

Articles of association

NextGen Church

Introduction

The initiators of the NextGen Church Denomination see themselves as devout Christians whose aspiration is to promote and make known the gospel of Jesus Christ

The denomination is committed to bringing the Christian faith closer to the people and to living and propagating the Christian faith in word and deed in the form of a Christian community following the example of the Bible. The denomination strives to practice Christian charity and to be active in the field of diaconia as an expression and nature of the Christian faith.

In addition to the development of community life, the denomination pays particular attention to guiding young people and students from all over the world, for whom the association would like to be a point of contact.

Article 1 Name, registered office and financial year

1. The denomination bears the name NextGen Church
2. The denomination has its seat in the municipality of Maastricht and is active in the Maastricht area as well as in mission fields.
3. The denomination was founded on January 1, 2022
4. The denomination is established for an indefinite period
5. The financial year coincides with the calendar year.

Article 2 Purpose

The purpose of the denomination is:

1. Spreading the word of God and promoting the Christian faith based on the Bible as the written word of God at home and abroad through the establishment and functioning of a Christian community
2. Selfless financial and material support for people to alleviate personal hardships, as well as aid in disaster situations and alleviate famine and refugee problems through financial support from humanitarian aid organizations

The denomination implements its statutory purpose, in particular by:

1. Organizing regular church services and other community events
2. Maintenance of Christian singing and music, as well as holding cultural events with Christian content
3. Providing religious education in the broadest sense of the word.
4. Church building within the denomination and with other Christian organizations
5. Organization and participation in evangelism, conferences and training/courses with Christian content as well as conducting baptisms, marriages and funerals

6. Organization and implementation of Christian content leisure activities for children, youth and adults, such as Christian Scouting, community weekends and other activities
7. Promotion and implementation of missionary work at home and abroad, including the sending of missionaries
8. Public relations through all media (print, radio, social media, etc.)
9. Offering Pastoral Care, Prayer Meetings, and Christian Counseling
10. Offerings to Young People and Students Regarding the Christian Lifestyle, Pastoral Care and Prayer
11. Carrying out the tasks of the diaconate as an expression and nature of the Christian faith, disaster relief and support for the needy at home and abroad
12. Care, nursing and assistance to people who, through illness, old age or in an emergency, depend on the support of others.
13. For the implementation of its objectives, the denomination may collaborate with other organizations at home and abroad that pursue similar objectives.
14. All other lawful and appropriate means

The denomination bases its action on the following creed:

1. Bible: We believe that the Bible inspired by God and alone is the infallible Word of God.
2. God: We believe in the existence of the one God, who in eternity and was, is and remains in three persons: the father, the son and the Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus: We believe in the virgin birth, vicarious Atonement, physical resurrection, triumphant ascension and continued intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ and that He will return for the rapture of His church and the perfection of all things.
4. Salvation: We believe in the fall of man and in the Redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ as the only means of attaining personal salvation. This experience, known as conversion and being born again, is a work of the Holy Spirit and comes through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.
5. Baptism: We believe that baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost should be performed on all who have repented wholeheartedly and acknowledge Christ as their Savior and Lord. (Mark 16, 16)
6. Church: We believe that all true believers belong to the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that every born-again and baptized Christian should be a member of a local church.
7. Spirit Baptism: We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- Fruit: We believe that a true Christian strives through the power of redemption to create a to live a sanctified life and that the fruit of the Spirit is recognizable according to Galatians 5:22.
8. Spiritual Gifts: We believe that through gifts of grace, services, and works, God works in the church for the good of the believers, equipping the church and edifying and equipping the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
9. Healing: We believe that salvation enables the healing of disease through divine intervention
10. Resurrection: We believe in the resurrection; in eternal glory to all who in faith receive the divine salvation in Jesus Christ, and to the condemnation of all who are indifferent to Christ

Our Vision Mission Statement

Raising true and fruitful disciples through intense fellowship and discipleship, which will become the light for the nations.

Article 3 Resources

1. Contributed funds consist of gifts, inheritances, bequests, subsidies, rents, course fees, (fixed) voluntary contributions and sacrifices and other lawful income.
2. These means must not conflict with the aims of the denomination, also must they be free from obligations.
3. The denomination is selflessly active; it does not pursue its own economic goals.

Article 4 membership

1. Any natural or legal person may become a member of the denomination.
2. Membership must be requested in writing from the leadership of the denomination by means of a declaration of commitment for the church life in NextGen Church.
3. Membership ends by:
 - a. Termination of its own accord
 - b. Termination on behalf of the denomination
 - c. Withdrawal as a member
 - d. Passing away
4. Voluntary denunciation shall, if possible, be made in writing to the denominational leadership, who shall confirm the denunciation.
5. Termination on behalf of the denomination shall, if possible, be made in writing by the leadership of the denomination if the member acts contrary to the interests of the denomination or the member no longer actively participates in the life of the denomination. In particular, a member acts contrary to the conduct if his conduct is not based on Christian/democratic norms or the statutes of the denomination, if there are insurmountable differences of opinion between individual members and the other members, or if external third parties are informed of the internal problems.
6. With the departure from the denomination, all claims of the excluded member against the denomination lapse.
7. There are no membership fees. The denomination is financed by donations, inheritances and bequests.

Article 5 Leadership and board

1. The denomination distinguishes elders and a board.
2. The elders form the leadership of the denomination, this leadership is responsible for the spiritual policy of the denomination. The leadership also forms the governance of the denomination, these two concepts are used side by side. The minimum number of members of the board (and therefore of the leadership) is three.
3. The board consists of an appropriate number of elders (minimum 3) chaired by the leading elder.
4. A leading elder is understood to be an elder who fulfils a leadership position within the leadership.
5. The Board consists of:
 - a. the leading elder being the chairman
 - b. the Secretary
 - c. the treasurer
 - d. general adjutant

6. The board and – in case of absence or impediment – designate their substitutes; these functions can, incidentally, be partly combined, on the understanding that at least three persons always fulfill the four functions mentioned.
7. The board also remains legally composed if the number of members falls below the minimum of three due to vacancies that have arisen; the board is obliged to fill as many vacancies as possible as soon as possible so that the minimum composition is again met.
8. The denomination recognizes the apostolic authority as described in the Bible. This authority rests with Lighthouse Christliches Zentrum, Oranienstrasse 22-24, 52066 Aachen, Germany.
9. The apostolic authority especially plays a role in appointments and advice regarding decision-making; this does not alter the fact that the denomination is autonomous.
10. An elder retires without prejudice to the provisions of the Civil Code when he dies, resigns voluntarily, resigns periodically or is dismissed. In the event of voluntary resignation, a reasonable notice period should be observed, if possible, the resignation should be communicated in writing to the secretary of the board. If an elder cannot (continue to) subscribe to the objective and/or the creed of the denomination, he must resign. In all these cases advice should be sought from the apostolic authority, in the case of a leading elder this advice is binding.
11. Membership of the leadership may be terminated by unsolicited resignation. The leadership has the right to suspend or dismiss one of its members if the person concerned exhibits behavior that is contrary to the statutes, regulations(s) or the general interest of the denomination. A leadership decision to suspend or resign must be made by a two-thirds majority vote at a meeting at which all members of the leadership are present, except the person concerned. Advice should be sought from the apostolic authority, whereby in the case of a leading elder this advice is binding.
12. An elder, whose suspension or dismissal is being discussed, must be given the opportunity to justify himself in the relevant meeting prior to the vote by means of adversarial procedure, he does not participate in the vote itself.
13. Elders are in principle appointed for an indefinite period.
14. The board is elected for an indefinite period and remains in office until a new board is elected.
15. If the chairman is unable to perform his duties, the deputy chairman shall represent him. If the chairman resigns, he will be represented by the deputy chairman until a deputy member has been appointed as chairman.
16. The advice of the apostolic authority regarding the appointment of elders is binding if it concerns a decision to appoint a leading elder, in other appointment decisions this advice is not binding, but it is of great weight.

Article 6 autorisation

1. The board is authorized to conclude agreements to purchase, alienate or encumber registered property, provided such a decision is taken unanimously.
2. The board is authorized to conclude agreements, whereby the denomination commits itself as surety or joint and several co-debtor, makes a case for a third party, or commits itself to provide security for a debt of a third party.
3. The denomination is represented in and out of court in accordance with the law by the board referred to in article 5 paragraph 3. Each board member is authorized to represent the denomination.
4. Each member of the board is authorized to accept for the denomination all donations and legacies that are made to the denomination, without encumbering charges for the denomination, as well as to sign the deeds and to do everything that should be further required for this purpose.
5. The board may refuse gifts, heirlooms and legacies without stating reasons.

Article 7 decisions and meetings

1. Policy decisions (including in particular a cooperation agreement with a full-time or part-time senior, the appointment of personnel and the establishment of vision and course plans) are taken by the board.
2. The board meets at least four (4) times a year.
3. The meeting is convened by or on behalf of the chairman with due observance of a notice period of seven days, not counting the day of the convocation and that of the meeting.
4. The meetings are held at the location and at the time stated in the convocation; the agenda and what must be put to the vote are determined by the board.
5. If the provisions regarding the manner of convocation or the term of convocation have not been observed, valid resolutions can only be passed in a board meeting, at which all board members are present or – in accordance with the eleventh paragraph – are represented.
6. Minutes are kept of the deliberations and decisions in the board meeting, which are adopted and signed by the chairman and the secretary of the meeting concerned; the minutes are not public, in order to protect persons and matters mentioned in the relevant minutes.
7. The board can also take decisions outside the meeting, provided that all board members vote in favor of the relevant proposal. This will be noted in the report of the next board meeting.
8. When making decisions, the board strives for unanimity; However, unless otherwise provided in these articles of association, resolutions may be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes. In addition, if a leading elder cannot agree with the decision, binding advice is requested from the apostolic authority.
9. Resolutions can only be passed in a meeting in which at least two thirds (2/3) of the board members are present or represented.
10. In the absence of the chairman and his deputy, those present appoint a board member to chair the board meeting.
11. A board member may be represented at the meeting, but only by written proxy, granted to another board member, relating to one specific meeting, which proxy must be submitted to the chairman of the meeting at the start of the meeting. A board member cannot cast more than one proxy vote.
12. The board is obliged to keep a record of the denomination's financial situation in such a way that its rights and obligations can be known from it at all times. The board is obliged to keep the documents referred to for ten years.

Article 8 amendment to the articles of association

1. Every three years the articles of association will be evaluated and possibly amended.
2. The statutes of the denomination can only be amended by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority decision of the board.

Article 9 dissolution

1. The denomination can only be dissolved by a unanimous decision of the board. Before dissolving the denomination, the board will have to consult the denomination in advance. Advice should also be sought from the apostolic authority, this advice is binding.
2. Liquidation will take place by the board, unless decided otherwise.
3. Any positive balance of the dissolved municipality is spent for the benefit of a public benefit institution with a similar objective to the objective of the municipality or of a foreign institution that exclusively or almost exclusively aims for the public benefit and that has a similar objective as the goal of the municipality.
4. After the liquidation has ended, the books, records and other data carriers of the dissolved municipality will remain in the custody of the youngest liquidator for seven years.

Article 10 Final provision

In all cases not provided for by either the law or the Articles of Association, the Board will decide.