

Resolutions passed by the Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

01. May this be addressed to adherents, men and women, of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church residing at home and abroad?
It is to be acknowledged with a profound sense of recorded facts that the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo church is Apostolic, Ancient, Historical and National. During its long historical Journey, the church has endured and steadfastly maintained its unity mainly because of the fervent spiritual leaders, teaching of its scholars, ministry of clergy and the devotion of the laity.
02. History reminds us that, despite of its long history of preserved and protected faith, unity and canon, the church was tempted and challenged by external and internal heretical forces whose attempts were foiled every time by the followers of the church who have strong convictions and firm belief in orthodox faith.
03. It is timely to refer to the teaching of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who said "He who is not with me is against me, he who does not gather with me scatters (Math ch 12:30). This statement has direct reference to those people who betray the teaching of the church; consciously and constantly engaged in conspiracy to separate the church from its beloved faithful and the faithful from their beloved church through presumptuous attempt to reject the Holy Synod of the apostles, the faith of our fathers, canon and order of the church.
04. It is further stressed by the word of God that "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 40(41:9)). This statement has a direct bearing on those whom the church has educated, appointed, promoted, and brought up with its blessing and care.
Unfortunately at the time when such people have been bestowed upon functions and responsibilities, they declined and retreated to shoulder the challenges and had to flee to foreign lands without any provocation or acts of instigations by the church. Whilst the church did not place any infliction or harm on to them, the traitors lifted their heels upon the church.
05. Cognizant of the misdeeds and evil acts of the traitors, the church was fully aware that the evil acts of the traitors could cause condemnation by the Apostolic Synod, but availed itself for sufficient amount of tolerance with the assumptions that such people could repent with respect to their wicked deeds and that they could refrain from further acts of transgression.



However, the traitors advanced their heretical acts directed against the church; and the Holy Synod.

The acts of transgression were carefully reviewed, assessed and a measure of intervention was found to be a logical step.

06. Based on its Apostolic Authority vested upon it by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Synod removed their Episcopal authority and titles of ordination of the following individuals in order to protect the church and its doctrine

1. Abba Zena Marcos
2. Abba Elias
3. Abba Melke Tsedek

The decision was taken based on the Apostolic Canon (RSTB II, Clement Book 2) which states. "A Bishop must not leave his see and diocese and go to another diocese.....".

In addition, Nicea 24 underlines "If a bishop goes on a journey and leaves his see, shall not be absent himself for more than six months. If he exceeds this period unnecessarily and without permission of the Patriarch, and celebrates the feast of Easter in a see other than his own, shall be suspended from his priestly ranks".

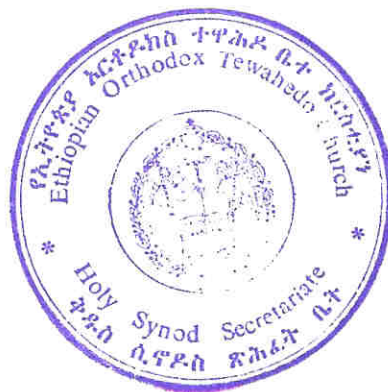
Governed by the above synodical rule, the Apostolic Synod has denied the consecration and removed the bishopric names and titles of the individuals earlier effective September 7/1992.

07. In effect, according to canon law, the individuals in question, shall not perform any kind of ordination, any attempt to do so shall not be accepted by the canon law of the church.

08. Upon an official request of resignation tabled by the former 4th Patriarch, Abba Merkorios, the Holy Synod considered the reason and content of the resignation which emphasized that:

- a. Abba Merkorios was physically sick, and
- b. The day today administrative work of the church should not be affected.

To this effect, Abba Merkorios's submitted resignation was fully accepted by the Holy Synod. In order to allow the former 4th Patriarch to live in an environment of spiritual life according to the canon law, all required and necessary arrangements were made for him to live in Entoto Kidane Meheret Monastery with making available all logistic supplies including vehicles.



09. However, contrary to this gesture of positive outlook by the church, Abba Merkorios acted against (ignoring) the Spiritual Law Article 5:138 that underlines "If you are separate from the herd (faithful) you are their enemy, the enemy of God too, and you destroy the sheep (faithful) that the Lord protects". Abba Merkorios separated himself from the faithful without any reason, betrayed the Church and the country. He could not positively respond to the efforts of healing and reconciliation.

In addition knowing that he is no longer a Patriarch since the time of his resignation, he allied himself with people whose consecration and name of bishopry has been disavowed by the canon of the Church and decided to establish a false Synod to mislead the faithful.

10. The Holy Synod tolerated him long enough with the anticipation that his repentance and confession could come forth. He rejected the call for peace and unity of the Church offered to him repeatedly.

At last, he came to the extent of violating the canon of the Holy Synod and the Church and illegally consecrated 13 Bishops in January 21st 2007 in North America / Washington DC, in January 28th 2007 in Canada.

11. The illegal consecration of the Bishops in the absence of a single official Bishop is against the teaching of the Holy Apostles (DESQ 34) which says "we command you that bishops should be consecrated by three bishops, in case of necessity by two Bishops but never shall be by one bishop only. According to the Apostolic testimony Constitution (Rsta 58, Clement Book 1), if he who imposed his hands on him was one Bishop only, a distinction must be made and let him be rejected, lose his title and rank". Against this principle he has consecrated bishops illegally in the absence of a single official Bishop.

12. He has performed ordination violating the Apostolic Constitution (Rsta 34) that says – "If a Bishop ordains a priest outside the Jurisdiction of his see without the consent of the holder of the see, he shall be deposed".

In addition, he has violated the canon of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Synod, Article 16, and Sub Article 1. 2 and 3 which says – "A Patriarch removed from his position and made to live in Monastery shall abide by the canon law. If he refuses, he will be subjected to condemnation and excommunication."

The destructive and the treacherous action of Abba Merkorios and his illegal followers to fracture the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo church dogmatic structure is not limited to the act of consecration but to detach



the church from the people and has tried to divorce the Ethiopian faithful from the Mother of God Holy Virgin Mary (Theotocos) and lead them to the barn of anti St. Mary, by prohibiting reading praises of St. Mary, reading of the Miracles of St. Mary, praying hymns of praises and veneration of her Icons, the Apostles creed and also not to fully use the whole eleven (11) Anaphoras from liturgical books, not to practice the hymns of St. Yared.

They conduct liturgical services without the Arc of the Covenant. To this effect they have defied the glory of St. Mary and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

13. The Holy Synod led by the Holy Spirit found the growth of such treacherous and heretic activity as intolerable. Therefore, as the Apostle John taught us in his first letter ch 2:18–19, “Children, it is the last time and as you have heard that anti-Christ shall come, even now are there many anti-Christ’s where by we know that it is the last time. They went out from us but not from us but they were not of us; for they had been of us they would not doubt have continued with us, but they went out that it might be plain that they all are not of us”.
14. In order to urge all followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church living at home and abroad and enable them to understand and identify these people who went out from us, but not with us, the Holy Synod has passed the following statement of Anathema.

Statement of Anathema

15. Knowing that he has no power (mandate) of a patriarch after abdicating his position, Abba Merkorios allied himself with the following accomplices who were earlier condemned by the Holy Synod.
 1. Abba Habte Mariam Workneh
 2. Abba Zena Begosew
 3. Abba Gebre Egziabher Tsegaye
 4. Abba Haile Eyesus Kebede
16. To this effect, he has consecrated Bishops without any authority given to him. Consequently he lied to the Holy Spirit. Deliberately attempted to split the unity and integrity of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church that endured to survive for 2000 (two thousand) years. He further established illegal Synod to deceive all the Christians living in USA and other countries by promoting and advancing teaching of betrayal and heresy. Because of all this, the Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church has condemned and excommunicated Abba Merkoriaos with the removal of the following entitlements:



- a. Ordination and patriarchal name shall no longer be valid. The name of Merkorios has been removed by the decision of the Holy Synod, and he shall be called, Abba Zelibanos Fanta, as of the day this resolution was issued.
 - b. He is anathematized and excommunicated by the Holy Synod and shall not receive or give any services of the church during his lifetime and in time of death.
17. With respect to Bishops ordained by illegal meetings of the heretics, it is to be reckoned that their ordination is a result of betraying and abandoning their church; the criteria for higher ecclesiastical rank are not met and therefore such ordained people do not qualify for higher ecclesiastical rank of the church as they are subjected to criticism and disgraceful practices. Their ordination was performed by people who do not have the authority and who are determined to become Anti Apostolic Synod and the canon of the church. This is unusual happening in any Orthodox Church. Therefore, the illegal ordination of Bishops is condemned by the Holy Synod
18. Effective from the time the decision has passed, their ordination from the rank of deacon to priesthood is rejected and condemned by the Holy Synod. Our Church has condemned and excommunicated them, and they shall not deserve any service around the Church's spiritual and social services in life and death.
19. As they have distorted the Mystery of the Trinity as accepted by the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, denied the divine person of the Holy spirit which is co equal to the father and son as well as published heretical books on veneration and glory of the Virgin Mary and have been earlier condemned for their betrayal and lost validity of their ordination, are the following:
1. Abba Habetmariam Workneh
 2. Abba Zena Begosew
 3. Abba Gebre Egziabher Tsegaye
 4. Abba Haile Eyesus Kebede are again condemned for performing illegal ordination with out having the mandate and for being found anti-orthodox theology and anti St. Mary. In addition, the Holy Synod has condemned and excommunicated them not to give and receive any spiritual service in time of death and in lifetime.

To All the Faithful at Home and Abroad

As the Apostle, St. John in his 2nd epistle 9 – 11 stated..... “any one who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ..... If any comes to you



and does not have this doctrine do not receive him into the house or give any greetings; for he who greets him shares his wicked work". Cooperating with such people is sharing their evil deeds.

Adhere to the teaching of the Apostles without any association with the heretics.

Servants of the ancient, apostolic, historical and national Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

- Archbishops,
- Bishops,
- Episcopous
- Chore-episcopous (Komos)
- Priests,
- Deacons and Singers and
- The faithful (laity) both at home and all over the world;

We send this message of caution:-

- Do not listen to the word of anti St. Mary heretics of our epoch, led by Abba Zelibanos Fanta,
- Do not accept their teachings,
- Do not follow their uncanonical order,
- Do not receive ordination from them,
- Do not participate with them during performances of the Sacraments,
- Do not receive them into your house,
- Do not eat with them,

The meeting of the Holy Synod of the Mother Church has condemned them as epitomized by this statement of anathema.

February 2/ 2007
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

