

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.