

PRESBYTRIAN CHURCH OF GHANA – GA WEST PRESBYTERY

10TH PRESBYTERY SESSION

GROUP 8 REPORT

- 1. Rev. Ishmael Dometey Asare – Convener**
- 2. Rev. Abraham Nii Adu Okine - Drafter**
- 3. Mrs. Adwoa Ofosua Annor Boakye – Presbytery Lay Rep**
4. Rev. Daniel Edmund Kofi Asante
5. Rev. Joseph Kofi Manukure Akyeampong
6. Rev. CDRE. Paul Adjei-Djan
7. Rev. Michael Addo Addoquaye
8. Rev. Rebecca Fredrica Akweley Abladey
9. Rev. Dr. Ernest Paapa B. Puplampu
10. Rev. Ing. Samuel Amponsah Sasu
11. Rev. ASP Stephen Nii Armah Ayitey
12. Rev. Kwesi Kyei Baffour
13. Rev. Dr. Mrs. Felicity Apaa
14. Rev. Joseph Odartey Acquah
15. Rev. Edmund Bortier
16. Dr. Kofi Nyarko Gyimah
17. Cat. Abednego Boakye
18. Cat. Henry A.N.O Tackie
19. Mr. Michael Amoah Ofosuhene
20. Ms. Esther Anita Danquah
21. Mrs. Josephine Ofori Nsiah
22. Mrs. Juliana Tawiah

GROUP 8 - SCOPE OF WORK

1. Two remissions from the General Assembly
2. Health and safety policy from the General Assembly
3. Presbytery Chairperson's Address to Session
4. Clerks of Presbytery' Report

REMISSION FROM THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE 2026 PRESBYTERIES

1. Proposed Amendment of paragraph 18(e) of the Third Schedule of the PCG Constitution.
2. Proposed Amendment of Article 25(6) of the PCG Constitution.
3. Draft PCG Occupational Health, Security and Safety Policy.

Introduction: The group read the proposed amendments, the health and safety policy, and the supporting documents on chieftaincy. The group discussed the issues involved, and drew its conclusions in support of the two proposed amendments and the health and safety policy. The group accepted the health policy, and two proposed amendments with few areas for clarification and consideration. The following recommendations were made by the group on the amendments.

REMISSION ONE. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PARAGRAPH 18(E) OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE PCG CONSTITUTION.

Paragraph 18(e) of the Third Schedule to the PCG Constitution currently provides as follows:

“No Christian is expected to be a stool/skin functionary, for almost every stool functionary has to participate in some ceremony connected with ancestral spirits and it is evident that no categorical declaration on the purely civil significance of the various stool emblems and ceremonies can be made”.

The Proposed Amendment Following The Recommendation of The Rev. Prof. Benzies Isaac Adu-Okoree Committee Reads As Follows:

A Christian may become a palace functionary, provided the position is purely a civil one, as it is evident that not all palace functions are related to ancestral spirits. However, Christians may not

be encouraged to serve as stool/skin functionaries that relate to ancestral spirits, unless they are willing to denounce those practices and request to be guided by the church. In all cases, Christians who desire to be stool/skin functionaries shall be accompanied during the period of their installation.

Proposed Amenemhet by the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters. Following the recommendation of the above committee, the legal and constitutional committee of the PCG proposed the following.

That Paragraph 18(e) of the Third Schedule of the PCG Constitution is to be Amended to Read as Follows:

- (i) A Christian may become a stool/palace functionary, provided the position is purely a civil one. A purely civil position in a palace is one that does not relate to ancestral spirits.
- (ii). A Christian who intends to be, or desirous of being a palace functionary, shall first denounce practices related to ancestral spirits, and shall request the church to accompany him/her throughout the period of confinement, initiation, and installation.
- (iii) Presbytery Session Councils shall in consultation with the Presbytery Committee on Church and Society, appoint a team of not less than three (3) persons to accompany the Christian member.
- (iv) The accompanying process shall be in conformity with such guidelines as are provided for by the church.

The Group's Recommendation: Having read and discussed the work of the committee and the other supporting documents, the group agrees with the proposed amendments to the PCG constitution on chieftaincy as proposed by the Ad Hoc committee and refined by the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters. However, the group suggests the following:

- The meaning of “civil function” should be clearly defined.
- The various stool/skin functionaries, the requirement for installation, and their actual roles within the various traditional areas and palaces should be understood by the church, to inform decision making on their acceptance or rejection.

- The practices associated with the various stool/skin functionaries within the various ethnic groups and palaces in Ghana should be well understood and handled on case-by-case bases.
- Traditional practices, customs and values which are not related to fetishism, ancestral spirits and idol worshipping should be identified and separated.

REMISSION TWO: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 25(6) OF THE PCG CONSTITUTION.

Article 25(6) of The PCG Constitution Provides as Follows:

“The General Assembly Council shall meet not less than three times in a year, following these schedules:

- (a) March/April: Statistics, accounts and assessments, Presbytery performance, remission to Presbyteries, Report of the Directors, report of the Internal Auditor;
- (b) June/July: Preparation for the General Assembly meeting, location of Agents; and
- (c) November: General review, programming for ensuing year, locations of general administration.”

Proposed Amendment of Article 25(6) of The PCG Constitution by The Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters.

That Article 25(6) of The PCG Constitution is to be Amended to Read as Follows:

“(6) Meetings

- (a) The General Assembly shall meet not less than three times in a year as follows: March/April, June/July, and November.
- (b) The agenda for any meeting of the General Assembly Council may include but not limited to the following: statistics, accounts, percentage contribution, Presbytery performance, remission to Presbyteries, report of the Directors, report of the Internal Auditor; preparation for the General Assembly meeting, location of Agents; general review, programming for ensuing year, and general administration.”

Group’s Recommendation: Having read the existing PCG Constitutional provision on the General Assembly Council meetings, the proposed amendment and the justifications, the group is of the opinion that the General Assembly Council meetings and the agenda as proposed in the amendment are right and properly so to do. We therefore accept the proposed amendment without reservation or further recommendations.

REMISSION THREE: DRAFT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY POLICY.

Group’s Observation: The group having read through and discussed the draft occupational health, safety, and security draft, views the draft as a comprehensive, well-researched and properly documented policy, fit for purpose and good for adoption by the church at this time.

Group’s Recommendation: The group agrees with the content of the proposed draft occupational health, safety and security policy for the church workers, and approve its adoption by the church.

Summary and Conclusion

The PCG has lived and related well with the traditional authorities throughout its history, and therefore, its agents are expected to call upon the chief of the town immediately upon arrival in the town. We must be honest enough to acknowledge that there are non-Christian traditional religious practitioners who desire to continue with such rites and ceremonies, even though they may profess to be Christians. There are also some chiefs who have no links to any black stool, or any ceremonies associated with unchristian practices. *The big question is “How does the church differentiate between a purely civil position from one that involves functions related to ancestral spirits? The time to find answers to these dilemma is now, and we endorse the proposal to amend the church's constitution to reflect current desires.*

Submitted by Group Members

Drafted By:

Reviewed By:

Rev. Abraham Nii Adu Okine (0244172362)

Rev. Ishmael Dometey Asare (0208168200)

PRESBYTERY CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS TO THE TENTH PRESBYTERY SESSION

IntroductionL: The Chairperson's address was very comprehensive, well written and covers the major activities, historical antecedents and the growth of the presbytery in the ten years under review. Specifically, the address covers the reflection on the ecclesiastical year's theme, the ten years journey of the presbytery, the PCG Bicentennial celebration, notable events, issues of concern, financial proposals in support of the office complex, achievements and statistics of the presbytery.

Notable Events and Achievements of the Presbytery

1. Membership growth is above 120,000
2. Acquisition of chairperson and clerks manses
- 3, Provision of duty vehicels for chairperson and clerk
4. New office complex under construction at Manhean
5. The Ga West Presbytery being the fastest growing Presbytery in PCG moving from 11 districts to 23 district within the 10 years of its existence

Issues of Concern

1. Financial Integrity and Obligation on the 48-52% Contribution.

Audit of the congregations has revealed a worrying trend where some congregations and sessions are not truthful in the percenetage contribution, and delayance in paying the weekly contribution to the higher courts.

2. Responses to Official Communication: Non-existent or sluggish responses from some districts to official communications and requests for statistics, letters, and other vital informations.

3. Ministerial Diligence and Pulpit Preparation: Chairperson admonished agents to prepare prayerfully, and study well in preparation of sermons before mounting the Pulpit to deliver. This he emphasised to be necessary because a lots of issues are emerging from our congregations.

4. Tribalism&Ethnocentrism: He admonished members to avoid tribalism and ethnicity, which are unchristian and bring divisions into the church.

Recommendations

1. That where audit reveals underhand dealings in financial issues, this should first be investigated and if found to be true, caution and sanction should be applied to deter others from doing same.

2. That District Ministers should be proactive in responding to official requests and communications from the presbytery. However, when agents remain adamant, appropriate sanctions in accordance with the PCG constitution must be applied.

3. That agents take their ministerial or pastoral duties seriously in order to offer the necessary pastoral duties and care to members, to enhance the growth agenda of the church.

4. That leadership at all levels, and groups within the church should teach and admonish members to desist from tribalism and ethnicity to bring unity to the body of the Christ' church.

Issue for Motion and Decision

1. Soft Loans: The chairperson's proposal on soft loans ranging from ghc 10,000 to ghc20,000 from groups and individuals within the church payable within a year.

Proposal: We propose that, being a major decision with legal and financial implications, the proposal should be well debated in the plenary, modalities, terms and all legalities must be well-spelt out, and decision taken on it by the session before implementation.

2. 5% Harvest to The Presbytery: To help in completing the presbytery office complex in time, the Chairperson's proposal for all congregations and preaching points to pay 5% of the 2026 annual harvest only, needs detailed discussions, agreement, amendment and a motion for decision to be made.

Proposal: We propose that session discusses, and take a collective decision for adoption and implementation in the Presbytery.

3. Commendation and Send-off Planning Committee: On behalf the whole presbytery, the group congratulate our chairperson for steering the affairs of the Presbytery and bringing growth,

glory and development to the presbytery for the past five years. A decision should be taken by the Presbytery Session to mandate the Standing Committee to form a Planning committee to see to a befitting send-off to our Venerable Chairperson.

Humbly submitted by Group 8.

Drafted by:

Rev. Abraham Nii Adu OKine

Reviewed by

Rev, Ishmael Dometey Asare

CLERK OF PRESBYTERY'S REPORT

The report of the clerk of presbytery covered all salient and import information on the presbytery including, but not limited to: organization and staffing, details of agents, postings and transfers, overarching goals, district statistics (growth and numerical strength), generational groups, statistics on communicants, KPI- Annual performance appraisal, analysis of departmental goals, notable events, and issues from the clerk's desk.

Important Information Worthy of Note

1. We commend the Presbytery for inaugurating two districts in 2026 bringing the total number of Districts in the Presbytery to 23, made up of 165 congregations, 93 preaching points, 1 mission field, 2 sub-districts and 9 NOPs.
2. The total number of Ministers stood at 133, 118 ordained, 15 probationers.
3. Ablekuma district has highest number of congregations (12), followed by Aplaku and Kwashieman (11 each).
4. In terms of preaching points, the mission field has the highest number (15), followed by Adjen Kotoku (11), and Amasaman (10).
5. The first Six fastest growing districts are: Manhean (17.32%), Ashalaja (15.17%), Sarpeiman (13.28%), Adjen-Kotoku (13.04%), Aplaku (8.72%), and GWMF (8.54). Interestingly, all these districts are located in rural/ or semi-rural Accra. This calls for strategic investment and evangelistic activities in these areas with the potential for church growth.

6. In terms of demography, membership from children service to YPG add up to 73,133 out of the total population of 128,532. This is 57% of the population, meaning the presbytery has a youthful population, and it is a good sign for the future.

Issues of Concern and Recommendation

1. The issues of high rate of non-comminucants in some of the dirsticts and congregations need urgent attention to address the issue.
2. The issue of the construction of the office should be of concern to all agents, presbyters and group leaders.
3. The annual christian home week celebration should be revived in all districts and congregations.
4. Where possible, the mission to palace should be of priority to all districts and locals.
5. Where the means are available, educational supports in a form of scholarship and pastoral ministry should be extended to PCG students at the various educational institutions.
6. Vacation classes, and the BECE mock exams should be organized by all congregations to help prepare the students for the exams.
7. Pastoral care should be extended to all retired agents within our jurisdictions.
8. Children service and JY teachers must be supported, motivated and visited to encourage them in their activities.
9. We encourage all agents and sessions to sponsor persons to attend the Ga West School of MInistry.
10. The poultry and gari projects by the presbytery is highly commendable, and we encourage the presbytery to establish more of such projects, and districts and locals should also do same.
11. The group recommend that other districts should emulate the examples of the fast growing districts, so that the PCG agenda 2million will be achieved by 2028.
12. We agree with clerk that a follow up should be made on the Manse audit.

13. The Presbytery must be intentional in extending more resources and evangelistic activities to te districts that have the potential for growth including Ablekuma, Ashalajam, Aplaku, Adjen Kotoku, Sarpeiman, Amasaman, and GWMF. We propose that lands must be acquired in these areas in advance, now that the lands are relatively cheeper, before the values increase when these areas become fully developed in the near future.

15. We recommend that the Presbytery should inspect the accounts of the Land Development fund in the congregations and districts, since it is a decision taken by the church.

16. We recommend that construction of manses to host agents must be intentional, intensified and encouraged in all congregations and districts that have the means to do so.

Humbly Submitted By Group 8

Drafter

Rev. Abraham Nii Adu OKine

Thank You

Convener

Rev. Ishmael Dometey Asare