

CONSTITUTION

REFORMED FAMILY FORUM (ENCONTRO DA FAMILIA REFORMADA)

1. Name

The organisation hereby constituted shall be called **REFORMED FAMILY FORUM** (FORUM DA FAMILIA REFORMADA) or abbreviated RFF

2. Characteristics (nature of organisation)

The Reformed Family Forum has the characteristics of a “forum”. The concept “forum” is understood to be a loosely structured meeting, medium (body) or network constituted by representatives of participating churches where ideas and views on particular issues are exchanged, relationships/partnerships are built and joint projects of mutual assistance are planned. A forum has no authority over any of the participating churches.

3. Basis of membership

The Reformed Family Forum adheres to the following:

- We confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour, according to the Bible.
- We share in the Reformed confessional basis of the participating churches.
- We share historical ties as a family of churches, continuously striving towards greater visible unity.
- We share in the identity and calling of being missional churches in our joint and respective contexts in Africa.
- And therefore we seek to enter into fellowship with each other (and with other churches and Christian traditions) through the Reformed Family Forum serving as witness to our commitment to a common ministry to the glory of the one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. Objectives

The Reformed Family Forum has the following objectives:

- Celebrating and fostering our shared Reformed and missional *identity* as the one body of Christ with particular historical and confessional ties within a shared geographical context (Africa).
- Discerning our joint *calling* in our shared African-, but also diverse national contexts, in serving the Kingdom of God in our countries and across our borders.
- Initiating and building *liaison/networks/partnerships* between this particular group of churches and their representatives.
- Serving as *communication channel disseminating relevant information* amongst the participating churches through the internet and other forms of media/publications.
- Creating opportunities for the participation of representatives of churches in *regular joint meetings, workshops, conferences, mutual visits and correspondence* between the churches.

- Jointly *discerning our changing contexts* (doing research) and assisting one another to meet the challenges churches face regarding their ministry through publications, projects and programs of capacity building.
- Raising a credible *prophetic voice and engaging in public witness* in our region.

4. Membership

4.1 The Reformed Family Forum is structured by representatives (mostly General Secretaries or Scribes) of the participating churches.

4.2 The participating churches are:

- Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP Harare Synod, Zimbabwe)
- Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP Nkhoma Synod, Malawi)
- Dutch Reformed Church (DRC)
- Dutch Reformed Church in Africa (DRCA)
- Dutch Reformed Church in Botswana (DRCB)
- Igreja Evangelica Reformada de Angola (IERA)
- Igreja Reformada em Mozambique (IRM)
 - Mphatso Synod
 - Tumbine Synod
 - Novo Synod
- Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA)
- Nongo u Kristu u I Ser u sha Tar or *Universal Reformed Christian Church* (NKST Nigeria)
- Reformed Church in Africa (RCA)
- Reformed Church in East Africa (RCEA)
- Reformed Church in Zambia (RCZ Zambia)
- Reformed Church in Zimbabwe (RCZ Zimbabwe)
- Swaziland Reformed Church (SRC)
- Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA)

4.3 The following organisations are associate member

- Christian Literature Fund (CLF)
- NetAct
- Partners in Mission (DRC Free State)
- Witness Ministry (Cape Region)

4.4 The Annual General Meeting may decide on inviting churches (representatives of churches) or associate organisations to become participating members.

4.5 Any participating church or organisation may decide to withdraw their participation, but only after consulting with the executive committee and explaining the reasons for this action.

5. Functioning/structure

5.1 Annual General Meeting

- The core (kernel/hub) structure of the Reformed Family Forum is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) consisting of General Secretaries (or their representatives) of the participating churches
- The Annual General Meeting:
 - Transaction of business for the particular year
 - adopts or changes the constitution
 - appoints new office bearers and the secretariat
 - adopts a budget and receives financial reports when applicable
 - decides on membership fees and the utilisation of any funds that might be available

5.2 Executive committee

5.2.1 The Annual General Meeting of the RFF appoints a new Executive Committee for the following year consisting of:

- A chairperson
- A vice-chairperson
- One additional member

5.2.2 Tenure of office:

Members of the Executive Committee may not serve in the same position for more than three consecutive years.

5.2.3 The Executive Committee gives effect to/implements decisions of the Annual General Meeting and takes responsibility for the day to day managerial matters of the RFF.

5.2.3 The Executive Committee meets as and when the need requires them to meet.

5.3 Secretariat

5.3.1 The Annual General Meeting appoints one or two persons to be responsible for the administration (Secretariat) for a specific term (not exceeding 3 years), after which the appointment can be renewed.

5.3.2 The persons responsible for the Secretariat also serve on the Executive Committee and reports to the Executive Committee

5.3.3 The Secretariat takes responsibility for all the administration (correspondence, reports, logistics, finances, etc.).

6. Amending of constitution

The Annual General Meeting may amend the constitution or terminate the existence of the RFF with a two thirds majority vote of the participating churches.