

CHAPTER VIII: SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. A Sunday School shall be established in every congregation and conducted as a Christian ministry at a suitable time on the Lord's Day, as determined by the local Trustees.
2. A local Committee may be established to oversee the work. The Minister shall chair it, and its membership shall include the Sunday School Superintendent and teachers. The Class Leaders and Lay Preachers of the town may also be members.
3. The local Committees shall appoint a Secretary whose duty is to keep the minutes of their meetings.
4. Sunday School shall not be discontinued without permission from the President, Regional Chairperson or Regional Superintendent. It shall be held every Sunday except on a Sunday when the *Pōlotu 'Aho* is being held in another town.
5. Before a Sunday School celebration, the Minister shall examine all lessons and other material proposed for presentation to ensure that they are consistent with the Doctrine and practice of the Church.
6. A major annual examination of the Sunday Schools shall be held throughout all Circuits. The Sunday School sermon and annual celebration shall be held on the first Sunday in May throughout all Regions. The hour normally used for the evening preaching service on the last Sunday of November shall be used for the annual Sunday School examination.
7. The people shall be encouraged to have children sit together with their Sunday School teachers or with their parents in church.
8. An offering shall be taken at the service on the Sunday of the Sunday School celebration. The money shall be used to purchase resources for the children's Sunday School work or to meet their contribution to the Department of Christian Education.
9. Regulations concerning visitation and inspection of Sunday Schools shall be determined within each Region.
10. Two representatives of the Department of Christian Education shall attend each Regional Meeting, except that Niua Fo'ou and Niua Toputapu shall each have one representative, who shall attend together with the representative of the Education Department.

CHAPTER IX: TRUSTEES

1. Senior Trustees

1. Conference shall from time to time appoint sixteen Senior Trustees, including both Ministers and laypersons.
2. Whenever land or properties are granted by His Majesty or by the Nobles to the Church, the leases shall be made in the names of the sixteen Senior Trustees. Eight shall be Nobles and eight shall be Ordained Ministers. The Senior Trustees may authorise two or more of their number to sign documents or leases on behalf of all of them. They shall represent the Church in matters relating to land and shall be known as the *Senior Trustees*.
3. If a vacancy occurs among the Senior Trustees because of death, resignation, withdrawal from the Church, or residence overseas, Conference shall appoint a replacement. The President of the Church shall chair meetings of the Senior Trustees and has authority to convene them. No meeting shall be valid as a meeting of the Senior Trustees unless at least seven Trustees are present in addition to the Chair. The Chair shall report their work to Conference.

The Conference Committee shall appoint alternate Senior Trustees to represent Senior Trustees who are absent from Tonga.

2. Local Trustees

1. When a church building is erected in a town or locality on Church property, the Superintendent Minister shall appoint Local Trustees to care for and administer the grounds and church building in accordance with the Law and regulations of the Church. There shall be not fewer than three and not more than twenty-four Trustees. A Trustees' Meeting shall be held at least once each year, and two-thirds of the Trustees must be present. The Superintendent Minister of the Circuit, or a person appointed by the Minister, shall preside.
2. Before a Local Trustees' Meeting is held, notice shall be given at a devotional or worship meeting before the day of the meeting, after prior consultation with the Minister.
3. The Trustees shall appoint a Secretary by majority decision. The Secretary shall keep the minute book and record the business of the meeting.
4. The meeting shall use the following questions:
 - (a) Who is present?
 - (e) Is there anyone to appoint as a Trustee?
 - (f) What is the state of the financial accounts?
 - (h) What is the condition of the Church's equipment and property, and are there any decisions to be made concerning them?
5. Except in the Tongatapu Region, the Regional Chairperson or Regional Superintendent shall have custody of Trustees' funds, and their use for the work

of the Church shall be approved by the Trustees. The President, Regional Chairperson and Regional Superintendent shall administer Trustees' funds, and the Trustees shall approve their use for Church work, provided that such use is not inconsistent with the Constitution.

6. If the meeting so decides, it may appoint a person as Steward responsible for the care of the church building.
7. The meeting shall make arrangements for cleaning and maintaining the church grounds and cemetery.
8. The Minister shall nominate the Local Steward, and the meeting shall confirm the appointment by show of hands.
9. Members of the choir shall nominate their Choir Conductor, whose appointment shall then be confirmed by the Minister and the Local Trustees.
10. Exchange of preachers is permitted between this Church and the two other Tongan Churches named in the printed text—the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church. Clear communication shall be maintained with the leaders of those Churches so that reciprocal preaching in their churches may also be possible. Such exchanges shall be mutually agreed and shall centre upon the proclamation of Scripture. When a request is received, the Minister shall first consult the Local Trustees and obtain their agreement.
11. Women shall be permitted to participate in Trustees' Meetings.