

INTERNATIONAL SAINT JOHN CHURCH BIBLE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE (BDC)



Dealing
With



**RESEARCH, SCRIPTURE INTERPRETATION,
THEOLOGICAL AND DOCTRINAL MATTERS**



Bishop M. Gcebe

BIBLE DOCTRINE

BRING THEOLOGY TO LIFE!

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International Saint John Church Bible (BDC) Doctrine Committee



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THE INTERNATIONAL SAINT JOHN CHURCH BIBLE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE (BDC)



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LADY REV. G.N. NTSANA
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BIBLE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE NAME

This body shall be known as the Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC). The principal office (Headquarters) shall be located at 4 Henry Williams Road, Thaba Tshwane, Centurion.

VISSION

Go into the whole world to lead all who are willing into a mature relationship with Jesus Christ through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:23-26; Acts 2:37-47; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

MISSION

To be a great representative for the name of Christ in our church and, more importantly, outside our doors, reaching out to those beyond the church, agree to be “above reproach” so that the world will see, hear, and respond to the grace of Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The International St John’s Christians Acts Apostolic Faith Mission receives the Word which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as its Supreme rule of Faith and life, and avows the fundamental precepts and teachings of International St John’s Christians Acts Apostolic Faith Mission church founded thereupon. The Church’s faith is the unchanging Gospel of God’s Holy love made manifest in Jesus Christ: As it is declared in the Holy Scriptures by the Creeds of the International St John’s Christians Acts Apostolic Faith Mission Church and in the confessions of the Church. From age to age it has been handed down within the church and confirmed in the experience of believers. As God’s revelation of his nature and purpose, it is its own evidence and authority, and its birth is known to believers through the testimony of the Holy Spirit. The Church believes in the divine healing of sickness. “They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover” St Mark 16:18. The Church believes that all believers in Jesus Christ should be baptized (St Luke 7:28-30). We affirm that the Holy Scripture is inspired by God, completely true and error free in its original form, fully sufficient and effective as a guide in all matters of conscience, and the authoritative standard for all beliefs, values, and practices. (Deuteronomy 4:2; Joshua 1:6-8; Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:11)

Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) Mandate

Introduction

Preamble

We declare and establish this Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the International Saint John Church body in an orderly manner. The International Saint John Church BDC assists the Archbishops, bishops in areas of faith and morals. It collaborates with the our church Bible Academy of the International Saint John Church through consultation and evaluation, providing expertise and guidance concerning the theological matters, doctrinal matters, moral and bible training issues that confront our Church. The committee supports the Archbishops' and bishops' efforts in the areas of Scripture translations.

The International Saint John Church BDC is appointed by the Bishop to advise church committees on matters of bible doctrine, theology, traditions and rituals of the International Saint John Church and ministry. The BDC is a theological resource of the International Saint John Church. The BDC consists of both selected evangelists and ordained ministers of the International Saint John Church to advise the Church and the International Saint John Bible Academy in matters of theology and bible doctrine.

At present the Doctrine Committee Chairperson Bishop Mcebisi Gcebe has released the following church manuals, toolkits and other church documents:

- International Saint John Church Constitution (1st Edition 2019).
- International Saint John Church Constitution (2nd Amendment Edition 2023)..
- Code of Conduct for Church members (2019) (covered in Four Section Church Policy 2023).
- Code of Ethics for Ministers/Reverends/Pastors (2023).
- Church Dress Regulation Policy (2019).
- Four Sections Church Policy Manual (2023).
- Brass Band and Church Choir Policy (2019) (covered in Four Section Church Policy 2023).
- Minimum Requirements for Ordination (Promotion to Priesthood Levels) (2023).
- Christian Rituals of the church “Biblical Christian Traditions and Practices” Toolkit (2021).
- Toolkit for Induction of newly appointed church ministers (2023).
- Church Youth Development and Marriage Toolkit Book (2019).
- Marriage counseling toolkit (2021).
- Ordination Process & the Roles of Church Leaders in the Church Toolkit (2021).
- Spiritual Consultation & Guidance Toolkit (Consultation Do’s and Don’ts) (2023).

Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) Chairperson Bishop Mcebisi Gcebe is embarking on releasing a new toolkit guide about God and Ancestors (Spiritual Journey Part 1).

Terms of reference

- Collaborating with South African Council of Churches (SACC), Council Of African Independent Churches (CAIC), The Association of Christian Religious Practitioners (ACRP), National Apostolic Church Council of South Africa concerning issues of justice, reconciliation and integrity of creation.
- International Saint John Church Bible Academy monitoring and evaluation.
- Promoting bible doctrinal training in collaboration with Bible Academy committee.
- Providing expertise for present theological, moral, and doctrinal issues.
- Providing advice and representing the Archbishops and fostering the theological education of the bishops, ministers, and evangelists.
- Supporting the interpretation of scriptural texts, and liaising with the Bible Academy.
- Evaluating theological and moral trends of concern to our community, including structured dialogues with the scientific community and collaboration on health care issues with the government Department of Health.
- Communicating and promoting the teachings of the International Saint John Church in support of the Bible Academy.
- To provide clear expectations within a context of empowerment.
- To maintain unity in doctrine and theology while providing flexibility to respond to the Holy Spirit's creative work in shaping our ministry commitments and practices.

Role of Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC)

1) Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) is accountable to the senior Bishop in the absence of an Archbishop from which it receives its mandate.

2) Only Archbishops, Bishops and senior ministers (reverends) can be chosen as members of the Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) to a maximum of six members. Theologians assist in explaining the faith and are helpful in confronting new challenges, but their role is different from that of the Archbishops and Bishops. Once a Doctrinal Commission is established, the names of the Chairperson and the members should be communicated to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

3) Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC), as a consultative body, is not entitled to make public statements on behalf of the International Saint John Church Leadership without the explicit authorisation.

Functions of the Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC)

1. Translation and Explanation of the scriptures and complications of the bible

For addressing doctrinal questions emerging from the congregation, a Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) should avail itself and assist at all times.

2. Relationship with other Theologians, Associations and Religious Council

The International Saint John Church Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) has the mission of promoting International Saint John Church theology. Therefore, it should foster good relationships among Archbishops, Ministers, Bishops and Theologians, especially academics in universities and other theology institutions. The Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) should also follow the activities of the theological associations in the region and keep the Archbishops and Bishops informed of their developments. The Bible Doctrine Committee (BDC) has the mission to assist the Archbishops and Bishops to monitor the authenticity of matters pertaining to the bible doctrine of faith and morals.

3. Collaboration with other Bible Doctrinal Structures

Collaboration with other bible doctrinal structures of different provinces and other countries who share common geography and language find expeditious means for enhancing collaboration and exchanging information, and they can enrich each other.