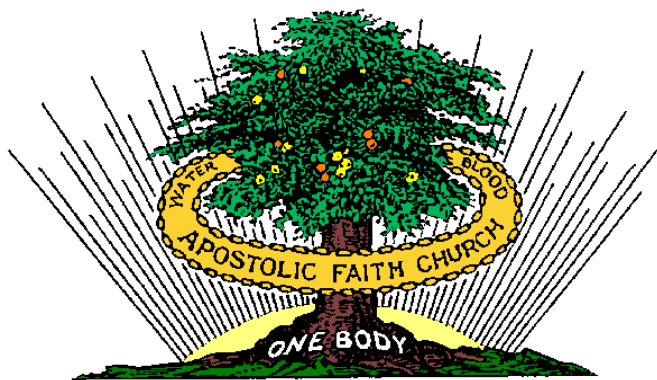


Apostolic Faith Church  
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BH9 1NW



# Showers of Blessing

No. 5531 28/5/26

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## **Understanding the Foundations of Our Apostolic Faith and Vision and the Necessity of Order in the Church**

The Apostolic Faith Church first came into existence by the will of God during that period at the beginning of the 20th century when the Holy Spirit was outpoured and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit were again being manifested in the earth. In many places expectant saints were believing for the signs which Jesus said should follow "them that believe" (Mark 15:17-18), and as the Holy Spirit came upon them "they spake with tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:3-4). Along with other places this fire fell at Winton, a suburb of Bournemouth on the south coast of England and here, after a time, other gifts of the Holy Spirit became manifest, namely: Prophecy, Interpretation of Tongues and Discernment (1 Cor. 12:10) and as revelation and light came through the operation of these gifts the perfect will of God became known and it seemed "good unto the Holy Spirit" (Acts 15:28) that a church should be formed after the pattern and order of the early church as revealed to the early apostles at Jerusalem. This order is clearly given in (1 Cor. 12:28). First, apostles; secondarily, Prophets; thirdly, teachers; after that, miracles; then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

In the formation of this order certain in the church were approved of and chosen by the gifts of the Holy Spirit already in operation and appointed in their offices in the church and separated unto the work whereunto they were called (Acts 13:2). Some were spoken of as apostles, some as prophets, some as teachers.

### **Prophetic Revelation to Plant the Church, and the Vision of the Tree and the Root Church**

And in the course of time as understanding in the ministry of the word and knowledge to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15) were given, further revelation came that it pleased God to call the little church at Bournemouth, the Headquarters for the whole of the church: the Holy Spirit in likening the church to a tree with branches continually spreading through the gifts concerning these headquarters as the Root, from which this tree of God's planting should grow.

### **The Establishment of the Church and Its Name**

As this revelation was received and acted upon the primitive notion that the work at Bournemouth would be simply a "Pentecostal Mission" in the generally accepted sense of the term was entirely superseded in accordance with the Divine Will: and as the Holy Spirit laid special emphasis that this foundation of apostles and prophets must first be laid and upon it a church should be built, with the title "Apostolic Faith Church".

The name and title "Apostolic Faith Church" was therefore duly registered and protected by law in 1910, and as such can only be used by the headquarters church at Bournemouth and by such branch churches as may be joined to it; by and with the consent of the Chief Overseer, Apostles and Elders of the Headquarters Church, who are hereinafter called the Headquarters Church Presbytery. The name may only be used by

a branch church so long as it remains connected with the headquarters church; severance of the connection either by desire or purpose of any such branch church, or by direction of the Headquarters Church Presbytery, nullifies and abolishes (withdraws) the right of such branch church or churches to use this title. In essence, only those Apostolic Faith Church branches which are directly connected with the Headquarters Church in Winton, Bournemouth, in the United Kingdom and are under the purview of Apostles/Overseers who have been anointed and duly appointed by the Headquarters Church are entitled to use the name, logo, badges, uniforms pamphlets, books or any other church property in connection with church business or activities.

### **The Offices in the Church, their Order, Importance and Rules Governing them**

It appears that it is possible for any man to fall even as the Word says "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). The apostle Paul also reminds us of this when he expresses that fear "lest by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27). Again he exhorts all to humility and against presumption when he says, "For I say through the grace given unto me to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly" (Rom. 12:3). It is well to remind ourselves of these things in considering such rules and regulations as appear to be necessary for the building up, guidance, and protection of the divine order of the church.

### **Necessity for Order, Rules and Regulations in the Church**

It became apparent over time as the church grew that there was a need for rules and regulations to be put in place to help administer the church. In any large body such as the church there is a need for very clear rules and regulations to help in the governance and management of the church, for the conduct of business in general and, very importantly, there must be behavioural guidelines for members of the congregation.

While it is primarily recognized that appointments to offices in the Apostolic Faith Church are solely at the dictation of the Holy Spirit and that in the carnal sense such ministers are no longer tied hand and foot by laws and ordinances, yet it has been found necessary to draft out a general outline such as may serve chiefly to guide church officers in their duties and also in a measure to protect them against lawlessness, either in themselves being tempted by the evil one, or in others who may question, rebel against, or attempt to usurp the authority of such God appointed ministers.

The above article is an extract from the AFC Governance, Administration and Management Manual, Section 2, Page 48 and 50, under the Decrees of the Apostolic Faith Church. It is important for all leaders and members to understand our precious Foundation, Faith and Vision as inspired of the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and the need for Order in the Church. The Apostolic Faith Church is a well-established Church of now close to 120 years of existence since 1908, and has a Constitution, Doctrine and Decrees forming its Governance guidelines. All our leaders must strictly follow the provided guidance to avoid being misguided and introducing opinions of vocal individuals and foreign doctrines, or indeed prevent tolerating lawlessness in the Church. All leaders and at all levels are thus guided, and must obtain copies accordingly, and sign their leadership commitment forms. Overseers in different countries guided to explore opportunities to translate the AFC Governance Manual into their applicable official languages and any widely spoken local languages as agreed. May God Bless you all in His loving kindness, and may God the Bless and Advance His Vision of the Apostolic Faith Church, as the Lord grants us Divine Wisdom, Revelation Knowledge and Understanding.

Pastor Jeremiah Sande - Int. Chief Overseer  
Bournemouth, UK

