



CONSTITUTION of Oikosnet Europe

I. Preamble

Many years of experience in the work of Christian academies and laity centres as well as of partnership and collaboration in an ecumenical association in the European sphere have led to the following aims:

These institutions seek in their work to understand and reinterpret the significance of the Gospel for the renewal and unity of the churches and for the fullness of life of each human person and of society as a whole.

They work at empowering the laity and they collaborate in dealing with current social problems by dialogue.

They endeavour to assist in giving guidance for necessary changes in living conditions with a commitment to social justice and the integrity of creation.

They contribute by their work to make it possible for individuals and groups to share in a mature way in the organization of society and in a peaceful order among the nations.

In this common spirit, the members of Oikosnet Europe (in its previous form referred to as the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe – EAALCE) establish the following regulations for their collaboration:

II. Composition, Aim, Name, Seat and Legal form

- § 1 Oikosnet Europe is an association of Christian academies and laity centres and organisations and national associations which pursue the aims stated in the Preamble.
- § 2 Oikosnet Europe promotes joint activities and studies, interdisciplinary encounter, training of personnel of affiliated institutions, and assists in the establishment of new academies and laity organisations. It cooperates with associations of laity organisations in other parts of the world, with Stichting Oikosnet, and with movements, churches and church bodies and other relevant institutions at the national, regional and global levels.
- § 3 Oikosnet Europe is a non-profit organization and does not engage in any commercial activity. In terms of the taxation laws, it pursues only activities that according to Swedish law can be classified as public service obligations, like church and religion related work, research, education, cultural programs, social and environmental work, and other similar efforts.



§ 4 Oikosnet Europe is registered under the name "Oikosnet Europe". Oikosnet Europe's seat is located at the Sigtuna Foundation (Sigtunastiftelsen) in Sigtuna, Sweden. Oikosnet Europe can operate offices elsewhere in Europe.

III. Membership

§ 5 Members are academies, movements and organizations of social concern and centres. National associations and other organizations can become members if their work is as stated in § 1. Members shall send delegates to the General Assembly. The delegates have the right to speak and to be eligible for office in the various bodies of Oikosnet Europe. Each member shall have one vote.

§6 The admission of new members.
(1) Members shall be admitted by decision of the General Assembly. The Board shall make proposals for this after consultation with the national associations or equivalent bodies.
(2) Honorary members can be appointed by the General Assembly having received the nomination for such membership by the Board.
(3) Applications for membership must be submitted in writing to the Board which shall act according to the provisions in § 6, par. 1-2.

§ 7 Three months' advance notice of withdrawal from Oikosnet Europe must be given to the Board, in writing. On withdrawal, all rights and duties in regard to Oikosnet Europe shall expire.

§ 8 The General Assembly has the right to exclude members whose activities are not in harmony with the Constitution or who do not fulfil their obligations. A majority of three-quarters of the General Assembly is required for this decision. The member is free to appeal against such a decision in the normal legal way.

If members have not paid their membership fees for two years in a row without explanation, their membership will end by the end of the second year for which they did not pay their fees, unless the General Assembly determines otherwise.

IV. Financial resources

§ 9 To fulfil its tasks Oikosnet Europe shall avail itself of the following resources:



- (1) Membership fees
- (2) contributions from the academies and laity organisations and centres
- (3) church donations
- (4) other donations.

§ 10 Membership fees

Members shall pay an annual fee fixed by the General Assembly. In particular cases, and for good reason, it may on application be reduced or waived by the Board.

V. Organization

§ 11 The Organs of Oikosnet Europe are:

- (1) the General Assembly (§ 12, 13, 14)
- (2) the Board (§ 13, 15, 16, 17, 18)
- (3) the Auditors (§ 18)
- (4) the Nominations Committee (§ 13)

§ 12 The General Assembly shall consist of delegates according to III, § 5.

The General Assembly shall meet annually as a general rule, but at least every two years. An Extraordinary General Assembly is to be called if a third of the members ask the Board for this, stating the agenda. An Extraordinary General Assembly must also be held if a simple majority of the Board so decides.

Written invitations to the General Assembly must be sent at least a month in advance, and the agenda announced. Motions to change the agenda aiming at changes of the Constitution must be submitted to the Board in writing no later than two weeks prior to the General Assembly. The agenda can be extended by unanimous decision of the Board or by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

The decisions of the General Assembly shall be recorded in the minutes, which will be signed by the President along with one of the delegates appointed by the Assembly at the beginning of the meeting on the nomination of the Board.

The General Assembly has a quorum when at least one third plus one of the members are represented by delegates or by written proxy.

For a resolution to be passed it must receive the assent of more than half the voters present, unless some other majority is expressly stipulated.



§ 13 Decisions to be taken by the General Assembly alone:

(1) It shall elect President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and at least two more members at large by a simple majority for a term of three years from among the delegates of the members. They constitute the Board. Board members may be re-elected once. If regular election or re-election is not possible, the respective members of the Board stay in office until an election or re-election is possible.

(2) It shall elect a Nominations Committee which shall consist of up to three delegates of the members. Members of the Nominations Committee can be re-elected. The Nominations Committee proposes candidates for different organs within Oikosnet Europe after consulting the relevant national associations. The proposals from the Nominations Committee should take due account of the various regions and denominations in Europe. Nominations can also be made from the floor of the General Assembly.

(3) It shall decide on the content of Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU), which regulate the way paid or voluntary staff contribute to the work of Oikosnet Europe.

(4) It shall elect two Auditors from among the delegates of the members for a term of three years. The General Assembly can call for an audit of accounts by a qualified Auditor.

(5) It shall check and approve the annual report on the work of the Board, the annual balance sheet and the budget. It shall discharge the Board of further liability.

(6) It shall determine the amount of membership fees.

(7) It shall decide on changes in the Constitution. Proposals for changes, with a statement of reasons, must be sent out with the invitation to the ordinary General Assembly. A majority of two-thirds of those entitled to vote who are present, or represented by proxy, is required to pass a proposal for a change.

(8) It can decide the dissolution of Oikosnet Europe by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by those present or represented by proxy.

§ 14 Every member shall have a vote. If unable to attend, a member can transfer her/his vote by written proxy to the delegate of another member, but no person thus authorized may serve as proxy for more than two others. At the request of any voter, a secret ballot shall be held.

§ 15 The Board

The Board consists of President, Vice President, Treasurer and at least two further members at large. It shall meet as often as business requires. Normally a meeting shall be called by the President once in the spring and once before the ordinary General Assembly. In addition, it must meet whenever two-thirds of its members request this. Two-thirds of its



members constitute a quorum. It shall decide by open vote and by simple majority. In case of a tie, the vote of the President decides.

The Board can also make decisions by correspondence or e-mail as well as by phone or video conference, provided the full and uninhibited participation of all board members present.

§ 16 The Board shall have the following functions:

- (1) Implementing resolutions of the General Assembly.
- (2) Raising and supervising financial resources. On proposal by the Treasurer, it submits to the General Assembly the accounts and the budget.
- (3) Appointing and dismissing paid staff and voluntary staff, in conjunction with a MOU (see § 13, 3).
- (4) Preparation for the General Assembly.
- (5) Assigning functions to be performed by the different members of the Board.
- (6) Handling all business not expressly reserved to the General Assembly.
- (7) Registering all members.

§ 17 The Board shall report to the General Assembly on its work.

§ 18 The Auditors shall verify the bookkeeping, accounts, papers and balance-in-hand of the Association. The Auditors shall report to the General Assembly on the findings of the audit; if satisfactory they shall propose the motion that the Board be discharged of further liability.

VI. Financial Year

§ 19 The financial year shall coincide with the calendar year.

VII. Dissolution of the Association

§ 20 If in accordance with § 13 (8) the decision is taken to dissolve the Association, the General Assembly shall elect two liquidators from among the delegates of the members.

§ 21 The liquidators shall assess all claims and liabilities of the Association, and after meeting all its obligations and obtaining all appropriate official approvals from the relevant Swedish authorities, they shall transfer any assets to the "Evangelische Akademien in Deutschland e.V."