

AIM International Constitution

June 2023

AIM International Constitution

PREAMBLE

This constitution defines the parameters for the beneficial cooperation of separate legal entities that have committed to work together under Africa Inland Mission International.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be Africa Inland Mission International hereafter referred to as AIM International.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

This mission organization serves the church of Jesus Christ in its responsibility to make disciples of the peoples of Africa as stated in Matthew 28:18-20: “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

ARTICLE III DOCTRINE

The members of this organization declare our belief in:

Section 1 The unity and trinity of God, eternally existing in three co-equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Section 2 God, the Creator and preserver of all things, who created us, male and female, in his own image, and gave them dominion over the earthly creation.

Section 3 The deity and humanity of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being very God, also became man, being begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, dead and buried, was raised bodily from the dead, and ascended to the right hand of the Father, whose two natures continue eternally and inseparably joined together in one person.

Section 4 The deity and personality of God the Holy Spirit, and the necessity of his work to make the death of Christ effective to individual sinners, leading them to repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and in his ministry, dwelling permanently within and working through the believer for godly life and service.

Section 5 The divine, verbal inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally given, and their absolute and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Section 6 The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering us subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

Section 7 The sacrificial death of our representative and substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, by the shedding of whose blood atonement was made for the sins of the whole world and whereby alone we are redeemed from the guilt, penalty, and power of sin.

Section 8 The necessity of the new birth as the work of God the Holy Spirit, to be obtained only by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior; that we are saved by grace through faith, not by works.

Section 9 The eternal blessedness of the saved and the eternal punishment of the lost.

Section 10 The security of the believer, based entirely on the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ, whereby, as born again children of God, we have assurance of salvation and the right to all the privileges of the children of God.

Section 11 The responsibility of the believer to maintain good works and to obey the revealed will of God in life and service, through which eternal rewards shall be received.

Section 12 The true church, whose head is the Lord Jesus Christ, and whose members are all regenerate persons united to Christ and to one another by the Holy Spirit.

Section 13 The observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper as appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 14 The supreme mission of the church as being to glorify God and to preach the gospel to every creature.

Section 15 The personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 16 The resurrection of the body.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 **Admission to Membership**

All applicants accepted by an AIM International Mobilizing Region gain admission to AIM International. Additionally, AIM International may receive members from other like-minded organizations through an approved membership agreement with either a Mobilizing or Receiving Region.

Section 2 **Categories**

A. Full Member – Those who have taken up assignment with AIM International for a period of one year or more
B. Appointee Member – Those who have been accepted by a Mobilizing Region but have not yet taken up assignment
C. Short Term Member – Those who have taken up assignment with AIM International for less than one year
D. Mobilizing Council Member – Those who are appointed to serve on a Mobilizing Council
E. Retired Member – Those who have been granted retirement status by their Mobilizing Region
F. Affiliate Member – Those who are appointed to serve in a Mobilizing Region without remuneration or voting privileges

Section 3 **Rights and Privileges**

A. Voting – For any change of this constitution or for the ratification of officers, the following members may vote:
    1. Full Members
       After one year of ministry. Those on home assignment may vote for up to two years after leaving their ministry assignment.
    2. Mobilizing Council Members
       After one year of membership on the council
    3. Retired Members
       May vote for two years after achieving retirement status
B. Holding Office – The offices of AIM International shall be defined in the AIM International Policy Manual. Members are eligible to hold office as defined in the AIM International Policy Manual.

Section 4 **Termination of Membership**

Termination from membership in AIM International shall be the responsibility of the Region that was responsible for acceptance.

ARTICLE V INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1 **Purpose**

As the highest authoritative body of AIM International, the International Council directs the ministry of the Mission.

Section 2 **Function**

A. The International Council shall define and evaluate the vision, long-range goals, and effectiveness of AIM International.
B. The International Council shall direct the appointment process of the International Director.
C. The International Council shall monitor and evaluate the ministry of the International Director.
D. The International Council shall establish and evaluate the ministry of the Mobilizing and Receiving Regions through the International Director.
E. The International Council shall promote unity within AIM International.
F. The International Council shall establish, modify, and maintain its policies.

Section 3 **Composition**

A. The International Director (ex officio, non-voting)
B. The Chair, an AIM member appointed by the International Council. The Chair may only vote to break a tie.
C. Seven AIM members appointed by the International Council from among nominations by AIM membership. They shall be ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of the ballots cast by eligible AIM members of the Region or Department (RVA or ABS) where they are currently serving. At least two must be currently serving in a Mobilizing Region and at least two in a Receiving Region or Department.
D. One to three non-AIM members appointed by the International Council.

The International Council will select its members in consideration of godly character, good governance, and IC diversity in terms of men and women, AIM regions, ethnicity, age, and experience.

The Chair and all other members shall serve a three-year term and may be appointed to one additional term of up to three years. No further ratification is required for the additional term.

A two-thirds majority vote of the International Council is required to remove an International Council member.

Section 4 Meetings

A. Frequency – The International Council shall meet at least annually.
B. Quorum – A quorum shall consist of three-fourths of the International Council voting members.
C. Special Meetings – The International Council can be convened at any time for a special meeting by the International Director with the approval of any three members of the International Council. The International Director shall call a meeting if requested by 50% of the International Council members.
D. Voting – Each voting member present shall be eligible to cast one vote on any issue and a majority of affirmative votes shall be effective. The Chair shall cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.

Section 5 Officers

A. Chair – The Chair shall be selected by the International Council from the membership of AIM International and shall not vote, except in the case of a tie.
B. International Director
    1. The International Director shall be the chief executive officer of AIM International.
    2. The International Director shall be appointed by the International Council and ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of the ballots cast by AIM members eligible to vote.
    3. A term of service shall be four years.
    4. The International Director shall not serve more than three consecutive terms.
    5. The International Director shall have the authority to appoint associate directors.
C. Deputy International Director – At each regular meeting of the International Council, a Deputy International Director shall be appointed to assume office should the International Director become incapacitated. In the case of the permanent incapacitation, or removal from office of the International Director, the Deputy shall serve until the next International Director takes office.

Section 6 Removal of Officers

A two-thirds majority vote of the International Council is required to remove the Chair, the International Director, or the Deputy International Director from office.

ARTICLE VI MOBILIZING REGIONS

Section 1 Purpose

A Mobilizing Region shall exist to implement the purpose of this organization primarily through the procurement of prayer, personnel, and resources.

Section 2 Function

A. Implement International Council decisions and consistently apply its policies
B. Appoint and dismiss members
C. Inform, challenge, and conduct ministries which assist the church in responding to the divine commission as it relates to the peoples of Africa
D. Provide member care, direction, and discipline for those under its jurisdiction
E. Ensure that the legal requirements necessary for AIM International to function in its specific area are met, including, but not limited to, the formation of a governing body

Section 3 Establishment

The International Council may establish a Mobilizing Region in a defined area when it judges that the appropriate conditions have been met to fulfill the purpose of the mission.

Section 4 Executive Officer

An executive officer shall be appointed by each mobilizing governing body with the responsibility to lead the work of that Region. This appointment shall be ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of the ballots cast by AIM members from that Region eligible to vote. The executive officer shall serve a four-year term, be eligible for reappointment for further terms, and is accountable to the International Director for compliance with International Council decisions and for evaluation of the strategic ministry of the Region.

Section 5 Dissolution

The International Council may revoke the Mobilizing Region status from any Mobilizing Region or reduce it to that of a committee answerable to the International Council or to another Mobilizing Region. The dissolution of a Mobilizing Region would be the decision of the Mobilizing Council and would be carried

out under their policies meeting the legal requirements in their area and the objectives of AIM International.

ARTICLE VII RECEIVING REGIONS

Section 1 **Purpose**

A Receiving Region shall exist in order to implement the purpose of this organization primarily through the cross-cultural ministries of AIM International members.

Section 2 **Function**

A. Implement International Council decisions and consistently apply its policies
B. Conduct strategic, effective ministry within all Units and Teams
C. Promote synergy within their Region and among Regions
D. Provide member care, direction, and discipline for those under its jurisdiction
E. Ensure that the legal requirements necessary for AIM International to function in its specific area are met

Section 3 **Establishment**

The International Council may establish a Receiving Region when it judges that accomplishing the purposes of AIM International would be enhanced. Receiving Regions may be made up of Units, Teams, and individual members.

Section 4 **Executive Officer**

An executive officer shall be appointed by the International Director with the responsibility to lead the organization within that Region. This appointment shall be ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of the ballots cast by AIM members from that Region eligible to vote. The executive officer shall serve a four-year term and be eligible for reappointment but shall not serve more than three terms consecutively. The executive officer shall be accountable to the International Director.

Section 5 **Advisory teams**

The executive officer will convene an advisory team or teams to assist in fulfilling the responsibilities of the office. The purpose of these advisory teams is for advice, coordination, and facilitating communication and feedback between members. Composition of these teams is to be designed to fit the opportunities of each Region.

Section 6 **Units and Teams**

A. The Regional Executive Officer may establish a Unit or a Team to conduct ministry in a defined area under the direction of a leader.
B. The Regional Executive Officer may appoint Unit and Team Leaders as necessary for the Region.
C. Unit and Team Leaders shall be appointed for a specific time defined at their appointment, but not to exceed four years. They are eligible for re-appointment.
D. Unit Leaders shall be ratified by an affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast by the members from their Unit.
E. Unit and Team Leaders shall be accountable to their Regional Executive Officer.

Section 7 **Re-alignment and/or Dissolution**

The International Council may re-align the composition of a Region in order to enhance the effectiveness of AIM International. The International Council may also close a Region. In the event of cessation of ministry in a particular Region, the assets shall be distributed under the direction of the International Council for use in accordance with the stated purpose of the organization.

ARTICLE VIII POLICIES

Section 1 **AIM International Council Policies**

The International Council shall establish and modify council policies to direct its work in fulfilling its purpose.

Section 2 **AIM International Member Policies**

The International Council shall ensure the development, modification, and maintenance of member policies that shall be binding for all AIM International members.

Section 3 **Limited Policies**

Each Region, Unit, or Team may establish and modify its policies which shall be consistent with AIM International policies.

ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of AIM International all assets in excess of those required to liquidate liabilities shall be distributed to or placed in trust for one or more non-profit organizations which are in full agreement with Articles II

and III of this Constitution. Such distribution shall be authorized by the International Council and carried out according to the laws of the respective countries.

ARTICLE X CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Amendments to or revisions of this Constitution may be recommended to the International Council by the International Director, or any Mobilizing or Receiving Region, or may be initiated directly by two-thirds of the members of the International Council. A Mobilizing Council recommendation for amendment to or revisions of this Constitution shall be supported by a minute passed by a three-fourths majority of that council's membership. A recommendation from a Receiving Region shall be presented by its executive officer when it has been established that at least one fourth of the members of that Region are in agreement with the recommendation. Any amendment or revision must be circulated to the International Council at least one month prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Amendments or revisions receiving an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the International Council present at an International Council meeting (in person or online) shall then be presented to AIM members for ratification. The amendments or revisions shall become effective by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the ballots cast by AIM members eligible to vote.

Appendix

AIM International Core Values

These Core Values are essential to the ethos and culture of AIM International. The Core Values are not "governing policies," however, and therefore are not part of the constitution. The Core Values are included as part of the AIM International Member Handbook and are included here as an appendix to the Constitution. The desire is for members and those exploring a relationship with AIM International to clearly see AIM's anchor points.

Core Values: What is foundationally important to the organization?

We Are God-Centered:

- We acknowledge the absolute and final authority of God and his Word in all things
- We believe that our highest calling is to bring God the glory and worship he so richly deserves
- We are committed to being disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ
- We embrace the essential role of individual and corporate prayer
- We depend upon God as the ultimate provider for our spiritual and material needs
- We recognize the centrality of the local church in the plan of God

We Are Ministry Focused:

- We are committed to making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ
- We are committed to establishing maturing churches among unreached peoples
- We are committed to developing Christ-like leaders
- We believe that ministries are enhanced through a lifestyle consistent with the ministry context
- We are committed to learning local languages as an essential tool for effective ministry
- We express the life of Christ through teaching and practical demonstrations of his compassion
- We enter into partnerships with churches as an autonomous, nondenominational, mission organization
- We hold that integrity is essential in all that we do both as a mission and as individuals
- We look to the Lord in faith to supply all our needs while sharing information appropriately
- We cooperate with like-minded organizations to enhance accomplishing our purpose

We Are Member Oriented:

- We are an organization governed by and accountable to its members whose opinions regarding ministry direction are valued by those in leadership
- We acknowledge that decisions are generally best made by those closest to the ministry
- We respect God's personal guidance in the life of individuals
- We respect the role of mission leadership and seek to identify, equip, and empower servant leaders
- We value our families and commit ourselves to maintaining and enhancing the well-being of our marriages and our children
- We are committed to help each member grow as they are transformed into the image of Christ