

NYALI BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTION --CURRENT

1. NAME

This body of Christians shall be named Nyali Baptist Church (referred to from here as 'the Church').

2. BELIEFS

We believe in the following truths

- The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- The incarnation, the sinless life, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension and Personal return of Jesus Christ.
- The agency of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of sinners, the sanctification of Believers and the ministry of the Church.
- The universal sinfulness and guilt of man and that salvation is only by Grace of God through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ.
- The Bible as the inspired word of God.
- The priesthood of all believers.

3. ORDINANCES

- The Church shall observe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Baptism shall be by immersion in water of those who profess repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- The Lord's Supper shall be a regular memorial and thanksgiving feast in which the Lord's death is set forth by symbols of bread and wine.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Any person who professes repentance towards God, faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and whose life gives evidence of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, may apply for membership of the Church.

- Applicants for membership will be interviewed by two Deacons who will mark recommendations to the Board of Deacons who will approve or reject the application for membership. The names of successful applicants will be announced in the Sunday morning service one week before they are formally accepted as members in the next Sunday service.
- A member shall read and then signify in writing, acceptance of this constitution by signing the membership interview record.
- All members shall be deemed to have committed themselves to give faithful service in the work of the Church.
- If a member fails in his Christian witness, the board of Deacons shall do everything possible to restore him/her using the plain teaching of the Bible as authority and guide. A member unwilling to respect this authority may be removed from membership by the Board of Deacons.



- A member known to be absent from Church life for one year without reason, will be deemed to have resigned from membership.

Rights of members

Only members who are at least eighteen years old have the right to:

1. Vote at the Annual General Meeting and Special Business Meeting
2. Be nominated for Church office.
3. Nominate or second nominations for church office.

5. GOVERNANCE

The Church shall recognize Jesus Christ as its supreme head and shall manage its affairs according to the Bible.

The Church shall be an autonomous body in day-to-day activities but shall operate under the umbrella of the Baptist Convention of Kenya as per article of registration.

5.1 Board of Deacons

- The Board of Deacons shall consist of the Pastor and nine Deacons, which include the Treasurer.
- The Deacons and Treasurer shall be elected by the membership and shall possess the qualifications as set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9.
- The names of consenting candidates nominated as Deacon or Treasurer must be proposed and seconded by members and given to the Board of Deacons at least thirty days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- The Deacons and the Treasurer shall serve a two-year term unless they resign or become disqualified by scriptures.
- The Deacons will choose one of themselves who is not a Pastor as a Secretary for their board meetings. The Secretary will also serve as the Church Secretary.
- The quorum for meetings of the Board of Deacons is five. While aiming for prayerful consensus, if necessary decisions shall be made by simple majority vote. In the case of a tied vote then the pastor (chairman) can decide either to postpone the decision or to give a casting vote.

5.2 The Pastor

- When office of Pastor is vacant, the Board of Deacons will seek out and recommend as Pastor, a minister of the gospel with appropriate training and Christian character as set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9.
- The Board will propose one name at a time for consideration by the congregation. A Special Business Meeting will be called for this purpose and a brief biographical statement shall be circulated to the members by the Secretary 30 days in advance of the Special Business Meeting. Election of the Pastor will be by written ballot with an affirmative vote of 75% of those present and voting needed.
- The Pastor shall be responsible to the Board of Deacons. They will jointly make a job description and review progress and strategy annually together. Duties will vary as the Church develops through various stages but would normally include:



1. Leading, teaching, and preaching programs which meet the spiritual needs of church.
2. Overseeing counseling and pastoral care.
3. Developing strategy for Church growth and ministry.
4. Developing and equipping Church members for the Lord's service.

5.3 OTHER STAFF MEMBERS:

- According to the need and desires of the church membership, **Nyali Baptist Church** may designate additional church officers. They include and not limited to associate pastors referred to as ministers, to work in the areas of education, missions, outreach, evangelism, young adults, youth, children, and worship ministries.
- The position must be approved by church membership in a business meeting. Job descriptions and benefits will be worked out by the pastor and deacons.
- Administration oversight of the additional staff members will be vested in the pastor, assisted with the deacon's board.

6. BUSINESS MEETING

- There are two types of business meetings: Annual General Meeting and Special Business Meeting.
- Voting members are members who are at least eighteen years old. They have the right to:
 1. Vote at the Annual General Meeting and Special Business Meetings.
 2. Be nominated for church office.
 3. Nominate or second nominations for church office. Other members (None Voting Members) have voice at the meeting but cannot vote.

6.1 Annual General Meeting

- The Annual General Meeting is to be held each year within ninety days of the end of the financial year (31st December).
- The notice and agenda for Annual General meeting shall be given in writing at least fourteen days before the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be responsible for:

1. Receiving and approving audited accounts
2. Appointment of Auditors
3. Appointment of Trustees
4. Election of Deacons and Treasurer
5. Any other business which has been given to the Board of Deacons at least one week prior to the AGM. Decisions will be made by a simple majority of the votes cast at the meeting.



6.2 Special Business Meetings

The Board of Deacons must call a Special Business Meeting in order to deal with the following issues: -

1. Calling or dismissal of the Pastor
2. Amending of the constitution
3. Acquiring, developing or disposing of immovable property
4. Approval of special expenses in excess of 10% of the annual budget.
5. Dissolving the church
6. Dismissal of trustees
7. Any matter seriously affecting the life of the church.

- Any group of five or more members who wish to discuss any of the issues just listed, may call a Special Business Meetings through the Board of Deacons.
- A minimum of twenty one days notice shall be given in writing before the meeting.
- Thirty five percent (35%) of registered members in good standing Of the NYALI BAPTIST CHURCH shall constitute a Quorum at business meetings. Decisions shall require the support of 75% of those attending.

7. PROPERTY

The church may acquire or dispose of immovable property in accordance with the framework laid down by the Baptist Convention of Kenya.

8. FINANCE

- The treasurer shall be responsible for keeping all books of accounts of the Church and for the safe keeping of Church funds including their disbursement or investment as directed by the Church.
- The treasurer shall prepare quarterly reports on income and expenditure for the Board of Deacons.
- The church may borrow or raise money on such terms and on such security as may be agreed.
- The church financial year shall be from January 1st to December 31st.
- A qualified auditor shall be appointed for the following year at the Annual General Meeting. All Church accounts shall be open for inspection of the auditor at any time. The auditor shall prepare a report covering the Church accounts for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

9. TRUSTEES

- The Board of Deacons will nominate three or more members as trustees subject to the approval of a vote by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- Trustees shall possess the same qualifications as those of Deacons as stipulated above. Any member appointed as trustee shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed by the decision of Special Business meeting.
- All and any of the immovable property of the Church shall be vested in the trustee for the time being, who upon such vesting, shall be responsible for all the title



deeds and documents relative thereto and shall deal with all and any of the same only in accordance with the directions of the Church in a manner herein provided.

10. USE OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Amendments to this constitution may be made in accordance with Article 6.2 on Special Business Meetings. Proposed amendments having been considered by the Board of Deacons will be circulated with the notice which calls the meeting at which they are to be decided on.
- Where circumstances arise which they are not specifically provided for in this constitution, the interpretation of the spirit of the Constitution by the Board of Deacons shall be considered valid and final.
- A copy of this Constitution shall be given to all applicants for membership.

11. DISSOLUTION

The Church shall not be dissolved except by resolution passed at a Special Business Meeting as described in Article 6.2 shows a resolution be passed then the process of dissolution will take place in accordance with the framework laid down by the Baptist Convention of Kenya.

12. AFFILIATION AND ASSOCIATION

The Church agrees to co-operate with the Baptist Convention of Kenya through our duly appointed messengers in order to encourage fellowship with other churches with whom we are in agreement in faith and practice.

