

# Bylaws of the International Christian Association in Finland

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## 1. Name and domicile of the association

The name of the association is "International Christian Association in Finland", it is established in Tampere, Finland.

## 2. Purpose and operation

2.1 The purpose of the association is to support International Christians in Finland by helping them to integrate into the Finnish society, to establish connections, and to participate in sports, hobbies and education with Christian values. The association operates on a non-profit basis. The main language of operation is English.

2.2 The main activity of the association is the organisation of events of a general Christian nature. This can be realised through:

- Organising cultural, discussion, and educational events and parties
- Performing research and publish information
- Providing initiatives to public authorities
- Cooperating with other organisations and churches
- Organising Christian events, camps and retreats
- Spreading Christian literature and other materials
- Organising introductory and study trips
- Organising sportive and cultural activities
- Organising charity events and exhibitions
- Participating in events by third parties in line with the purposes of the association

2.3 In order to support its activities, the association may, with the necessary permission from the authorities:

- Receive donations, grants, gifts and testaments
- Organise collections, bazaars, and lotteries
- Own, to support its purposes, real estate and movable assets.
- Collect different membership fees

## 3. Members

Membership is open to any natural or legal person, who accepts the association's purpose and abides by the association's regulations. Membership applications are accepted by the council.

## 4. Resignation

4.1 A member may resign by written notification to the council or by informing the assembly, where the resignation request shall be noted in the minutes of the meeting.

4.2 The council may terminate membership, when a member, despite repeated warnings, has not

paid his/her membership fees, or otherwise left unfulfilled the obligations (s)he subscribed to when joining the association, or when he has through his/her actions within or outside the association caused considerable harm to the association, or (s)he does no longer comply with the conditions set in the association's rules or the law.

## **5. Membership**

The membership fee is determined by the annual assembly.

## **6. Council**

The affairs of the association are taken care of by the council, which consists of a chair person and 3-9 members, elected by the annual assembly. The council operates for one year at a time, until the next annual assembly.

The council elects from amongst its members a vice chair person. A secretary, a treasurer and other roles as deemed necessary are chosen from within or outside the council.

The council meets on invitation of the chair person, or in case of absence, the vice chair person, when a meeting is deemed necessary or at least half of the council members requests a meeting.

The council is capable of making decisions when at least half of the council members, including the chair person or vice chair person, are present. Votes are resolved with a majority of votes. In case of a tie, the chair person's vote decides.

## **7. Signing on behalf of the association**

Documents can be signed on behalf of the association by the following persons: chair person, vice chair person, secretary and treasurer, at least two at the time.

## **8. Financial year**

The financial year of the association is the calendar year.

The financial report with associated documents and the annual report must be submitted to the auditors at least a month before the annual assembly. The auditors will provide their written statement at least two weeks before the annual assembly to the council.

## **9. Meetings**

9.1 Participation in the association's meetings is, upon decision of the council, possible also by mail, telecommunication connections, or other technical means before or during the meeting.

9.2 The annual assembly is held yearly on a date in January – May to be decided by the council.

9.3 An additional assembly can be held, when decided by the annual assembly, when the council deems such assembly necessary, or when at least one third of the members with voting rights

requests such meeting in writing from the council. The additional assembly must be held within one month from the moment it was requested from the council.

9.4 All members of 16 years or older have one vote.

9.5 Decisions in the assembly are made by simple majority vote. In case of a tie, the vote of the chair person decides, except for elections, where ballots will be cast instead.

## **10. Invitations for assemblies**

The council must inform members of assemblies at least 14 days before the assembly is held through the media channels agreed in the annual assembly.

## **11. Annual assembly**

The agenda of the annual assembly will include the following items:

1. Opening of the assembly meeting
2. Election of the chair person of the assembly, the secretary, two persons to check the minutes and two persons to count the votes.
3. Determining of the legality and quorum of the assembly
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Presentation of the financial report, the annual report and the statement from the auditors
6. Approval of the financial report and discharge of the council
7. Approval of the operation plan, the budget and the membership fees
8. Election of the chair person and other members of the council
9. Election of one or two auditors and their substitutes
10. Other matters mentioned in the invitation to the assembly

Suggestions by members for other matters to be discussed in the assembly must be submitted to the council one month in advance of the annual assembly.

## **12. Change of bylaws and dissolution of the association**

The decision to change the association's bylaws or to dissolve the association can only be done by a three quarter (3/4) majority of votes casted in the association's assembly. The invitation to the assembly must mention the plans to change the bylaws or dissolve the association.

On dissolution of the association, the possessions of the association will be used to advance the purposes of the association in a way decided by the assembly. The possessions will be used for this purpose also when the association is dissolved on external rule.