

The Grenada United Labour Party Constitution

Name And Introductions Synopsis of Party History 1950 - 1987

1. The name of the organisation shall be the Grenada United Labour Party. This party was organized in 1950 and was, in fact the first political party to be formed in Grenada In 1951; in the first General Elections held under adult franchise the party captured 6 out of 8 seats in the legislative council. All other candidates 'who contested that election did so as Independent Candidates. Despite this achievement however, the party had no control of government, because the Governor, the King's Representative under a Crown Colony Constitution was empowered to appoint three persons representing various interests, and three officials into the legislative council. These were known as nominated members, and were ex officio members of the legislature. Mr. Eric Matthew Gairy, Founder, President and Political Leader of the Organisation, was elected member of the Executive and Legislative Councils for that year under the Colonial System.

Article I

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Grenada United Labour Party are:

- (1) To recognise and acknowledge the universality and supremacy of God, and to assist our fellow beings as far as is possible, in the thrust to identify a concept of God.
- (2) To recognise and accept, without distinction, the equality of every man regardless of his social standing or employment.
- (3) To maintain the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, for all time, unless the people, by national referendum, direct otherwise.
- (4) To promote and maintain the rule of law and the democratic way of life in the State of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique.
- (5) To secure and extend the liberties, and to develop the national life and prosperity of the people as a whole, by all constitutional means.
- (6) To work for and promote the political, economic, social and cultural progress of the State as a whole, 'in accordance with the fundamental aims of the party.'
- (7) To continue the Organisation of all segments of the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, with a view to establish, and maintain national stability; to enhance progressively, the economic growth of our nation; to continue the development of the educational, social and industrial systems and other services necessary for the growth of the society; and to provide equality of opportunity for all, and stabilization of a just society.

(8) To foster economic and cultural intercourse among the Caribbean States, and to promote political stability, economic development and social well being and, in this way, partial or total integration of Caribbean States.

(9) To espouse the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, and work toward its implementation world wide.

Article 2

MEMBERSHIP

(1) All Grenadian nationals and residents, who have attained the age of eighteen (18) Years are eligible for membership, provided that such of persons:

(a) Accept the motto, the objectives, principles, Policies and programmes of the party, and pledge to work for their achievement

(b) Agree to abide by this Constitution, the high standards of decorum established by the party and maintained over all the years; and by decisions taken by the party

© Are not members of any other political party, or any other organization whose principles, policies or programmes conflict or are inconsistent with those of the party

MEMBERSHIP ROLE

(2) The Executive Council shall cause the name of every person admitted as a member shall do so by written application addressed to their Constituency Branch Secretary

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

(3) Persons or groups wishing to become members of the Party shall do so by written application addressed to their constituency Branch Secretary.

(4) Every Member shall, on admission to membership, pay membership fees, subscriptions and contributions as prescribed by the Party.

Article 3

1. ORGANIZATION

The organization of the party shall be:

- (a) The Executive Council
- (b) The General Council
- (c) The Constituency Branches
- (d) The Party Groups
- (e) The Party Conference

2. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(a) The Executive Council shall comprise the President, Political leader, two Vice Presidents, two Deputy Political leaders, a General Secretary, an Assistant General Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer, five Trustees, three Public Relations Officers all of whom shall be elected by the Annual Conference in accordance

with Section 6 of this Article, and no more than twelve other members, who shall be elected to the Executive Council by the General Council.

All party M.P's shall be ex officio members of the Executive Council.

(b) Functions:

(i) The Executive Council shall be responsible for initiating policies and programmes for the Party, which must all be approved by the General Council before implementation.

(ii) The Executive Council may make decisions upon all matters which it considers to be of national importance or of importance to the Party and all such decisions shall be brought to the General Council for approval.

(c) The Executive Council shall meet at least once in every week, and shall hold dialogue with Field Officers, who shall report on instructions given them the preceding week.

3- THE GENERAL COUNCIL

(a) The General Council shall comprise all members of the Executive Council and such other members as are elected by the Constituency Branches in accordance with Section 4 of this Article.

(b) Functions:

(i) The General Council shall discuss all matters of national importance and all decisions brought to it by the Executive Council for approval. In the event that any decision taken by the Executive Council is not approved by the General Council, a decision on such matter shall be postponed for one month, at the expiration of which such matter shall again be discussed by the members of the General Council

(ii) The General Council may discuss any matter which it considers to be of national importance or of importance to the Party.

(c) The General Council shall meet once a month.

4- THE CONSTITUENCY BRANCHES

(a) There shall be a Constituency Branch in each constituency.

(b) Each Constituency Branch shall comprise a Constituency Chairman a Constituency Secretary, a Constituency Treasurer, and general members of the branch, all of whom shall be members of the party who resides within the Constituency.

(c) 'The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of each Constituency Branch shall be elected by the members of such Branch who shall also elect seven (7) other Persons to be members of the General Council.'

(d) The Constituency Branches shall elect delegates to the Annual Conference.

The Constituency Branches shall meet once a month to discuss matters pertaining to the Constituency and the Party.

5. THE PARTY GROUPS

(a) Party Groups shall be formed in the various villages-Each Party Group shall have a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

(b) Functions:

The party Groups shall be responsible for:

- (i) Fund-raising
- (ii) Community development efforts
- (iii) Promoting the party and its objectives among villagers.

6. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference shall comprise the Executive Council and all delegates elected by the Constituency Branches.

The General Secretary shall call for nomination and election of a Conference Chairman who, in turn, shall declare the Conference officially open, and call for nomination and election of the following officers: a President, two Vice Presidents, a Political Leader, two Deputy Political Leaders, a General Secretary, an Assistant General Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a recording Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, five Trustees, three Public Relations Officers.

Should any of the officers so elected, other than. the President, Vice Presidents, Political Leader and Deputy Political Leaders, be unable for any reason to fulfill the obligations of his post, the Executive Council shall appoint a member of the General Council to fulfill those duties. Any such appointment shall be brought to the General Council for approval.

An agenda of the business of the Conference shall be supplied to each delegate and shall be adhered to until its completion unless a motion to suspend the Standing Orders be made and carried by the majority of those present.

The ruling of the Chairman on all matters shall be strictly obeyed.

A majority of the members present may suspend and exclude from the' meeting any member who is insubordinate or who conducts himself improperly. A member so dealt with may be re-instated on tendering an apology acceptable to the Conference.

7. TRUSTEE

The Executive Council Shall appoint not less than five or more than seven Trustees drawn from the Executive and General Councils, and whom shall hold offices until death, resignation or removal from office by the Executive Council. The property of the party, including cash, shall be vested in the trustees who shall deal with the same as directed by the Executive Council.

8 DISCIPLINE

The Executive Council shall cause to be investigated by the Disciplinary Committee, any report of misconduct by any member of the Executive or General Councils which appears to be in contradiction with or contrary with or contrary to the party's Constitution, Motto, or the general Code of Conduct established by the G.U.L.P.

The Disciplinary Committee shall, report its findings to the Executive Committee; and if after investigation, in which a member is given an opportunity to defend himself, the member is found by the Executive Council to be guilty of misconduct, the Executive Council may impose a penalty of a suspension or fine or both or may decide to expel such member from the Executive or General Council as the case may be.

Any decision taken by the Executive Council on any disciplinary matter as herein provided, shall be effective only upon approval by a two thirds majority of the General Council

9. PRESIDENT'S VOTE

On the Executive Council and on all committees the President Or presiding Officer shall have a casting as well as original vote

10. ALTERATION OF RULES

The provisions of this Constitution may be amended by Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority at the Annual Conference. Notice of the proposed amendment must be given at least one month before the Annual Conference.

11. RESERVED POWERS

- (a) The Executive Council shall interpret all matters on which this constitution or the Standing Orders are silent or ambiguous.
- (b) The Executive Council may from time to time prescribe such regulations or by-rules as it thinks fit, in relation to any matters not provided for fully or at all in this Constitution.

12. VOTING

Voting, other than in election of officers at the Annual Conference shall be by show of hands. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot or, by motion moved and carried by show of hands.

13. EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

- (a) The President or, in his absence, a Vice President, shall take the Chair and shall formally open the business of the meeting, In event of absence of both President and Vice- Presidents, the members shall proceed to elect a Chairman from among themselves.

- (b) Members should rise to address the Chair, and have the privilege to speak for a maximum of five minutes on any matter. On application to the Presiding Officer, a member may be allowed a maximum of three more minutes to conclude his contribution on the matter under discussion. A member shall not speak more than once on any subject unless he is the mover of a motion put before the meeting. The Presiding Officer and the General Secretary are exempt from this rule.
- (c) Every member shall upon first obtaining the permission from the Presiding Officer, have the right to rise on a point of order to "Ask a question" or to "Answer a question"
- (d) There must be an agenda for the meeting.

14. PROCEDURE

Opening Prayer; roll call; reading, correction and confirmation of minutes; question arising out of the minutes; correspondence; Agenda; other business; adjournment; closing prayer.

15 COMMITTEES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) Functions Committee: To plan and hold functions for entertainment and for raising Party funds
- (b) Disciplinary Committee: This Committee shall comprise four members of the executive Council and three of the Chairpersons of the constituency branches. The Disciplinary shall investigate all reports and complaints of misconduct by members of the party and shall report thereon to the executive Council
- © Education and Research committee: To educate Legislators and prospective Legislators on the standing orders and other Parliamentary Procedures and to conduct research and advise the party on matters and issues
- (d) Public Relations Committee for the education of the people, to keep them informed at all times on the functions of the party, and to encourage people to join, support and promote the Grenada United Labour Party; and at the same time to defend the Party against adverse criticism, to enhance the good name of the party and to ensure its continued growth
- (e) One third of the member of a committee must be present in order to proceed with a meeting of such committee

16. CANDIDATES

All candidates for election to parliament shall be selected by:

- (a) the President of the Party
- (b) the Executive Council
- (c) the General Council and
- (d) the Constituency Branches