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The Christian Council of South Africa

An Association of Churches and Missionary Societies of South Africa for the Extension of the Kingdom of God

CONSTITUTION

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Correspondence should be addressed to: The Secretary, 152, Nicolson Street, Brooklyn, Pretoria.

The Christian Council of South Africa

An Association of Churches and Missionary Societies of South Africa for the Extension of the Kingdom of God.

CONSTITUTION.

1—The name of this organisation shall be: "The Christian Council of South Africa—An Association of Churches and Missionary Societies of South Africa for the extension of the Kingdom of God."
(The title with the sub-title shall be used on all letter-heads and printed constitutions, and in communications with the International Missionary Council.)

2—**The object of the Council** shall be the closer co-ordination of the Christian forces of South Africa, with a view to the more effective propagation of the Gospel.

3—**The functions of the Council** shall be:

(a) To bring together for periodical conference and counsel representatives of the churches, mission societies and other Christian agencies of South Africa, particularly for consultation upon matters bearing upon the spiritual and general welfare of the non-European races.

(b) To promote, through committees, commissions or otherwise, study and investigation of the problem of evangelising and Christianising the peoples of South Africa.

(c) To take joint action on any matters within the scope of the authority that may be given to the Council by its constituent bodies.

(d) To promote co-operation in missionary activity, espeally in evengelistic, educational, medical and social work, and in the production of vernacular literature.

(e) To promote such fellowship amongst the churches as will create an atmosphere of respect and confidence and will lead to united thinking, interceding, planning and action on the part of the Christian forces of the country.

(f) To represent the Christian forces of South Africa in their relation with the International Missionary Council and with National Christian organisations in other lands.

4—**Limitations of the Council's authority:** It shall not be within the scope of the Council to consider questions of ecclesiastical faith and order which represent denominational

differences. Furthermore it shall not be within the power of the Council to commit any of the churches or agencies represented in it to any policy or line of action, nor to any financial responsibility, without the consent of those bodies.

5—Representation:

(a) Representation on the Council shall be open to the following bodies, and on the following basis:

	No. of members.
The African Methodist Episcopal Church	1
The American Board Mission in South Africa	2
The American Lutheran Mission in South Africa (Schreuder-Mission)	1
The Bantu Presbyterian Church of South Africa	1
The Berlin Mission Lutheran Church	2
The Church of the Province of South Africa	6
The Church of the Nazarene	1
The Church of Scotland	2
The Church of Sweden Mission	2
The Congregational Union of South Africa	3
The Dutch Reformed Churches of South Africa:	
In the Cape Province	2
In Natal	1
In the Orange Free State	2
In the Transvaal	2
The Dutch Reformed Mission Churches of South Africa:	
In the Cape Province	1
In the Orange Free State	1
In the Transvaal	1
The Hermannsburg Evangelical Lutheran Mission	2
The London Missionary Society	2
The Methodist Church of South Africa	6
The Methodist Episcopal Church	2
The Moravian Church	2
The Norwegian Missionary Society	2
The Paris Evangelical Missionary Society	2
The Presbyterian Church of South Africa	2
The Rhenish Mission	2
The Salvation Army	1
The South African Baptist Church	2
The South African General Mission	1
The Swiss Mission in South Africa	2

(b) Each of the following bodies shall be entitled to appoint two representatives as associate members of

the Council, without power to vote:

The Ciskeian Missionary Council	2
The Missionary Conference of the Cape Province	2
The Natal Missionary Conference	2
The Portuguese East Africa Conference	2
The Swaziland Missionary Conference	2
The Transkeian Missionary Conference	2
The Transvaal Missionary Association	2

(c) The Executive may co-opt other persons, whose presence they judge to be desirable, to attend any meeting of the Council as associate members, the number of persons so co-opted for any one meeting not to exceed six.

(d) Representation on the Council shall be open to such other bodies as may from time to time be admitted by the vote of a majority of two-thirds of the Council members present at any duly constituted meeting of the Council.

(e) Each constituent body shall elect its own representative(s) in the manner prescribed by its own policy or constitution, and shall register with the Secretary the name and address of the official responsible for notification to the Secretary of the names and addresses of such elected representative(s).

6—**The officers of the Council** shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Treasurer, whose offices shall be honorary; a General Secretary, who shall be a salaried, full-time officer; and a Literary Secretary, whose office may be honorary or paid. The officers of the Council shall be elected every two years.

7—Executive:

(a) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Council which shall meet at least once each year and at such other times as the Officers of the Council may determine. The Executive shall consist of the Officers and not more than fifteen other members of the Council who shall be elected by the Council at each ordinary meeting. The officers of the Council shall be nominating Committee to select, from names submitted by the representatives of constituent bodies, a list of names to be presented to the Council for such election.

(b) The Executive shall have power to fill vacancies in its own membership occurring during its period of office.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Executive to direct the activities of the Secretariat and to conduct the affairs of the Council between its meetings.

(d) The Executive shall appoint one or more subcommittees to assist the Secretaries in framing their programme of action.

8—Budget:

(a) The Council shall provide for an annual budget, the amount of which shall be determined by the Council on the recommendation of the Executive.

(b) The Council shall not assume financial obligations for expenditure in any given year beyond the amount available for the preceding year, except as the funds for such increase in expenditure may have been assured.

(c) The apportionment of the budget amongst the constituent bodies shall be determined by the Council from time to time, subject to the acceptance by those bodies of the apportionment so made.

(d) The Council shall have no legal authority to enforce payment of its apportionment by any constituent body, but may limit or cancel the representation of any body which does not bear its proportionate share of the budget.

9—Meetings:

(a) The Council shall ordinarily meet every second year; but a special meeting of the Council may be called, or the regular meeting postponed, if the Executive is satisfied that this is desirable.

(b) There shall be at least three months' notice given of every meeting of the Council, such notice to be published in the "South African Outlook" and in "Die Koningsbode," as well as posted to members of Council in accordance with the latest information supplied to the Secretary by the designated official of the constituent bodies, and one month's notice of all motions to come before the Council must be given in writing to the Secretary.

(c) Enlarged meetings. The Council shall arrange from time to time as may seem desirable, an enlarged meeting of the Council for the purpose of conference on special subjects, and shall also invite to attend such Council Meetings members of bodies not otherwise represented on the Council, or persons with special

knowledge of the subjects on the programme of such meetings. The Council shall have the right to determine from time to time the maximum number of persons so invited.

(d) Conferences. The Council shall also arrange for periodic conferences of missionaries and others interested in the missionary cause. (These conferences shall be similar to the gatherings arranged by the General Missionary Conference of South Africa.)

(e) Language. The two official languages of the Union shall have equal rights. It is understood that all members shall have the right to speak in the language with which they are most familiar.

10—**Expenses.** The expenses of representatives shall be met by their respective bodies or by the representatives themselves, but provision shall be made in the budget for the necessary travelling as well as office expenses of the Executive and Secretariat.

11—**Non-European** representation. Each constituent body should provide for adequate representation of its non-European membership.

12—**Official Organs.** The official organs of the Council shall be the "South African Outlook" and "Die Koningsbode." The Secretariat shall provide the "South African Outlook" and "Die Koningsbode" with reports of Council and Executive meetings and shall use them as effectively as possible for the promotion of the Council's purposes.

13—**Quorum.** The quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of the elected representatives and for the Executive a majority of the elected members.

14—**Amendments.** The Constitution and any Bye-laws adopted thereunder may be amended by the vote of two-thirds of the elected members present at any session of the Council, provided notice of the proposed change shall have been giventhrough the Secretary of the Council in the official organs at least three months before such meeting of the Council.

The Central Mission Press, Cleveland, Transvaal.

Die Christenraad van Suid-Afrika

'n Vereniging van Kerke en Sendinggenootskappe van Suid-Afrika tot Uitbreiding van Gods Koninkryk.

KONSTITUSIE

Korrespondeusie word gerig aan: Die Sekretaris, Nicolson Straat 152, Brooklyn, Pretoria.

Die Christenraad van Suid-Afrika

'n Vereniging van Kerke en Sendinggenootskappe van Suid-Afrika tot uitbreiding van Gods Koninkryk.

KONSTITUSIE.

1—**Hierdie organisasie word genoem: „Die Christenraad van Suid-Afrika—'n Vereniging van Kerke en Sendinggenootskappe van Suid-Afrika tot uitbreiding van Gods Koninkryk.**" (Hierdie naam en bybenaming moet op alle briewehoofde en gedrukte konstitusies, en in korrespondensie met die Internasionale Sendingraad verskyn.)

2—**Die doel van die Raad** is nouer koördinasie van die Christelike kragte van Suid-Afrika met die oog op meer doeltreffende voortplanting van die Evangelie.

3—**Die werksaamhede** van die Raad is:

(a) Die byeenbring van verteenwoordigers van die Kerke, Sendinggenootskappe en ander Christelike liggame van Suid-Afrika vir periodieke samesprekinge en beraadslaging veral oor sake wat in verband staan met die geestelike en algemene welsyn van die nie-blanke rasse.

(b) Die bevordering, deur middel van komitees, kommissies of op 'n ander manier, van studie en ondersoek van vraagstukke wat die evangelisasie en kerstening van die rasse van Suid-Afrika raak.

(c) Gesamentlike optrede in alle sake binne die bevoegdheid wat aan die Raad deur die liggame waaruit hy samegestel is, verleen mag word.

(d) Die bevordering van samewerking op sendinggebied, veral met betrekking tot evangelisasie, opvoedkundige, geneeskundige en maatskappelike werk, en in die uitgee van leesstof in die naturelle-tale.

(e) Die bevordering van broederskap tussen die Kerke sodat 'n atmosfeer van onderlinge respek en vertroue geskep sal word, en die Christelike kragte van ons land gelei sal word tot gesamentlike voorbidding, onderlinge gedagtewisseling, gesamentlike beraming van planne en tot eendragtige optreding.

(f) Die verteenwoordiging van die Christelike kragte van Suid-Afrika in hul betrekking met die Internasionale Sendingraad en met nasionale christelike organisasies in ander lande.

4—**Beperkinge van die Raad se bevoegdheid:**

Dit is buite die bevoegdheid van die Raad om vraagstukke in verband met geloof en toesig waarop kerklike

verskilpunte berus, te behandel. Die Raad is ook nie bevoegd om kerke of liggame wat daarop verteenwoordig is, sonder hul toestemming tot enige beleid of gedragslyn en ook nie tot enige geldelike verpligting te verbind nie.

5—Verteenwoordiging:

(a) Die volgende liggame kan op ondervermelde grondslag op die Raad verteenwoordiging word:

	Getal lede:
Die Afrikaanse Metodis Episkopaalse Kerk ...	1
Die „American Board"—Sending in Suid-Afrika	2
Die Amerikaanse Lutherse Sending in Suid-Afrika (Schreuder-Sending) ...	1
Die Presbiteriaanse Bantoekerk van Suid-Afrika	1
Die Berlynse Lutherse Sendingkerk ...	2
Die Anglikaanse Kerk ...	6
Die Kerk van die Nasareër ...	1
Die Kerk van Skotland ...	2
Die Kerk van die Sweedse Sending ...	2
Die „Congregational Union" van Suid-Afrika	3
Die Nederduits-Gereformeerde Kerke van Suid-Afrika	
In die Kaapprovinsie ...	2
In Natal ...	1
In die Oranje-Vrystaat ...	2
In Transvaal ...	2
Die Nederduits-Gereformeerde Sendingkerke van Suid-Afrika	
In die Kaapprovinsie ...	1
In die Oranje-Vrystaat ...	1
In Transvaal ...	1
Die Hermannsburgse Evangelies-Lutherse Sending ...	2
Die Londense Sendinggenootskap ...	2
Die Metodistekerk van Suid-Afrika ...	6
Die Moraviese Kerk ...	2
Die Noorse Sendinggenootskap ...	2
Die Presbiteriaanse Kerk van Suid-Afrika ...	2
Die Rynse Sending ...	2
Die Heilsleër ...	1
Die Suid-Afrikaanse Baptistekerk ...	2
Die Suid-Afrikaanse Algemene Sending (S. A. G. M.) ...	1
Die Switserse Sending in Suid-Afrika ...	2

(b) Elk van die volgende liggame het die reg om twee nie-stemgeregtigde meegaande lede op die Raad te benoem:

Die Ciskeise Sendingraad	2
Die Sendingkonferensie van die Kaapprovinsie	2
Die Natalse Sendingkonferensie	2
Die Portugees-Oos-Afrika Konferensie	2
Die Swazilandse Sendingkonferensie	2
Die Transkeise Sendingkonferensie	2
Die Transvaalse Sendinggenootskap	2

(c) Die Uitvoerende Komitee mag ander persone wie se teenwoordigheid hy wenslik ag, koöpteer om enige vergadering van die Raad as meegaande lede by te woon. Nie meer as ses sodanige lede word vir elke afsonderlike vergadering toegelaat nie.

(d) Verteenwoordiging op die Raad is oop vir sulke ander liggame as van tyd tot tyd toegelaat mag word deur 'n meerderheidstem van twee-derdes van die raadslede teenwoordig op 'n behoorlik gekonstitueerde raadsvergadering.

(e) Elke liggaam wat aansluit kies sy eie verteenwoordiger(s) volgens eie beleid of konstitusie en registreer by die sekretaris die naam en adres van die beampte wat aan die sekretaris verantwoordelik sal wees vir die name en adresse van gekose verteenwoordiger(s).

6—**Die ampsdraers van die Raad** is 'n President, twee Visepresidente en 'n Tesourier—hierdie is ere-betrekkings; 'n 'n Algemene Sekretaris—'n gesalarieerde voltydse beampte; en 'n ere- of gesalarieerde Redaksie-sekretaris. Die ampsdraers van die Raad word elke twee jaar gekies.

7—**Die Uitvoerende Komitee.**

(a) Daar sal 'n Uitvoerende Komitee van die Raad wees wat minstens eenkeer per jaar sal byeenkom, en op sulke ander geleenthede as die ampsdraers van die Raad mag besluit. Die Uitvoerende Komitee sal bestaan uit die ampsdraers en hoogstens vyftien ander lede die Raad wat deur die Raad gekies word op elke gewone vergadering. Die ampsdraers van die Raad is 'n nominerende Komitee om van die name ingestuur deur die verteenwoordigers van konstituerende liggame 'n lys van name uit te soek wat aan die Raad voorgelê moet word vir sulke kiesing.

(b) Die Uitvoerende Komitee het reg om vakatures in sy eie geledere, wat gedurende sy tydperk van diens ontstaan, aan te vul.

(c) Dit is die taak van die Uitvorende Komitee om die werksaamhede van die sekretariaat te bestuur, en om

die sake van die Raad tussen sy vergaderinge waar te neem.

(a) Die Uitvoerende Komitee moet een of meer Subkomitees benoem om die Sekretarisse by te staan in die opstel van hulle program van werksaamhede.

8—Begroting:

(a) Die Raad moet vir 'n jaarlikse begroting sorg, die bedrag waarvan deur die Raad op aanbeveling van die Uitvoerende Komitee vasgestel word.

(b) Die Raad mag vir 'n gegewe jaar geen finansiële verpligtings aanvaar wat die bedrag beskikbaar vir die vorige jaar oorskry nie, behalwe waar die fondse vir sodanige vermeerdering verseker is.

(c) Die toedeling van die begroting tussen die konstituerende liggame word van tyd tot deur die Raad vasgestel, onderworpe aan die goedkeuring van sodanige toedeling deur genoemde liggame.

(d) Die Raad het geen regsbevoegdheid om enige konstituerende liggaam te verplig om sy deel van die begroting te betaal nie, maar kan die verteenwoordiging van enige liggaam wat nie sy toegewese deel van die begroting dra nie, inkort of beëindig.

9—Vergaderinge:

(a) Die Raad vergader in die reël elke twee jaar, maar 'n buitengewone vergadering van die Raad kan belê of die gewone vergadering kan uitgestel word as die Uitvoerende Komitee oortuig is dat dit wenslik is.

(b) Daar moet minstens drie maande vooraf kennis gegee word van elke vergadering van die Raad en sodanige kennisgewing moet in „Die Koningsbode" en in die „South African Outlook" verskyn en ook aan raadslede gepos word ooreenkomstig die jongste informasie wat deur die aangewese beampte van die konstituerende liggame verstrek is. Aan die Sekretaris moet 'n maand vooraf skriftelik kennis gegee word van alle voorstelle wat aan die Raad voorgelê sal word.

(c) Uitgebreide Vergaderings. Van tyd tot tyd soos dit wenslik geag word, moet die Raad 'n uitgebreide vergadering van die Raad belê ten einde spesiale onderwerpe te bespreek. Tot hierdie raadsvergadering word lede van liggame uitgenooi wat nie op die Raad verteenwoordig is nie of persone wat spesiale kennis dra van die onderwerpe wat op sodanige vergaderings behandel sal word. Die Raad het die reg om van tyd

tot tyd die maksimum getal van persone so uitgenooi vas te stel.

(d) Konferensies. Die Raad sal ook voorsiening maak vir periodieke konferensies van sendelinge en andere wat belangstel in die sendingsaak. (Hierdie konferensies sal van 'n soortgelyke aard wees as die wat in die verlede deur die Algemene Sendingkonferensie van Suid-Afrika gereël is.)

(e) Taal. Die twee offisiële tale van die Unie het gelyke regte. Elke lid het die reg om in die taal te praat wat hy verkies.

10—**Uitgawe.** Die onkoste van verteenwoordigers word gedra deur hulself of deur hulle respektiewe liggame, maar in die begroting moet die nodige voorsorg gemaak word vir reis- en kantoorkoste van die Uitvoerende Komitee en Sekretariaat.

11—**Nie-blanke verteenwoordiging.** Elke konstituerende liggaam behoort voorsiening te maak vir voldoende verteenwoordiging van sy nie-blanke lede.

12—**Offisiële Organe.** Die offisiële organe van die Raad is „Die Koningsbode" en die „South African Outlook". Die Sekretariaat moet verslae van die Raads- en Uitvoerende Komiteevergaderings aan genoemde offisiële organe verstrek en ook van hierdie blaaie so doeltreffend moontlik gebruik maak ten einde die doeleindes van die Raad te bevorder.

13—**Kworum.** 'n Meerderheid van die gekose verteenwoordigers maak 'n kworum uit vir die vergaderinge van die Raad en 'n meerderheid van die gekose lede 'n kworum vir die Uitvoerende Komitee.

14—**Wysiginge.** Hierdie Konstitusie en enige bepalinge daaronder aangeneem, kan gewysig word deur die stem van twee-derdes van die gekose lede wat by enige sitting van die Raad teenwoordig is, met dien verstande dat kennis van die voorgestelde wysiging minstens drie maande voor die vergadering van die Raad deur die Sekretaris van die Raad in die offisiële organe gegee is.

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- **Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation**
Publisher:- **Historical Papers Research Archive**
Location:- **Johannesburg**
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