

Triumph, The Church of the New Age

(A New Way of Being in Community)

(PROVISIONAL APPROVAL 24TH IRC AUGUST 8, 2020)

(CHURCH LOGO)

Bylaws, Constitution

&

Book of Spiritual Wisdom, Knowledge & Understanding

Fourth Revised Edition

2020

Triumph, The Church of the New Age
(A New Way of Being in Community)

Copyright and Publishing Information

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Article 1 – Name

Section 1: This organization shall be known as Triumph, The Church of the New Age (TCNA). The jurisdiction of TCNA shall be international and shall be extended wherever persons join themselves to the organization.

Article 2 – Vision & Mission & Objectives

Section 1: The vision of TCNA is of a new world system where heaven and earth are one. Further, the vision is of an inter-dependent community formed from the tapestry of our individual and collective experiences that fosters both an embodied spirituality and epistemology as pathways to establishing a new world system in which all may share in the fullness of life.

Section 2: The mission of TCNA is to interactively encourage and challenge members to make meaningful impact on the lives of people in our communities, to transform minds, body and souls. We strive to no longer conform to the old system, but to transform to a place of trust, wholeness and holiness; (a) to declare the unlimited and irrevocable love we call Christ – The Universal Source understood to be the Life Principle – which is also known by many different names (God, Nature, Buddha, The Universe, Universal Mind, Universal Consciousness, etc.); (b) to be the Christ here on earth through acts of justice and compassion; (c) for the education of the whole person so that together we shall transform ourselves and our world.

Section 3: The objectives of TCNA are three-fold: (a) Spiritual Development; (b) Personal Development; and (c) Community-Economic Development.

- a) Spiritual Development: To promote the deepening of the inner-life among all peoples, kindred and tongues, so that all may attain to their highest dynamic states of being and becoming; and to honor the wisdom of ancestors and ancestral traditions.
- b) Personal Development: To call forth the power that lies within each individual so that one may actualize one's own agency to the extent that one can in this life.
- c) Community-Economic Development: To promote life affirming practices of respect and dignity of all life in furtherance of community, egalitarian economic systems and global peace and justice; (1) to assist poor and marginalized communities through shared resources, advocacy and inclusion; (2) to promote health and well-being through development of sustainable food systems and mental health advocacy; (3) to promote and provide education for youth and access to life-long learning for adults; (4) to develop such business enterprises as will provide employment opportunities, especially for youth; (5) to promote and encourage study in the fields' of ancient religious and spiritual traditions, peace and justice studies, politics, history, the history of the globally marginalized including African and Indigenous peoples, science, technology, math, commerce, and the arts and athletics.

Article 3 – Founder and Church History

Section 1: Bishop Elias Dempsey Smith (or Father Smith as he was affectionately known) was a faithful minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Father Smith believed God called him out of the AME Church into the light of Triumph. In 1897 while in prayer and meditation Father Smith

had a vision in which he saw three figures; an eagle, a lion, and a brown skin damsel whom he was instructed in the vision to marry. Father Smith interpreted the figures in his vision as being symbolic with each having a message from Universal Source as follows: (a) The Truth would be like an eagle, higher than any religion or sectarian church thought and that nothing would ever stand between a mind in tune with Universal Source; (b) The lion was symbolic of strength, mastering every previous limited idea of Universal Source by wisdom and power; And finally, (c) the brown skin damsel prepared and adorned as a bride that he was to marry, was an analogy to the Church as representative of the entire marginalized world with the ability to give birth to everything it had need of.

In January 1920, Father E. D. Smith and his assistant, Prince J. D. Barber sailed to Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, Africa. At that time Ethiopia was ruled by Empress Waizero Zandita and her nephew, Ras Tafari, co-ruler. According to Church historians, they were met by Ras Tafari Jerry Hapigaus with ten thousand soldiers. Father Smith was given the reception of a king. After spending several months in Ethiopia preaching and teaching, Bishop Smith took ill and died shortly thereafter. It is said that he was buried on Mount Tach La Hammount.

Father Smith's death led to a schism in the Church over who would become the next spiritual leader. Prince J.D. Barber who had traveled to Ethiopia with Bishop Smith believed he had been chosen by Smith to lead the Church. At the time, Prince Barber was the jurisdictional Overseer of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. The other jurisdictional Overseers did not accept Prince Barber's claim to be the next leader of the Church and as a result he broke with Triumph, The Church and Kingdom of God in Christ as it was known under Bishop Smith, and organized Triumph, The Church of the New Age Church which continues to trace its origin to the Kingdom Church.

Section 2: Triumph The Church and Kingdom of God in Christ was organized January 20, 1902. The doors were opened to the world on January 20, 1904, at 12:00noon. The first International Congress was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July 1919;

At the turn of the twentieth century much was happening in the world; there were multiple wars and many believed that as they entered the 20th century the world as they knew it would end. During this time we see the emergence of the Pentecostal Movement which was initiated at the Azusa Street revival which sparked a spiritual and religious revolution and the offspring of Holiness churches and apostolic churches. Many other church organizations were also being birthed, yet none with quite the same message of Father E.D. Smith. Many talked about holiness and righteousness, but continued with many of the same institutional practices and as other churches. Father Smith moved the Church out of the ordinances of water baptism and bread and wine communion and the 'Cross' which was at the center of the Christian religious experience. Father Smith envisioned the 'Resurrection' narrative as a metaphor of a transformed consciousness which became the center of the Triumph religious experience. Bishop Smith preached that humans could transform from mortals into immortality

through a transformed consciousness into the Universal Consciousness. Bishop E.D. Smith's message of redemption without bloodshed challenges conventional religious knowledge.

Bishop Smith's message became the genesis for the foundational principles of Triumph Church are a message of hope for oppressed and marginalized people globally. This Message is still being revealed and unfolded today to those seeking a higher level of consciousness as an experience of the Universal Mind.

Article of 4 – Seven Life Affirming Principles of the Church; Basis of Union

Section 1: We affirm that life is in the breath and breath is life; therefore we join together to promote our shared humanity and inseparable breath.

Section 2: We affirm that we are born whole, complete as perfect manifestations of the Universal Consciousness.

Section 3: We affirm our physical bodies differ and as such may present different challenges, limitations or privileges that everyone may not share in; therefore we join together to share our strengths and support one another where there may be weaknesses so that we all may enjoy the fullness of life.

Section 4: We affirm that our agreement is to pursue peace, walk in truth, uphold justice tempered with mercy.

Section 5: We affirm that we are like branches on a tree; although we may grow in different directions we share a common root and as such we pledge to respect each person's path even as it may differ from one's own; we agree to walk in agreement that it is alright to disagree and we protect and safeguard this right in so much as the state of disagreement upholds an affirmation of life.

Section 6: We affirm that community building is the process of communal shared principles, shared resources as well as equitable access to resources; therefore, we commit to being agents of an open culture that welcomes everyone to participate in the life of the community with the provision that we also hold each other accountable for acts that do not support the life affirming principles of our awareness while equally looking for and enacting a commitment to forgive and restore in the spirit of humility and love.

Section 7: We affirm the earth and all that dwell therein are manifestations held within the Universal Mind (Christ); and humanity's role is to be faithful stewards of this earth by demonstrating respect and dignity for all beings, the sacredness of Mother Earth and our commitment to caring for her as we care for ourselves.

Article 5 – Sacred Texts

Section 1: Triumph Church affirms that spiritual truths, wisdom and knowledge may be found in many ancient religious texts as well as contemporary writings and sayings; TCNA promotes and encourages use of many different sacred texts and holds as sacred all literature regardless of genre, affiliation or age that embodies truth for the reader – hearer as sacred in that life is affirmed.

Article 6 – Organizational Structure

Section 1: Triumph’s organizational structure is based on communal sharing of Spirit, wisdom, knowledge, resources and power; central to the principles of power with and power to.

Section 2: Membership or Affiliation with the Church is as: (a) an Individual; (b) a Chartered Community; or (c) a Friend of Triumph.

- a) An Individual may become a member of TCNA (SEE ARTICLE 7, SECTION 1) and participate in the life of the community through their direct financial or in-kind support; participate in in-person or virtual gatherings; participate in decision making (SEE ARTICLE 15, SECTION 3) in the ACG.
- b) A Chartered Community (SEE ARTICLE 9, SECTIONS 1 & 2) is an organized group of Individuals who operate under the National Charter of TCNA; as a group they participate in the life of the community through receipt and giving of financial contributions and in-kind donations; through in-person and virtual gatherings; and participate in decision making (SEE ARTICLE 9, SECTIONS 1 – 9) in the ACG.
- c) A Friend of Triumph is an independent Faith or non-profit organization that share a common space or interest with TCNA (SEE ARTICLE 10, SECTIONS 1 – 5); they participate in the life of the community through shared financial support; in-kind support; participation in scheduled gatherings of Friends; and decision making in the ACG.



Section 2: There shall be an annual meeting held each year called the Annual Community Gathering (ACG).

Section 3: The Annual Community Gathering will be the Chief Executive Body of the Church and shall have power to veto or ratify anything pertaining to the Church worldwide.

Article 7 - Membership

Section 1: Membership in the Church is based on a public affirmation of the Seven Life Affirming Principles of the Church – Basis of Union. A public affirmation is considered to be complete when in the presence of two or three persons who have previously affirmed the Seven Life Affirming Principles of the Church – Basis of Union.

Section 2: Every Member of TCNA is a Steward of the Church; and therefore is both responsible and accountable for the wellness and well-being of the community and adherence to the established life affirming principles.

Section 3: Members exercise their stewardship through their vote in the Annual Community Gathering; and by participation in their Chartered Communities.

Article 8 – Governance and Council of Representatives

Section 1: The governing unit is the Council of Representatives selected by a vote of the Membership in the ACG; they are to provide guidance and decision making on matters concerning the Church in the absence of the ACG.

Section 2: The Council of Representatives are chosen by a consensus of the general adult registered voting membership (16 years or older) at the Annual Community Gathering.

Section 3: The term of each Council Representative will be for a period of four years.

Section 4: The qualifications of Council Representatives shall be (a) age 16 or older; (b) of sound judgement in the practice of peace, justice and generosity of mercy.

Section 5: The Council of Representatives shall appoint from within their ranks a Moderator, Record Keeper and Treasurer; they shall also have the right to designate from their ranks others to serve on specific Committees, Board or other positions needed to successfully carry out the duties of the Council.

Section 6: The role and responsibility of the Council Representatives are as follows:

(a) Council Representatives are selected by the General Membership and serve as custodian of the assets of TCNA; they represent the interest of the General Membership and at all times must commit to uphold the life affirming principles of TCNA.

(b) The Moderator serves as the convener of the Council and in conversation with the Record Keeper develops the Council's calendar of activities and quarterly meeting agenda.

(c) The Moderator has authority, with approval from members of the Council, to appoint persons to sub-committees of the Council.

(d) The Moderator is selected from within the ranks of the Council by consensus.

(e) The Record Keeper is the custodian of all official records of the Council of Representatives; they certify the Minutes as a true record of the meeting and publish the meeting minutes and agendas as required; they are responsible for posting notices of Council meetings and general membership meetings.

(f) The Treasurer is the custodian of Church funds reviews monthly financial reports and submits a quarterly bi-annual and annual financial report to the Council; and in collaboration with the Council prepares an Annual Budget for review and approval by the General Membership; they monitor the financial well-being of TCNA at large.

(g) Council Representatives are compensated quarterly at a rate established by the General Membership in the ACG.

Section 7: The Council of Representatives shall have the right to hire a staff to support the daily operations of TCNA; as long as the staff compensation is consistent with the approved Annual Budget; and the staff is supervised by a Council Representative.

Article 9 – Chartered Communities

Section 1: Chartered Communities shall be made up of Members who have joined an area group Chartered by the Church.

Section 2: A group of 10 or more persons with a minimum of two being of age 18 meeting together for a period of no less than three months having familiarized themselves with the Bylaws and Constitution and are in agreement with the Seven Life Affirming Principles of Community - Basis of Union can apply to TCNA Council of Representatives for consideration to be recognized as a Chartered community of TCNA.

Section 3: Approval by the Council of Resolutions of an Application to be granted a Charter from TCNA will then be submitted for final Approval to the General Membership in the Annual Community Gathering.

Section 4: A community granted a Charter will then have full membership rights of General Membership in TCNA; they shall select from their community a Council of a least three with at least two being over the age of 18 to represent their interest in the absence of their bi-monthly meeting.

Section 5: The Chartered Communities will pay an initial application fee and annual dues to be set by the General Membership at the Annual Community Gathering.

Section 6: The Chartered Communities will have the right to hold a treasurer and to hold gatherings in the name of Triumph, The Church of the New Age or its subsidiaries, Triumph Life Center or Triumph Academy; depending on the authority of the Charter.

Section 7: Each Chartered Community agrees to submit to the Council of Representatives bi-monthly a report of operations, activities, staff and finances.

Section 8: Each Chartered Community so as long as they act in accordance with the Bylaws of TCNA their issued Charter is autonomous and self-directed.

Section 9: The Charter may be submitted for revocation to the General Membership by the Council of Representatives for cause; the Charter Community must be given an opportunity and support from the Council of Representatives if requested by them to correct any errors made in their Community before their Charter can be revoked.

Article 10 – Friends of Triumph

Section 1: Friends of Triumph are communities of faith or non-profits who enter into an agreement to share physical space at a location held or owned by TCNA.

Section 2: The Shared Agreement must be mutually agreed to and signed by the Chair of the Council of Representatives and the designated official of the Friend of Triumph.

Section 3: Friends of Triumph are autonomous groups that are not opposed to the Seven Life Affirming Principles of TCNA; they are self-directed; and they participate in the life of the TCNA community.

Section 4: Friends of Triumph we share the space and in exchange will share the expense for operating and maintaining the space; to be determined by the Council of Representatives as approved in the Annual Operating Budget by the Membership.

Section 5: Friends of Triumph shall have the right to participate in the Annual Community Gathering and each Friend (organization) shall vote as one unit.

Article 11 – Staff & Volunteers

Section 1: The Council of Representatives and each local Council from Chartered Communities may hire staff and select volunteers to serve their jurisdiction.

Section 2: Staff recruitment will be detailed in the Policies & Procedures Manual as approved and revised by the Membership in the Annual Community Gathering.

Article 12 – Financial Transactions of the Church

Section 1: Revenue for the Church shall come from committed regular financial support of its Members through percentage of income, freewill offerings, special donations; and annual dues; Initial and Annual Dues of Chartered Communities; Friends of Triumph shared cost appropriation; Publishing Rights and sale of published materials; Ongoing fund raising activities and general donations; revenue from the Rescue Home, Farm and other enterprises that further that vision, mission and goals of TCNA.

Section 2: Revenue received on behalf of the Church shall be held in trust for the Church in a designated account/s selected by the Council of Representatives (Internationally and Local) and the Members in their Annual Community Gathering.

Section 3: Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Financial reports shall be made available through the Council of Representatives and Locally.

Article 13 – Acquisition and Disposition of Property

Section 1: The Church shall have power to take and hold such real and personal estate, as shall be needful or convenient to carry out the purposes of the Church; and to sell, encumber and dispose of the same for the use of the Church; but the said real estate of the Church shall not be sold, encumbered or disposed of without the consent of a majority of the Members of the Church 16 years of age and upwards.

Section 2: The property real and personal of the Church shall be taken, held and inure, subject to the disposition and control of the Members of the Church.

Section 3: All of the property of TCNA shall be held in trust for the Members of the Church, so that the Council of Representatives or its duly appointed agents shall act on behalf of the Members of the Church and shall not at any time sell or mortgage property without consent of the Members based on a majority vote at the Annual Community Gathering or a special meeting called of the Membership

given a 30 day public notice given for a Special Call Community Meeting to vote on the proposed sale or mortgage of Church property.

Section 4: Chartered Communities shall have the right to purchase real and personal property on behalf of their Chartered Community subject to approval of the Council of Representatives as approved at the Annual Community Gathering.

Article 14 – Record Keeping

Section 1: All official records of the Church including meeting minutes, financial reports, budgets, appointments, licenses, leases, agreements and charters shall be held securely by the Record Keeper of the Council of Representatives both Internationally and locally in accordance with the approved TCNA Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article 15 – Procedures for Official Meetings of the Church

Section 1: The date of the Annual Community Gathering will be determined by the Annual Community Gathering in the previous year or if directed by the ACG the date and time shall be set by Council of Representatives.

Section 2: Members who are included in a Chartered Community shall be represented at this meeting by a delegation of eligible voting members from their Chartered Community; eligibility is 16 years of age or older; and selected by majority vote of their local Charter Community.

Section 3: Members who are not affiliated with a Chartered Community due to geographical location, residency or other factors shall be included with the nearest Chartered Community or by personal preference and shall vote with their designated Charter Representatives in their designated Community.

Section 4: The number of delegates permitted each Chartered Community shall be determined by the total number of all Members (Adults & Children) in the Chartered Community divided by the total number of Chartered Communities in the Church; times one percent for the total number of votes or a minimum of one vote or which every is greater. Example: $15 \text{ (Total Members)} \div 3 \text{ (Number of Charter Communities)} \times .1 \text{ (Fixed Percentage)} = 5 \text{ (Maximum Number of Votes)}$

Section 5: Friends of Triumph in good standing shall have one vote based on their Shared Agreement with the Church.

Section 6: The Percentage of votes in the Annual Community Gathering needed for agreement on general matters shall be a majority which is defined as 55%, i.e., Annual Budget, Programs and Activities, Approval of New Chartered Communities; Approval of Agreement for Friends of Triumph.

Section 7: The Percentage of votes in the Annual Community Gathering needed for agreement on purchase, sale or mortgage of Church property shall be 65%.

Section 8: The Percentage of votes in the Annual Community Gathering needed to amend/revise the Policies and Procedures shall be 51%.

Section 9: The Percentage of votes in the Annual Community Gathering needed to amend/revise the Church Bylaws shall be a consensus which is defined as full agreement minus 1% of 10%.

Article 16 – Emergency Powers and Bylaws

Section 1: The Council of Representatives is duly authorized by the Annual Community Gathering to act on behalf of TCNA in the absence of the ACG.

Section 2: Legal representation of the Church will be approved by the ACG and shall be duly authorized to act within the limits of the law of the state or jurisdiction to carry out the business affairs of the Church.

Section 3: The Council of Representatives shall have emergency power to act or authorize the Church's legal representative to act in the interest of the Church when a 30 day notice for a call meeting of the ACG is not possible or would pose irreparable financial damage or harm to the well – being of the Church.

Section 4: The Church Bylaws is the final word on the governance and operations; any and all decisions and mandates shall be in accordance with the Bylaws or they are not binding on the Church, the Charter Communities or the Friends of Triumph.

Article 17 – Triumph Scholarship Aid Fund

Section 1: The name of the Fund shall be the Triumph, The Church of the New Age - Scholarship Aid Fund; also known as TCNA - Scholarship Aid Fund or SAF.

Section 2: The purpose of the Fund shall be to implement the Vision, Mission Objectives and Goals of TCNA, which is concerned with the promotion of education of the youth and continued Adult learning.

Section 3: The SAF is designed to first assist youth in their pursuit of a post-secondary education; and non-traditional students with their continuing education.

Section 4: The SAF shall seek out applicants who qualify for financial assistance.

Section 5: The SAF shall be organized as Committee appointed by the Council of Representatives and approved by a majority vote of Members at the ACG; the term of service on the Committee shall be four years with reappointment upon approval; the Committee shall select from within its ranks a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Coordinator of Community Giving; The Committee shall have a minimum of five members at all times; if at some point the Committee has less than five members the Council of Representatives shall appoint two members from its ranks to serve until the next ACG and additional SAF Committees are appointed.

Section 6: The SAF Committee shall be responsible for initiating annual fundraising activities on to grow the fund.

Section 7: The SAF Committee shall have the authority to solicit applications for student funding; review and approve applications; determine level of funding; and continued funding.

Section 8: To be eligible for consideration for assistance from the SAF applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Be a member of TCNA and in good standing; or,
- (b) Have a parent (grandparent, aunt, uncle or immediate family member) who is a member of TCNA; or,
- (c) The Application for funding is supported by a member of TCNA; or,
- (d) Be a member of a Friend of TCNA and be referred by the Pastor or Overseer or officer of

the Friend of TCNA;

(e) The applicant is a graduate of Triumph Academy.

Section 9: Requirements for funding includes the following:

- (a) Be a high school graduate or have earned a GED;
- (b) Be currently enrolled in a degree granting college or university;
- (c) Have completed the first year of college and eligible to enroll in college for the year the funds are requested;
- (d) Submit a properly completed Scholarship Aid Application that includes the objective and need for assistance, plans after graduation, and;
- (e) Submit official proof of current college enrollment along with a copy of the most current transcript within two (2) weeks of notification of award.

Section 10: All recipients will be notified, in writing, by the Scholarship Aid Fund Secretary of their award. At that time, the recipient must submit official proof of current college/university enrollment along with an official copy of the most current transcript to the Scholarship Aid Fund Secretary within 21 days from the date of their notification; disbursement of funds will be contingent upon receiving the requested documents within 21 days of the SAF request.

Section 11: Applicants in good academic standing may submit additional requests for financial assistance in a subsequent year if they can justify their needs.

Section 12: The Application Due Date will be set each year based on 90 days prior to the scheduled Annual Community Gathering.

Section 13: Applications must be submitted to TCNA via email at the Church's official email address listed on its website; or via the Church's official mailing address as listed on its website.

Section 14: Applications for the SAF will be forward to the Secretary of the SAF no later than 45 days before the ACG each year.

Section 15: The SAF Secretary shall distribute copies to the Committee members no less than two weeks prior to the scheduled SAF Committee Meeting.

Section 16: SAF Committee shall meet no less than 30 days prior to the ACG to review and vote on applications and recommend level of funding for each applicant.

Section 17: The SAF Secretary shall keep a minute of the SAF Committee meeting; and shall notify in writing or via email each recipient of an award with the requirements to accept and receive the award.

Section 18: Each Chartered Community, Church Members and Friends of Triumph shall be encouraged to support the SAF through direct donations and fundraising activities.

Section 19: The SAF shall designate one Committee Member from their ranks to facilitate and coordinate fundraising activities within and without the Church.

Section 20: All funds raised on behalf of the SAF shall be maintained on deposit at a legally recognized financial institution that approved by the Church in the ACG; the funds shall be held under the Church's Federal Tax Identification Number; with a minimum of two approved designated signers

on the accounts; a minimum of two signatures of the officers of the Scholarship Aid Fund will be required in order to withdraw funds from this account.

Section 21: The accounts shall be listed as: "Triumph, the Church of the New Age – Scholarship Aid Fund".

Section 22: A treasurer's report on the status of the Scholarship Aid Funds will be submitted bi-annually as determined in the ACG; and shall include a status report of fundraising activities for the period; applications received and approved; amount of financial aid provided; status of students who have completed their education or still in process; and balance of bank accounts with copies of bank statements for the period.

Section 23: SAF Committee Members shall recuse themselves from voting on an application of a family member or close friend; each Committee Member will be required to affirm on each application reviewed that they do not have a conflict of interest actual or by appearance; they do not have a family relationship with the applicant by blood or marriage; and they do not have a direct personal relationship with the applicant.

Section 24: The amount of scholarship aid available for disbursement each year shall not exceed an amount that is equal to 2/3 of the total amount on deposit as December 31st of the prior year.

Article 18 – Triumph Ministers' Pension Fund

Section 1: Triumph Ministers' Pension fund was established around 1975 to provide assistance to members of the clergy who had served the Church faithfully but were no longer able to carry out their duties due to age.

Section 2: The Ministers' Pension Fund is amended to as follows: (a) To provide financial support to retired members of the Clergy and Motherhood who served the Church prior to 1960 but before 2000; and (b) To provide financial support to retiring Spiritual Teachers and Guides who were licensed after 2020 and served the Church faithfully for no less than 10 years and are upwards of 70 years of age.

- a) Ministers Pension Fund for retirees who served prior to 1960 but before 2000 will be established with an initial amount of up to \$25,000.00; the amount of total annual distribution shall not exceed 10% of the total fund; and shall be allocated to each eligible participant proportionally as approved in the ACG based on position held and length of service to the Church; the annual amount available for distribution will be recommended in the Annual Budget and approved in the ACG; funds will be disbursed to approved retirees on a monthly or quarterly basis. The fund shall be replenished annually through a contribution of no less than 2% of the annual net receipts of the Church; excluding funds received on behalf of the SAF and other designated funds.
- b) Ministers Pension Fund for retirees who served as Spiritual Teachers and Guides and licensed after 2020 with no less than 10 years of continuous faithful service; and their natural age is upwards of 70 years. The fund shall be established with a designated fund of up to \$1,000.00 and shall be funded annually through eligible participants' voluntary contributions of up to ½ of 1 % of their annual salaries; and a matching contribution from TCNA of up to ½ of 1% of the Church's annual net revenue; excluding funds received on behalf of the SAF and other designated funds.

Article 19 – Triumph Rescue Home and Farm (Auxiliary)

Section 1: The Church shall establish a Rescue Home and Farm in every State and Territory with a Board of Stewards to direct the work and have oversight of the same.

Section 2: The Board of Stewards shall be recommended to the ACG by the Council of Representatives and shall have a minimum of five members who shall serve for a term of four years with a subsequent reappointment.

Section 3: The Board of Stewards shall appoint from their ranks a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Program Developer; they shall have authority to recruit and appoint staff, volunteers and as necessary to carry on the work of the Auxiliary.

Section 4: The Auxiliary shall have the right to seek funding from donations and grant writing; and to hold their own treasure under the name of the Church – With Rescue Home & Farm and Federal Tax Identification Number of the Church with approval of the Council of Representatives from the ACG.

Section 5: The object and design of the Rescue Homes and Farms are as follows:

- (a) To care for ex-inmates who have no one to take care of them and need support reintegrating back into the community;
- (b) To care for children whose parents or other family members are not able to care for them;
- (c) To provide safe shelter and support for victims of family, acquaintance or community violence;
- (d) To provide shelter and wellness care for persons recovering from physical or emotional illness;
- (e) To provide a safe shelter and support for persons seeking aid for mental health challenges;
- (f) To provide shelter and support for homeless families or individuals due to financial challenges;
- (g) To provide a respite for spiritual leaders who desire a time for renewal for their personal well-being.

Section 6: The Board of Stewards shall submit a Policies and Procedures Manual and Operating Budget to the ACG for review and approval each year.

Section 7: The Farm shall be for the purpose of providing access to affordable healthy food for our Members and communities; and providing training in agriculture and employment opportunities.

Section 8: The Board of Stewards shall seek out farmland to purchase for the establishment of food sources in our communities especially where there is limited access to fresh healthy produce.

Article 20 – Triumph Academy

Section 1: Triumph Academy was founded in 2016 and licensed by the State of New Jersey as a Non-Public High School for the purpose of providing education and training for adults to obtain their High School Diploma.

Section 2: The Council of Representatives shall recommend to the Annual Community Gathering a Director of Education for a term not to exceed four years with reappointment.

Section 3: Triumph Academy shall have an appointed Board of Stewards to oversee the Education, Training and Operations of the Academy; the Council of Representatives shall recommend three to

nine persons to serve on the Board to the Annual Community Gathering for approval; each Steward shall serve for a period not to exceed four years with subsequent reappointment.

Section 4: A Triumph Academy shall be established in each Charter Community or as recommended by the local Community in conversation with the Director of Education.

Section 5: Triumph Academy shall function as an Auxiliary of the Church and shall function under the authority of the governing body.

Article 21 – Triumph Life Center

Section 1: Triumph Life Center opened on October 19, 2019 under the umbrella of Triumph, the Church of the New Age – International (TCNA) which was founded in 1904.

Section 2: Chartered Communities of the Church shall establish a TLC in their Community as the Spiritual Gathering place for the Community and to facilitate ministry outreach into the greater community.

Section 3: Triumph Life Center is the outreach ministry of the Church which seeks to further the work of TCNA founder Bishop Elias Dempsey Smith (1865 – 1920) who had a vision of a new world system that he fully believed was attainable through the shared practice of spiritual principles that would lead to our collective awakening or higher expression of the Divine.

Section 4: Triumph Life Center’s vision is of an inter-dependent community formed from the tapestry of our individual and collective experiences of the Divine that fosters both an embodied spirituality and epistemology as pathways to establishing a new world where all may share in the fullness of life.

Section 5: Triumph Life Center’s mission is to promote the creation of new ‘cultural practices and social and economic systems’ that are egalitarian, affirms our shared humanity and holds sacred the earth and all life forms; (2) To create a safe and sacred space where marginalized individuals and communities who may not have equal access to opportunities can ‘ConnectUp’ to expand both their spiritual and intellectual life and gain access to opportunities for personal growth through shared resources and support for developing spiritual gifts and intellectual pursuits; (3) To honor the Sabbath as a time for individual and collective spiritual, physical, emotional and mental well-being through shared music, spoken word, sacred readings and a communal meal.

Section 6: Triumph Life Center’s goal is to be a hub for (1) conversations envisioning a new world order; (2) creative arts expressions; (3) emerging social entrepreneurs; (4) promoting community owned sustainable food systems for access to healthy living; (5) expanding reverence and care for the earth and all life forms; (6) forming alliances and building bridges across community barriers that mutually affirm our shared humanity; (7) people of all faiths, cultures, ethnicities, races, genders, orientations, abilities, personal challenges (i.e., history of incarceration, mental health issues, addictions, physical health, citizenship, housing, employment, relationships status, age etc.) to be in community with each other on one accord.

Article 22 – Spiritual Gatherings

Section 1: Triumph, The Church of the New Age seeks to find new ways of being ‘Church’ as we further the work of our founder Bishop Elias Dempsey Smith (1865 – 1920) who had a vision of a new world system that he fully believed was attainable through the shared practice of spiritual principles that would lead to our collective awakening or higher expression of the Divine.

Section 2: The purpose of the Spiritual Gatherings of the Chartered Communities is to meet the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, ritual and communal needs of the community.

Section 3: Spiritual Gatherings are held weekly or as often as the Chartered Community deems needful at TLC; the local Council with approval from its Membership shall set a schedule of Spiritual Gatherings and activities for TLC.

Section 4: Spiritual Gatherings may be held in-person or virtually as deemed safe and needful by the Community.

Section 5: The Spiritual Gatherings shall include music, meditation, prayer, sacred readings, teaching, guidance or learning in a particular area with opportunity for discussion and participation by everyone.

Section 6: The time and length of Spiritual Gatherings are suggested to be 90 minutes; however, each Chartered Community may decide what works best for their Community.

Article 23 – Spiritual Teachers and Spiritual Guides

Section 1: A Spiritual Teacher or Spiritual Guide is a gifted ‘teacher’ or ‘seer’ or who serves as a light through their character, spiritual practice and demonstration of wisdom, knowledge and power with and power to.

Section 2: Triumph recognizes those whose life demonstrates light and life affirming principles in both their public and private practice; one who has knowledge of the laws of spiritual paths as well as the impediments that lie ahead; the Teacher and Guide is responsible for preserving and advancing themselves and shining their light so that others may develop such essential practices necessary to grow naturally and spiritually to a higher level of consciousness.

Section 3: The Teacher and Guide must have a mastery of sacred texts and a mastery of ‘new’ revelation that is spoken, written and confirmed by the manifestation of one living in harmony with themselves, their family and community.

Section 4: Spiritual Teachers and Guides will be affirmed and credentialed upon application and recommendation by the Council of Representatives and approval in the Annual Community Gathering.

Section 5: An application fee and annual renewal will be assessed as determined by the ACG.

Section 6: Spiritual Teachers and Guides shall operate at a level of integrity that exemplifies honesty, moral character, truth in relationships, and balance in all aspects of their life.

Section 7: Spiritual Teachers and Guides shall have authority to perform all ritual ceremonies including the Marriage Ceremony and Burials as permitted by the governing authority of the state in which the Spiritual Teachers and Guide is licensed.

Article 24 – Rites of Passage & Sacraments

Section 1: Rites of Passages are Ceremonies that mark important transitional periods in the life of the individual and community such as one’s initiation into the life of the Community; or the life a family such as marriage, the birth of a child, divorce; and a person’s life such as birth, puberty, the onset of menses, having a child, graduation and death. Rites of passage usually involve ritual activities and teachings designed to strip individuals of their original roles and prepare them for new roles.

Section 2: The Church recognizes the role and importance of rituals as opportunities to teach and guide the individual and the community through transitions of life; and as such we encourage each Chartered Community to participate fully in these rituals.

Section 3: The Church in the ACG shall appoint a Committee on Rituals and Sacraments to develop suggested common Rituals that we all might share in and appropriate Sacraments. The Committee shall annually review what each Chartered Community is participating in and recommend revisions, uniformity and ways to better serve the needs of individuals and the Community through Rituals and Sacraments.

Article 25 – Triumph Publication Board

Section 1: There shall be a Publication Board which shall publish books and literature that further the life affirming principles of the Church.

Section 2: The Publication Board shall seek authors from within the Church and without that desire to have their works published and whose works' are spiritual, academic, poetic, or other genres that seek to awaken the consciousness of humanity.

Section 3: The Publication Board shall be organized as an Auxiliary of the Church and shall have a Director of Publications appointed by the Council of Representatives with the approval of the ACG.

Section 4: The Director of Publications shall recruit and appoint staff and volunteers as needed to carry out the work of the Board.

Section 5: There shall be a Chief Editor of the Publication Board who shall review and have oversight of all materials submitted for publication.

Section 6: All agreements for publication with copyright shall be reviewed and approved by the Board and submitted to the Church legal team for review and approval.

Article 26 – Amendments to Bylaws

Section 1: These Bylaws shall be binding on the Church in all its locations and for all its Chartered Communities, Ministries, Auxiliaries, Spiritual Teachers and Guides throughout the world in accordance with the law of the governing state or jurisdiction where the Church is located.

Section 2: The Church Bylaws is the final word on the governance and operations; any and all decisions and mandates shall be in accordance with the Bylaws or they are not binding on the Church, the Charter Communities or the Friends of Triumph.

Section 3: The process for amending these Bylaws shall be (1) through a recommendation of the Council of Representatives as presented before the Annual Community Gathering for a vote; (2) a recommendation from a Chartered Community with support of at least three fifths (3/5) of the existing Charter Communities to bring to the floor of the Annual Community Gathering. Approval requires a consensus of the Church in the Annual Community Gathering as demonstrated by a no vote no more than 1% of 10%.

Section 4: Approved amendments will be recorded in the Official Minutes of the Annual Community Gathering; and kept with the Official Record of the Church by the Secretary of the Council of Representatives.

Section 5: All Amendments shall be added to the appropriate Article or Section of the Bylaws or at the back of the book with the date of the Amendment and the actual count of the vote of consensus; and published throughout the Church.

Article 27 – Amendments to Articles of Incorporation

Section 1: Articles of Incorporation may be amended from time to time as required by local law and under the advisement of the Church legal counsel; all amendments must be in agreement with the approved Bylaws or they must follow the same process for amending the Bylaws before they can be initiated.

Section 2: Revised Articles of Incorporation shall be kept as Official Records of the Church and maintained by the Secretary of the Council of Representatives.

Article 28 – Process of Dissolution

Section 1: Dissolution is a change in corporate status that is governed by state law and can only be recommended with the guidance of legal counsel.

Section 2: Recommendation for Dissolution may be initiated under the following two conditions (a) if TCNA mission has been fulfilled by a recommendation of the Council of Representatives and affirmed by a consensus of the Annual Community Gathering as defined as a no vote of no more than 1% of 10 % of the votes cast; (b) if there are insurmountable challenges to TCNA sustainability as determined by the Council of Representatives and affirmed by a consensus of the Annual Community Gathering as defined as a no vote of no more than 1% of 10% of the votes cast.

Section 3: The Council of Representatives must have a unanimous vote to dissolve the Church; and upon approval seek legal counsel to develop a Plan of Dissolution to present in the Annual or Special Called Community Gathering for the purpose of considering the Council's vote for Dissolution; and if approved; a vote of the Plan of Dissolution must also be put to a vote.

Section 4: The Vote to dissolve and the Draft Plan of Dissolution must have a consensus vote which is defined as a no vote of no more than 1% of 10% of the total votes cast.

Section 5: If both are approved, the Council of Representatives shall notify legal counsel and follow the guidance of attorneys to proceed with dissolution.

Section 6: Upon dissolution a Notice of Final Dissolution shall be published to all Members, Charter Communities, and Friends of Triumph.

Addendum: Triumph's Circle of Life



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