

EMERGENCY SERVICES CHAPLAINCY (SOUTHERN AFRICA)

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

- 1.1. The name of the Religious Missions Organization shall be “EMERGENCY SERVICES CHAPLAINCY (SOUTHERN AFRICA)”
- 1.2. “Southern Africa” meaning to include the independent states of Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho
- 1.3. By definition, Emergency Services covers; Disaster Management Services, Fire and Rescue Services, Ambulance and Paramedic Services, Security Companies, Metro Police Services, Traffic Authorities, Doctors and Nursing Staff of hospitals, Salvage Operating Companies. National Sea Rescue Institute, Mountain Rescue association and other organisations that respond to traumatic events.
- 1.4. The shortened name shall be “ESC (SA)”.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. **ESC (SA) Advisory Board** – means a non-legal entity made up of specialists in their respective field solely for providing advice and research findings to the ESC(SA) Main Board.
- 2.2. **ESC(SA)** – means the Emergency Services Chaplaincy of South Africa
- 2.3. **ESC(SA) Board or ESC(SA) Main Board** – Means the Legally Constituted Board of Directors of the Emergency Services Chaplaincy of Southern Africa.
- 2.4. **Emergency Services** – means primarily the Disaster, Emergency and Medical Services provided by the various Local Councils but also includes the entire value chain of entities that would respond to or be involved in treating and dealing with victims and other people affected by an Emergency or Disaster incident. E.g. Ambulance Services, Security Companies, SA Police Services, Metro Police Services, Forensic Services, Undertakers etc.

3. STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God – breathed: the creation of man by the direct act of God; and the incarnation and virgin birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; His identification as the Son of God: His vicarious atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood on the cross; the resurrection of His body from the tomb: His power to save men from sin; the new birth through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit; and the gift of eternal life by the grace of God.

4. VISION STATEMENT

To be a Ministry of believers who know and worship God through faith in Jesus Christ, committed in seeking to Minister to the Emergency Services, individuals and Communities with the Gospel, reaching people everywhere.

5. OBJECTIVES

- 5.1. The Ministry recognizes the Lord Jesus Christ as its supreme head and undertakes to manage its affairs according to New Testament teaching and to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 5.2. The Ministry is founded for the purpose of providing a holistic Christian Ministry to Officers, Personnel and Families of Emergency Services Departments and organisations throughout Southern Africa, and to victims and families these Organisations serve during moments and events of crisis and trauma.
- 5.3. The Ministry shall function through a cooperative and affiliate relationship between Emergency Services Departments and local teams of Ordained Chaplains and Chaplains recruited by the ongoing ministry through an established network of programs and training designed to better meet the Physical, Emotional and Spiritual needs of the Emergency Services Personnel themselves and the primary and secondary victims of crisis and traumatic events.

6. STATUS OF ESC (SA)

- 6.1. ESC (SA) shall exist in its own right, separately from its members.
- 6.2. ESC (SA) is an organisation that is purposed to function as a non-profit organisation and will not distribute any profit to its Office Bearers, Members or any other Members.
- 6.3. ESC (SA) will continue to exist notwithstanding changes in membership or in Office-bearers.
- 6.4. ESC (SA) shall be able to sign contracts and enter into relationships.
- 6.5. ESC (SA) can sue and be sued in its own name.
- 6.6. ESC (SA) shall be able to own property and other possessions in its own right.

7. THE MAIN BOARD OF MEMBERS

- 7.1. The Main Board of Members shall consist of a minimum of (3) Active Members with a maximum of Seven (7) Active Members namely;
 - 7.1.1. President with executive authority.
 - 7.1.2. Managing Member with executive authority
 - 7.1.3. A Maximum of Five other Members
- 7.2 A Member of the Main Board whom misses three Board Meetings for any reason whatsoever may summarily be removed from the Board by Majority Vote of the Board.
- 7.3 The Board of Members will control the affairs and operations of ESC (SA) in its entirety.
- 7.4 Regular meetings of the Board of Members shall be held at least four (4) times a year.
- 7.5 The Board of Members shall be appointed for a period of five years unless removed by resignation, or removal due to disciplinary reasons including obstructing the implementation of Board Approved plans, breaching confidentiality, bad mouthing the Chaplaincy, any of the Chaplains or any of the Emergency Service Providers' Staff.
- 7.6 Any vacancy on the Board shall be filled by the Board of Members with a majority vote of the Board.
- 7.7 A quorum at all meetings will be a minimum of 3 Members and where more than three Board Members are appointed 60% of Board members.
- 7.8 Minutes shall be taken at all meetings and held for record.

8. THE ADVISORY BOARD

- 8.1 The Advisory Board shall consist of such individuals that are appointed onto the Advisory Board by the Main Board for the express purpose of advising the Main Board in the matters specified at the time of appointment.
- 8.2 The Operations and Functions of this Advisory Board are dictated by the Foundation Documents as Approved at the ARGM held on the 16th November 2019.

8.3 The independent States operating under the auspices of the ESC(SA) may recommend one person to serve as member on the Advisory Board of Members on condition that the recommendation is approved by the Main Board.

9. MEMBERSHIP:

9.1. General Membership

These general rules apply to all ESC(SA) Chaplains and Members mentioned below.

- 9.1.1. Shall be persons who have a definite call upon their lives and are committed to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in the Pastoral, Trauma and Crisis Support Ministry, and be in good standing with their local Church, have completed the ESC (SA) Application Process and Training Course including all its requirements.
- 9.1.2. The minimum age of a Chaplain shall be 25 years of age.
- 9.1.3. It is a requirement of membership that the Chaplain submit themselves to the relevant Chaplaincy Management structures and adhere to the Code of Conduct.
- 9.1.4. All applications shall be approved by and at the sole discretion of the Main Board of Members.
- 9.1.5. Membership fees are payable by the 31st January each year and defaulters will be suspended from the membership roll and may lose their membership and all the related benefits and status.
- 9.1.6. The Membership roll of Chaplains shall consist of only those who have complied with all the above requirements.
- 9.1.7. Any member may resign from ESC (SA) if they so desire but they will automatically forfeit their paid-up membership fees and may apply to the Main Board for readmission only once. The decision of the Main Board on this matter is at their sole discretion and final.
- 9.1.8. If the Board of Members has a good reason to do so, it may review the membership status of any individual's and after consultation act within the spirit of Matthew 18 terminating the membership of the individual.
- 9.1.9. A Lifelong Membership may be bestowed onto Chaplains as a reward for dedicated and exemplary service and such a Chaplain would be exempt of paying any membership fees.

9.2. ORDAINED CHAPLAINS

Shall be persons, who have complied with the requirements set in the Training Policy and have successfully completed the inhouse ESC(SA) Ordination Course.

9.1.1. The membership roll of Ordained Chaplains shall be kept for Record Purposes.

9.1.2. ESC(SA) Ordainment is only valid within the ESC(SA) and upon resignation or other form of separation from the Chaplaincy the individual shall forfeit all rights to such Ordainment.

9.3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

This category of membership is for individual people or organizations; public or private who have an interest in supporting ESC (SA) in what ever way that is deemed acceptable to the Board of Members. Associate Members do not participate in the day by day operations of the Chaplaincy.

10. INDEMNITY

Members, Members or Office-bearers of ESC (SA) will not become liable for any of the obligations and liabilities of ESC (SA) solely by virtue of their status as members or Office-bearers of ESC (SA).

Office-bearers, Members and members of ESC (SA) will not personally be liable for any loss suffered by any person as a result of an act of omission which occurs in good faith while such Office-bearer, Member or member is performing the functions for or on behalf of ESC (SA).

11. FINANCE.

- 11.1. An Accountant shall be appointed by the Managing Director to manage and draw up the Accounts of the ESC(SA) and to assist in keeping the ESC(SA) in good standing with SARS and any other relevant entity like the Department of Social Development.
- 11.2. The ESC (SA) is a non-profit organisation and no profits, dividends or property, will be paid or provided to members under any circumstances.
- 11.3. If the occasion should arise where the ESC(SA) must unfortunately cease its activities the net remaining funds will be donated to an organisation that provides the same or similar services.
- 11.4. The Chaplaincy may invest income to ensure long term sustainability.
- 11.5. Annual membership fees shall become due on the first of January each year.
- 11.6. The ministry shall be funded by donations, membership fees, fund raising and by any other means approved by the Main Board.
- 11.7. Finances shall be kept in a ESC(SA) Bank Account which shall require Two (2) of the four (4) authorized signatures, one of which will be the Managing Member, for all banking transactions.
- 11.8. The financial year shall be from the first of May to the end of April of the following year. The financial statements shall be audited annually. The Auditor shall be appointed by the Main Board.
- 11.9. ESC (SA) may employ persons to office and compensate such employee according to an employment contract.
- 11.10. Office-bearers and members shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of expenses in line with a Main Board approved plan and budget.
- 11.11. Where there is a Main Board approved plan and Budget Office-bearers may be entitled to receive reasonable compensation for services rendered, and members or Office-bearers shall have no further entitlement to any distribution of income or property of ESC (SA).

12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Special General Meeting will be held when required to deal with urgent and significant issues that require General Membership involvement.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT BACK MEETING.

An annual report back meeting of all members will be held by the end of August each year for the express purpose of providing members reports from relevant aspects of the Ministry, receiving feedback from Chaplains, approving business related items and for sharing in Fellowship, Devotional and Inspirational messages.

Only under extenuating circumstances may this meeting be postponed and then only for a maximum of 3 Months.

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