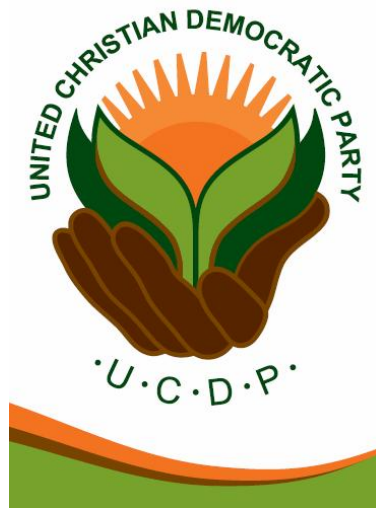


UNITED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Ready to deliver where others have failed

Constitution

Of the

United Christian Democratic Party

Constitution of the United Christian Democratic Party

Definitions

In interpreting this Constitution reference to the singular will include the plural and vice versa and reference to males will also include females and vice versa.

Words and phrases will be given their ordinary grammatical interpretation unless specifically otherwise indicated.

1. Name

The name of the Party is the "United Christian Democratic Party" herein further referred to as "the Party".

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Party are to promote the Party's Christian democratic principles and values in the interest, welfare and development of all inhabitants of the Republic of South Africa.

3. Principles of the Party

- 3.1. The Party recognises and accepts the sovereignty of Almighty God in the Destiny of countries and people and, therefore endeavours to maintain a system based upon Christian principles, inclusive and democratic in its character and unconditionally acknowledges the freedom of religion of all people.
- 3.2. Therefore the Party will endeavour to:
 - 3.2.1. Support the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa as embodied in Act 108 of 1996;
 - 3.2.2. Promote social justice, fairness and respect for the fundamental human rights embodied in the Constitution;
 - 3.2.3. Promote equal opportunities for all;
 - 3.2.4. Promote a just division of wealth;
 - 3.2.5. Maintain A Constitutional dispensation based upon federal principles, with the devolution of power to Provincial and Local management, as well as the promotion of local management autonomy which the Party considers as the basic cornerstones in a Constitutional Dispensation for the Republic of South Africa;
 - 3.2.6. Promote equal division of land;
 - 3.2.7. Accelerate economic and social upliftment in our country;
 - 3.2.8. Promote equal labour relations / opportunities;
 - 3.2.9. Encourage every person to, through his own efforts, contribute to his own development as well as the development of the country;
 - 3.2.10 Eliminate all forms of discrimination based upon race, colour, culture, religion or sex;
 - 3.2.11. In addition to the principles mentioned in this Constitution, through the Federal Council of the Party, it is recommended that the Provincial Executive and Branch Committees as well as Regional Committees formulate further principles which will be contained in the programme of principles of the Party, when necessary; and
 - 3.2.12 Harmonise and formalise relations with neighbouring states and the international community.

4. Language

The Party will as far as is practically possible accommodate all the official languages of the Republic.

5. Membership

5.1. Direct Membership

- 5.1.1. Any person of the age of 16 years and older who:
 - 5.1.1.1. Is a citizen of the Republic of South Africa;
 - 5.1.1.2. Is resident in the Republic of South Africa; and
 - 5.1.1.3. Underwrites the objectives and principles of the Party, is entitled to membership of the Party.
- 5.1.2. A person will not be permitted to membership of the Party unless:
 - 5.1.2.1. He/she has paid the prescribed admission fee
 - 5.1.2.2. His/her application for membership has been accepted by the Branch Committee; and
 - 5.1.2.3. A membership card has been issued by the Branch Committee to him/her.
- 5.1.3. Individual persons may apply for membership at the Regional Committees, provided that all such applications will be forwarded to the relevant Branch Committee.
- 5.1.4. Membership of the Party will cease:
 - 5.1.4.1. If a member should resign;
 - 5.1.4.2. In the event of a member's expulsion from the Party by the Provincial Committee; or
 - 5.1.4.3. The withdrawal by the Provincial Committee of the membership of any individual.
- 5.1.5. A member who refuses to pay the subscribed subscription fees for a year within a period of 6 months from the commencement of that year, forfeits his rights to vote or to be elected to any official position within the Party and continues to forfeit such right until his membership fees have been paid in full.
- 5.1.6. Every Branch Committee will hold a proper updated list of its members and copies of such lists will be given to the particular Regional Committee and Provincial Committee of the Federal Council at the end of the year, or during such a period as determined by the Federal Council.

5.2. Indirect Membership

Indirect membership may be obtained through official affiliation or recommendation to the Federal Council, provided that certain prescriptions are adhered to. Indirect membership will grant the affiliation member representation at Federal Council level.

6. Branches

- 6.1. The Regional Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, constitute or reconstitute branches of the Party for geographical areas or otherwise as the Regional Committee deems fit, and shall assign or reassign members of the party to such branches; provided that the minimum membership of any such branch shall be 60.
- 6.2. As soon as a branch has been constituted the members assigned thereto shall meet in a general meeting presided over by member of the Regional Committee appointed for that purpose. This will be at a time and place determined by a Regional Committee in order to elect a Branch Committee. Thereafter meet at least once a year not later than 1st April in order to elect a new Branch Committee for the ensuing year. Prior to conducting these elections, the existing Branch Committee will be dissolved.
- 6.3. The Branch Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, an Organiser and three further

members; provided that three representatives of the Branch Committee of each of the movements of the Party, which movements the Party is hereby authorised to establish or constitute, shall be voting ex officio members of the Branch Committee.

- 6.4. It shall be the duty of the Branch Committee to meet as often as may be necessary and acting through its members as it may delegate to do so at least once a month; to:
 - 6.4.1. Ensure that all directives from higher bodies in the Party are carried out expeditiously;
 - 6.4.2. Promote the expansion of the Party by canvassing new members;
 - 6.4.3. Transmit all lists of members to the Regional Committee, the Provincial Committee and the National Committee as stipulated;
 - 6.4.4. Report forthwith all breaches of Party Discipline to the Regional Committee; provided that the decision of the Regional Committee, shall, together with all relevant information, be forwarded to the Provincial Committee for ratification;
 - 6.4.5. Arrange and hold the Annual General Meeting of the Branch by not later than April of each year;
 - 6.4.6. Keep proper minutes of all General Meetings of the Branch and of the Branch Committee meetings;
 - 6.4.7. Keep a proper record of all stipulated monies collected on behalf of the Party; provided that branches or regions can raise funds for themselves by any lawful means at their disposal with the approval of the Regional Committee; provided that such funds will at all times constitute Party funds;
 - 6.4.8. Formulate and transmit to the Regional Committee all resolutions which the Branch wishes to be considered by the Party Congress;
 - 6.4.9. Ensure that the branches in General Meetings appoint their delegates to the Federal Congress and that written notification of such appointments be received by the Regional Committee prior to the relevant meeting of the Federal Congress; and
 - 6.4.10. Generally promote the interests of the Party.

7. Region

- 7.1. The Provincial Committee shall in its absolute discretion constitute regions of the Party for geographical areas or otherwise and consisting of such branch or branches as the Provincial Committee deems fit and shall assign or reassign branches of the Party to such regions.
- 7.2. As soon as a region has been so constituted it shall form a Regional Council comprising of:
 - 7.2.1. The members of all Branch Executive Committees;
 - 7.2.2. The members of the Regional Executive of the Women's League;
 - 7.2.3. The members of the Regional Executive of the Youth League; and
 - 7.2.4. The members of the National/Provincial Assembly for that region; which shall meet at a time and place to be determined by the Provincial Committee to form an electoral college for election of the Regional Executive Committee.
- 7.3. At the meeting referred to in clause 7.2, a Regional Executive Committee consisting of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, a Secretary, a Deputy Secretary, a Treasurer and Organiser and three additional members shall be elected from amongst the members of the Regional Electoral College present; provided that the members of the National/Provincial Assembly for the Region shall serve as voting ex officio members of the Regional Executive Committee and further that not more than three members of the National/Provincial Assembly

shall be elected to the Executive position of the Regional Executive Committee; provided further that not more than three representatives of each of the movements of the Party shall be voting ex officio members of the Provincial Executive Committee.

7.4. The Regional Executive Committee shall:

- 7.4.1. At its first meeting after its constitution or reconstitution designate a treasurer and two of its members as members of the Federal Council referred to in clause 9.1.2;
- 7.4.2. Ensure that its branches carry out their functions and duties properly;
- 7.4.3. Act as liaison between the Provincial Committee and its branches;
- 7.4.4. Transmit to the Provincial Committee all motions for consideration by the Party Congress emanating from its branches;
- 7.4.5. Meet at least once a year, subject to the last proviso to clause 7.4.6, but not later than 1 August to transact all business placed before it and to prepare an agenda for the meeting of the Regional Committee referred to in clause 7.2 to be held in terms of clause 7.4.6;
- 7.4.6. Annually convene a Congress for the Regional Committee referred to in clause 7.2 not later than 1 August at a time and place determined in consultation with the Provincial Committee, and presided over by a member of the Provincial Committee, in order to elect a Regional Executive Committee referred to in clause 7.3 for the ensuing year and to transact all such business as may be placed before it by its members; provided that if the Regional Executive Committee is being reconstituted, the said member shall prior to conducting elections first dissolve the existing Regional Executive Committee, which he is hereby authorised to do; provided further that the Provincial Executive Committee may approve of the convening of this Congress on a date after 1 August;
- 7.4.7. Keep proper minutes of all its meetings;
- 7.4.8. Carry out all directives from higher organs of the Party; and
- 7.4.9. Generally promote the interests of the Party.

8. Provincial Committee

- 8.1. Members of the party elect, through their properly elected delegates from the Regions and the Regional Committees which represents them on the Provincial Congress, a Provincial Executive Committee for that Province on each Provincial Congress, which Provincial Executive Committee will consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, a Secretary, Deputy Secretary, a Treasurer Organiser and three additional members elected by the Provincial Congress.
- 8.2. The Provincial Committee shall biennially convene a Congress to elect new office bearers and give reports.
- 8.3. The Provincial Executive Committee will further consist of the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer of the Provincial Executive Management of the Women's League and the Provincial Executive of the Youth League;
 - 8.3.1. The Provincial Committee shall biennially convene Congress to elect a new Committee and table reports.
- 8.4. The Provincial Executive Committee must, with the approval of the Federal Council divide the Province in geographical Regions and these regions will function in terms of the stipulations of the administrative, organisational and procedural rules as contained in this Constitution.
 - 8.4.1. The Provincial Executive Committee must:
 - 8.4.1.1. Ensure that all regions carry out their functions and duties properly;
 - 8.4.1.2. Act as liaison between the Federal Council, and the Regional

- Committee and the Branches;
- 8.4.1.3. Transmit all motions which have not yet been dealt with by the Provincial Congress, to the Federal Council for attendance during the following annual Federal Congress;
- 8.4.1.4. Meet at least once per annum and discuss such meetings and Matters of the Committee in accordance with the prescribed administrative, organisational and procedural rules of the Party;
- 8.4.1.5 Keep proper minutes of all its meetings;
- 8.4.1.6 Carry out all directives from higher organs of the Party; and
- 8.4.1.7 Generally promote the interests of the Party.
- 8.5. The Provincial Executive shall, subject to ratification by the Federal Council and the Leader, nominate candidates for election to the Provincial Legislature.

9. Federal Council

- 9.1. The Federal Council meets and attends to urgent matters which otherwise would have been attended to by the Federal Congress and consists of:
 - 9.1.1. The following elected persons; the National Leader, the Deputy National Leader, a Chairperson, two Deputy Chairpersons, a National Secretary, two Deputy Secretaries and a National Treasurer;
 - 9.1.2. Delegates from the Provincial Committee;
 - 9.1.3. The Chairperson of every Regional Executive Committee of the Party and of each Regional Executive Committee of each movement of the Party; provided that should any such chairperson be a member of the Provincial Committee, his/her Deputy Chairperson, or in the absence of him/her, another member of the Regional Executive Committee appointed by the Chairperson; and
 - 9.1.4. Treasurer and two members from each Regional Executive Committee of the Party, appointed in terms of clause 7.4.1 and from each Regional Executive Committee of each movement of the Party.
- 9.2. The Federal Council will meet as often as may be necessary, practical or as urgency demands, but notwithstanding at intervals of not less than six months during the two year intervals of the sessions of the Federal Congress, on a date and place determined by the Federal Council Management Committee.
- 9.3. Notwithstanding any proviso to the contrary, the Federal Council shall when in session:
 - 9.3.1. Be the highest governing body of the Party; and
 - 9.3.2. Will perform and exercise all such powers, functions and duties as is given to the Federal Council in terms of this Constitution;
 - 9.3.3. Appoint a permanent Secretary.
- 9.4. The Federal Council shall formulate the procedure for the nomination of National and or Provincial Parliamentary Candidates to represent the Party during elections.
- 9.5. Provincial leadership shall be constituted by the Federal Council.

10. Federal Congress

- 10.1. The Federal Congress is the highest governing body of the Party and shall meet biannually upon a date and place as determined by the Federal Council Management Committee:
 - 10.1.1. Provided that the National leader or the Deputy National Leader in the event of clause 11.2 and 11.3 being applicable in consultation with the Federal Council Management Committee may convene a special sitting of the Federal Congress or instead thereof the Federal Council when he

- deems fit; and
- 10.1.2. The Federal Council Management Committee convenes a special sitting of the Federal Congress, if so requested, by 50% plus one member of each Provincial Committee,
- 10.2. The following are entitled to attend, to speak and to vote at the Federal Congress of the Party:
 - 10.2.1. The National Leader;
 - 10.2.2. The Deputy National Leader;
 - 10.2.3. Other members of the Federal Council;
 - 10.2.4. The members of the Party who are members of the National Assembly;
 - 10.2.5. Three representatives of each branch in terms of which nominations have been received by the Provincial Committees after proper notice;
 - 10.2.6. Members of the Executive Committees of all the movements of the Party; and
 - 10.2.7. Such other members of the Party as may be specially invited by the National Leader or the Deputy National Leader in the event of clause 11.2 and 11.3 being applicable, in consultation with the Federal Council; provided that such other members will not be entitled to vote;
 - 10.3. The Federal Congress shall:
 - 10.3.1. Elect the National Leader and Deputy National Leader for the Party by majority vote of the Federal Council or a special or an ordinary meeting of the Federal Congress; who will hold this position until the office of the National Leader or Deputy National Leader is declared vacant, provided the persons who serve as National Leader and Deputy National Leader will not hold this position for longer than three years, but may be re-elected during the following election;
 - 10.3.2. Elect a National Treasurer and four persons from whom a National Secretary, Deputy National Secretary and two additional members may be chosen. The said persons will hold their positions until dissolution of the Federal Council;
 - 10.3.3. Have the authority to take decisions except decisions regarding the amendment of the Constitution; concerning all aspects of Party policy, organisation, finances and discipline by majority vote, which decisions will be binding on the Party, its bodies and members;
 - 10.3.4. Determine from time to time the admission fee and annual subscription fee payable by members; provided that the Federal Council can grant exemption from the annual subscription fee;
 - 10.3.5. Ratify the decisions and or actions of the Federal Council.
 - 10.4. The validity of any decision taken by the Federal Congress, except amendments to the Constitution, will in no way be affected by the fact that notice thereof was not given.
 - 10.5. The election of the National Leader, Deputy National Leader and all other members of the Federal Council will be affected by majority vote.
 - 10.6. Voting at the Federal Congress will take place by way of secret ballot.

11. Leader of the Party

- 11.1. The National Leader shall:
 - 11.1.1. Ensure the execution of Party Policy;
 - 11.1.2. Ensure and promote the execution of all decisions of the Federal Congress, Special Congress and the Federal Council;
 - 11.1.3. Interpret the policy of the Party;
 - 11.1.4. Act as the Party spokesman; and
 - 11.1.5. Lead and direct the Party in general.

- 11.2. On the death, retirement or resignation of the National Leader or if he, in the opinion of the Federal Council, on advise of three registered medical practitioners, is unfit to perform his duties, the Deputy National Leader will perform the duties and functions of the National Leader; provided that the Federal Congress or the Federal Council as soon as possible after vacating the post of National Leader, but not longer than one month, must convene at a place and date as set by the Federal Council in order to elect a new National Leader; provided further that the method followed to nominate and the qualifications applicable will be the same as is provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996).
- 11.3. The Deputy National leader may also be nominated as a candidate for the position of National Leader.
- 11.4. The National Leader of the party is ex officio a candidate for the Presidential Elections.

12. Procedure

- 12.1. At all meetings of any body of the Party, the following rules will apply:
 - 12.1.1. If the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of any duly constituted meeting is absent, the Secretary shall serve as Chairperson "Pro tem" to enable the meeting to elect a person from the members to act as Chairperson of that meeting;
 - 12.1.2. The Chairperson at such a meeting has a casting vote should there be a tie and every other person present who is authorised to vote shall only vote once, notwithstanding that he may be required to be present at such a meeting in more than one capacity;
 - 12.1.3 In all matters of meeting procedure, including the procedure to vote and the maintaining of good order during the meeting, the decision of the Chairperson shall be final;
 - 12.1.4. The quorum of any meeting will be 50% plus one of the members who are authorised to attend the meeting and to vote;
 - 12.1.5. The Minutes of any meeting will be deemed to be a true and correct record of the events at such meeting if it is signed or presumed to have been signed by the Chairperson of the specific meeting or the chairperson of the following meeting of said body, unless there is proof to the contrary; and 12.1.6 It will be accepted that proper notice of any meeting was given:
 - 12.1.6.1. In the case of any person/member of the Party who is entitled to notification or any delegate of such a person, the Secretary of such a body will have received verbal notice of the meeting at least 7 (Seven) days prior to the day of the meeting, or in the case of written notification, such notification is addressed or posted or delivered to the Secretary of such a body to his address as noted in the records of the Federal Council at least 10 days prior to the date upon which the meeting takes place; and 12.1.6.2 In the case of any other person who is entitled to notification, he/she will receive verbal notice or written notice of such a meeting, written notice being addressed or posted or delivered to his address as determined by clause 12.2 provided that should notice per chance not be given or written notice not been received, this will in no way render the events of any meeting null and void.
- 12.2. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that his/her address is given to

the Branch Secretary in writing and it is the duty of every Branch Secretary to keep the Regional Committee informed of the addresses of all members and the names of all office bearers of the Branch.

- 12.3. The term of every office bearer of the Party:
 - 12.3.1. Commences as soon as written notice of his/her election to such an office has been received by the Federal Council;
 - 12.3.2. Lapses:
 - 12.3.2.1. When his/her membership of the Party is terminated;
 - 12.3.2.2. On the date of the election of his/her successor;
- 12.4. When any office becomes vacant for whatever reason, the body in which such office becomes vacant is entitled to co-opt a substitute from its own members or from members of the Party to act in that vacant office as substitute until the following meeting upon which the vacancy will be filled within the normal course of events.

13. Disciplinary Procedures

- 13.1. The Federal Council may, in its discretion and for whatever reason and in the interest of the Party;
 - 13.1.1. Ban any member of the Party upon which his/her membership is automatically terminated;
 - 13.1.2. Suspend the rights and powers of any members for such a period and subject to such conditions as may be deemed fit; and
 - 13.1.3. May dissolve or suspend any Branch, Branch Committee, Region or Regional Committee for such a time and subject to such conditions as may be deemed fit.
- 13.2. The Federal Council can give written notice to any person or body of its Proposed consideration to ban, dissolve or suspend such person or body, hear any person or body or receive any proof with regard thereto, and give reasons for its decision, which decision will be final and binding.
- 13.3. Every member of the Party, who is also a member of either the National Assembly or a Provincial Legislature must respect each decision by the Federal Council, the Federal Congress and the Parliamentary Caucus must execute such decisions.

The National Leader or the Deputy National Leader in the event of clause 11.2 or 11.3 being applicable, can after consultation with the Federal Council give written notice to a member who has deviated from such decisions, to the effect that his membership of the caucus of the Party is terminated.
- 13.4. Every member of the Party who deviates from a decision of the Federal Congress, the Special Congress, the Federal Council or the Parliamentary Caucus makes himself/herself liable for expulsion from the Party by the Federal Council.

14. Finances

- 14.1. Every Branch Committee, Regional Committee, Provincial Committee and the Federal Council must open a Bank Account at a commercial bank, building society or the Post Office.
- 14.2. For all funds collected or for any donation to the party, the Treasurer of the Branch Committee, Regional Committee, Provincial Committee or the Federal Council must issue a written receipt immediately after receiving such funds or donations.
- 14.3. All funds received will without delay be deposited in the relevant bank account and will at all times constitute Party Funds.

- 14.4. Withdrawals from any bank account will only be made under the signature of the Chairman, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch Committee, Regional Committee, Provincial Committee or the Federal Council as the case may be.
- 14.5. Proper records will be held by the Treasurer of the Branch Committee, Regional Committee, Provincial Committee or the Federal Council of all deposits and payments with regard to Party Funds.
- 14.6. The Federal Council will see to the auditing of the Party accounts as are held by the Treasurer.
- 14.7. The financial year of the branches, regions, provinces and the Federal Council will commence on the date of the various annual meetings and will end on the day of the following annual general meetings.
- 14.8. The Federal Council will indicate to every Regional Committee and Provincial Committee the amount that should be contributed to the Federal Council for that particular financial year to enable the Federal Council to finance the activities of the party and every Regional Committee will then notify every Branch Committee of the amount that must be paid by said Branch Committee to the Regional Committee to cover the costs of the Regional Committees as well as the contributions to the Federal Council.
- 14.9. The Federal Council must submit a financial report and must propose at every ordinary sitting of the Federal Congress, what amount is to be determined for admission fees and annual subscription fees and the Federal Congress will then determine the said amount.

15. Property

- 15.1. The Party is as such a legal persona and may be sued in its own name and issue summons in its own name.
- 15.2. The Party is authorised to obtain and possess assets in its own name and all assets received by the Party will be held in the name of the Party and will be administered by the Federal Council; provided that the Federal Council may create a Trust / Trusts and is hereby authorised to do so, to which all assets will be transferred, then to be administered in accordance with the stipulation of the registered Trust Deeds.
- 15.3. The Regional Committees and Branch Committees will respectively Administer their own assets; provided that all such assets will always constitute Party assets.
- 15.4. The Federal Council or any one or more of its members authorised thereto by the Federal Council, is authorised to obtain, to sell, to burden, or in any way dispose of or to act with any of the Parties movable or immovable property; provided that the signature of at least two members of the Federal Council is required for every such transaction; provided further that the authorisation of a member of the Party to possess or dispose of Party assets must be from the Federal Council and should such an authorised person cease to be a member of the Party for whatever reason, his authorisation to act with Party assets will ipso facto cease.

16. Amendments to the Constitution

The Federal Council is authorised to amend the Constitution by way of a two-thirds majority vote by the members present and who are entitled to vote; provided that written notice of the proposed amendments are given as stipulated in paragraph 12.1.6 not later than 14 days prior to the meeting upon which such amendments will be proposed.

17. Acceptance of the Constitution

This amended Constitution will be effective and binding from the date that the Federal Council approves it; provided that the date of approval by the Federal Council will not be later than 7 days after the acceptance of this Constitution by the Federal Council of the Party. This Constitution as amended shall come into effect immediately after being approved by the Federal Council.