UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY
CONSTITUTION

Article I. NAME

The name of the organisation shall be The United Progressive Party (the Party).

Article II. PRINCIPLES

Section 2.01 The members of the Party shall hold steadfast to the following principles:

(a) All political authority comes from the people of Barbados through the conduct of elections and through the participation of people in activities geared towards participating fully in their democracy.

(b) The people of Barbados through all institutions both private and public shall recognise and encourage the freedom of the individual to be creative and innovative with the power to utilise their talents to the fullest extent possible for the benefit of Barbados and their fellow human beings.

(c) The people of Barbados shall enjoy health, knowledge, wealth and environmental sustainability.

(d) All of the resources and assets of Barbados belong to the people of Barbados and shall be managed and dispersed to the benefit of all Barbadians including future generations.

(e) Recognising Barbados’ smallness in size Barbados shall leverage its smallness to achieve quick and lasting positive results in all areas of endeavour while at the same time seeking to ensure that global initiatives do not compromise its continuous improvement.

(f) As the world becomes more reliant on technology, businesses become more competitive and regulatory obligations become more onerous Barbados must be leaders in technology application to improve efficiencies in every sector.

(g) All people shall have equal access to all social, economic, cultural, political and legal resources regardless of social position in order to participate fully in their country.

(h) All people are entitled to respect, dignity and the opportunity to work and to own businesses.

(i) All fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution are applicable to all people regardless of race, colour, religion, gender, marital status, age, political affiliation or disability.

(j) Barbados has an important role to play within the international family of nations and shall seek to share its talents and resources to contribute to the advancement of the world community.

Article III. PURPOSE

Section 3.01 The purpose of this Party shall be to:

(a) Ensure that competent individuals are elected to the Parliament of Barbados through free and fair elections in order to continue the advancement of the people of Barbados.

(b) Contribute to the continuous advancement of the people of Barbados through participating in the democratic process through advocacy, engaging in projects and in constituency elections in Barbados.

(c) Encourage the people of Barbados to participate in the democratic process.

(d) Educate the public so that they participate more effectively in the democratic process.

Article IV. TECHNOLOGY

Section 4.01 The Party shall leverage technology in order to achieve the following:

(a) Serve the people of Barbados most effectively.

(b) Conserve resources within the Party.

(c) Engage in environmental best practices.

(d) Ensure greater efficiency in the delivery of services internally and externally.
Article V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 5.01 Membership in the Party shall be open to any person resident in Barbados or any person of Barbadian descent living abroad who is over sixteen years of age interested in pursuing its objectives.

Section 5.02 Membership shall be for life subject to the provisions concerning the disciplining of members.

Section 5.03 A member shall be considered in good standing with the Party as long as that member fulfills the following criteria:

(a) Pays membership dues annually;
(b) Conducts himself or herself in a manner which upholds the integrity of the Party; and
(c) Participates in the activities of the Party.

Section 5.04 Members in good standing are entitled to:

(a) Vote at the Annual Congress of the Party;
(b) Entitled to discounts when attending workshops; and
(c) Eligibility for leadership positions in the Party.

Section 5.05 Failure to meet the requirements of section 5.03 may result in the revocation of the privileges of the member set out in the Constitution and the member may find himself or herself subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Section 5.06 A member may become subject to disciplinary proceedings for:

(a) Divulging information which is sensitive to any unauthorised person;
(b) Engaging in activities which are inimical to the best interests of the Party; and
(c) Speaking on behalf of the Party without the appropriate authorisation.

Section 5.07 There shall be a disciplinary hearing upon the complaint of one member against another:

(a) The disciplinary committee shall comprise:
(i) The Vice-Chairman
(ii) The President of the Branch to which the member belongs; and
(iii) Three additional members as determined at the Annual Congress of the Party.
(b) The member making the complaint must set out the complaint in writing;
(c) The complaint shall be delivered to the member, advising the member of the complaint and inviting the member to a meeting accompanied by another member if he or she so chooses;
(d) The member shall be given 14 days notice of the meeting unless the matter is considered so urgent that a shorter period is required;
(e) Both the member and the complaining party may call witnesses;
(a) The disciplinary committee shall provide the member with rules concerning the conduct of the meeting prior to the convening of the meeting; and
(f) The proceedings shall follow the principles of natural justice.

(g) The Member may appeal within 21 days of the decision to an Appeals Panel, chaired by the Chairman and two other members, who have not participated in any of the proceedings previously, where one member is chosen by the Complainant and the other by the Member responding.

Article VI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 6.01 The Executive Council of the Party shall consist of the following elected officials:

(a) Chairperson
(b) 1st Deputy Chairperson
(c) 2nd Deputy Chairperson
(d) Treasurer
(e) 1st Assistant Treasurer
(f) 2nd Assistant Treasurer
(g) Secretary
(h) 1st Assistant Secretary
(i) 2nd Assistant Secretary
(j) Public Relations Officer

Section 6.02 The elected officials may appoint the following persons:

(a) Historian
(b) Chairs of Committee
(c) Chief Executive Officer

Section 6.03 The Chairman shall preside at all the meetings of the Executive Council. If the Chairman is not available then the 1st Deputy Chairman shall preside, then the 2nd Deputy Chairman in his absence. Where none is available the members present shall elect a chairman from amongst themselves.

Article VII. ELECTIONS

Section 7.01 The Executive Council of the Party shall be elected at the Annual Congress of the Party:

(a) The date of the Annual Congress of the Party (ACP) shall be announced not less than 45 days before the ACP.

(b) Nominations may be submitted by any member of the Party in writing to the Secretary of the Party and must be submitted 15 days before the ACP.

(c) The member nominated must accept the nomination in writing.

(d) Any person considering an elected office should become familiar with the position.

(e) Any person nominated must be in good standing with the Party.

Section 7.02 Election of Officers shall be held during the last week of February as determined by the Executive Council.

Section 7.03 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

Section 7.04 Candidates may appoint two election officials to represent their interests during the ballot.

Section 7.05 An Election Facilitator and any individuals necessary to assist with the elections shall be appointed by the Executive Council.

Article VIII. ORGANISATION

Section 8.01 The Party Organisation shall consist of:

(a) The Annual Congress which shall be the Supreme governing body of the Party.
(b) Executive Council
(c) General Council
(d) Parliamentary Caucus
(e) Constituency Branches
(f) Education Council
Article IX. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 9.01 The Executive Council shall meet as necessary to develop a strategy for facilitating the work of all organisations of the Party.

Article X. GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 10.01 The General Council shall comprise the following:

(a) The members of the Executive Council.
(b) A representative of each Constituency Branch.
(c) The Chairman of each Party organisation committee.

Section 10.02 The duties of the General Council are to develop and oversee the implementation of the strategy of the Party:

(a) The Council shall meet at least six times per year.
(b) The Council shall review policy papers and approve them for the Party Platform.
(c) Support and review the operations of all the organisations within the structure of the Party.
(d) Approve membership of the Party.
(e) Accept requests by Constituency Candidates to make presentations before it.

Article XI. CONSTITUENCY BRANCHES

Section 11.01 No one shall be a member of more than one Constituency Branch.

Section 11.02 Subject to this Constitution each Constituency Branch shall have control of its own affairs but all resolutions or statement of policy shall be submitted to the General Council for endorsement before publication.

Section 11.03 The Constituency Branches shall pay a quarterly levy to the Party as determined by the General Council.

Section 11.04 The following shall be the Branch Objectives:

(a) Debate policy and participate in party policy development through the Policy Committees.
(b) Become involved in community issues.
(c) Campaign in general elections.
(d) Recruit members and supporters.
(e) Raise funds for the Party.
(f) Engage in social and other activities which are conducive to building a strong and effective branch and campaign where appropriate.

Section 11.05 The Branch shall elect the following officers:

(a) Chairperson
(b) Vice-Chairperson
(c) Secretary
(d) Treasurer
(e) Public Relations Officer
(f) Community Liaison
(g) Policy and Education Officer
Section 11.06 The Branch shall hold meetings in pursuit of the Party objectives.

Section 11.07 The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings. If the Chairperson is not present then the Vice-Chairperson shall preside. If neither the Chairperson nor Vice-Chairperson is present then those present may elect a person from among their membership.

Section 11.08 Branches shall hold a minimum of four formal meetings per year (1) The Annual General Meeting of the Branch (2) Two Special Meetings on Policy (3) A Special Meeting to elect persons to attend the Annual Congress.

Section 11.09 Each Branch shall develop its strategies and goals and report on them to the General Council.

**Article XII. POLICY COMMITTEES**

Section 12.01 The Policy Council shall establish not more than 10 policy committees comprising of not less than five individuals.

Section 12.02 The policy committees shall include committees for men’s issues, youth issues and women’s issues.

Section 12.03 The role of the policy committees is to be the working body actively developing policy for the party’s party platform including policy papers for the Annual Congress.

Section 12.04 Policy Committees must meet with stakeholders both inside and outside the party in order to develop comprehensive policies for Barbados.

Section 12.05 Policy Committees shall elect their own Chairperson and Secretary and shall meet at least four times per year.

Section 12.07 The Committees shall report to the General Council periodically and on the completion of policy proposals.

Section 12.08 Submissions to the General Council for the purpose of the Annual Congress must be made by October of the previous year.

Section 12.09 The Policy Committees shall seek to ensure that all policy committees adequately represent Barbadian society especially those groups which might be underrepresented.

**Article XIII. EDUCATION COUNCIL**

Section 13.01 The Committee shall be responsible for organising Education meetings and workshops in the following areas:

(a) Government and Politics

(b) Social Responsibility

(c) Managing Organisations

(d) Research and Writing

(e) Business and Finance

(f) Personal Finance

**Article XIV. ANNUAL CONGRESS**

Section 14.01 The General Council shall convene an Annual Congress and appoint an Organising Committee in order to facilitate the Congress:

(a) Each Constituency Branch attending the Congress shall be responsible for the expenses of its delegates.

(b) Child care facilities shall be provided for those attending the ACP.

(c) Each Annual Conference shall set aside time to consider amendments to the Constitution.

Section 14.02 The members of the Executive Council shall be elected at the ACP.

Section 14.03 The Policy Platform of the ACP shall be dealt with in the following manner:

(a) The General Council shall notify Constituency Branches and Policy Committees concerning submissions to the Annual Congress.

(b) All proposals shall be received by the Organising Committee of the Congress by October before the Congress and such proposals shall contain the appropriate supporting documentation where possible.
(c) All proposals shall be circulated to the Constituency Branches at least one month before the ACP.

**Article XV. DUES & TREASURY**

Section 15.01 The members of the Party shall provide funding to the Party through:

(a) Payment of dues as set by the Annual Congress.

(b) Donations to the Party.

(c) Engaging in fund raising activities.

(d) Investing of the funds of the Party.

**Article XVI. SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES**

Section 16.01 Any bona fide fully paid up member of the Party may be a candidate for the Party.

Section 16.02 The Executive Council at a time to be determined by them shall call for Candidates by circular for each of the Constituencies.

Section 16.03 The closing date for nominations shall not be less than two months from the date of issuing the circular except in the case of a by-election in which the notice may be shorter be must be in keeping with the rules of natural justice which would allow for the equal participation of all members.

Section 16.04 The strategic selection criteria for the choice of candidates shall be determined by the Executive Council in consultation with the Parliamentary Caucus.

Section 16.05 Every Candidate interested in being a Candidate of the Party must make a presentation to the General Council.

**Article XVII. THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS**

Section 17.01 The Parliamentary Caucus shall consist of those members of the Party who have gained seats in the lower chamber or who have been appointed to the Upper House.

Section 17.02 The policy platform of the Party must be adhered to by the members of the Parliamentary Caucus.

Section 17.03 The Parliamentary Caucus shall pay a quarterly levy to the Party as determined by the Executive Council.

Section 17.04 Within two days of the confirmation of the results of the General Election the Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the Parliamentary Caucus and the members of the Parliamentary Caucus shall vote for a leader who shall become the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition or Leader of the Party in Parliament within the Lower House.

Section 17.05 In addition to the foregoing the Parliamentary Caucus shall vote for a leader of Business in the Upper House of Parliament.

Section 17.06 The elections must be conducted by secret ballot.

**Article XVIII. BOOKS & RECORDS**

Section 18.01 The Party shall seek to archive all important documentation as a part of its own historical record and that of Barbados.

Section 18.02 All organisations of the Party are under an obligation to keep proper financial records.

Section 18.03 The Party may appoint an auditor when necessary.

Section 18.04 All organisations of the Party are under an obligation to keep proper records of meetings, policy papers.

**Article XIX. DISPUTES PROCEDURE**

Section 19.01 Any dispute within the Party shall be referred to the General Council for resolution. A dispute may be referred to the General Council by any Member. When a dispute is referred to the General Council it shall:

(a) Appoint a member of the General Council to act as conciliator in the matter in order to amicably settle the dispute,

(b) If the conciliator reports that the dispute has not been resolved then it shall appoint a three person Disputes Panel in order to hear the disputing parties and to make a determination regarding the dispute.

(c) The Disputes Panel shall establish its own procedure which must be circulated to the disputing parties before the first meeting.
(d) The disputing parties must submit and written material or submissions to the Disputes Committee before the hearing.

(e) The General Council shall rule on the dispute after hearing the recommendations of the Disputes Committee.

(f) The decision of the General Council is final.

**Article XX. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

Section 20.01 Forms of discipline available under the Constitution are:

(a) Censure.

(b) Prohibition from holding or seeking candidacy,

(c) Prohibition from seeking or holding office;

(d) Suspension from membership; and

(e) Expulsion from the Party.

Section 20.02 Any of these measures may be applied for a specific period of time.

Section 20.03 The General Council is the only body which may discipline a Member of the Party.

Section 20.04 In all cases the principles of natural justice must apply.

Section 20.05 Disciplinary action may be pursued against any member for

(a) Contravention of any of the principles, rules and policies of the party as contained in the Constitution.

(b) Bringing the Party into disrepute.

(c) Standing against a Candidate of the Party.

(d) Publicly campaigning against an official candidate of the Party.

**Article XXI. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

Section 21.01 Any amendments to the Constitution must be made with the approval of members at the Annual Congress.

Section 21.02 Any amendments proposed must be circulated by the Organising Committee of the Annual Congress at least four months before the convening of the Annual Congress.

**Article XXII. DISSOLUTION**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the organisation there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the organisation but shall be distributed in connection with some charitable purpose in keeping with the Charities Act Cap. 243 of the Laws of Barbados or some entity which has similar objectives as this organisation.

This Constitution was adopted as the Constitution of the United Progressive Party on the 29th day of January 2017.