THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST-UK

CHURCH PRACTICES

MISSIONS STATEMENT

The Church of Pentecost is a worldwide, non-profit-making Pentecostal church with its international Head Office in Accra, Ghana. In the UK the Church's Head Office is in Dagenham, Essex. The church exists to bring all people everywhere to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the gospel, the planting of churches and the equipping of believers for every God-glorifying service. It demonstrates the love of God through the provision of social services in partnership with governments, communities and other like-minded organisations.

OBJECTIVES

- Evangelising and planting self-supporting churches throughout the world.
- Ensuring that the kingdom of God is established in men who portray Christ-like character, prepared for Christ's second coming to receive eternal rewards, being with God, worshipping and serving Him eternally.
- Providing a conducive environment for attracting and maintaining all categories of people.
- Sending and supporting missionaries on regular basis.
- Providing infrastructural facilities to accommodate growth in membership – i.e. building chapels, mission houses, offices, conference centres and providing boarding school or hostel facilities.
- Developing a pragmatic, efficient Pastorate or lay leadership corps through appropriate training programmes from the grassroots.
- Providing local training facilities to the university level.
- Providing adequate training centres at strategic points within external branches of the church.
- Establishing medical mission centres and educational institutions to complement government efforts.
- Providing charity to needy individuals, communities and institutions.
- Cooperating with and supporting the Government with prayers.
- Strengthening bonds of fellowship with other sister churches and Para-church groups, both home and abroad.

NAMING OF CHILDREN

i. This ceremony can be held at home or church or any convenient place, as is determined by the Local Presbytery.
ii. Children born out of wedlock are not officially christened at Church but are dedicated later.
iii. Offerings and freewill donations are taken at the ceremony. **(General Council Meeting in Accra, 1989)**
iv. Elders are allowed to officiate the naming of children.

DEDICATION OF CHILDREN

i. This is performed in the chapel
ii. As a rule, only ministers are permitted to officiate the dedication of children.

WATER BAPTISM

Converts are baptized as soon as possible.

i. Baptism is administered upon the testimony of the convert, that is, the convert confessing Christ openly after this manner:
I believe that Jesus is the Son of God; I accept that He died for my sins and He resurrected for my justification, and because of that I accept Him as my Lord and personal Saviour.
ii. Regular or monthly Baptismal Services are encouraged in all Districts.
iii. Candidates are immersed once in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;
iv. Baptismal Certificates are issued immediately or thereafter.
v. The right-hand of fellowship is extended after taking genuine converts through systematic new convert classes.
vi. Water baptism is officiated by ministers only.

CHURCH REGISTER/DATABASE FOR EACH ASSEMBLY

Every Assembly, however small or large, has a register or a database of all members. The presbytery examines the register periodically, at least two times a year.

ASSETS REGISTER

Every Assembly, District, Area, Ministries, Boards, and Committees must have an asset register in which all properties of the church are entered. The register mus have a list of items or purchases with code numbers, dates, cost and, where applicable, name of donor. Copies of this register are kept at the local, and copies to the District and the Area Offices. (**Finance Board decision. General Council at Kaneshie in Accra, 1962/2005 CPRC)**

BREAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

i. In order to be held in a solemn atmosphere there is no clapping and dancing until after the communion. It is a commemorative occasion.
ii. Leftover bread (emblem) is disposed of.
iii. Hand-shaking after communion is optional.
iv. Giving of the right-hand of fellowship takes place before the celebration.
v. Members take the emblem (bread) personally.
vi. Members partaking of the communion come to the table instead of it being sent to them in their seats, except where this is not possible.
vii. It is held at least once a month in all Assemblies on the first Sunday of each month. However, it is also celebrated on a convenient day and time fixed by the minister. It is not necessarily tied to tithing day. (**General Council Meeting at Winneba in 1963/2005 Church Practices Committee**)

CHURCH FINANCE

i. Fund-Raising

This is done voluntarily after some education. Pastors and Officers do not employ any unorthodox methods to exact money from members during the offering. For example, there is nothing like blessing of envelopes, or asking members to pay large sums of money for special prayers to be said for them. Funds are therefore raised strictly by freewill offering.

ii. Offering at Church Services

Despite the fact that Freewill Offerings on Sundays have become an important issue to Local Assemblies, the number of offerings still remains two.

CHURCH SERVICE

i. Worship

Musical instruments are played in the singing of songs but laid down during the prayer of adoration.

Shutting of Church doors during worship is discouraged. However, latecomers are politely directed to sit on the back pews until the end of the worship. A period of silence before the close of the worship session is encouraged.

ii. Modesty in Dressing

Both males and females dress modestly.

iii. Singing Groups

Singing groups are encouraged to sing Pentecostal songs rather than merely entertaining non-Pentecostal songs. The number of singing groups is determined by the size of the District or the assembly. Also singing groups are encouraged to lead moral and upright lives. Singing groups use any decent uniform.

CORE VALUES OF THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

Core Values of the Church

- **Intensive prayer**
- **Belief in miracles, signs and wonders**
- **A well co-ordinated evangelistic and church-planting strategy**
- **Dedicated leadership**
- **Emphasis on holiness/discipline, reverence**
- **Obedience to the Word of God**
- **Total reliance on the Holy Spirit**
- **Indigenous worship style**
- **The church's covenant with God**
- **A self-supporting Financial policy**

i. Evangelism

It is the presentation of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit with the view that men will come and trust Jesus as Saviour and Lord and serve Him in the fellowship of the Church. Evangelism is the responsibility of every Church member. It is the prime duty of every believer to share his/her faith after conversion.

The scope of evangelism was initially Africa and extending to the whole world. Evangelism is missions-oriented; Every member of the Church is to go out and preach Christ, open churches and call in ministers to pastor same. Besides, as was the practice of the founder, Pastor James McKeown, we respond to calls to missions as led by the spirit of the Lord.

ii. Discipleship

Discipleship is the training of believers to be Christ-like. The emphasis is on holiness, righteousness, faithfulness, honesty, sincerity, humility, prayerfulness and the leading of disciplined and responsible lives.

This is done at the level of individuals, where every member takes responsibility to disciple their new converts, as well as through church/corporate based systematic teaching, and on-the-job training.

Teaching emphasises the four-square gospel, which is Christ-centred: i.e. Jesus the Saviour, Healer, Baptiser and Soon Coming King; the Tenets of the Church; Bible reading/study, scripture memorisation and application of the word to life's situations.

iii. Ministry Excellence

We seek to honour God who gave His best (the Saviour) by maintaining a high standard of excellence in all our ministries and activities (Col. 3:23-24).

iv. Core Practices

Some of the normal practices are regular prayer for the Holy Spirit baptism with initial evidence of speaking in tongues. Emphasis is placed on the fruit and gifts of the Spirit in the life of the believer.

Prayers are said for healing and deliverance for the afflicted as part of the initial exercises for salvation.

Services are marked as truly Pentecostal with praise and worship, teaching, exercise of gifts, prayer, testimony, etc.

v. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the presence of the person of the Holy Spirit and that the Christian life can be led only with His grace. The new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit, and then the baptism of the Holy Spirit for power to serve and the gifts of the Spirit for building the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit helps the individual to develop a Christ-like character, manifest through bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

The leading of the Holy Spirit in all spheres of activity in the Church is paramount. Administrative structures and all other church distinctiveness have been by the leading of Holy Spirit. The Church, through her leadership at all levels, co-operates in obedience.

vi. Leadership

Leadership development is based on the apostolic foundation. Appointments and callings into leadership positions are based on character and charisma, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Leadership development is from the shop floor, grass root level, with members maturing to lead sub-groups, movements, assemblies, districts and areas. Team spirit with talent development shapes team work. Ministry is by both clergy and laity.

vii. **The Tenets of the Church** (Core Beliefs) are as follows:

a. **The Bible**: We believe in the divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures. That it is infallible in its declaration, final in its authority, all-sufficient in its provisions and comprehensive in its sufficiency (2Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

b. **The One True God**: We believe in the existence of the One True God, Elohim, Maker of the whole universe; indefinable, but revealed as Triune Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – One in nature, essence and attributes: Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent (Gen. 1:1; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

c. **Man's Depraved Nature**: We believe that "all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God" and are subject to eternal punishment; and need repentance and regeneration (Gen. 3:10-19; Isa. 53:6)

d. **The Saviour**: We believe that man's need of a Saviour has been met in the person of Jesus Christ, because of His deity, virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, resurrection and ascension; His abiding intercession and second coming (Matt. 1:21; John 4:42; Eph. 5:23; Phil. 2:6-11)

e. **Repentance, Justification, Sanctification**: We believe all men have to repent of and confess their sins before God, and believe in the vicarious death of Jesus Christ to be justified before God. We believe in the sanctification of the believer through the working of the Holy Spirit and in God's gift of Eternal life to the believer (Luke 15:7; Acts 2:38; Rom. 4:25; 5:16; 1Cor. 1:30; 1Thess 4:30)

f. **The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**: We believe in the Sacrament of Baptism by immersion as a testimony of a convert who has attained a responsible age of about 15 years. (Infants and children are not baptized but are dedicated to the Lord). We believe in the Sacrament of the

Lord's Supper, which should be partaken of by all members who are in full fellowship (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Luke 22:19-20).

g. **Baptism, Gifts and Fruit of the Holy Spirit**: We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers with signs following; and in the operation of the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; 1Cor. 12:8-11; Gal. 5:22-23).

h. **Next Life**: We believe in the Resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and the unsaved to the resurrection of damnation (Mark 13:26; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 1:11; 10:42; Rom. 2:7-11; 6:23).

i. **Tithes and Offering**: We believe in tithing and in the giving of freewill offerings towards the cause of carrying forward the Kingdom of God. We believe that God blesses a cheerful giver (Gen. 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Malachi 3:6-10; Matt. 23:23; Acts 20:35; 1Cor. 16:1-3; 2Cor. 9:1-9).

j. **Divine Healing**: We believe that the healing of sickness and disease is provided for God's people in the atonement. The Church is, however, not opposed to soliciting the help of qualified medical practitioners (2Kings 20:20-22; Matt. 9:12; Luke 10:34; Col. 4:14).

viii. Church Culture

The following distinctive attributes help identify The Church of Pentecost:

a. Self-supporting attitude
b. Faithfulness and integrity
c. Distinctiveness in prayer
d. Church discipline without fear or favour irrespective of position, race or colour of members.
e. Place of worship based on Spirit and Truth and not necessarily on the Temple.
f. Fellowship and liberality
g. Respect for authority
h. Mutual respect and sense of belonging for all members without discrimination based on tribalism, racism or nationality.
i. Sacrificial service to the church without expecting pecuniary reward.
j. Total abstinence from alcohol, tobacco and other hard drugs.
k. Neighbourhood churches: A small/medium-sized neighbourhood church encourages church planting.
l. Monogamous marriage is enforced as well as chastity before marriage.
m. Homosexuality, lesbianism and other perverse sexual practices are not permitted in the church.
n. The Church upholds paternal inheritance.

ix. Tithes/Offering

Faithfulness in giving offerings and paying tithes to enhance ministry of the Church is emphasised. Periodic teaching on this subject is regarded as very important.

The Church and members depend solely on God as the source of financial supply. Borrowing is not encouraged. Usury amongst members is also not encouraged.

x. Social Activities

The Church believes in communal living with members supporting one another, and participating in communal work. The Church may also help the entire community by providing social needs such as health services, schools, agriculture as well as donating to the needy in society.

xi. Holiness of members and officers unto the Lord (Rom. 12:1; Heb. 12:14)...

xii. Consistent Bible Teaching - Acts 2:42

xiii. Prayer of all types, e.g. Worship (Adoration); Supplication; Intercession (Eph. 6:18-19); 1 Tim. 2:1-2)

xiv. Church Discipline: (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 12:7-11)

a) Respect for and obedience to authority
b) Submission to corrective measure/policies of the church
c) Regular fellowship of saints – Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:25.

We believe that the purpose of church discipline is for the glory of God, the purity of The Church, and the spiritual benefit of members. It serves as a warning to the congregation and also averts reproach upon the name of Christ and for the transgressor, especially, that they may repent and be saved.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

An officer or member of The Church who commits any of the following offences shall be disciplined in accordance with the principles of The Church.

a) Habitually visiting questionable places
b) Falling into open sin
c) Embracing or spreading false doctrine
d) Divorcing wife or husband
e) Marrying more than one wife
f) A sister getting married to a married man
g) Disobeying and showing disrespect to the Church authority at any level
h) Practicing immorality

SANCTIONS

Depending upon the gravity of the offence committed an offending officer or member;

a) May be publicly rebuked
b) May be suspended from taking active part in all church programmes and activities
c) Shall not partake of the Lord's Supper

d) Shall not minister or witness on the platform of The Church, etc.
e) May be removed from office.
f) The office of Elder, Deacon or Deaconess may be revoked by the appointing authority.
g) In extreme cases, an offending member/officer may be excommunicated from The Church by the Executive Council on the recommendation of the National/Area Head and the National/Area Executive Committee.

RIGHTS OF APPEAL/REVIEW

a) APPEAL

There shall be a right of appeal in all cases of sanctions. The appeal shall first be made to the District Executive Committee.

b) REVIEW

Decisions of any council or committee may be reviewed upon a petition of the affected person. This opportunity will be in addition to the right of appeal.

APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

National office holders shall be appointed by the National Councils on the recommendation of the National Executive Council and the Ministers. Term of office – 4 years.

AREA APPOINTMENTS

Area office holders shall be appointed by the Area Councils on the recommendation of the Area Executive Committee and the Ministers. Term of office – 4 years.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

District office holders shall be appointed by the District Presbytery on the recommendation of the Distinct Executive Committee. Term of office - 3years.

LOCAL APPOINTMENTS

Local office holders shall be appointed by the District Minister and the Local presbytery. Term of office – 2 years.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

There shall be both adult and children members of the Church.

ADULT MEMBERS

Any member who is thirteen (13) years or more and who has accepted the Lord as their Lord and personal Saviour and is baptised into the Church becomes an adult member. Continuation in full membership shall, however, depend on living a blameless life in accordance with the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to the rules and conduct of The Church.

CHILDREN MEMBERS

Children who are below thirteen (13) years of age and have been dedicated by a Minister of The Church become members but such members shall not be communicant until baptised into the Church.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

a) Admittance into full membership of The Church is done at a ceremony of giving new converts a Right Hand of Fellowship as part of the Communion Service. The Right Hand of Fellowship shall be extended by Minister or a Presiding Elder during church service.
b) Backsliders who repent and return to Fellowship may also be given the Right Hand of Fellowship within two (2) months.

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

The following conditions shall be fully met before the Right Hand of Fellowship is extended within a reasonable time of conversion not exceeding three (3) months.

i. A clear testimony of salvation/repentance
ii. Baptism by immersion

xiv. Rules of Conduct

a) Set aside some period daily for personal quiet time in prayer and meditation on the Word (Matt. 6:6; Eph. 6:18-20).
b) Be in your seat in good time before the commencement of the service, and participate fully in every aspect of the worship service (Gen. 18:19; Ex. 20:10; Jos. 24:15; John 1:44-45; Acts 10::24).
c) Endeavour, by word and deed, to bring up your children in the far of the LORD, and bring them with you to the house of God. Supervise and monitor the active participation of your children in Sunday school and Youth Ministry, as the case may be. Do not neglect the spiritual well-being of other relatives and house-helps under your care; they also need salvation (Gen. 18:19; Ex. 20:10; Deut. 6:4-7; Jos. 24:15; John 1:44-45; Acts 10::24; 2 Tim. 1:5-6).
d) Make the Pastor your personal friend. He needs your sympathy, support and counsel as you need his. Constantly pray for him (Joel 2:17; Mal. 2:7; Rom. 15:30-32; 2 Cor. 1:11; Eph. 6:19; Heb. 13:17-18).
e) Make the church your spiritual home. Love the brethren with brotherly affection and, if it is possible, contribute to the needs of the saints – (Ps. 133:1; Acts 2:46-47; Phil. 7).
f) During casual conversation at home or at work, do not speak disrespectfully or disparagingly about the church and God's servants (Prov. 22:8; Hos. 8:7; Gal. 6:7).
g) Endeavour to study the Bible diligently on your own and take it with you any time you go to the house of God (Jos. 1:8; Ezra 7:10; Ps. 1:2; 119:16, 72; Acts 17:11; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16).
h) Always endeavour to adequately prepare yourself through prayer and dedication before coming to the house of God (Heb. 4:15-16).

i) Unite with a faithful, sound, wide-awake, and missionary minded church, one that is doing things for the Lord and where the Pastor/Elder preaches Christ in the fullest sense of the Word.
j) Be a tithe bringer – Give one-tenth of your income to the Lord (Mal. 3:10; Prov. 11:25, Matt. 6:21).
k) Support Missions with all your heart, interest, prayers and gift and GO if He calls (Acts 1:8; Matt. 13:34).
l) Keep your eyes on Jesus, not on preachers, churches or things (Matt. 17:8).
m) Be a soul-winner. This is the greatest joys and thrills next to being saved (John 1:41-50).
n) Choose your companions carefully and prayerfully (I Cor. 15:33).
o) You are now a pilgrim and a sojourner (one travelling to his home country). So don't allow anything to turn you aside or cause you to settle down in the world (1Pet. 2:11; 1:17; Heb. 11:13-15).
p) Since your home and citizenship are now in Heaven, live like it (Phil. 3:20).
q) Live, work, pray and vote for those things that will make your community and country more righteous and God-honouring (Titus 3:12).
r) Recognise and be obedient to authority in the church, workplace, home, school, local, state and national Government, except when it is contrary to God's word and will for you (1 Pet. 3:13-19).
s) Read only good literature – books, magazine periodical, stay away from western, blue and detective films or sex stories etc. (1 Pet. 1:13; 1 Tim. 4:13).
t) Don't let man's theories, whether in textbooks or otherwise, shake your faith of science prove rather than disprove the Bible.
u) Always carry tracts with you for distribution during the day (Ps. 126:6).
v) Watch your home life. Be your best for Christ there in all things (Eph. 6:1-4).
w) Make your concerns and grievances known to the appropriate authority for explanation or redress (3 John 9-10; Num. 12:1-2).
x) Enter reverently; pray fervently; listen attentively; give praise from a grateful heart and worship God in the beauty of Holiness (Ps. 118:27; Eccl. 5:1; Rom. 7:7:12; Jas. 1:19).
y) Marital fidelity and chastity before marriage are the hallmarks of a true Christian and are, therefore, strongly urged upon every child of God. Pre-marital and extra-marital relationships have no place in the church of God; members found in such relationships will be punished by suspension and/or withdrawal from fellowship (1 Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4).
z) In your business, endeavour to make all your dealings and transactions Bible-based, honest and transparent (Prov. 16:8; 6; 22:16; Jer. 17:11; 22:13)

A true child of God may not deal in items known to be detrimental to the spiritual, mental and physical health of others e.g. alcohol, cigarettes and other narcotic drugs.

xv. Rules and Belief

a) A personal testimony of your salvation in Christ (Acts 4:12; Rom. 10:9).

b) Your acknowledgement of, and obedience to the Order and Officers of the Church –Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Elders and Deacons (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11; Heb. 13:17).
c) Your presence at meetings and Church Services and attendance to Communion makes you a member in full fellowship. A member may loose the Previlages of full fellowship when absent for three continues times from Communion without sufficient reason given for their absence (Heb. 10:25).
d) Your conformity with the fundamental Doctrines of the Church, as well as with the two ordinances, namely, Baptism by Immersion and the Lord's Supper (Luke 12:19; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 11:24; 2 Jn. 1:9).
e) That you contribute towards the support of the cause of Christ as taught in 23:23; 1 Cor. 16:2; Heb. 7:8, 17).
f) That you keep the counsels of the Church in the Church (Matt. 7:6).
g) That you pray for and help every member, remembering that we are joint members in the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:25; Gal. 6:2; 1 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 10:24).
h) That you endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).

xvi. Duties of Elders

a) They are responsible for the Church in prayer and for teaching the Word of God.
b) They are "custodians of the faith", that is, they guard jealously the fundamental doctrines of the Church, in order that no unscriptural teachings may be passed on by others to the saints.
c) They have the responsibility of visiting the sick and afflicted saints. They are to know all members in the Church and if possible visit them in their homes from time to time (in large assemblies, say twice a year).
d) In the absence of the minister, they administer the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day.
e) They see to it that spiritual and moral discipline is kept in the Church. They help settle differences amongst the saints. They report the misconduct of sinning saints to the minister, who will suspend from membership unrepentant sinning members.
f) In the absence of the minister, they are to conduct Church services, tarry meetings, and open air-services naming or christening ceremonies.
g) They are responsible for the acquisition of Lands and other properties for the local Church and report to the District Minister.
h) They are responsible for the burial of deceased members in the absence of a minister.
i) They see to maintain Church discipline (1 Cor. 6:1-3; Titus 1:13).
j) They are PUNCTUAL at Church Services
k) They are approachable but firm and fair.
l) They read and study the Bible so as to receive Rhema for the members.
m) They see to it that TITHES and OFFERINGS are paid in time to the appropriate quarters.

xvii. Duties of the Presiding Elder

a) The Presiding Elder is the one who, whilst being personally actively engaged in fulfilling the above duties, is responsible to see that the other Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses are carrying out their duties in a proper manner.
b) In the absence of the minister, he takes the chair at Church services, open-air meetings, tarry meetings, Elders' meetings.
c) The Presiding Elder however is not superior in authority to the other Elders; their divine calling is the same. Presiding Elders are to be reviewed every two years for change or re-elected by the District Presbytery.

xviii. Duties of Deacons

a) They are responsible for keeping and marking the Church Register. Anyone absent more than two weeks continues amongst the women are to be reported to the responsible Deaconesses. Anyone absent more than two weeks continues amongst the men are to be reported to the Pastor or Elders.
b) They are responsible for all material arrangements connected with open-air gathering, e.g. arrangement of seats, attending to equipments.
c) They are responsible for the seats in the Church before week-day gatherings, and taking care of and inspecting regularly all property in the building belonging to the Church, e.g. notice board, tambourines, etc. The responsible Deacon draws up an inventory of all Church property and check it from time to time.
d) They are responsible for seeing that the Hymn Books are brought out before each Sunday morning gathering and they collect them after the service. Deacons are ever on the alert to see that everyone is well seated and they are very active in making all preparations that are necessary in the Church prior to weddings, funerals, dedications, etc., so that the guests and others may feel at home.
e) As with Deacons of old, it is expected that Deacons will engage themselves in spiritual duties as often as the occasion arises. They may be called upon to preach or teach from time to time or take a hand in leading the chorus (singing) before meetings begin.
f) Deacons distribute tracts, when these are available at open-air gatherings.
g) When conventions are held locally, Deacons see to it that material preparations are fully made for the event.
h) At water Baptismal services, the Deacons are responsible for seeing that all the need of the male candidates both before and after immersion is adequately met.
i) Deacons may be called upon to perform, from time to time, other duties not specifically mentioned above.
j) Deacons serve at the Lord's Table (Acts 6:1-6)

xix. Duties of Deaconesses

a) Deaconesses are responsible for doing much of the visiting, especially amongst the sisters, and taking every opportunity to visit the sick, backsliders, etc.

b) Preparation of the Lord's Table is the responsibility of the Deaconesses; a plan should be in operation so that a team of Deaconesses lay and clear the table for comminion services.
c) They are also prepared to minister the Gospel as the occasion arises and are scheduled to give this ministry in the various assemblies from time to time.
d) They direct and instruct female converts who come to surrender to Christ. When female converts come to the front, a Deaconess should deal carefully and lovingly with each of them to make sure that the converts know fully the steps they are taking; after that, they will be called to make open confession of Christ.
e) At water baptismal services, the Deaconesses see that the needs of the female converts, both before and after immersion, are adequately catered for. Deaconesses advise female converts as to what dress they should wear and see to it that no unseemly conduct takes place, especially after immersion.
f) During conventions held locally Deaconesses are included in committees set up to arrange for lodgings, catering services, etc.
g) At open-air gatherings the Deaconesses are included in committees set up to arrange for lodgings, food, etc.
h) At open-air gatherings the Deaconesses are active in visiting the houses in the vicinity and distributing tracts when these are available.
i) The needs of the sisters in the assembly are prayerfully watched over by the Deaconesses; they educate female members subject such as Dedication of Infants, marriage (problems), unseemly conduct, etc.
j) They encourage those who come to them with problems, using the word of God. (Counselling)
k) They support actively the local as well as the District Women's Ministry work.
l) They serve in the Mission House from time to time especially when visitors come during rallies, retreats, conventions and other events.
m) They mobilise young ladies to work at the Mission House periodically.

COVENANT

The Church of Pentecost has a divine destiny. It is marked out distinctively by her unique covenant and relationship with God.

i. God's Part

God's first Covenant with The Church of Pentecost dates back as far as 1931. This was confirmed in 1940 at the Easter Convention in Winneba and was reconfirmed at the 1948 General Convention at Koforidua.

"It is not because of how few many you are in membership but according to my divine and eternal purpose and goodwill for my Church".

a) That He God would raise a nation out of Africa that would be a spearhead and light to the world, heralding the Second Coming of Jesus our Lord.
b) That the Gold Coast has been chosen to fulfil this eternal will and purpose of God.

c) That He, God, would accomplish this through a White missionary in future, and the group, which, through many trials, tribulations, temptations, and persecutions would be nurtured, protected and grow up spiritually and numerically, would become great International Pentecostal Church, which would send out missionaries from the country, the Gold Coast, to all parts of Africa and the world as a whole.
d) He would call out men according to His own choice from time to time.
e) That God would ensure that "No weapon that is formed against the Church will prosper, and every tongue that rises against it in judgment shall be condemned. For this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Him," sayeth the Lord.
f) That God would meet the Church's financial needs in season and out of season for all other churches to acknowledge that His divine presence, blessings and glory are with the Church.
g) That He would pour abundant spiritual gifts on both men and women.
h) That God would from time to time prune and purge His Church of all parasites, pests, personality cults, false doctrines, social and religious evil in order to make her holy and radiant. This will portray His divine presence, radiance and glory in her spiritual and physical performances, so as to avoid spiritual decline and apostasy.

ii. The Church's Part

a) That the Church would know and understand His ways and obey His voice and commandments, so that the Church would keep herself holy, blameless and pure.
b) That it would make disciples for the soon coming Christ.
c) That the Church is not to love and learn the things of the world nor its ways, for His ways are different from the ways of the world. Therefore, she should not imitate worldliness or any form of Religious Sects, organizations or "Churches" for He has chosen the Church to Holy, righteous, faithful, humble and obedient. She should be a different model and a peculiar people, to show forth His divine virtues to angels.
d) That the Church should not be covetous, money-minded, selfish, proud, arrogant and stubborn in her ways.
e) That in order to have a pure disciplined holy Church (which can stand the test of time) Holiness should become her watchword throughout her entire life.
f) That the Church should not owe any man, borrow or seek financial aid, loans or grants from anywhere as God is her Eternal Riches, Treasury and that He is able to sustain the Church in all her needs.
g) That the gifts that would be given by God must be controlled so that Satan would not use them to his advantage.

h) That the Church should remember not to harbour sins, evil deeds and evil people among her membership, but rebuke, discipline and restore backsliders in the spirit of love, compassion and patience. For if the Church would hearken to His voice and obey His precepts, she would be blessed among her peers. (Confirmed as a document to be preserved and taught to members. Sixth Extra-ordinary Council Meeting at Koforidua April 1999).

Inactive and Non-Performing Officers

Inactive and non-performing officers are increasing in the church. There is, therefore, the need for proper assessment and thorough observation of members intended to be 'called' into the position of leadership. It is not enough to add up numbers to the existing leadership. We need leaders who have the right attitude and are committed to articulate and envision the right things to do. Inactive and non-performing officers may be retired prematurely to make room for active ones.