

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
VARICK INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN YOUTH COUNCIL**



**OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

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ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Varick International Christian Youth Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, herein referred to as VCYC.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of the VCYC is to comprise an official organization that provides representation for the youth of this denomination. VCYC shall coordinate their activities, channel their concerns and present their collective contributions to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Section 3: Membership

The VCYC shall be composed of all youth between the ages of 13-21 in the denomination.

ARTICLE II: AUTHORIZATION

Section 1: Authorization

The Varick International Christian Youth Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is authorized by the Christian Education Department as its official channel of youth cooperation in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and is constituted under provision of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Discipline, Article III, Section I, 1968 Edition.

ARTICLE III: FUNCTIONS

Section 1: Functions

- To serve as a policy-making body for the youth of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.
- To make recommendations in those areas that are of youth concerns to the Board of Christian Education, Home and Church Division and the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- To assist in defining the objective of the youth programs in Zion Methodism.
- To relate the work if the program of Christian Education as endorsed and approved by the Christian Education Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church throughout the denomination.

- To assist local, district, conference and regional units of VCYC in the implementation of defined programs, by providing an arena for the development of leadership skills and abilities among the youth of the denomination and promoting youth involvement in the total ministry of the church.
- To participate in various internal, denominational, interdenominational, national and international activities.
- To publicize the work of the youth of this denomination to mediums of interdenominational youth emphasis's in the community, city, county, state, nation, and the world.

ARTICLE IV: GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE VCYC

Section 1: Name

The General Assembly of the VCYC shall be recognized as the official legislative arm of the VCYC, and the supreme decision making body of the organization.

Section 2: Composition

The General Assembly shall function as a legislative body at the Winter Meeting, General Convention on Christian Education, and any other times that are deemed necessary by the leadership of VCYC. Voting privileges in the General Assembly shall be granted to Presiding Elder District Presidents or a duly appointed representative, Annual Conference Presidents or a duly appointed representative, and the Executives of the VCYC.

Section 3: Delegates to the General Assembly of the VCYC

Delegates to the General Assembly of the VCYC shall voice the sentiments of the areas from which they come. They shall vote on behalf of their constituents on all matters that come before the body. Delegates shall be a Youth Council President of a Presiding Elder District, Youth Council President of an Annual Conference, or a duly appointed representative of a Presiding Elder District or Annual Conference.

Section 4: Presiding Officer of the General Assembly

The Connectional President of the VCYC shall be the presiding officer of the General Assembly, and shall have a vote in all matters. In the event of a tie vote, the presiding officer receives no tiebreaker powers. The matter shall be considered failed unless a sufficient majority for the measure has been reached. The Connectional President may choose another person to preside over the assembly if he or she is unable to do so.

Section 5: Meetings

Subsection A - Interim: The General Assembly of the VCYC shall meet every year during the interim of the General Convention on Christian Education for the transactions of appropriate business.

Subsection B - Quadrennial: The General Assembly of the VCYC shall hold its quadrennial meetings during the General Convention on Christian Education for the transaction of appropriate business including the election of Connectional VCYC Officers.

Subsection C - Special Meetings: The Connectional President in conjunction with the Secretary of Christian Education and the Chairperson of Youth Ministry may call a special meeting.

Subsection D - Notices: All notices of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be issued by the Connectional President, Secretaries, or through the office of the Christian Education Department. Such notice shall designate the purpose of the meeting and may be mailed or delivered by hand to each member of the General Assembly at least 30 days before the time of the meeting.

Subsection E - Quorum: At all meetings of the VCYC, a majority of the VCYC delegates who are registered for the meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business.

Section 6: Powers and Functions

- ¶1. The General Assembly of the VCYC is granted the full decision making power of the organization. The Assembly may vote on any action that is to be taken by VCYC, and may rescind a previous action. This Assembly is the supreme voice on all matters except on constitutional and parliamentary inquiries and cases. The Assembly shall confirm all appointments that are made concerning the VCYC, and shall have the power to amend the constitution of the VCYC.
- ¶2. If any connectional officer is found to be negligible of their responsibilities and to the standards of their office, a delegate may file a “motion to remove,” stating the name, position, and offense(s). The signatures of seven delegates with proper credentials must accompany the motion. The motion must receive a 2/3 majority vote of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1: Officers

Subsection A – Elected Officers: The elected officers of the VCYC shall be President, Executive Vice President, Seven Regional Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Parliamentarian and Director of Public Relations.

Subsection B – Appointed Officers: The appointed officers of VCYC shall be the Chief of Staff, plus six Members-at-Large to yield full Episcopal representation.

Section 2: Duties

Subsection A – President: The *President* shall preside at all meetings of VCYC and shall also preside over the Executive Committee meetings and promote the programs of VCYC throughout the connection. As the official spokesperson for the youth of Zion, he/she shall be the official representative to ecumenical meetings where youth representation is required. He/She shall make recommendations for standing committees as deemed necessary.

Subsection B – Executive Vice President: The *Executive Vice President* shall assist the President with his/her functions and shall preside at all meetings at which the President cannot be present. The chief responsibility of this office shall be to serve as Chairperson over the Regional Vice President’s Council. He/She shall represent the general body in the absence of the President.

Subsection C – Regional Vice Presidents: The *Regional Vice President* shall preside over all meetings of their respective regions and shall promote the programs of VCYC throughout their areas. The Regional Vice Presidents must reside in their region throughout their term. Regional VP’s must be a permanent resident of an area within their region; however, he or she must publicly disclose plans of relocation for college. If a Regional VP relocates outside of their region, the youth of that region shall determine whether that person remains in office. The region, its programs and activities shall be amenable to the Executive Committee of VCYC. The regions shall be:

- I. *The Central Region* - Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee and East Tennessee/Virginia Conferences.
- II. *The Eastern Region* - New York, New Jersey, New England, Western New York, Philadelphia-Baltimore, Allegheny and Virginia Conferences.
- III. *The Mid-Western Region* - Arkansas, North Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, South Mississippi and West Tennessee-Mississippi Conferences.
- IV. *The Overseas Region* - Jamaica, Guyana, Lagos-West African, Nigeria, Central Nigeria, Rivers Nigeria, Mainland Nigeria, Liberia, East Ghana, West Ghana, Mid-Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) South America, Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Barbados, London-Birmingham, South Africa, Trinidad-Tobago and India Conferences.
- V. *The South Central Region* - Alabama, North Alabama, South Alabama, Central Alabama, West Alabama, Cahaba, Georgia, South Georgia, Florida and South Florida Conferences.
- VI. *The Southeastern Region* - North Carolina, Albemarle, Central North Carolina, Pee Dee, Western North Carolina, Blue Ridge, South Carolina, Palmetto, Cape Fear and West Central North Carolina Conferences.
- VII. *The Western Region* - Colorado, California, Southwest Rocky Mountain, Oregon-Washington, Alaska and Arizona Conferences.

Subsection D – Recording Secretary: The *Recording Secretary* shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of the proceedings of VCYC meetings, whose records shall be the property of the Council and the Department of Christian Education. He/She shall also serve as Chairperson for the Secretarial Task Force and shall make the minutes and other materials available to the Corresponding Secretary for distribution.

Subsection E – Corresponding Secretary: The *Corresponding Secretary* shall serve as recorder in the absence of the Recording Secretary, but shall at all times assist the Recording Secretary in performing his/her duties. It shall be the chief responsibility of this office to directly distribute the minutes and other materials as necessary. He/She shall give notice to all officers, committees and members of VCYC of all meetings when required by the President and the Executive Committee.

Subsection F – Treasurer: It shall be the responsibility of the *Treasurer* to collect all funds and keep an accurate account of receipts and expenditures. He/She shall keep records of receipts and disbursements concerning the Development and Regional Support funds. He/She shall serve as Chairperson of the Finance Committee and make recommendations for operations to the Executive Committee of VCYC as deemed necessary.

Subsection G – Chaplain: The *Chaplain* shall be in charge of devotional portion of all VCYC meetings. He/She may direct this aspect of the program as desired with approval of the Executive Committee. The chief responsibility of this office shall be to promote spiritual growth of the VCYC and the Executive Committee.

Subsection H – Parliamentarian: The *Parliamentarian* shall be responsible for assuring that VCYC adheres to the rules for business meetings as is prescribed by *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Subsection I – Director of Public Relations: The *Director of Public Relation's* shall be responsible for news and other noteworthy accomplishments of VCYC being disseminated to the local and national press as well as monthly releases to the Star of Zion and other official publications of the A.M.E. Zion Church, per review of the Connectional VCYC President and Chairperson of Youth Ministry.

Subsection J – Members-at-Large: The *Members-at-Large* shall have the responsibility of assisting the Executive Committee and Christian Education Department Staff toward the successful operation of all VCYC programs. They shall serve at the discretion of the Connectional President.

Subsection K – Chief of Staff: ¶1. The *Chief of Staff* shall be recognized as a Connectional Officer of the VCYC and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges thereof. He/She shall also be a full member of the Executive Committee of the VCYC.

¶2. The Chief of Staff shall be charged with clerical oversight of the Cabinet. The offices of Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Public Relations, Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Member at Large shall be under the guidance of the Chief of Staff, as well as the matters of the committee chairs.

¶3. The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the Connectional President of the VCYC and confirmed by the General Assembly of the VCYC. He/She shall serve at the pleasure of the Connectional President. The utilization of this office shall be the sole discretion of the President. The Executive Committee may advise the President on utilization of this office. The Executive Committee must ratify the appointment by a two-thirds majority vote.

Section 3: Vacancies

Subsection A – President Vacancy: In case of vacancy in the office of President, the Executive Vice President shall be appointed to perform the functions of the President.

Subsection B – Executive Committee Vacancies: In case of vacancy of other VCYC officers, the Connectional President shall appoint a replacement per concurrence with the Chairperson of Youth Ministry and General Secretary of Christian Education. The newly elected officer must receive a confirmation vote by the General Assembly at the next meeting of the VCYC. If a majority vote is not obtained, nominations will be taken from the floor.

ARTICLE VI: REGIONS OF THE VCYC

Section 1: Structure

The Regions of the VCYC shall reflect those outlined in Article V – Section 2 of the VCYC Constitution. The Regional structure of the VCYC shall remain consistent with that of the CED. Only in special circumstances may the VCYC adopt an alternate structure at the discretion of the General Assembly and the CED.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of the region shall be to encourage and promote the programs of the VCYC throughout the area, and to address youth ministry on a regional, conference, and district level by creating and implementing new programs or assisting Conferences and Districts with projects. Each region shall be independent and autonomous in their respective right, while still operating as a subunit of the VCYC.

Section 3: The Regional Vice President

- ¶1. Each region shall have a Regional Vice President (VP), who serves as the President of the region, and a Vice President of Connectional VCYC. The Regional VP shall be an officer of the Regional and Connectional levels of the VCYC.
- ¶2. Regional VP's shall chair meetings of the Regional leadership and youth council. Regional VP's shall also serve as leader of their delegation when VCYC convenes at Winter Meeting or the General Convention on Christian Education.
- ¶3. Regional VP's shall report to the Connectional President and serve on the Executive Committee, but Regional VP's serve at the pleasure of the region. The region has the final say on any matter of pertaining to regional leadership.

Section 4: Organization

- ¶1. The Region may adopt a constitution, bylaws, procedures or structures for their operation in so much as they are consistent with the VCYC Constitution. The VCYC Constitution will always take priority over any Regional Constitution or Bylaws.
- ¶2. Regional leadership shall be at the discretion of the Regional VP. Regional VP's may appoint officers, dismiss officers, or choose to hold elections for the regional leadership. However, the final decisions on regional leadership shall come before the region if challenged.

Section 5: Regional Meetings

Regional Meetings or any other Regional gatherings are the supreme bodies of the region and shall make all final decisions for a region.

Section 6: Connectional Intervention

The General Assembly of the VCYC may overturn any action of the Region that is deemed inappropriate, inconsistent, or antithetical to the rules and mission of the VCYC and the A.M.E. Zion Church. Matters of Regional Leadership and matters that are covered by a Regional Constitution shall not be affected by this section.

ARTICLE VII: TENURE

Section 1: Term of Office

The term of the Connectional VCYC officers shall be four (4) years and will expire immediately following the installation of their successors unless they are re-elected to succeed themselves for another four-year term, meeting all qualifications.

ARTICLE VIII: QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICERS

Section 1: Qualifications

- a. They must possess good moral standards as assessed by the Word of God.
- b. They must be in accord with the policies so stated in Article I, Section 2 and Article III and have been properly received into membership in the A.M.E. Zion Church.
- c. The candidates for Connectional President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Regional Vice Presidents must be between the ages 18-21 when seeking that office and should have attended a minimum of two (2) VCYC Interim Winter Meetings.
- d. Candidates for all other offices must be between 15-21 years of age when seeking those offices.

- e. All persons must be single when seeking office. In case of marriage while holding office, the officer will be permitted to remain in office until his/her term has expired, provided he/she is able to perform his/her duties.

ARTICLE IX: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Connectional Officers of VCYC

The elected officials of the VCYC shall be the connectional officers of the organization.

Section 2: Composition

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the VCYC as listed in Article V, Section I, also including the Chairperson of Youth Ministry and the Secretary of Christian Education with Administrative Assistants.

Section 3: Functions

- ¶1. The Executive Committee of the VCYC shall plan and recommend to the Christian Education Department Board, the youth participation for the Winter Meetings and the General Convention. It shall also care for such other business that comes before it.
- ¶2. The Executive Committee of the VCYC shall have the power to plan, organize and present to the VCYC those items of business pertinent to the operations of the organization. They shall appoint leadership and membership to committees, at the recommendation of the President, necessary for the implementation of a given program in the interim of VCYC meetings.
- ¶3. The Executive Committee of the VCYC may remove an officer on the grounds of negligence of responsibility in the line of duty. A 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee is required for such actions.

Section 4: Meetings

The Executive Committee of the VCYC shall meet at any other times that the VCYC President and Chairperson on Youth Ministry deem necessary.

ARTICLE X: TREASURY AND FINANCES

Section 1: Treasury

The treasury of the VCYC shall serve as the dominant financial resource of the organization. It shall be used to pursue the interests of the VCYC.

Section 2: Administration

The treasurer of the VCYC shall serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the VCYC and shall have oversight of the Treasury. The Connectional President and the Treasurer shall jointly oversee the budget and finances of the VCYC between Winter Meetings.

Section 3: Budget

- ¶1. The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the General Assembly at the Winter Meeting and a Quadrennial report at the General Convention on Christian Education. The treasurer shall also prepare an annual budget to be approved by the General Assembly at the Winter Meeting.
- ¶2. The General Assembly of the VCYC shall make final decisions on expenditures of the VCYC, and shall approve a budget annually. Between Winter Meetings, the Executive Committee of the VCYC shall be granted the power to authorize expenditures for the VCYC; however, these expenditures must be reported at the Winter Meeting to the General Assembly.

Section 4: Finance Committee

The VCYC Finance Committee shall be a standing committee that will assist with the financial matters at the Winter Meeting and the General Convention on Christian Education. The Committee will assist with the collection of money and the preparation of the annual budget. This committee shall also be the fundraising arm of the VCYC. The Chair of this committee will be the Treasurer of the VCYC.

Section 5: Collection of Money

The money contained in the VCYC treasury shall be collected in the following manner: donations, selling of memberships, and other fundraising activities.

ARTICLE XI: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1: Organization

The standing committees of the VCYC shall be the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Education Committee, the International Restructuring Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Resolutions Committee. They shall have any responsibilities and powers as outlined in this Constitution. The General Assembly shall also have the power to expand or limit the roles and jurisdiction of these committees.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1: Standard Method

This constitution shall be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the general Assembly at a Winter Meeting or General Convention of the CED. All delegates and connectional/executive officers are granted the power to propose amendments and vote on said amendments.

Section 2: Constitutional Convention

A Constitutional Convention may occur at any meeting of the VCYC. The Constitution and Resolutions Committee shall revise and review amendments that are to be sent to the floor of the VCYC Business Session. The Connectional President has the power to call a Constitutional Convention and shall appoint a chair of the committee. The chair is then responsible for the organization of the process, and ensuring that there is adequate regional representation in the committee. All members of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee are granted the power to propose amendments and vote on said amendments.

ARTICLE XIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1: Rules of Procedure

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the VCYC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the constitution, other governing documents, and any other special rules of order that the VCYC may adopt.

(RONR § 56, pp. 561-562):

Amended by the General Assembly of the VCYC as prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised – 10th Edition

On the 29 of December 2005