

STATUTES OF THE UNION OF AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS OF AFRICA (UAFA)

1. Preamble

The Augustinian Circumscriptions in Africa, with the approval of the Prior General of the Order, have organized themselves into a Union with the title “Union of Augustinian Friars of Africa (UAFA)”. This is in line with the recommendation of the Constitutions of the Order (n. 247-248) and the determination of the Ordinary General Chapter (C-10, 2001). This union will offer a better knowledge of and understanding among friars, and will ensure a more coordinated approach to the Order’s evangelization mission in the African region. It will encourage leadership and initiative among circumscriptions and will align all members more closely with related developments within the Order. The following circumscriptions compose this body: the Province of Nigeria and the Vicariates of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and the community in Anaba, with the participation of the Augustinian missions in Togo and South Africa and any other mission undertaken in the future.

2. Purpose

2.1 The Purpose of the Union is to establish a forum for:

- a. the fostering of knowledge and closer collaboration among the Augustinian circumscriptions in Africa;
- b. conceiving and implementing apostolic works and human promotion in Africa;
- c. providing a forum for discussion of common concerns and problems and seeking solutions to these problems by fraternal cooperation;
- d. provision of mutual aid and support and sharing of resources in the fields of formation (both initial and on-going), history of the Order and Augustinian responsibility;
- e. discussion of the Order’s policies for Africa, and agreement on how to implement them;
- f. collaboration in establishing and spreading the presence the Order in Africa more widely;

2.2 Areas of collaboration include:

- a. initial and on-going formation;
- b. studies and research
- c. publications

- d. mission
- e. creation of organizations like NGO, Associations, Foundations, etc.
- f. support to circumscriptions in difficulty

2.3 With due regard to the autonomy granted to each Circumscription by the Constitutions of the Order, decisions of the union are not juridically but morally binding.

3. Structure:

3.1 Membership

- a. the Prior General or delegated Assistant General for UAFA, as representative of the Prior General of the Order (Cons. No. 476), but not in voting capacity.
- b. The Major Superior of the Province of Nigeria and the Regional Vicars of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Priors of the communities in Anaba, South Africa and Togo.

3.2 Executive Council

The Executive Council of the Union is composed of all the Major Superiors of the Union, the Secretary and Treasurer. However, to coordinate the activities of the union, the responsibility rests on the President, Vice President and Secretary. The President and Vice-President cease to be officials upon the expiration of their term of office as Major Superiors.

4. Duties of the Officials:

4.1. President

These shall consist in:

- a. convoking and presiding at meetings of the Union;
- b. reminding members of the place and date of meeting decided upon at the previous meeting;
- c. establishing the agenda for the meetings, in consultation with other members;
- d. accepting the submissions of matters of interest/concerns from members of the circumscriptions involved;
- e. coordinating with the members the implementation of the decisions taken at these meetings;

- f. facilitating communication between UAFA members; and
- g. providing coordination of commissions of UAFA as required.
- h. the office of the President of the Union will be rotational;
- i. the tenure of the President ends when he finishes his tenure as Major Superior in his circumscription.

Where necessary, the President may seek help from other member circumscriptions in the execution of his office.

4.2. Vice-President

The Vice-President assists the President in the implementation of the approved decisions and projects. He substitutes the President wherein the President is absent or is incapacitated he replaces him until the end of his tenure and should the later be Before a new President emerges, he assists the President in office should he later be incapacitated to fulfil his duties during the tenure of his office.

The office of the Vice President will be held by the next circumscription to hold the office the President.

The tenure of the Vice President ends when he finishes his tenure as Major Superior in his circumscription.

4.3 Secretary

The Secretary will be the Secretary of one of the circumscriptions different from that of the President of UAFA. Together with the Secretaries of other circumscriptions, they will form the Secretariat of UAFA. He is responsible for recording the deliberations and the publication of the decisions of UAFA for distribution to the members of the Union. He is also responsible for communication of UAFA decisions and activities after their approval by the Executive Council of the Union; this communication would be to all the brothers of the Order in the region.

4.4 Treasurer

The treasurer will be Bursar of one of the circumscriptions diferent from that of the President UAFA. He will be responsible for the recording of income and expenditure of the Union, and giving account at meetings.

5 General Assembly

- 5.4 The General Assembly meets once a year, at a time previously agreed upon by the members. The following will take part as members of the General Assembly:

- a. The Prior General or his delegate;
- b. The Assistant General for Africa;
- c. The President of the Union;
- d. The Vice-President of the Union;
- e. The Major Superiors of the various circumscriptions in Africa;
- f. The secretariat;
- g. 2 delegates from each circumscription;
- h. 1 delegate from each African country where there is an Augustinian presence that is not constituted into a province or delegation.

5.2. The Prior General or his delegate presides at this assembly.

5.3. The President, Vice-President and Secretariat are responsible for organizing the General Assembly and preparing the agenda.

5.4. Each Major Superior with his Council will decide on how to choose the delegates of his circumscription.

5.6. The General Assembly has the responsibility of making a general evaluation of the state of the Order in Africa, and to propose new projects and discuss approved projects.

5.7. Outside of the General assembly, if need be, the President may call a special meeting after getting approval/endorsement of at least half of the member circumscriptions.

5.8. Should a member be unable to attend, he may send an official representative.

6 **Voting:** Ordinarily voting shall be done by secret ballot. Voting by consensus or another method may be employed in matters of lesser importance, provided all are in agreement (Const. 287).

7 **Decisions:** Decisions which have juridical implications for member circumscriptions require the consent of the respective councils to which they refer and shall be forwarded first to the respective Major Superiors for

deliberation, and where applicable, to the Prior General and Council for approval before they can take effect or to be implemented (Const. No. 271c).

8 Management of Finances

8.1. The costs for meetings and conferences shall be paid by the Treasurer, who will share the cost among the circumscriptions according to the number of participants.

8.2. Expenses incurred by the secretariat will be divided among the circumscriptions.

8.3. Costs of projects undertaken together by the circumscriptions will be divided among the circumscriptions.

9 Amendments:

9.1. The approval, modification and interpretation of the present Statutes is the responsibility of the Executive members of the Union.

9.2. Modifications may be made, upon recommendation by an absolute Majority of the members present at a meeting.

9.3. To be effective, these Statutes must be approved by the Prior General and Council (Const. No. 271c).