

State Council Religious Affairs Regulations & XUAR Religious Affairs Regulations: A Side-By-Side Comparison

State Council Religious Affairs Regulations 2017	XUAR Religious Affairs Regulations 2024	Highlights or notable differences, comments, analysis by Dui Hua
Chapter I: General Provisions		
<p>Article 1: These Regulations are formulated in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws so as to ensure citizens' freedom of religious belief, maintain harmony among and between religions, maintain social harmony, regulate the administration of religious affairs, and increase the level of [legalization] in work on religion.</p>	<p>Article 1: These Regulations are formulated in accordance with the Constitution, the State Council's Religious Affairs Regulations, and relevant laws and regulations, and in consideration of actual circumstances in the autonomous region, so as to ensure citizens' freedom of religious belief, maintain religious harmony, maintain social harmony, regulate the administration of religious affairs, and increase the level of legalization in work on religion.</p>	<p>XJ regulations are made with “consideration of actual circumstances in the autonomous region.”</p>
<p>Article 2: Citizens have the freedom of religious belief.</p> <p>No organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in any religion (hereinafter referred to as religious citizens) or citizens who do not believe in any religion (hereinafter referred to as non-religious citizens).</p> <p>Religious citizens and non-religious citizens shall respect each other and co-exist in harmony, and so shall citizens who believe in different religions.</p>	<p>Article 2: These regulations apply to religious affairs and related activities within the administrative area of the autonomous region.</p> <p>Article 3: Citizens enjoy the freedom of religious belief.</p> <p>No organization or individual may induce or force citizens to believe in a religion or not to believe in a religion, and may not discriminate against citizens who believe in a religion (hereinafter referred to as religious citizens) or citizens who do not believe in a religion (hereinafter referred to as non-religious citizens).</p> <p>Religious citizens, non-religious citizens, and citizens who believe in different religions shall treat each other equally, respect each other, and live in harmony.</p> <p>Organizations and individuals must not create conflicts and disputes between different religions, within the same religion, or between religious citizens and non-religious citizens.</p>	<p>XJ adds from SC Article 4(4):</p> <p>Organizations and individuals must not create conflicts and disputes between different religions, within the same religion, or between religious citizens and non-religious citizens.</p>
<p>Article 3: The management of religious affairs upholds the principles of protecting what is lawful, prohibiting what is unlawful, suppressing extremism, resisting infiltration, and fighting crime.</p>	<p>Article 4: The management of religious affairs upholds the principles of protecting what is lawful, prohibiting what is unlawful, suppressing extremism, resisting infiltration, and fighting crime.</p>	
<p>Article 4: The State, in accordance with the law, protects normal religious activities, actively guides religion to fit in with socialist society, and safeguards the lawful rights and interests of religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious citizens.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious citizens shall abide by the Constitution, laws, regulations and rules; practice the core socialist values; and preserve the unification of the country, ethnic unity, religious harmony and social stability.</p> <p>Religion must not be used by any individual or organization to engage in activities that endanger national security, disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or obstruct the State educational system, as well as other activities that harm State or societal public interests, or citizens' lawful rights and interests, and other such illegal activities.</p> <p>Individuals and organizations must not create contradictions and conflicts between different religions, within a single religion, or between religious and non-religious citizens; must not advocate, support, or fund religious extremism; and must not use religion to undermine ethnic unity, divide the nation or carry out terrorist activities.</p>	<p>Article 5: The autonomous region is to protect normal religious activities in accordance with law, actively guide religions to adapt to socialist society, and protect the lawful rights and interests of religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, religious professionals, and religious citizens.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, religious professionals, and religious citizens shall obey the constitution, laws, regulations, and rules, practice the Core Socialist Values, adhere to our nation's orientation towards the Sinification of religion, and safeguard national unity, ethnic unity, religious harmony, and social stability.</p> <p>Religion must not be used by any individual or organization to carry out activities that split the nation, spread religious extremist ideas, incite ethnic hatred, carry out violent terrorism, undermine ethnic unity, disrupt social order, or harm citizens' physical and mental health; religion may not be used to hinder state administration, justice, education, culture, marriage, family planning, inheritance, and other systems; and religion must not be used to carry out other activities that endanger national security and interests, the societal public interest and the lawful rights and interests of citizens.</p>	<p>XJ Article 5(3) rephrases and expands from SC version Article 4(3):</p> <p>It specifies ESS crimes, brings “splittism” closer to the beginning of the document, and adds other specifics: extremism, ethnic hatred, and terrorism. It also includes administrative laws and regulations, such as those relating to culture, marriage, family planning, etc.</p> <p>Religion must not be used by any individual or organization to carry out activities that split the nation, spread religious extremist ideas, incite ethnic hatred, carry out violent terrorism, undermine ethnic unity, disrupt social order, or harm citizens' physical and mental health; religion may not be used to hinder state administration, justice, education, culture, marriage, family planning, inheritance, and other systems; and religion must not be used to carry out other activities that endanger national security and interests, the societal public interest, and the lawful rights and interests of citizens.</p>
<p>Article 5: All religions shall adhere to the principle of independence and self-governance; religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites and religious affairs are not to be controlled by foreign forces.</p> <p>Religious bodies, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professionals are to develop external exchange on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and friendship; other organizations or individuals must not accept any religious conditions in external cooperation or exchange in economic, cultural, or other fields.</p>	<p>Article 6: Each religion is to adhere to the principles of independence and self-management; religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious affairs are not to be subject to interference or control by foreign forces.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professions carrying out friendly exchanges or religious cultural and academic exchange activities with overseas religious organizations and religious persons shall obey the relevant national laws, regulations, and rules, and proceed on the basis of equality, friendship, mutual respect, and non-interference.</p>	<p>XJ Article 6 rephrases SC Article 5: it simplifies “obey the relevant national laws, regulations, and rules” and adds “non-interference.”</p>
<p>Article 6: All levels of people's government shall strengthen work on religion, establish and complete mechanisms for work on religion, and ensure the strength of and the necessary conditions for the work.</p>	<p>Article 7: All levels of people's government shall strengthen religious work, establish and complete religious work mechanisms, ensure workforces and necessary working conditions, strengthen the management of basic-level religious affairs services,</p>	<p>XJ Article 7 adds “strengthen the management of basic level religious affairs services.”</p> <p>It adds obligations for local authorities to report illegal activity:</p>

<p>The religious affairs departments of the people’s governments at the county level or above are to lawfully carry out management of religious affairs that involve State or public interests, and the other departments of the people’s governments at the county level or above are to be responsible for the management of relevant affairs within the scope of their respective functions and duties.</p> <p>People's governments at the township level shall complete efforts for the management of religious affairs within their own administrative areas. Villagers' committees and residents' committees shall lawfully assist people's governments in managing religious affairs.</p> <p>All levels of people’s governments shall hear the views of religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious citizens, and coordinate the management of religious affairs so as to provide public services to religious groups, religious schools and religious activity sites.</p>	<p>and listen to the comments of religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, religious professionals, and religious citizens to provide public services to religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites.</p> <p>The religious affairs departments of people's governments at the county level or above are to lawful conduct administrative management of religious affairs within their respective administrative regions that involve the national interests and societal public interest. Other relevant departments of people's governments at the county level or above are responsible for related administrative management efforts within the scope of their respective duties and in accordance with law.</p> <p>Township people's governments and neighborhood offices shall, under the guidance of the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government, do a good job on religious affairs management work in their respective administrative regions.</p> <p>Villagers' and residents' committees shall assist the people's government in managing religious affairs in accordance with law, and where they discover illegal religious organizations, illegal missionaries, illegal religious activities, or the use of religion to interfere in basic-level public affairs, they shall promptly report it to the local township people's government, neighborhood office, or relevant departments such as for religious affairs.</p>	<p>Villagers' and residents' committees shall assist the people's government in managing religious affairs in accordance with law, and where they discover illegal religious organizations, illegal missionaries, illegal religious activities, or the use of religion to interfere in basic-level public affairs, they shall promptly report it to the local township people's government, neighborhood office, or relevant departments such as for religious affairs.</p>
	<p>Article 8: The religious affairs department of the autonomous region people's government shall organize and promote the informatization of religious work in the autonomous region and raise the level of informatization for religious affairs management.</p>	<p>XJ Article 8 adds specific responsibilities for the XUAR religious affairs department.</p>
	<p>Article 9: The people's governments at the county level or above are to give commendations and awards to religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, religious professionals, and citizens that make notable achievements in areas such as protecting national unity, ethnic unity, religious harmony, and social stability, or containing extremism, preventing permeation, or stopping illegal religious activities.</p>	<p>XJ Article 9 adds rewards for groups or individuals who engage in certain acts, such as “containing extremism, preventing permeation, or stopping illegal religious activities.”</p>
<p>Chapter II: Religious Groups</p>		
<p>Article 7: The establishment, modification, or deregistration of a religious group shall be registered in accordance with the relevant State provisions on the management of social groups.</p> <p>The charters of religious groups shall comply with the relevant State provisions on the management of social groups.</p> <p>Activities carried out by religious groups in accordance with their charters are to be protected by law.</p>	<p>Article 10: The establishment, modification, and deregistration of religious groups is to be in accordance with the relevant state provisions on the management of social groups, and after review and approval by the religious affairs departments of people's governments at the county level or above, the registration management organ for social groups at the same level is to handle the registration in accordance with law.</p> <p>Religious groups shall formulate charters in accordance with the relevant state and autonomous region provisions on the management of social groups and the management of religious affairs, strengthen self-education, self-management, and self-discipline, and comprehensively and strictly govern religion.</p> <p>Activities carried out by religious groups in accordance with their charters are to be protected by law.</p>	
<p>Article 8: Religious groups have the following functions:</p> <p>(1) Assisting the people's governments in the implementation of laws, regulations, rules, and policies, to preserve the lawful rights and interests of religious citizens;</p> <p>(2) Guiding religious affairs, formulating a system of rules and supervising their implementation;</p> <p>(3) Engaging in religious cultural study, explaining the religious doctrines and canons, and carrying out the construction of religious ideology;</p> <p>(4) Carrying out religious education and training, cultivating religious professionals, and designating and managing religious professionals;</p>	<p>Article 11: Religious groups have the following functions:</p> <p>(1) Assisting in the implementation of laws, regulations, rules, and policies, and preserving the lawful rights and interests of religious schools, religious activity sites, religious professionals, and religious citizens;</p> <p>(2) Guiding and regulating religious affairs, formulating a system of rules, and supervising their implementation;</p> <p>(3) Engage in research on religious culture and religious texts, construct religious ideology, thoroughly uncover content in religious teachings and rules that are conducive to social harmony, modern progress, and health and civilization; and</p>	<p>XJ Article 11(3) adds to SC Article 8(3)’s stipulation on religious function:</p> <p>“...thoroughly uncover content in religious teachings and rules that are conducive to social harmony, modern progress, and health and civilization; and make interpretations of religious teachings and rules in line with contemporary China's requirements for development and improvement, and in line with the outstanding traditional Chinese culture.”</p> <p>XJ Article 11 adds (5):</p> <p>“Establish archives for religious professionals and manage them in accordance with the law”</p>

<p>(5) Such other functions as laws, regulations, rules and religious groups' articles of association provide.</p>	<p>make interpretations of religious teachings and rules in line with contemporary China's requirements for development and improvement, and in line with the outstanding traditional Chinese culture;</p> <p>(4) Carrying out religious education and training, cultivating religious professionals, and designating and managing religious professionals;</p> <p>(5) Establish archives for religious professionals and manage them in accordance with the law;</p> <p>(6) Such other functions as laws, regulations, rules, and religious groups' charters provide.</p>	
	<p>Article 12: Religious groups identifying religious professionals must obey the relevant laws, regulations and the Measures on the Identification of Religious Professionals drafted by national-level religious groups, and must not identify, appoint, designate, hire, or replace religious personnel without authorization.</p>	<p>XJ adds specifics on appointments of personnel.</p>
<p>Article 9: National religious groups and those of the provinces, autonomous regions, and directly-governed municipalities may, based on the need of their respective religions, select and receive religious students studying overseas in accordance with provisions; other organizations or individuals must not select and accept religious students studying overseas.</p>		<p>XJ omits provisions on personnel who studied abroad.</p>
<p>Article 10: Religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professionals shall abide by the rules formulated by religious groups.</p>		
<p>Chapter III: Religious Schools</p>		
<p>Article 11: Religious schools are established by national religious groups or by the religious groups of provinces, autonomous regions, and directly-governed municipalities. Other organizations or individuals must not establish religious schools.</p>	<p>Article 13(1): Religious schools are to be established by religious groups in the autonomous region. Other organizations or individuals must not establish religious schools.</p>	
<p>Article 12: The establishment of religious schools shall be by upon application of the national religious groups to the religious affairs department under the State Council, of application of the religious groups of provinces, autonomous regions, directly-governed municipalities to the departments religious affairs for the people's government of that province, autonomous region, or directly-governed municipalities. The religious affairs departments of provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality people's governments shall make a recommendation within 30 days of receiving the application; and report to the department of religious affairs under the State Council.</p> <p>The religious affairs department under the State Council shall make a decision to approve or not approve within 60 days of receiving a national religious group's application, or the report materials from the religious affairs departments of people's governments for provinces, autonomous regions, or directly-governed municipalities.</p>		
<p>Article 13: Religious schools shall meet the following conditions to be established:</p> <p>(1) Have clear training objectives, school regulations, and curriculum plans;</p> <p>(2) Have a source of students that meet the requirements for training;</p> <p>(3) Have the necessary school funding and stable sources of funds;</p> <p>(4) Have teaching sites, facilities, and equipment necessary for the pedagogic mission and teaching model;</p> <p>(5) Have a full-time responsible party for the school, qualified full-time teachers, and internal management organizations.</p> <p>(6) Have a reasonable configuration.</p>		
<p>Article 14: Religious schools established upon approval may apply to register as legal persons in accordance with relevant provisions.</p>		

<p>Article 15: Religious schools shall follow the provisions of article 12 of these regulations in handling changes of their addresses, school names, affiliations, training objectives, education systems, or school sizes, or where merging, dividing, or terminating.</p>	<p>Article 13(2): Applications to establish, modify, or terminate religious schools shall be handled in accordance with the relevant state provisions.</p>	<p>XJ omits the specific elements of SC Articles 12-15 and replaces them with the simplified XJ Article 13(2): “in accordance with relevant State provisions.”</p>
	<p>Article 14: Religious schools shall follow the path of school operations with Chinese characteristics, running the school in accordance with law, advancing educational and teaching reforms, and increasing the quality of school operations.</p>	<p>XJ adds that religious schools should have “Chinese characteristics.”</p>
	<p>Article 15: Religious schools are to perform the following duties:</p> <p>(1) Cultivating patriotic, religious reserve talent;</p> <p>(2) Correctly explaining religious doctrine;</p> <p>(3) Training active religious professionals.</p>	<p>XJ adds that religious schools should have “patriotic” responsibilities.</p>
	<p>Article 16: Religious schools shall accept the guidance, supervision, and inspections from the relevant departments of the autonomous region, the local prefecture, municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office), and establish and complete management systems and operating mechanisms, and maintain the normal order of teaching.</p>	<p>XJ adds that religious schools must accept government supervision.</p>
<p>Article 16: Religious schools are to carry out designated systems for verification of teachers' qualifications, review of titles, and giving of degrees; with specific measures separately formulated by the department of religious affairs under the State Council.</p>	<p>Article 17: Religious schools are to implement systems for teacher qualification certification, professional title review and appointments, and awarding student degrees. Specific matters are to be implemented in accordance with relevant state provisions.</p>	
<p>Article 17: Religious schools hiring foreign professional staff shall do so after the State Council religious affairs department consents, and go to the department for administration of foreign workers for their area to handle the relevant formalities.</p>		<p>XJ omits SC Article 17, as similar measures as stipulated in XJ Article 16, “in accordance with relevant state provisions” with personnel appointments, including foreign professionals.</p>
<p>Article 18: Religious groups and temples, Taoist temples, mosques, and churches (hereinafter temples and churches) carrying out religious education and training to cultivate religious professionals where the training period is 3 months or more, shall report for review and approval to the religious affairs departments of local people's governments at the districted city level or higher.</p>	<p>Article 18: Religious groups and temples, Taoist temples, mosques, and churches (hereinafter temples and churches), carrying out religious education and training to cultivate religious professionals where the training period is 3 months or more, shall report for review and approval to the religious affairs departments of local of the prefecture, municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office). The carrying out of religious education and training that lasts less than three months shall be filed with the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above.</p> <p>Outside of religious groups, religious schools, temples, and churches, other organizations and individuals must not carry out religious education and training.</p>	<p>XJ Article 18 adds a registration requirement for education or training programs less than 3 months long.</p> <p>It includes SC 41(2) prohibiting non-religious groups or individuals from providing religious education or training programs.</p>
<p>Chapter IV: Religious Activity sites</p>		
<p>Article 19: Religious activity sites include temples and churches and other fixed locations for religious activity.</p> <p>Standards for distinguishing temples and churches and other fixed sites for religious premises are to be formulated by the religious affairs departments of provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality people's governments, and reported to the religious affairs department under the State Council to be filed for the record.</p>	<p>Article 19: Religious activity sites include temples, churches, and other fixed places for religious activities.</p>	
<p>Article 20: Religious activity sites shall meet the following conditions to be established:</p> <p>(1) The purpose of their establishment is not contrary to articles 4 and 5 of this Regulation;</p> <p>(2) The local religious citizens have need to regularly conduct collective religious activities;</p> <p>(3) There are religious professionals or other personnel meeting the requirements of the religion who intend to preside over the religious activities;</p> <p>(4) Have the necessary funds from legal sources and channels;</p> <p>(5) Have a reasonable configuration meeting the requirements of urban and rural planning, and not impeding the ordinary lives and production of surrounding units and residents.</p>	<p>Article 20: Religious activity sites shall meet the following conditions to be established:</p> <p>(1) The purpose of establishment does not violate the provisions of Articles 5 and 6 of these Regulations;</p> <p>(2) The local religious citizens have need to regularly conduct collective religious activities;</p> <p>(3) There are religious professionals or other personnel meeting the requirements of the religion who intend to preside over the religious activities;</p> <p>(4) Have the necessary funds from legal sources and channels;</p> <p>(5) The arrangements are reasonable, it conforms with state land space planning requirements, and it does not hinder the normal production and life of surrounding units and residents.</p>	

<p>Article 21: In preparation for the establishment of a religious activity site, religious groups are to submit applications to the religious affairs department of the county-level people's governments for the area where the religious activity site will be. Within 30 days of religious affairs departments of county-level people's governments receiving an application; they shall report to the religious affairs department of districted cities' people's government.</p> <p>Religious affairs departments for districted city level people's governments shall, within 30 days of receiving reported materials from a county-level people's governments' religious affairs department, make a decision to approve or reject give approval or reject applications to establish other fixed religious activity sites; where the application is for the establishment of temples and churches, it shall issue verification comments and report to the religious affairs department of the provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality people's government for review and approval.</p> <p>The religious affairs department of provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality people's governments shall make a decision to approve or not approve within 30 days of receiving the report materials from the religious affairs departments of people's governments for districted cities.</p> <p>Only after an application for the establishment of a religious activity site has been approved, may preparations to build the religious activity site be handled.</p>	<p>Article 21: In preparation for the establishment of a religious activity site, religious groups are to submit applications to the religious affairs department of the county-level people's governments for the area where the religious activity site will be. Within 30 days of religious affairs departments of county-level people's governments receiving an application; they shall report to the religious affairs department of the prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office).</p> <p>Religious affairs departments prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office) shall, within 30 days of receiving reported materials from a county-level people's governments' religious affairs department, make a decision to approve or reject give approval or reject applications to establish other fixed religious activity sites; where the application is for the establishment of temples and churches, it shall issue verification comments and report to the religious affairs department of the autonomous region for review and approval.</p> <p>The religious affairs department of the autonomous region, shall make a decision on whether to within 30 days of receiving the report materials from the religious affairs departments of people's governments for the prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office).</p> <p>Only after an application for the establishment of a religious activity site has been approved, may preparations such as the planning, land use, and construction permits be handled for the religious activity site.</p>	
<p>Article 22: After religious activity sites have been approved for preparations and completed construction, they shall apply for registration with the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government for that area. Religious affairs departments of county-level people's governments shall, within 30 days of receiving an application, conduct a review of the religious activity site's management organization and regulatory system, and issue a "Religious Activity Site Registration Certificate."</p>	<p>Article 22: After the preparations for religious activity sites have been approved and the construction is completed, an application for registration shall be made to the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government, and the religious affairs department of the County Level people's government shall, within 30 days of receiving an application, conduct a review of the religious activity site's management organization and regulatory system, and issue a "Religious Activity Site Registration Certificate."</p>	
<p>Article 23: Religious activity sites meeting the requirements for legal personhood, may register as legal persons with the civil affairs departments upon the consent of an area religious group and reporting to the religious affairs department of a County Level people's government for review and consent.</p>	<p>Article 23: Religious activity sites meeting the requirements for legal personhood, are to register as legal persons with the civil affairs departments after getting the consent of the local religious group and reporting to the religious affairs department of a county-level people's government for review and consent.</p>	
<p>Article 24: Where religious activity sites terminate or modify the content of their registration, they shall handle the formalities corresponding to the cancellation or modification of registration with the original registration management organ.</p>	<p>Article 24: Where religious activity sites terminate or modify the content of their registration, they shall handle the formalities corresponding to the cancellation or modification of registration with the original registration management organ.</p>	
<p>Article 25: Religious activity sites shall establish management organizations and implement democratic management. The members of religious activity sites' management organizations are selected according to democratic consultation and are reported to that site's registration management organs to be filed for the record.</p>	<p>Article 27: Religious activity sites shall establish management organizations and implement democratic management.</p> <p>Members of religious activity site management organizations are to be selected through democratic consultation and shall be recorded with the registration and management organs.</p> <p>Members of religious activity site management organizations shall comply with discipline and laws, handle affairs fairly, and possess definite religious knowledge and management ability.</p>	<p>XJ Article 27 adds (3):</p> <p>"Members of religious activity site management organizations shall comply with discipline and laws, handle affairs fairly, and possess definite religious knowledge and management ability."</p>
<p>Article 26: Religious activity sites shall strengthen internal management, and follow relevant laws, regulations and rules to establish and complete systems for the management of personnel, finances, assets, accounting, security, fire protection, protection of relics, health and disease prevention and so forth; and will accept the guidance, supervision and inspection of relevant departments of the local people's government's.</p>		
<p>Article 27: Religious affairs departments shall conduct oversight and inspections of religious activity sites' compliance with laws, regulations, and rules; the establishment and implementation of site</p>		

<p>management systems; the modification of registration matters; as well as religious activities and activities involving foreign entities. Religious activity sites shall accept oversight and inspections from religious affairs departments.</p>		
<p>Article 28: Religious goods, crafts, and publications may be sold within religious activity sites.</p>	<p>Article 29: Religious activity sites may distribute and sell religious items, religious artwork, and religious publications.</p>	
	<p>Article 30: Any organization or individual that enters a religious activity site must obey the religious activity site's management system.</p>	<p>XJ adds Article 30 on management for religious sites.</p>
<p>Article 29: Religious activity sites shall guard against incidents that harm the religious sentiment of religious citizens, undermine ethnic unity, and influence social stability, such as the occurrence of major accidents on the premises or violation of religious taboos.</p> <p>When the incidents or matters listed in the preceding paragraph occur, religious activity sites shall immediately report them to the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government for that area.</p>	<p>Article 31: Religious activity venues shall prevent the occurrence of major accidents that cause casualties or the damage or loss of important cultural relics caused by stampedes, building collapses, floods, and fires, and violations of religious prohibitions that harm the religious sentiment of religious citizens, undermine ethnic unity, and impact social stability.</p> <p>When an accident or incident listed in the preceding paragraph occurs, the religious activity sites shall immediately report it to the religious affairs department and public security organs of the county level people's government for that area.</p>	
<p>Article 30: Religious groups, temples and churches intending to build large outdoor religious statues shall have provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality religious groups submit an application to the religious affairs department of a provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality people's governments. The religious affairs departments of provincial, autonomous region, or directly governed municipality people's governments shall make a recommendation within 30 days of receiving the application; and report to the department of religious affairs under the State Council.</p> <p>The religious affairs department under the State Council shall make a decision to approve or not approve within 60 days of receiving a report on the construction of a large outdoor religious statue.</p> <p>Organizations and individuals other than religious groups, temples and churches must not construct large outdoor religious statues.</p> <p>The construction of large outdoor religious statues outside of temple and church grounds is prohibited.</p>		<p>XJ omits SC Articles 30-32, which are provisions on religious statues.</p>
<p>Article 31: Relevant units and individuals setting up commercial service outlets, organizing displays and exhibitions, or filming movies and television, and carrying out other activities in religious activity sites, shall first obtain the consent of the religious activity sites.</p>		
<p>Article 32: All levels of local people's government shall include the establishment of religious activity sites in their land use plans and urban-rural planning, based on actual needs.</p> <p>The construction of religious activity sites and large outdoor religious statues shall conform with overall land use plans, urban-rural plans, and relevant laws and regulations such as on engineering, construction and preservation of artifacts.</p>		
<p>Article 33: Reconstruction or construction of new buildings in religious activity sites shall be done after approval by the religious affairs department of a local people's government at the county level or above, and then handling formalities such as for planning and construction.</p> <p>Expansion of religious activity sites, or rebuilding in different locations, should be handled in accordance with the procedures provided in article 21 of these Regulations.</p>	<p>Article 25: Reconstruction or construction of new buildings in religious activity sites shall be done after approval by the religious affairs department of a people's government at the county level or above, and then handling formalities such as for planning and construction.</p> <p>Where the proposed reconstruction or new construction will not impact the existing layout and functions of the religious activity site, the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government is to make a decision on approval within 20 days from the date of acceptance.</p> <p>Where the proposed reconstruction or new construction will change the existing layout and functions of the religious activity site, the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government shall put forward comments; where it is a temple or church it is to be reported to the religious affairs department of the people's government of the autonomous region after review by the to the</p>	<p>XJ Article 25 expands on SC Article 33 with specific requirements on renovation and expansion.</p>

	<p>religious affairs department of the prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office); the autonomous region people's government's religious affairs department is to make a decision on approval within 20 days from the date of receipt of the materials; where it is another fixed religious activity site, report to the religious affairs department of the prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office), which shall make a decision on approval within 20 days from the date of receipt of the materials.</p> <p>Expansion of religious activity sites, or rebuilding in different locations, should be handled in accordance with the procedures provided in article 21 of these Regulations.</p>	
	<p>Article 26: Religious activity sites that are newly built or renovated, expanded, or rebuilt shall reflect Chinese characteristics and style in areas such as their architecture, sculptures, paintings, and decorations.</p>	<p>XJ Article 26 adds requirement for including Chinese characteristics in building renovations or new architecture.</p>
<p>Article 34: Where there are religious activity sites in scenic areas, local people's governments at the county level or above shall coordinate and handle interests and relationships between the religious activity sites and scenic area management organizations, in areas such as gardens, forestry, cultural relics, tourism and so forth, to preserve the lawful rights and interests of religious activity sites, religious professionals, and religious citizens, and to protect normal religious activities.</p> <p>The planning and construction of scenic areas with religious activity sites as the primary sightseeing attraction, shall be coordinated with the style and environment of the religious activity sites.</p>	<p>Article 57: The planning and construction of tourist attractions (spots) that have religious activity sites as the main content of tourism shall solicit the comments of the religious affairs departments of the people's governments at or above the county level. Tourism businesses shall allocate a certain proportion of their ticket sales and other income to give to the religious activity site for use in the site's construction, maintenance and protection of cultural relic protection.</p> <p>When relevant departments formulate or adjust ticket prices for tourist attractions (spots) related to religious activity sites, they shall hear to the opinions of the religious affairs departments of the people's governments at or above the county level, relevant religious groups, religious activity sites, and other relevant parties.</p>	
	<p>Article 32: Religious activity sites may run businesses to support themselves in accordance with law, and their income shall be used for activities consistent with the sites' purpose.</p>	<p>XJ Article 32 permits some business activity for religious adherents to support their incomes.</p>
<p>Article 35: Where religious citizens need to regularly conduct collective religious activities, but don't possess the conditions for applying to set up religious activity sites, a representative of the religious citizens is to submit an application to the religious affairs department of the county-level people's government, and after the religious affairs department for the county-level people's government solicits the opinions of local religious groups and township-level people's governments, it may designate a temporary activity site for them.</p> <p>Under the guidance of the religious affairs departments of county-level people's governments, township-level people's governments conduct oversight of activities at temporary activity locations. After they possess the conditions for setting up religious activity sites, reviews, approvals and registration formalities for establishing religious activity sites are to be completed.</p> <p>Religious activities at temporary activity sites shall comply with the relevant provisions of these Regulations.</p>		<p>XJ omits provisions on permitting religious activities at a temporary site with approval.</p>
<p>Chapter V: Religious Professionals</p>		
<p>Article 36: Upon affirmation by a religious group and reporting to the religious affairs department of a people's government at the county level or above to be filed for the record, religious professionals may engage in professional religious activities.</p> <p>The succession of living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism is to be conducted under the guidance of Buddhist groups and in accordance with the religious rites and historical conventions, and is to be reported for approval to the religious affairs department of people's governments at the provincial level or above or to a people's government at the provincial level or above. The national Catholic religious group is to report Catholic bishops to the religious affairs department under the State Council to be filed for the record.</p>	<p>Article 33: The qualifications of religious professions shall be determined by religious groups in accordance with the relevant conditions and procedures and reported to the religious affairs department of the people's governments at the county level or above for filing. Religious professionals who have been identified and filed may, upon appointment, engage in religious affairs activities in the religious activity site where they serve.</p> <p>The inheritance and succession of living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism shall be handled in accordance with the State Council's "Regulations on Religious Affairs", "Measures for the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism" and other relevant regulations.</p>	<p>XJ Article 33 adds (4):</p> <p>"Where religious professionals hold posts across administrative regions, it is to be in accordance with relevant regulations."</p>

<p>Those that have not obtained or have lost religious professional credentials, must not engage in activity as religious professionals.</p>	<p>Those who have not obtained religious professionals' qualifications, or who have lost them, must not engage in religious teaching activities as religious professionals.</p> <p>Where religious professionals hold posts across administrative regions, it is to be in accordance with relevant regulations.</p>	
<p>Article 37: Where religious professionals serve or depart as the chief religious professionals of religious activity sites, upon consent of that religion's religious group, it is to be reported to the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above for the record.</p>	<p>Article 34: When religious professionals assume or leave a position as head of a religious activity site, the religious activity site is to report it for filing with the religious affairs department for the people's government at or above the county level, upon the consent of the corresponding local religious group.</p>	
<p>Article 38: Religious professionals presiding over religious activities, conducting religious ceremonies, sorting religious scriptures and conducting of religious and cultural research, and carrying out public interest charitable activities and other such activities, are protected by law.</p>	<p>Article 35: Religious professionals presiding over religious activities, holding religious ceremonies, sorting religious scriptures, conducting religious and cultural research, and carrying out public interest charitable activities and other such activities, are protected by law.</p>	
<p>Article 39: Religious professionals lawfully participate in social security and enjoy the corresponding rights. Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites shall handle social insurance registration for religious professionals in accordance with provisions.</p>	<p>Article 36: Religious professionals are to participate in social security and enjoy the related rights in accordance with law. Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites shall handle social insurance registration for religious professionals in accordance with provisions.</p>	
	<p>Article 37: Religious professionals shall be patriotic and law-abiding, stick to the right path, and oppose extremism.</p>	<p>XJ Article 37 adds requirements for the conduct of religious personnel.</p>
	<p>Article 38: Religious professionals must not have the following conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Making "edicts" [DH: Idhn—permission, promise], appointing religious presiding officiants, and restoring or indirectly restoring feudal privileges; (2) Accept canonization, appointments, or honorary titles from overseas organizations or individuals; (3) Accepting instruction on engaging in religious and educational activities from overseas organizations or individuals; (4) Setting up private meeting places and establishing illegal religious organizations; (5) Conducting unauthorized "living Buddha reincarnation" activities; (6) Other conduct prohibited by laws, regulations, and rules. 	<p>XJ Article 38 expands on XJ Article 37 by specifying unacceptable conduct.</p>
	<p>Article 39: Where religious professionals have any of the following circumstances, the religious group shall follow procedures to carry out deregistration and filing, withdraw their religious professional certificate, and make an announcement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Religious professional credentials are removed in accordance with laws, regulations, and rules, or the relevant provisions of the religion; (2) Religious professional credentials are voluntarily forfeit; (3) Religious professionals' credentials are lost due to other reasons. 	<p>XJ Article 39 adds provisions on how to “withdraw religious profession certificate[s].”</p>
<p>Chapter VI: Religious Activities</p>		
<p>Article 40: Collective religious activities of religious citizens shall, in general, be held at religious activity sites, be organized by religious activity sites, religious groups, or religious school organizations; and be presided over by religious professionals or other persons meeting the requirements of that religion's rules; and conducted according to religious doctrines and canons.</p>	<p>Article 40: Collective religious activities of religious citizens shall, in general, be held at religious activity sites, be organized by religious activity sites, religious groups, or religious school organizations, and be presided over by religious professionals or other persons meeting the requirements of that religion's rules, and conducted according to religious doctrines and canon.</p> <p>Religious activities shall be carried out within the scope provided by laws and regulations, and must not harm citizens' health, violate public order and good customs, or interfere with education, justice, administrative functions, and social life.</p>	<p>XJ Article 40 adds (2) stipulating that religious activities not interfere with secular life.</p>
<p>Article 41(1): Non-religious groups, non-religious schools, non-religious activity sites, or non-designated temporary activity sites must not hold</p>		<p>See XJ Article 45(3)</p>

<p>religious activities, must not accept religious donations.</p>		
<p>Article 41(2): Non-religious groups, non-religious schools, and non-religious activity sites, must not carry out religious training and must not organize citizens leaving the country to participate in religious training, meetings, activities and so forth.</p>	<p>Article 41: No organization or individual other than religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites, is allowed to give sermons, preach, perform missionary work, or related activities.</p>	
<p>Article 42(1): Where a large-scale religious activity, which crosses-provinces, autonomous regions and directly governed municipalities is held that is beyond the accommodation capacity of a religious activity site, or where a large-scale religious activity is to be held outside a religious activities site, the religious group, church or temple sponsoring the activity shall, 30 days before the activity is to be held, submit an application to the religious affairs department of the people’s government for the province, autonomous region or municipality. The religious affairs department of the people’s government for districted cities shall, within 15 days from the date of receiving an application, is to make a decision of approval or disapproval after soliciting the opinions of the public security organs for that level of people's government. Where a decision to approve is made, the approving organ is to record it with the provincial level people's government's religious affairs department.</p>	<p>Article 42: To hold large-scale religious activities, religious groups, temples, and churches are to submit an application thirty days before the planned event to the religious affairs department of the prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office) where the event is to be held. Within 15 days of receiving an application, the religious affairs department of the prefecture or municipal (regional) people's government (administrative office) is to make a decision on whether to grant approval after soliciting comments from the public security organ at the corresponding level and religious affairs department for the county-level people's government. Where a decision to approve is made, it shall be sent for filing to the religious affairs department of the autonomous region people's government within 5 days of the approval.</p>	
<p>Article 42(2): Large-scale religious activities shall, as required indicated in the written notification of approval, to proceed in accordance with religious rites and rituals, and must not violate the relevant provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of these Regulations. The sponsoring religious group or church or temple shall employ effective measures to prevent the occurrence of accidents and guarantee that large-scale religious activities are conducted safely and orderly. The township-level people’s government and the relevant departments of the local people’s government at the county level or above for the place where such large-scale religious activities are to be held shall, within the limits of their respective functions and duties, carry out the necessary management and guidance.</p>	<p>Article 43: To hold large-scale religious activities, the following conditions shall be met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The content of the activities complies with the provisions of laws, regulations, and rules, and conforms to the teachings and canon of the religion; (2) Possess the capacity and necessary conditions to organize large-scale religious activities; (3) Buildings, facilities, and sites meet safety requirements; (4) Must not seriously affect societal public order; (5) Have a complete emergency response plan, clear responsibility for safety, and complete security measures; (6) Other conditions that shall be possessed as provided by laws, regulations, and rules. 	<p>XJ Article 43 expands on SC Article 42(2) providing specific obligations on holding large-scale religious activities.</p>
<p>Article 43: The national Islamic religious group is responsible for the making of Hajj abroad by Chinese citizens who believe in Islam.</p>	<p>Article 44: Where citizens who believe in Islam go abroad for Hajj, it is to be addressed in accordance with relevant national and autonomous region regulations; and no organization or individual other than the Islamic Association of China may organize Hajj activities in any name.</p>	<p>Both versions restrict travel for the Hajj to be permitted only when organized by a national Islamic group—the Islamic Association of China.</p>
<p>Article 44: It is prohibited to proselytize, hold religious activities, establish religious organizations, or set up religious activity sites in schools or educational bodies other than religious schools.</p>		<p>XJ omits prohibiting religious activities at schools or educational bodies other than religious schools.</p>
	<p>Article 46: No organization or individual may organize, induce, or compel minors to participate in religious activities.</p>	<p>XJ Article 46 adds a provision on “minors” specific to the region.</p>
	<p>Article 47: Organizations and individuals must not promote, disseminate, or transmit religious extremist ideology, must not participate in religious extremist activities, must not use appearances, apparel, signs, symbols, and so forth to play up religious fanaticism, and may not coerce or force others to wear religious extremist clothing or wear religious extremist symbols or signs.</p> <p>Organizations and individuals must not use religious activities or the name of the religions to interfere with normal production and business activities, cultural and entertainment activities, as well as weddings, funerals, or other ethnic customs and life habits, and must not hold religious ceremonies for marriages that have not been registered in accordance with law.</p>	<p>XJ Article 47 adds a provision limiting the display of religious symbols, prohibiting extremist symbols, and religious activities in daily life.</p>
<p>Article 45(1): Religious groups, religious schools, and churches and temples may, in accordance with the relevant national provisions, compile and distribute internal religious informational publications. Religious publications for public distribution are to be handled in accordance with the relevant national provisions on the administration of publications.</p>	<p>Article 48: The publication and public distribution of religious publications are to be handled in accordance with relevant state and autonomous region provisions.</p> <p>The compilation and printing of internal religious materials publications shall be upon the review and approval of the religious affairs department of the</p>	<p>XJ Article 48 expands on SC Article 45(1), restricting internal publications published by religious groups, requiring review and approval; and prohibiting the publication of “illegal religious materials.”</p>

	<p>people's government of the autonomous region, with the autonomous region's department for the administration of press and publications handling the approval certificate, and sent within the approved scope.</p> <p>Organizations and individuals must not edit, produce, reproduce, transport, sell, distribute, transmit, or post religious publications and printed materials that are illegally published, compiled, or imported.</p>	
<p>Article 45(2): Publications involving religious content shall comply with state provisions on the management of publications, and must not contain the following content:</p> <p>(1) That which undermines the harmonious co-existence between religious and non-religious citizens;</p> <p>(2) That which undermines the harmony between different religions or within a religion;</p> <p>(3) That which discriminates against or insults religious or non-religious citizens;</p> <p>(4) That which advocate religious extremism;</p> <p>(5) That which contravenes the principle of religions' independence and self-governance.</p>	<p>Article 49: Publications involving religious content shall comply with state provisions on the management of publications, and must not contain the following content:</p> <p>(1) That which undermines national unity, social stability, economic development, and scientific and technological progress;</p> <p>(2) That which incites ethnic hatred, ethnic discrimination, and undermines ethnic unity;</p> <p>(3) That which promotes ethnic separatism, religious extremism, and violent terrorism;</p> <p>(4) That which undermines the harmonious coexistence of religious and non-religious citizens, undermines the harmony between different religions, as well as the harmony within religions;</p> <p>(5) That which discriminates against or insults religious or non-religious citizens;</p> <p>(6) That which contravenes the principle of religions' independence and self-governance;</p> <p>(7) That which endangers social morality or the excellent traditional culture of China;</p> <p>(8) Other content prohibited by laws, regulations, and state provisions.</p>	<p>XJ Article 49 expands on SC 45(2) and adds:</p> <p>(1) That which undermines national unity, social stability, economic development, and scientific and technological progress;</p> <p>(2) That which Incites ethnic hatred, ethnic discrimination, and undermines ethnic unity;</p> <p>(3) That which promotes ethnic separatism, religious extremism, and violent terrorism;</p> <p>(7) That which endangers social morality or the excellent traditional culture of China;</p> <p>(8) Other content prohibited by laws, regulations, and state provisions.</p>
	<p>Article 50: Organizations and individuals must not use digital publishing, the internet, new media, mobile phones, mobile storage media, and so forth to listen, watch, store, possess, produce, reproduce, or transmit the content provided for in Article 49 of these Regulations.</p> <p>Organizations and individuals must not illegally listen to, watch, or transmit overseas religious radio and television programs.</p>	<p>XJ Article 50 adds specific provisions on the use of the internet or other digital content;</p> <p>It prohibits the consumption of overseas religious radio and television programs.</p>
<p>Article 46: Religious publications or printed matter that exceeds personal use and reasonable quantities brought into the mainland, or otherwise imported, shall be handled in accordance with relevant state regulations.</p>		<p>XJ omits the SC provision on importing religious publications for self-use. The reason for the omission is unclear: publications may already be prohibited, or it is simply unavoidable given the unique situation in the region.</p>
<p>Article 47: Engagement in internet religious information services shall be upon the review and consent of the religious affairs department for a people's governments at the provincial level or above, and handle it in accordance with the relevant state provisions on internet information services management.</p>	<p>Article 51: Engagement in internet religious information shall be after the review and approval of the religious affairs department of the people's government of the autonomous region, and handled in accordance with the relevant state and the autonomous region provisions on the management of Internet religious information services.</p>	
<p>Article 48: Information on Internet religious information services shall comply with relevant laws, regulations, and rule' relevant provisions on the management of religious affairs.</p> <p>Internet religious information services' content must not violate the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 45 of these Regulations.</p>	<p>Article 52: The content of Internet religious information services shall comply with relevant laws, regulations, and rules, and the relevant provisions on religious affairs management.</p> <p>Internet religious information services must not contain the content listed in Article 49 of these Regulations.</p>	
<p>Chapter VII: Religious Assets</p>		<p>(Many provisions in this chapter are omitted in XJ version, such as those on accounting and asset records and management.)</p>
<p>Article 49: Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites follow laws and relevant state provisions to manage and use assets that they lawfully occupy and that are collectively owned assets belonging to the State; and enjoy ownership or other property rights with regards to other lawful assets in accordance with law.</p>	<p>Article 53: Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites are to manage and use the property in their possession that belongs to the state or is collectively owned in accordance with the law and relevant state regulations; they shall enjoy ownership or other property rights with respect to other lawful property in accordance with the law.</p>	
<p>Article 50: Religious groups', religious schools', and religious activity sites' lawful use of land; lawful ownership or use of buildings, structures, and facilities, as well as of other lawful assets and proceeds; are protected by law.</p>	<p>Article 54: The land lawfully used by religious groups, religious schools, or religious activities sites; the houses, structures and facilities lawfully owned or used them, and their other lawful assets and proceeds thereof, are protected by law.</p>	

<p>The lawful assets of a religious group’s, religious school’s or religious activities sites must not be encroached upon, plundered, privately divided, damaged, or, illegally sealed up, seized, frozen, confiscated or disposed of by any organization or individual, and cultural relics possessed or used by religious groups, religious schools, or religious activities sites must not be damaged.</p>	<p>The lawful assets of a religious groups, religious schools or religious activities sites must not be encroached upon, plundered, privately divided, damaged, or, illegally sealed up, seized, frozen, confiscated or disposed of by any organization or individual, and cultural relics possessed or used by religious groups, religious schools, or religious activities sites must not be damaged.</p>	
	<p>Article 55: Religious activity sites shall manage and protect the cultural relics located in or managed by the site in accordance with the laws, regulations and rules on cultural relics protection to prevent the cultural relics from being damaged or lost; relevant construction and repair activities within the scope of cultural relics protection and construction control zones shall have relevant procedures performed in accordance with the law.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites shall arrange dedicated personnel responsible for the management of moveable cultural relics they collect, and are to establish archives for them with clear and corresponding inventory, scientific classification, detailed cataloging, and easy access.</p>	<p>XJ Article 55 adds a provision on preserving cultural relics and religious artifacts.</p>
<p>Article 51: Immovable property such as the houses owned and the land used by religious groups, religious schools, or religious activities sites shall be registered on application with the real estate registration institution for the people’s government at the county level or above in accordance with law, and be granted a real estate ownership certificate; where the property rights are modified or transferred, the formalities for alteration or transfer of registration shall be promptly handled</p> <p>When altering or transferring the land-use rights of a religious group, religious school, or a religious activities site, the real estate registration institutions shall solicit the opinions of the religious affairs department of the people’s government at the same level.</p>		
<p>Article 52: Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites are non-profit organizations; their assets and income shall be used in activities consistent with their religious purpose and in public interest charitable matters, and they must not be distributed.</p>		
<p>Article 53: Organizations and individuals that give donations for the construction of religious activity sites do not enjoy ownership or usage rights in the religious activity sites, and must not receive economic benefit from the religious activity sites.</p> <p>It is prohibited to invest in or contract management of religious activity sites or large-scale outdoor religious statues, and it is prohibited to commercial promotions in the name of religions.</p>		
<p>Article 54: The houses and structures used for religious activities by a religious activities site, as well as their accessory houses lived in by religious professionals, must not be transferred, mortgaged or used as investments in kind.</p>		
<p>Article 55: Where the houses of a religious group, religious school, or a religious activities site need to be demolished due to the needs of the public interest, it shall be done in accordance with the national laws and regulations on demolition of houses. Religious groups, religious schools, or religious activity sites may elect monetary compensation, and may also select exchange of real estate rights or reconstruction.</p>	<p>Article 56: Where it is truly necessary, for the public interest, to expropriate the houses or buildings of a religious group, religious school, or religious activity site, the expropriators shall negotiate with the religious group, religious school, or religious activity site and seek comments from religious affairs department for the prefecture or municipality (region) people's government (Administrative Office) where the houses or buildings are located, and proceed in accordance with the relevant state provisions on the expropriation of houses. Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites may select monetary compensation, or opt for the rights to exchange or rebuild housing property.</p>	
<p>Article 56: Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professionals may lawfully initiate public interest charitable endeavors.</p> <p>Public interest charitable activities must not be used to proselytize by any organization or individual.</p>		
<p>Article 57: Religious groups, religious schools or religious activities sites may, in accordance with the relevant national provisions, accept donations from organizations and individuals at home or abroad,</p>	<p>Article 45: Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites may accept donations from domestic and foreign organizations and individuals in accordance with relevant national and</p>	<p>Box SC Article 57 and XJ Article 45 specifies restrictions on receiving donations or funds from overseas.</p>

<p>which shall be used for the activities that are commensurate with the purpose of the religious group or the religious activities site.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites must not accept donations from foreign organizations or individuals that have conditions attached, and where the amount donated exceeds 100,000 RMB; it shall be reported to the religious affairs department of the people's governments at the county level or above for review and approval.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites may accept contributions from citizens in accordance with religious custom, but contributions must not be compelled or levied.</p>	<p>autonomous region regulations to be used for holding public interest charitable matters and other activities consistent with the purposes of the religion.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites that accept donations from overseas organizations and individuals in an amount exceeding 100,000 yuan shall report to the religious affairs department of the people's government at or above the county level for review and approval; those that accept donations from overseas organizations and individuals in an amount below 100,000 yuan are to be handled in accordance with the relevant provisions of the "Regulations on the Registration and Management of Social Groups", "Measures on the Management of Religious Schools", and "Measures on the Financial Management of Religious Activity Venues".</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites are not allowed to accept donations from overseas organizations and individuals that have conditions attached. No other organization may accept religious donations, funding, and missionary work funds from domestic or foreign organizations and individuals.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites may accept contributions from citizens in accordance with religious custom, but contributions must not be compelled or levied.</p>	<p>XJ Article 45(3), the provision of restricting non-religious groups to accept donations, is equivalent to SC Article 41(1).</p>
<p>Article 58: Religious groups, religious schools or religious activities sites shall implement the national unified systems for finance, assets, and accounting, and report to the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above for the place where it is located on its income and expenditure, and on the acceptance and use of donations as well, and, in an appropriate way, make such information public to religious citizens. The religious affairs departments shall share relevant information with the relevant departments.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools or religious activities sites shall, in accordance with national systems on finances and accounting, establish and complete systems audits, financial reporting, financial disclosures, and other such systems; and establish and improve financial management bodies, and allot the necessary financial accounting staff to strengthen financial management.</p> <p>The relevant government departments may organize finance and asset inspections, and audits of religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites.</p>		
<p>Article 59: Religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites shall handle tax registrations for religious professionals in accordance with law.</p> <p>Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professionals shall lawfully handle tax declarations, and enjoy tax benefits in accordance with relevant state provisions.</p> <p>Tax departments shall lawfully implement taxation management for religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious professionals.</p>		
<p>Article 60: Where religious groups, religious schools, and religious activity sites are deregistered or terminated, an asset liquidation shall be carried out, and assets remaining after the liquidation shall be used for purposes conforming to their religious purpose.</p>	<p>Article 58: Where religious groups, religious schools, or religious activity sites are deregistered or terminated, their property shall be liquidated in accordance with relevant state provisions, and the property remaining after liquidation shall be used for matters consistent with their purpose.</p>	
<p>Chapter VIII: Legal Responsibility</p>		
<p>Article 61: Where state personnel in the management of religious affairs abuse their authority, play favorites, neglect their duty or commit illegalities for personal gain, they shall be punished in accordance with law; where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>Article 59: Where state personnel in the management of religious affairs abuse their authority, play favorites, neglect their duty or commit illegalities for personal gain, they shall be punished in accordance with law; where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	
<p>Article 62: Where citizens are compelled to believe in, or not to believe in religion, or where normal religious activities conducted by a religious group, religious school or a religious activities site are interfered with, the religious affairs department is to</p>	<p>Article 60: Where Article 3 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is to order corrections; and where there is a violation of public security management, public security</p>	

<p>order corrections; where there are violations of public security management, public security administrative sanctions are to be given in accordance with law.</p> <p>Where the lawful rights and interests of a religious group, religious school, religious activities site or a religious citizen are infringed, civil liability is born in accordance with law; where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>management punishments are to be given in accordance with the law.</p>	
<p>Article 63: Advocating, supporting, or funding religious extremism, or using religion to harm national security or public safety, undermine ethnic unity, divide the nation, or conduct terrorist activities and separatism or terrorist activities, infringing upon citizens' rights in their persons and democratic rights, impeding the administration of public order, or encroaching upon public or private property; where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law; where no crime is constituted, the relevant competent department are to give administrative punishments in accordance with law; and where losses are caused to citizens, legal persons or other organizations, civil liability is borne in accordance with law.</p> <p>Where religious groups, religious schools or religious activity sites carry out any of the conduct in the preceding paragraph and the circumstances are serious, the relevant departments shall employ necessary measures to rectify it, and those refusing rectification are to have their registration certificate or establishment permit revoked in accordance with law by the registration management organs or organ that approved establishment.</p>	<p>Article 61: Where article 5 of these Regulations is violated and a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law; where a crime is not yet constituted, the relevant departments are to give administrative punishments in accordance with law; and where harm was caused to citizens, legal persons, or other organizations, civil liability is to be borne.</p> <p>Where religious groups, religious schools, or religious activity sites commit the acts in the preceding paragraph and the circumstances are serious, the relevant departments shall employ measures to rectify them, and where they refuse to accept rectification, the registration management organs or the organs that approved their establishment shall revoke their registration certificates or establishment permits in accordance with the law.</p>	
	<p>Article 62: Where Article 12 of these Regulations is violated by religious groups identifying, appointing, designating, hiring, or replacing religious professionals, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is criticize and educate them, and order corrections.</p>	
<p>Article 64(1): Where there are situations in the course of large scale religious activities that endanger national security or public safety, or seriously undermine public order, the relevant departments are to handle it and give punishments in accordance with laws and regulations; where the primary organizing religious group, temple or church bears responsibility, the registration management organ shall order them to withdraw and change the principle responsible person, and where circumstances are serious, the registration management organs are to revoke registration certificates.</p>		<p>XJ Article 64(1) omits specific provision on endangering state security activities at large events. It is likely that such activities are already prohibited in any setting.</p>
<p>Article 64(2): Where large scale religious activities are organized without authorization, the religious affairs department together with the relevant departments are to order that the activities be stopped, and may give a concurrent fine of between 100,000 and 300,000 yuan; and where there are unlawful gains or illegal assets, confiscate them. Of these, where large scale religious activities are organized without authorization by religious groups or religious activity sites, the registration management organs may also order that religious group or religious activity site to withdraw and change the directly responsible management personnel.</p>	<p>Article 71: Where Article 42 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above, in conjunction with relevant departments, is to order that the activities be stopped and may give a concurrent fine of between 100,000 and 300,000 RMB; where there are unlawful gains or illegal property, they are to be confiscated. Of these, where large scale religious activities are organized without authorization by religious groups or religious activity sites, the registration management organs may also order that religious group or religious activity site to withdraw and change the directly responsible management personnel.</p>	<p>XJ Article 71 largely repeats SC Article 64(2) on organizing large religious activities without permission or approval.</p>
<p>Article 65: Where a religious group, religious school, or religious activities site commits any of the following acts, the religious affairs department is to order it to make corrections; where the circumstances are relatively serious, the registration management organ, or organ that that approved establishment, is to order the religious group, religious school, or the religious activities site to dismiss and replace the directly responsible; management personnel and where the circumstances are serious, the registration management organ, or organ that that approved establishment, is to order that daily activities be stopped, that management organizations be reorganized, and a period of rectification; where rectification is refused, the registration certificate or establishment permits are revoked in accordance with law; and where there are</p>	<p>Article 66: Where Article 31 of these Regulations is violated by not promptly reporting a major accident or major incident, and serious consequences are caused the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is to order corrections; where the circumstances are more serious, the registration and management organs or the organs that approved establishment are to order the relevant religious activity site's management organization to replace the directly responsible managers; where the circumstances are serious if the circumstances are serious, the registration management organ or the organ that approved establishment shall order it to stop routine activities, reorganize the management organization, and make rectifications within a set time period; and where rectification is refused, their registration</p>	<p>XJ Article 66 largely follows SC Article 65(5) on accidents or incidents occurred during large events.</p>

<p>unlawful gains or illegal assets, they are to be confiscated:</p> <p>(1) Failing to follow the registration modification or recording formalities;</p> <p>(2) Religious schools violating the requirements of their training objectives, school regulations, and course setup;</p> <p>(3) Religious activities sites violating Article 16 of these Regulations, by failing to formulate relevant management systems, or failing to have management systems meet the requirements;</p> <p>(4) Religious activity sites violating Article 54 of these provisions by transferring, mortgaging, or investing buildings, structures and living quarters for religious professionals;</p> <p>(5) Failing to promptly report the occurrence of major accidents or incidents in a religious activities site, and causing serious consequences;</p> <p>(6) Contravening the principle of religions' independence and self-governance in violation of the provisions of Article 5 of these Regulations;</p> <p>(7) Violating national regulations in accepting domestic or foreign donations;</p> <p>(8) Refusing to accept supervision and management lawfully carried out by the administrative management organs.</p>	<p>certificate or establishment permits are to be revoked in accordance with law.</p>	
<p>Article 66: Where activities in temporary activity sites violate the relevant provisions of these Regulations, the religious affairs department is to order corrections; where the circumstances are serious, they are to order a stop to the activities and revoke the temporary activity site; where there are unlawful gains or illegal assets, they are to be confiscated.</p>		
<p>Article 67: Where religious groups, religious schools and religious activity sites violate the relevant management provisions on finances, accounting, assets and taxation, departments of finance, taxation and so forth will give punishments in accordance with the relevant provisions; where the circumstances are serious, upon proposal by the finance and taxation departments, the registration management organs, or organ that approved establishment, are to lawfully revoke registration certificate or establishment permits.</p>		
<p>Article 68(1): Where any publications or internet religious information services involving religious content contain content prohibited by the second paragraph of Article 45 of these Regulations, the relevant departments are to impose administrative punishments upon the relevant responsible units and persons in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>Article 76: Where articles 48, 49, 50, and 52 of these Regulations are violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above, in conjunction with relevant departments, is to give administrative punishments to the responsible units and personnel; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>XJ Article 76 follows SC Article 68(1)'s stipulations on publishing, and storing, transferring, and consuming contents from internet or in other digital formats.</p>
<p>Article 68(2): Where internet religious information services are engaged in without authorization or where services are provided exceeding the scope of an approved and recorded project, the relevant departments handle it in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.</p>		
<p>Article 69(1): Where a religious activities site is established without authorization, or where a religious activity sites site that has had its registration revoked or registration certificate cancelled continues to carry out religious activities, or where a religious school is established without authorization, the religious affairs department, together with the relevant departments are to shut it down and confiscate the unlawful gains or illegal assets if any; where the unlawful gains or illegal assets cannot be determined, a fine of up to 50,000 yuan is imposed; the illegal houses or structures, if any, shall be disposed of by the planning and construction departments in accordance with law; and where there is conduct in violation of public security management, a public security administrative sanction is be imposed in accordance with law.</p>	<p>Article 63: Where Articles 13 and 21 of these Regulations are violated by the unauthorized establishment of religious schools or religious activity sites, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above where the religious schools or sites are located are to shut them down in conjunction with relevant departments, any unlawful gains and illegal property are to be confiscated, and where the unlawful gains cannot be determined, a fine of up to 50,000 RMB is to be imposed; and where there are illegal houses and buildings, or land use management regulations are violated, the relevant departments of the people's government shall address it in accordance with law; and where there are violations of public security administration, public security administration punishments are to be given in accordance with law.</p>	
<p>Article 69(2): Where a non-religious group, non-religious school, non-religious activity site, or site</p>	<p>Article 70: Where Article 41 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the</p>	

<p>not designated for temporary activities organizes or holds religious activities or accepts religious donations, the religious affairs department, together with the departments for public security, civil affairs, construction, education, culture, tourism, cultural artifacts, and so forth, will order it to discontinue the activities and will confiscate the unlawful gains and illegal assets, if any; and may give a fine of between one and three times the value of unlawful gains; where it is not possible to determine the unlawful gains, a fine of up to 50,000 RMB is given; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>people's government at the county level or above is to order corrections; where there are unlawful gains and illegal property, they are to be confiscated; where there are violations of public security administration, public security administration penalties are to be given in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	
<p>Article 70(1): Where, without authorization, religious citizens are organized to leave the mainland to participate in religious trainings, meetings, the Hajj or other such activities, or religious education and training is carried out without authorization, the religious affairs department, together with the relevant departments, is to order it to discontinue the activities, may impose a concurrent fine of between 20,000 and 200,000 yuan, and is to confiscate the unlawful gains, if any; where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>Article 72: Where Article 44 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above, in conjunction with relevant departments, is to order that the activities be stopped, and may give a concurrent fine of between not less than 20,000 and 200,000 RMB; where there are unlawful gains, they are to be confiscated; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p> <p>Article 64: Where Article 18 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is to order that activities be stopped in conjunction with relevant departments; where there are unlawful gains, they are to be confiscated, and a concurrent fine of between 20,000 and 200,000 RMB may be imposed; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>XJ Articles 72 and 64 cover two scenarios specified in SC Article 70.</p> <p>XJ Articles 72 refers to illegally organized Hajj travel; XJ Article 64 refers to religious programs provided by non-religious groups.</p>
<p>Article 70(2): Where there is proselytization, organizing of religious activities, establishment of religious organizations, or establishment of religious activity sites in schools or educational institutions other than religious schools; the organ of review and approval or other relevant departments are to order corrections to be made within a certain time and give warnings; where there are unlawful gains, they are to be confiscated; where there circumstances are serious, order that enrollment is to be stopped and cancel education permits; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>Article 69: Where Article 40 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the county level people's government for the area where they are located is to discourage them or shut them down; where they do not heed discouragement and disrupt public order or otherwise violate public security administration, they are to be give public security administration punishments in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	
	<p>Article 65: Where Article 25 of these Regulations is violated by unauthorized reconstruction, new building, expansion, or reconstruction in a new location, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above, in conjunction with relevant departments, is to order that work be stopped and that corrections be made in a set period of time; where there are illegal houses or buildings, the departments in charge such as for urban and rural planning, housing and urban and rural construction, are to address it in accordance with law.</p>	
<p>Article 71: Where conditions are provided for unlawful religious activities, the religious affairs departments are to give a warning and confiscate the unlawful gains or illegal assets, if any; where the circumstances are serious, a fine of between 20,000 and 200,000 yuan is to be imposed; where there are illegal buildings or structures, they are to be disposed of by the departments for planning and construction in accordance with law; and where there is conduct in violation of public security management, a public security administrative sanction is be given by in accordance with law.</p>		
	<p>Article 67: Where the third paragraph of Article 33 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is to order corrections; where there are unlawful gains or illegal property, the unlawful gains and illegal property are to be confiscated and a concurrent fine of up to 10,000 RMB is to be imposed; where public security administration is violated, public security administration penalties are to be given in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	
<p>Article 72: Where these Regulations are violated by constructed large scale outdoor religious statues, the religious affairs department together with the departments for land, planning, construction,</p>		

<p>tourism and so forth, are to order that work be stopped, and demolished within a set time; and confiscate unlawful gains if any; where circumstances are serious, a fine of between 5-10% of the construction costs is imposed.</p> <p>Where there is investment in or contracting of operations of religious activity sites or large outdoor religious statues, the religious affairs department together with departments for industry and commerce, planning, construction, and so forth will order corrections and confiscate unlawful gains; where the circumstances are serious, the registration management organs will revoke the religious activity site's registration certificates, and investigate the responsibility of relevant parties.</p>		
<p>Article 73: Where religious professionals exhibit any of the following conduct, the Religious Affairs Department will give a warning, confiscate unlawful gains and confiscate illegal assets; where the circumstances are serious, the Religious Affairs Department will recommend that the relevant religious group, religious school or religious activity sites temporarily stop them from presiding over religious affairs activities or revoke their status as religious professionals; and pursue the responsibility of the relevant religious group, religious school, or religious activity sites' responsible party, and where there is conduct in violation of public security management a public security administrative sanction is given in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law:</p> <p>(1) Advocating, supporting, or funding religious extremism, undermining ethnic unity, dividing the nation, and conducting terrorist activities, or participating in related activities;</p> <p>(2) Accepting domination by external forces, accepting clergy from foreign religious groups or organizations without authorization, as well as otherwise going against the principle of religious independence and self-governance;</p> <p>(3) Violating national regulations in accepting domestic or foreign donations;</p> <p>(4) Organizing, or presiding over unapproved religious activities held outside of religious activity sites;</p> <p>(5) Other acts in violation of laws, regulations, or rules.</p>	<p>Article 68: Where item (1) of Article 38 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is to criticize, educate, and order corrections.</p> <p>Where items (2) to (6) of Article 38 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above is to give a warning and confiscate the unlawful gains and illegal property; where the circumstances are serious, the religious affairs department is to recommend that the relevant religious groups, religious schools, or religious activity sites suspend presiding over religious activities or cancel their status as religious professionals, and pursue the responsibility of the responsible persons for the relevant religious groups, religious schools or religious activity sites; and where there are violations of public security administration, public security administration punishments are to be given in accordance with law, and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	<p>XJ Article 68 follows SC Article 73 in addressing the conduct of religious personnel.</p>
	<p>Article 74: Where Article 46 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs departments and education departments of the people's government at the county level or above are to give criticism and education, and order corrections; where there is a violation of public security administration, public security administration penalties are to be given in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law.</p>	
	<p>Article 75: Where Article 47 of these Regulations is violated, the religious affairs department of the people's government at the county level or above, in conjunction with relevant departments, is to order corrections; where there is a violation of public security administration, public security administration penalties are to be given in accordance with law; where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is to be pursued in accordance with law; and where harms are caused to citizens, legal persons, or other organizations, civil liability is to be borne in accordance with law.</p> <p>Where the first paragraph of Article 47 of these Regulations is violated and there are unlawful gains, the unlawful gains are to be confiscated and a concurrent fine of up to 10,000 RMB is to be given.</p>	
<p>Article 74: Where anyone impersonates religious professionals to carry out illegal acts such as conducting professional religious activities or defrauding funds, the religious affairs departments are to order it that the activities be discontinued; and confiscate the unlawful gains and illegal assets, if any; and give a concurrent fine of up to 10,000 yuan;</p>		

where there are violations of public security, public security administrative sanctions are given in accordance with law; and where a crime is constituted, criminal responsibility is pursued in accordance with law.		
Article 75: Where anyone is dissatisfied with administrative acts taken by the religious affairs departments, they may lawfully apply for an administrative reconsideration; where dissatisfied with the decision of the administrative reconsideration, they may lawfully raise an administrative lawsuit.	Article 77: Where anyone is dissatisfied with administrative acts taken by the religious affairs departments, they may lawfully apply for an administrative reconsideration; where dissatisfied with the decision of the administrative reconsideration, they may lawfully raise an administrative lawsuit.	
Chapter IX: Supplementary Provisions		
Article 76: Religious exchanges between the mainland and Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, and Taiwan are handled in accordance with relevant laws, administrative regulations, and relevant national provisions.		XJ omits religious exchanges with Hong Kong, Macau, & Taiwan. Such exchanges are either unlikely or not permitted.
Article 77: This Regulation shall become effective on February 1, 2018.	Article 78: These Regulations will take effect on February 1, 2024.	

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