

COOPERATION AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL
DENOMINATION AND LOCAL
CONGREGATIONS.

1. Introduction

- 1 Any growing Church must have clear parameters of operation from top leadership to the local Church.
- The strength of any Church organization is embedded in the Local Church. It is of paramount importance that there be a smooth flow of relationship from top to bottom or vice versa.
- As we are gathered here structures differ but the principles are the same.

2. How National Denominations Can Serve and Empower Local Churches

- a. By clearly sharing their National vision to the Local Churches for everyone to run with it - Ha2:1-5
- b. By having an oversight of the Church and giving spiritual guidance.
- c. By encouraging Local Churches to keep first things first, the proclamation of the gospel, establishing believers in faith, being witnesses of our Lord Jesus Christ, and continue in the fellowship of His Church. Matt 28:19
- d. By financially subsidizing pioneer work and set up strategies for self-reliance in the long term.
- e. By encouraging Local Churches to support mission work within and outside their borders.

f. To urge local Churches to give assistance to worthy causes and social undertakings, e.g. in matters pertaining to relief work, community development, Social awareness and terminal illnesses.

g. By intervening and remedying the situation whenever there is spiritual, financial and other retrogressions in local churches.

Necessary steps must be taken to abate serious schisms and divisions in the local Church.

h. By encouraging local Churches to support National budgets.

i. By monitoring the stewardship of local Church Assets and funds getting periodic reports.

J. 10. Administer conditions of employment and matters incidental thereto of all Church Pastors, In collaboration with relevant Church structures employ, transfer, and discipline Church Ministers

k. To help in the training and equipping of Pastors to see that Local Churches are getting good Pastors. To monitor how the Local Churches are looking after their Pastors in practical issues like their physical wellbeing like allowances accommodation etc.

l. By being custodians of sound doctrine in the Church. To take corrective measures where necessary.

m. Plan regular visits to the Churches to empower them and to hear their issues

n. Plan leadership training programs for Both Pastors and their leaders for capacity building.

o. Have proper channels of communication and regularly disseminate relevant information

3. Responsibilities Of Local Church To The National Leadership

1. Embrace the national vision of the Church and run with it.
2. Attend and Participate in National programmes like Conferences
3. Contribute financially towards national budgets and projects
4. Give periodic reports and regular updates.
5. Share testimonies of what God is doing in the Local Church.
6. Share challenges the Church is facing especially those that are difficult to handle

4. Challenges That Most Church Organizations Face With Their Local Churches

- a. Most Local Churches prioritize their work at the expense of National work. It's easier to raise funds for local work than National work.
- b. Congested programs at Local, District, and National levels creates disharmony causing some to disregard other programs.
- c. Poor standards and failure in the area of excellence at National level causes Local Churches to opt for local programs that are better organized.

5. Discussion Questions

- a. How can the National Leadership intervene to help a problematic situation at a local Church without causing animosity or considered to be interfering.
- b. What strategies can be used to help local Churches to be self-reliant?.
- c. How best can Local Churches be motivated to participate in National programs especially in the area of financial support?.