

**Statute of the Förderverein Friends of Partnership e.V.  
Association for promoting the cooperation of the evangelical Lutheran circuits  
Bramsche, Durban, Meile Georgsmarienhütte, Pirna, Umvoti and Umngeni**

Concluded at the meeting of members on 19th May 2015 as  
first modification of the foundation statute dated 18th January 2005

**Preamble**

The labour of the Förderverein Friends of Partnership e.V. is based on the certainty that in order to get justice and peace in this world the partnership relations with people from other cultures and descent must be advanced. The partnership of the Lutheran circuit Bramsche, Durban, Melle-Georgsmarienhütte, Pirna, Umvoli and Umngeni are to be supported and promoted within the scale of their association activities.

In this sense the Förderverein Friends of Partnership e.V. is establishing the statute as follows:

**§ 1 Name, location, business year**

1. The association is named "Förderverein Friends of Partnership e.V."
2. The association is located in Melle and is recorded under no. VR 3348 in the register of associations at the district-court in Osnabrück.
3. Business year is the calendar year.

## **§ 2 Aims and tasks of the association.**

1. It is the aim of the association to support and promote the cooperation within and between the circuits Bramsche, Durban, Melle-Georgsmarienhütte, Pirna, Umvoti and Umngeni. Thus the association is particularly of use as to the advancement of international mind, toleration of all scopes of culture, religion and the understanding within the community of nations.
2. The support of single projects, organisation of provision aids, public relations, collecting of donations and educational labour are main tasks of the association.
3. The labour of the association is in coherence with the aims of the cooperation with the circuits Bramsche, Durban, Melle-Georgsmarienhütte, Pirna, Umvoti and Umngeni and are defined by their concluding committees. It is especially of use regarding the cooperation in development to be advanced.
4. The association yields its aims particularly by
  - a) initiation of new partnerships within the parish partnerships as far as their aims are in conformity thereto.
  - b) preparation and issue of information material.
  - c) getting funds by taking up collections and donations as well as getting funds for promotion of association purposes by another tax allowed corporation or a corporation under public law.
  - d) advancement of personal contacts between German and South African partners.
  - e) technical and personal assistance for getting in touch with partners in South Africa and Germany.
  - f) construction, renovation and preservation of educational institutions.
  - g) organisation of networks for education and consultation particularly regarding food, health and organization of small trade.
  - h) support of new and existing networks, institutions and help for prevention of racism or moderation of the results of racism.

## **§ 3 Appointment to diaconry**

1. The association is following up the aims and tasks stipulated in § 2 in the sense of evangelical Diakonia being the attitude of the evangelical church and by practicing christian charity.
2. The association is member of Diakonia of the evangelical Lutheran church Hannover e.V. and thus joined to the evangelical Lutheran national church as head organization of the public welfare.

## **§ 4 Tax shelter**

1. The association is exclusively and directly acting for charitable, beneficent and clerical purposes in accordance with paragraph "tax shelter purposes" of the fiscal code. The association is operating altruistically and mainly does not act for own benefit.

2. Funds of the association are to be spent for purposes in accordance with the statute only. The members in their capacity as member do not obtain any allowances from the funds of the association. After their retirement there are no claims on the assets of the association. No person is to be favored by expenses not being in accordance with the purposes of the association or by unproportionally high allowances.

## **§ 5 Membership**

1. The evangelical Lutheran circuits Bramsche and Melle-Georgsmarienhütte are members of the association. They each send up to two persons as representatives with voting power to the meeting of members.

2. All individual and legal persons being members of a Lutheran World Federation, Alliance or members of the ACK (Cooperation of Christian Churches in Germany) and who support the aims of the partnership of the Evangelical Lutheran circuits Bramsche, Durban, Melle-Georgsmarienhütte, Pirna, Umvoti and Umngeni may become members.

3. The parishes in Germany and South Africa participated in the partnership of the circuits Bramsche, Durban, Melle-Georgsmarienhütte, Pirna, Umvoti and Umngeni are invited to become members.

4. The membership is acquired by declaration of accession.

5. The retirement of a member is to take place by written declaration towards the board of directors within a period of three months up to the end of the business year.

6. If the operations do not comply with the aims of the association or if the obligations towards the association are not fulfilled, a member can be suspended by decision of the board of directors. Against this decision the member can file an objection at the meeting of members, where is decided definitely. The member is to be invited to the meeting of members where the case is to be heard.

## **§ 6 Rights and duties of the members.**

1. The monthly membership fee is amounting to 1,00 Euro per person at least.

2. The members are requested to use their best endeavors regarding the aims of the association.

## **§ 7 Institutions of the association**

The institutions of the association are:

a) Meeting of members b) Board of directors

## **§ 8 Meeting of members**

1. Head institution is the meeting of members. Generally it is managed by the chairman.
2. The meeting of members constitutes the rules as to the labour of the association and is deciding as to questions of general significance. The tasks of the meeting of members particularly are:
  - a) Election and deselection of the board of directors
  - b) Deployment of working groups
  - c) Debate about the state and planning of work
  - d) Approval of the economic plan and capital budget submitted by the board of directors
  - e) Election of two cash auditors as annual auditors
  - f) Conclusion about the annual financial statement
  - g) Receipt of the annual report submitted by the board of directors
  - h) Conclusion about the formal approval of the board of directors
  - i) Issue of the fee regulation which is not part of the statute
  - j) Issue of rules of procedure for the board of directors
  - k) Conclusion for taking over of new tasks or withdrawal from tasks by the association
  - l) Conclusion about modifications of the statute and the liquidation of the association.
- 3) The chairman gives invitation in writing for the meeting of members by mentioning the preliminary agenda two weeks prior at least.
- 4) An extraordinary meeting of members takes place if it is demanded by 25 percent of the members by mentioning the reasons. It must be held five weeks upon receipt of the request in writing at the latest.
- 5) The meeting of members is quorate regardless the number of members appeared. Their conclusions are made by majority of votes. A majority of 2/3 of the members appeared is necessary to make a conclusion in accordance with paragraph 2 letter (conclusion about modifications of the statute and the purpose of the association, as well as the liquidation of the association).
- 6) A protocol is to be made about the conclusions, if necessary for comprehension in which way they have been formed, as well as about the essential course of the meeting. The protocol is to be signed by the chairman and the secretary.

## **§ 9 Board of directors**

1. The board of directors is consisting of the chairman, the vice chairman, the treasurer and the secretary. The members of the board act honorarily.
2. According to § 26 of the German Civil Code the board of directors is consisting of the chairman and the vice chairman. They are representing jointly.
3. Moreover observers with voting power are members of the board being delegated by the following committees:
  - Council of the evangelical Lutheran circuit Melle-Georgsmarienhütte
  - Council of the evangelical Lutheran circuit Bramsche
  - Partnership committee of the evangelical Lutheran circuit Melle-Georgsmarienhütte
  - Partnership committee of the evangelical Lutheran circuit Bramsche
  - Diakonia in town and county of Osnabrück(one observer each)
4. The mandate of the members of the board is running for three years. They remain until appointment of a new board of directors.
5. The board of directors is to meet four times a year.
6. The conclusions are to be recorded in writing and to be signed by the chairman.
7. The members of the board must be members of a Christian church, being member of the ACK and the majority must be members of the evangelical Lutheran regional church, Hannover. This requirement and that according to paragraph 3 is not to be checked by the register court..

## **§ 10 Modification of the statute and liquidation**

1. The meeting of members is deciding as to modification of the statute, changes in purpose of the association and the liquidation. Proposals regarding modifications of statute, purpose and liquidation are to be submitted to the members with voting power one month before the meeting will take place at the latest. In order to make conclusions a majority of 2/3 of the appeared members with voting power is necessary.
2. Modifications and supplements of the statute prescribed by the competent registration or fiscal authorities are being realized by the board of directors and do not need a conclusion by the meeting of members. The members are to be informed in this respect when inviting to the next meeting.
3. In case of liquidation, withdrawal of the legal capacity of the association or in case of shortfall of the tax advantaged purposes the complete asset in equal parts goes to the Evangelical Lutheran circuits Bramsche, Melle-Georgsmarienhütte and Pirna, i.e. under the obligation to spend it in conformity with the previous aims and tasks according to § 2 exclusively and directly.

This statute was concluded at the meeting of members in Melle on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.