

Church and Peace e.V.

CONSTITUTION

§1 Name and location of the association, financial year

The association bears the name 'Church and Peace'. Its office is registered as being in Schoeffengrund, Germany. The association was registered on 18 September 1978 in the association register at Wetzlar local court. The financial year is the calendar year.

§2 The purpose of the association

(1) Church and Peace is an ecumenical network of Christian orders, shared-life communities, parishes, peace service organisations and groups, and individual Christians in the whole of Europe. They share the conviction that the nonviolence to which the gospel testifies is one of the essential characteristics of church and congregational life, and leads to the ministry of nonviolent peace-making.

Although Church and Peace is registered in Germany, the network strives to fulfil its purpose across Europe.

(2) The network aims to provide mutual support in the common commitment to peace, nonviolent conflict resolution and reconciliation. Church and Peace is active in the following areas: communicating and cooperating with churches, especially through dialogue between the Historical Peace Churches and other churches; engaging in informed debate on peace ethics; reflecting theologically on active peace-building; supporting peace service organisations and life in Christian communities; focusing on peace concerns in worship.

(3) Church and Peace operates in the following ways:

- maintaining a European office and regional offices
- organising conferences, seminars and other meetings
- issuing a regular newsletter
- producing publications and giving presentations
- providing services and supporting campaigns.

(4) The association pursues exclusively and directly public-benefit purposes in accordance with the chapter "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Fiscal Code, particularly by the promotion of education, religion and international understanding.

(5) The association is non-profit-making. It does not primarily pursue commercial aims. Association funds may only be used for the purposes set out in the constitution. Members shall not receive any payments from association funds.

The association may not favour any person by expenditure outside the purposes of the association or by excessive remuneration.

§3 Membership

(1) Membership is open to individuals and to legal entities – also corporations under public law. Membership categories are corporate and individual. Associate membership is also possible.

(2) Criteria for membership shall be established by the Board and ratified by the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

(3) Applications for membership shall be made in writing to the Board, which will check whether the appropriate criteria are fulfilled. If this is the case, the Board shall decide to admit the new members. This decision must be ratified by the Annual General Meeting.

(4) Membership ends through death, withdrawal or exclusion. Members must inform the Board in writing of their intention to withdraw. They may only withdraw at the end of the financial year after a period of at least two months' notice. A member may only be excluded for conduct contrary to the constitution, and upon the decision of the Annual General Meeting, after the member concerned has been given a hearing.

§4 Finances

(1) The financial resources of the Association shall come from membership fees, donations and grants from private and public institutions.

(2) The membership fee shall be set by the Annual General Meeting.

(3) The Board shall prepare an annual financial statement for the previous year and a budget for the current year for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

(4) The financial report must be audited annually. The Annual General Meeting shall elect two auditors for a term of three years.

§5 The governing bodies

The governing bodies of the association are the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Board.

§6 The general meeting

(1) A general meeting shall take place at least once a year (Annual General Meeting). It shall receive and approve the annual report by the Chair, business and financial reports and the auditors' report, release the Board of its liability, approve the budget, and elect the Board and the auditors.

(2) The general meeting may be held online (e.g., by telephone or video conference) or in a hybrid meeting consisting of those present in person and those participating by means of electronic communication in a telephone/video conference or using other media. When a general meeting is held online, the Board shall ensure that only members entitled to vote may participate in voting by means of electronic communication (for example, by e-mail, online form). The Board shall decide whether the general meeting shall be held in a physical meeting or by means of electronic communication, or in a hybrid meeting consisting of those present in person and those participating in a telephone/video conference or using other media.

(3) An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) must be called if the interests of the association so require or if one third of the members request it in writing, stating their aims and reasons.

(4) The Board must call general meetings in writing, giving at least thirty days' notice and including the agenda.

(5) Each member shall have one vote. Each voting member is entitled to represent one further member by proxy vote. The Board must be given written notice of such proxy votes. A corporate

member shall be represented by voting delegates at the meeting; these delegates shall be appointed by their organisations to serve for a minimum of two years. Associate members shall participate in an advisory function without the right to vote.

(6) Unless otherwise stated in the constitution, the general meeting shall take decisions by a simple majority of votes cast. In the case of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

(7) The general meeting may appoint non-voting advisers on an annual basis.

(8) The resolutions of the general meeting shall be recorded and signed by one member of the Board and by the minute-taker.

§7 The Board

(1) The Board of the association shall consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer and a minimum of two more members. They shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting for a three-year term and officiate until a new Board has been elected. If a Board member resigns, a by-election shall take place at the next Annual General Meeting.

(2) Pursuant to Article 26 of the German Civil Code (BGB), the Chair, the Deputy Chair and the Treasurer are the officers of the association. Each of these Board members is individually authorised to represent the association.

(3) The Board is responsible for calling the Annual General Meeting and for carrying out the tasks the AGM entrusts it with. It shall handle the business of the association and manage its assets.

(4) Board members may receive an appropriate fee for services rendered within the association. When acting in their capacity as Board members they shall only be entitled to receive reimbursement of their expenses.

§8 Amending the constitution

(1) An amendment to the constitution must be approved by at least three-quarters of the voting members present at a general meeting.

(2) Amendments required by legal, financial or administrative authorities on formal grounds may be made by the Board.

§9 Disbanding the association

(1) A motion to disband the association shall require the approval of at least three-quarters of all voting members present at an extraordinary general meeting called for this purpose.

(2) In the case of liquidation or the cessation of its tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the association shall be used by the *schwelle* Foundation (Stiftung "die schwelle"), directly and exclusively for charitable or ecclesiastical purposes.

Amended at Crikvenica AGM on 21 October 2022