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New Anglican Missionary Society

THE RULE

THE PRINCIPLES

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2 A Prayer for NAMS

3 Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your Apostles' grace truly to believe and to preach your Word;
4 grant to us with your Church to love that Word which they believed, and to preach, teach, and live what they
5 taught, to the honor and glory of your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

6 Preamble

7 We (NAMS Companions and Sisters) believe that we have been called by Jesus Christ to band together as a
8 global missionary society and religious order, under this Rule, in support of global pioneer church planting,
9 while being accountable to one another under the Lord and God's Word. Free and voluntary submission to
10 the Rule (The Principles & Common Life) defines our identity and ministry in the one, holy, catholic, and
11 apostolic Church. We commit to living the Rule, building a base, and planting churches.

12 **I. OUR CALL** is to follow Jesus Christ as NAMS Companions and Sisters obeying the Final Command, as
13 members of an "order of Church Planters."

14 **II. OUR WORK** is to serve the Church in furthering the kingdom of God.

15 **III. OUR CHARGE** is to preach and teach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified;" to plant new churches wherever
16 God opens the door; always to obey the Holy Spirit; and never to break the Word of God.

17 **IV. OUR PURPOSE** is to plant churches that plant churches.

18 A. We **BUILD** the global religious society of Companions and Sisters - sharing our common calling
19 and living our common rule.

20 B. We **GO** wherever the Lord Jesus sends us to establish a NAMS Base.

21 C. We **PLANT** new Great Commission Congregations (GCC+) wherever the Lord Jesus sends us.

22 D. We **REMAIN** faithful to the Gospel and values of the Kingdom of God in all things, making disciples
23 as we go.

24 **V. OUR METHOD**

25 A. **SEND**, to the field assigned, Companions and Sisters who have been equipped to lay a foundation
26 for our labor.

27 B. **ESTABLISH** a NAMS Base, for the supervision and pastoral care of our Companions and Sisters,
28 and as an incubator and apostolic hub for church planting.

29 C. **PARTNER** with other confessing Christians based on a Covenant for Partnership, whenever
30 possible.

31 D. **BEGIN** the first Great Commission Cell (GCC), as God blesses, and multiply into new cell groups.

32 E. **PLANT** multiplying Great Commission Congregation (GCC+), as God blesses, under NAMS
33 temporary supervision.

34 F. **DISCIPLE** new Companions regularly and constantly as we go.

- 1 G. **RELEASE** our temporary supervisory oversight of the churches we have helped to plant to the
2 appropriate jurisdiction, as soon as possible or agreed.
- 3 H. **RE-DEPLOY** our Companions into new fields, as the Holy Spirit leads.
- 4 **VI. OUR CORE VALUES**
- 5 A. **OBEYING** - *we seek to always obey the Holy Spirit & the Holy Scriptures.*
- 6 B. **INTENTIONAL** - *we are deliberate and purposeful in fulfilling our ministry.*
- 7 C. **GLOCAL** - *we think globally, act locally.*
- 8 D. **ACCOUNTABLE** - *we are accountable to each other and those over us in the Lord.*
- 9 E. **KOINONIA** – *we seek to be a community known by the quality of life among us, our love for God*
10 *and each other, and a place of authentic Christian fellowship.*
- 11 **VII. OUR CORPORATE RULE OF LIFE**
- 12 A. **PERSONAL** (all Companions and Sisters) will
- 13 1. Participate in or work to start a NAMS Base.
- 14 2. Lead (or serve in) a worshiping Great Commission Congregation that is supportive of our
15 calling.
- 16 3. Keep a faithful, daily discipline of prayer and study of God’s Word (alone and with others, and
17 regularly with our spouse, if married), remembering the community before the Lord God
18 daily.
- 19 4. Give generously as a faithful steward of the financial resources entrusted to us to the
20 Congregation where we serve, and to the Society for global work.
- 21 5. Be accountable to those who are “over us in the Lord,” both ecclesiastically (as appropriate),
22 and within the Discipling Structures of our Common Life.
- 23 **B. THE COMMUNITY**
- 24 1. Make a minimum of three Retreats at regular intervals throughout the year, alone or with
25 other Companions; and
- 26 2. Make one Annual Retreat with the society in our nation/region.
- 27 **VIII. OUR COMMON LIFE** – “The Common Life” document that follows, outlines the way in which God has
28 led us in our mission and ministry, and shows how we organize globally. It is subsidiary to these
29 Principles.
- 30 **IX. OUR DOCTRINE** - The “faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” is the doctrine we “contend
31 for,” (Jude 3) and the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are our “rule and ultimate
32 standard of faith.” We affirm and agree with the Jerusalem Declaration, 2008.
- 33 **X. OUR COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN UNITY** - We are a global religious society (order) relating to the
34 Anglican Family of “the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.” We desire to work with, and be in
35 unity with, the faithful church throughout the world. At all times and in all places, we seek to serve
36 the church “that submits to Christ” (Ephesians 5:24).
- 37 **XI. OUR DECLARATION** - By adopting the NAMS Rule (The Principles & Common Life), we make the
38 statement that we will do our best, under God, to abide by them. We trust that God’s blessing will
39 come upon “all who walk by this Rule.”

THE COMMON LIFE

Preamble

NAMS (the New Anglican Missionary Society, hereinafter, "the Society") is a Global Anglican order of Church Planters. We are not a denomination. We are united by the Principles and Common Life that guides us. We have answered the call to obey the Final Command of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

By faith we believe that God called, in 1973, such a religious order. We were birthed into existence by one diocesan bishop, and we were legally chartered under three bishops in 1994, and began serving in one nation that year. Today we are inspiring, equipping, assisting, and planting churches around the world. We do so through Companions and Sisters.

This Common Life document explains how we live out the NAMS Rule.

1. Membership

1.1. NAMS Companions

1.1.1. A Companion is a Missionary Disciple of Jesus who:

- a) Is called by the Lord to be part of NAMS.
- b) Submits to the Principles & Common Life.
- c) Shares a common call and lives a common pattern of, and for, life.
- d) Serves NAMS through global pioneering church planting.
- e) Is involved in apostolic mission, personal and corporate devotion and worship, and personal accountability.
- f) Is willing to "go" with NAMS wherever the Lord has need of us, whenever the Lord needs us, whatever the Lord wants us to do.

1.1.2. A person becomes a Companion by exploring what it means to be one:

- a) They explore NAMS on a short-term basis as an Intern through the GAP Program, a Base, or an Outpost.
- b) They serve as an Associate (Centurion or Lydian) if their request is accepted.
- c) They are received in a liturgical assembly into NAMS as Companions.

1.1.3. Admission process

- a) A Candidate or an Associate expresses a sincere and authentic desire to follow the Principles and Common Life of NAMS and to become a Companion
- b) They show a willingness to join the Order and its works
- c) They respect the principles of accountability outlined in The Rule
- d) They actively participate in the activities of the Base/Outpost that they are assigned to and support the work of discipleship and planting of new churches.

1 **1.1.4.** Their initial commitment will be four years.

2 **1.1.5.** Being a Companion does not imply to be a financially supported member of NAMS. The
3 Companions are responsible before the Lord to raise their own support. The Global Board of
4 Directors may decide to support Companions to fulfil key roles, from time to time.

5 **1.2. NAMS Sisters**

6 **1.2.1.** She is in all instances like a Companion, within the parameters of the instruction and the
7 teaching of Scripture about deacons, presbyters and bishops.

8 **1.3. Associates**

9 **1.3.1.** The NAMS Associates are called Centurions or Lydians.

10 **1.3.2.** They are disciples of Jesus who wish to associate with us for the purpose of supporting the
11 call, mission, and vision of NAMS by:

- 12 a) Receiving fellowship, spiritual growth and learning to be a disciple-making disciple,
- 13 b) Committing to be part of a Centurion Cohort or a Lydian Circle, when there is one locally, or
14 helping to start one.
- 15 c) Being faithful to the Lord's Final Command,
- 16 d) Making disciples of Jesus who themselves learn to make disciples of Jesus,
- 17 e) Praying daily for NAMS, and
- 18 f) Giving to support NAMS.

19 **1.3.3.** They make an annual renewal of their promises.

20 **1.4. Clergy Membership**

21 **1.4.1.** Ordained Companions who are part of NAMS must be canonically resident within one of the
22 recognized jurisdictions of the Anglican Family, or another recognized denomination.

23 **1.4.2.** Clergy who are Companions of NAMS, if serving in a NAMS initiated work, will always be
24 expected to have the blessing of their bishop or leadership.

25 **1.4.3.** An ordained Companion serving in an established church, chaplaincy or parachurch ministry
26 will be recognized as a Companion in Ministry. NAMS acknowledges that their primary focus
27 is that local church or ministry, and we assist and support them in fostering growth and
28 discipleship within the context in which they serve.

29 **2. The Servant General**

30 **2.1.** The Servant General (SG) is the Superior of NAMS and provides overall leadership, spiritual oversight,
31 and it is the Steward of the Vision.

32 **2.2.** The Servant General's crucial ministry is to disciple emerging senior leaders, to lead the global work
33 and continually call NAMS to the vision.

34 **2.3.** He also has the following responsibilities by example and office:

- 1 **2.3.1.** Model a personal relationship with Jesus, love for the lost and commitment to the call,
2 mission, and vision.
- 3 **2.3.2.** Establish relationships characterized by love and grace and encourage the Priors to lead their
4 Bases in the same way.
- 5 **2.3.3.** Calls and chairs the meetings of the Novena, the Global Council, and the Board.
- 6 **2.3.4.** Models' accountability and teaches Priors and Abbots to be accountable to those who oversee
7 them and to those who serve with them.
- 8 **2.3.5.** Encourages all Companions and Sisters as they multiply disciple-making ministries and
9 promote church planting.
- 10 **2.4.** He must be a presbyter or a bishop within the Anglican Family.
- 11 **2.5.** A new SG is elected after a period of prayerful discernment by the Global Council, confirmed by the
12 Priors/Abbots, and blessed by the Council of Bishop Guardians.
- 13 **2.6.** The Founder and first Servant General, the Revd Canon Dr Jon Shuler, will become the Emeritus
14 Servant General when retired from being the Servant General.

15 **3. The Prior General**

- 16 **3.1.** A Prior General is appointed by the Servant General (SG) to assist him in his ministry.
- 17 **3.2.** He works with the SG, and he answers to him. He is a member of the Global Council and the Board.
- 18 **3.3.** He supports the SG in the day-to-day operations, working alongside the SG.
- 19 **3.4.** The Prior General oversees the society's relationships with Associates and with the wider NAMS
20 Network.

21 **4. NAMS Councils**

22 **4.1. The Global Council**

- 23 **4.1.1.** The leadership of the Society is entrusted to the Servant General, who leads with and through
24 the Global Council.
- 25 **4.1.2.** The Servant General (SG) appoints and oversees a global leadership team called the Global
26 Council. The Global Council will be made up of a minimum of five Companions.
- 27 **4.1.3.** The ministry of the Global Council on behalf of the Society, in and under the gospel, is
28 established and directed by The Rule.
- 29 **4.1.4.** The Global Council always aims to operate with integrity, honesty, and faithfulness to the Word
30 of God and in obedience to the Holy Spirit.

31 **4.2. The Global Board of Directors**

- 32 **4.2.1.** All temporal matters of the Society are overseen by this Board, in consultation with the SG,
33 who presides at their meetings.

- 1 **4.2.2.** The vice chair is appointed by the Servant General.
- 2 **4.2.3.** The Global Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Society. Among its
3 responsibilities are:
- 4 a) Approve the annual budget.
- 5 b) Oversee and administer the finances and assets of NAMS.
- 6 c) Oversee and be responsible for all legal matters.
- 7 d) Buy and/or sell properties on behalf of the Society.
- 8 e) Bring skilled administrative, accounting, human resources, insurance, and legal services in
9 support of congregations.
- 10 f) Ensure implementation of a system to account for, and issue receipts for, all donations in
11 compliance with all federal and state regulations regarding financial matters.
- 12 g) Ensure the maintenance of the Global Office and any owned facilities or operations.
- 13 h) Approve bylaws and policies according to the country's law.

14 **4.3. The Novena**

- 15 **4.3.1.** Details of the Novena will be added at a future date.

16 **5. NAMS Base and Abbey**

17 **5.1. A NAMS Base**

- 18 **5.1.1.** When NAMS starts a new work in a region of the world, the first community is called a Base
19 and remains under the sole oversight of NAMS. Their local leader is called a Prior.
- 20 **5.1.2.** A NAMS Base is a worshipping community on mission, NOT A LOCAL CHURCH.
- 21 **5.1.3.** It helps to start new local churches by:
- 22 a) Inspire by modelling what a healthy disciple-making community looks like.
- 23 b) Equip future disciple-making leaders for the church.
- 24 c) Assist those called to do pioneering disciple-making church planting.
- 25 d) Plant disciple-making churches.
- 26 **5.1.4.** It is a group of at least 5 Companions and Sisters in a community or a city.
- 27 **5.1.5.** If there are fewer than 5 Companions and Sisters, one or two can create an Outpost until the
28 desired number is reached, with the permission of the Servant General.
- 29 **5.1.6.** The Base Pathway is as follow:
- 30 a) **DREAMING.** A Companion or Sister believes they are hearing a call to see a new Base
31 formed by the Society.
- 32 b) **VISIONING.** A vision and plan are presented to the Global Council.
- 33 c) **RECOGNIZED.** At least five Companions and Sisters have agreed to form a new Base, and
34 the SG agrees, and the Global Council approves it.

- 1 **d) LEADING.** A Companion is identified as the Prior, and appointed by the SG.
- 2 **e) ESTABLISHED.** A new Base is established and begins to inspire believers, equip God’s
3 people, assist church growth, and plant churches. A Base is not a local church.
- 4 **f) GROWING.** The Base begins to make disciples who desire to join a new church plant. The
5 first Great Commission Cell is formed to pray, grow, and worship together. A Companion
6 is designated as the Pioneer Leader of the church plant.
- 7 **g) LAUNCHING.** A new Great Commission Congregation is formed when there are twelve
8 households, and with a Companion as the designated Minister/Pastor. The GCC+ is
9 distinct from the Base.

10 **5.2. The Prior, a NAMS Base Leader**

- 11 **5.2.1.** The Prior is a Companion that has oversight and leads a Base in a community or a city.
- 12 **5.2.2.** He leads the Base, not necessarily a GCC or GCC+.
- 13 **5.2.3.** He is appointed by the SG with previous consultation with the members of the Base, and is
14 accountable to the Servant General.

15 **5.3. The Prior's Council**

- 16 **5.3.1.** The Prior appoints a Prior's Council (of at least two others) that shall act as an advisory council
17 to the Prior.
- 18 **5.3.2.** The Prior’s Council follows the example of the apostles (Acts 15). It is governed by spiritual
19 consensus. Each member of the Council submits to others and works together to discern
20 God’s direction. If there is not a clear agreement, the Prior can make a final decision or decide
21 to postpone a decision until later.
- 22 **5.3.3.** The Companions and Sisters desire to follow God's guidance and be led by the Holy Spirit. As
23 with all of NAMS, it embraces servant leadership under the Lord.

24 **5.4. An Abbey**

- 25 **5.4.1.** An Abbey is an apostolic community of twenty or more Companions and Sisters, with a GAP
26 Program, a NAMS Institute, and a Next30 Global Residency.
- 27 **5.4.2.** An Abbey helps to establish other local Bases and models the gift of hospitality.
- 28 **5.4.3.** An Abbey gathers under the leadership of an Abbot, appointed by the SG, who gives guidance
29 and spiritual direction.

30 **5.5. A Great Commission Cell**

- 31 **5.5.1.** A Great Commission Cell (GCC) is the “seed” of a new congregation that seeks to live in
32 obedience to the Lord’s Final Command.
- 33 **5.5.2.** The aim of a GCC is to disciple and multiply, until there are ten households who desire to
34 form a new a Great Commission Congregation (GCC+) in partnership with NAMS.

1 **5.6. A Great Commission Congregation+**

2 **5.6.1.** A Great Commission Congregation (GCC+) is a local church, partnering with NAMS, which is
3 seeking to plant other congregations obedient to the Final Command..

4 **5.6.2.** Churches planted out from any NAMS Base are under their denominational or network
5 leadership, though under NAMS temporary oversight until they are fully integrated into their
6 overseeing judicatory.

7 **5.6.3.** The terms of this arrangement are worked out in a Covenant of Partnership between NAMS
8 and the appropriate jurisdiction.

9 **6. NAMS Regions**

10 **6.1.** A National/ Regional leadership team is appointed when there is an Abbey and five active Bases.

11 **6.2.** The leadership team of the nation/region is normally formed of the Priors and Abbots.

12 **6.3.** The Servant General will appoint one of the team to be the Strategic National/Regional Coordinator.

13 **6.4.** The Team Leader's primary function is to inspire, equip, assist, and encourage new church plants in
14 the nation/region.

15 **7. The NAMS Network**

16 **7.1.** NAMS helps to support the mission of Christ Jesus for the whole church through its Global Network.

17 **7.2.** The Global Network involves men and women around world who believe in our calling and help to
18 keep us faithful to our calling.

19 **7.3.** The NAMS Global Network is comprised of all those people who pray for, work for, or give for the
20 spread of the kingdom of God through NAMS.

21 **7.4.** The ministries of the Global Network are:

22 **a) Friends.** Care for us and work, pray, and give to support NAMS vision and mission as they are
23 led by the Spirit of God.

24 **b) Intercessors.** They agree to undertake daily intercessions for NAMS.

25 **c) Anchor and Partner Churches.** They are existing churches that work, network, and partner
26 with us.

27 **d) Partners in Mission.** Dioceses, denominations, networks, and Missionary organizations which
28 desire to be in partnership with us in the work of global mission.

29 **8. Contributions and Support**

30 **8.1.** NAMS believes that giving in proportion to one's blessing is the calling of all believers, and that the
31 standard of that giving is the biblical tithe, or one tenth of one's personal income.

32 **8.2.** All Companions and Sisters will contribute to their base,

- 1 **8.3.** The NAMS Base will tithe its income to NAMS, unless special dispensation is obtained from the Global
2 Council.
- 3 **8.4.** Regions do not tithe to NAMS as they do not have income.
- 4 **8.5.** The Great Commission Congregations+ give to NAMS, while in a Covenant Agreement.
- 5 **8.6.** Fund raising, endowments, contributions, and grants will be sought at all levels, to support the Final
6 Command, through the ministry of NAMS.
- 7 **8.7.** NAMS may financially support Bases, as approved from time to time by the Global Council.
- 8 **8.8.** NAMS may occasionally support Companions for strategic purposes, as approved by the Global
9 Council.
- 10 **8.9.** The Base and the Great Commission Congregations+ are normally responsible to fund other activities
11 of the Society, like retreats, evangelism, compassion ministry, and other events in there are of
12 influence and ministry.

13 **9. Bishops Guardians and Advocates**

14 **9.1. The Global Bishop Guardian**

- 15 **9.1.1.** The Global Bishop Guardian provides Episcopal oversight, counsel, and direct guidance to the
16 SG, and it is to this bishop that the SG brings all matters that cannot be settled within NAMS.
- 17 **9.1.2.** He serves as Guardian Judge in the case of an abuse of power by anyone in leadership, under
18 the guidance of the Word of God and the Rule..
- 19 **9.1.3.** He has adjudication of any matter (consistent with The Rule) brought to him by the SG or by
20 petition from three members of the Global Council.
- 21 **9.1.4.** He is the Chairman of the Council of Bishop Guardians.
- 22 **9.1.5.** Choosing his replacement shall be the responsibility of the Servant General, with the support
23 of the Global Council.

24 **9.2. The Council of Bishop Guardians**

- 25 **9.2.1.** Bishops (male) can be invited and appointed to be Bishops Guardians by the SG.
- 26 **9.2.2.** They serve as a council to offer spiritual guidance and advice to the SG.
- 27 **9.2.3.** They act as spiritual guardians for the work of NAMS.

28 **9.3. Bishops Advocates**

- 29 **9.3.1.** Requirements for a Bishop Advocate (usually an active male Diocesan):
- 30 a) A Bishop Advocate believes that NAMS has a God given calling.
- 31 b) Will pray for NAMS to be faithful and fruitful.
- 32 c) Will speak up for NAMS in his sphere of influence, as led by the Spirit.

- 1 **d)** Will direct potential Companions to talk with us, as guided by the Spirit.
 2 **e)** Will freely offer general counsel to the Global Council as led, or as asked.
 3 **f)** They are not bound by the Principles & Common Life, except so far as it gives guidance to
 4 their ministry in support of the Society.

5 **10. Accountability**

- 6 **10.1.** All Companions and Sisters are accountable to the NAMS Rule (The Principles & Common Life),
 7 and to one another in Christ Jesus for the sake of the Gospel.
 8 **10.2.** They always seek the advice of their Prior, Abbott or the Servant General before making major
 9 decisions that affect their ministry in NAMS.
 10 **10.3.** Married Companions and Sisters have a special inviolable accountability, as a priority, to their
 11 spouse.
 12 **10.4.** All Companions and Sisters are accountable to the Servant General for their obedience to The
 13 Rule.
 14 **10.5.** The SG is accountable to the Global Bishop Guardian and the Council of Bishop Guardians.

15 **11. Corrections and Grievance**

- 16 **11.1.** The purpose of Christian discipline is for the removal of offenses, the vindication of the truth, the
 17 promotion of purity and church harmony, and the benefit of the offender.
 18 **11.2.** Forgiveness is a Christian virtue that NAMS will practice with a penitent Companion/Sister.
 19 **11.3.** Discipline may be exercised with reference to moral, spiritual, or church offenses. This includes
 20 actions not in accordance with the principles and Rule of NAMS, with the teaching of Scripture,
 21 or that harms the peace, unity, purity, order and good administration of the order.
 22 **11.4.** Nothing shall be admitted as a matter of accusation which cannot be proved to be a violation of
 23 The Rule, as well as the Bible, by two Companions or Sisters in good standing.
 24 **11.5.** In this case the servant general, in conjunction with the Council, shall investigate the allegations
 25 presented against the accused member, notifying them to present a defense, and subsequently
 26 shall prepare the final report on the case within a maximum period of 30 (thirty) days, counting
 27 from the start of its processing. If necessary, the servant general may, by decision or at the
 28 request of the Council, extend this period as necessary for investigations and deliberations, not
 29 exceeding, however, 90 days.
 30 **11.6.** Upon completion of the disciplinary procedure, the servant general may choose to apply the
 31 following penalties, depending on the circumstances of the case:
 32 I. Warning, verbal or written;
 33 II. Suspension of membership rights for a determined period;
 34 III. Suspension of membership rights for an undetermined period;
 35 IV. Exclusion from the NAMS membership roster.
 36

1 Upon being notified of the decision the accused member may appeal within 15 days of the
2 notification.

3 **11.7.** In all private grievances, we shall follow the biblical principles of Matthew 18:15-17.

4 **11.8.** The correction of Companions and Sisters will be done by the Prior, Abbot, or the Servant General.

5 **11.9.** The correction of Companions who are deacons, presbyters and bishops shall be administered by
6 the Servant General and in consultation with the diocesan bishop immediate to the situation.

7 **11.10.** The correction of the Servant General shall be administered by the Council of Bishop Guardians
8 and in consultation with the Global Council.

9 **11.11.** All corrections and grievances may be appealed to the Council of Bishop Guardians, and may, at
10 that authority's discretion, be entertained or dismissed.

11 **12. Modifying the Principles or the Common Life**

12 **12.1.** No alteration or amendment of, or addition to the Principles and Common Life shall be made
13 unless previously proposed by the Servant General, the Global Council, or three Abbots, and until
14 reviewed and approved by the next Novena.

15 **12.2.** Any translation of The Rule must be approved by the Global Council. Ultimately, the English
16 version will be used to clarify any point of confusion or error.

17 **12.3.** Any change to The Principles must be adopted by a three-fourths vote of those participating at
18 the Novena at which it is proposed.

19 **12.4.** Any change to the Common Life is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the those participating at the
20 Novena at which it is proposed.