubric approved for this purpose by the College of Bishops and shall include the traditional form and matter of the sacrament.

Any bishop who consecrates another without a mandate from the Chief Apostle of the Church resigns thereby from the Church and shall desist forthwith from representing association with the Church or its ecclesiastical authority. Bishops shall not participate as co-consecrators in other rites without the consent of the Chief Apostle and full College of Bishops.

Succession of Leadership

Bishop M. Christopher Wilson, Sr
Chief Apostle, Presiding Prelate

Bishop Demetrius Stevenson
1st Presiding Prelate/Bishop Coadjutor

Bishop Gregory Mullen
2nd Presiding Prelate/Vicar General