

The Japanese Church of the Southern Netherlands

Articles of Associations JCSN

Name and domicile

Article 1

The church bears the name Japanese Church of the Southern Netherlands and is domiciled in the municipality of Eersel.

Nature of the Church

Article 2

The Church is a congregation of persons who believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour, Lord and God and is closely united in his Love.

Purpose of the Church

Article 3

The Church has the following purpose: |

1. To jointly worship the Lord, our God
2. To proclaim the Gospel
3. To nurture believers
4. To develop a vision for, and support missionary work wherever that may be, but in particular amongst Japanese language speaking persons in The Netherlands.
5. To promote christian norms within society at large.

Statement of fundamental doctrine

Article 4

1. The Church believes that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and constitute the only and absolute basis for its doctrine and practice.
2. The Church believes and confesses the Apostolic Creed. This confession of Faith is attached:

Apostoles' Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: I believe in the Holy Spirit: I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting.

Membership

Article 5

1. Members of the Church are those persons who :

- a) have accepted the objectives and doctrine mentioned above.
 - b) have expressed the wish to join the Church, to support our vision, to accept the policies and submit to the authority and spiritual protection of the Church,
 - c) have as such been accepted by the Church Council.
2. All members have the right to ask for the counsel and diaconal care of the Church.
 3. Members remain such until they withdraw as such, or are excluded. The Church Council is authorized to validate whether a member has withdrawn his membership.
 4. The Church Council has the right to exclude a member after attempts to reconcile the latter with the Church prove unsuccessful.
 5. To accept or withdraw a membership, the Church Council must agree so unanimously.

Management of the Church

Article 6 The Church Council

The management of the Church is effected through the Church Council

- a) The Church Council consists of the Chairperson, the Secretary, the Treasurer and at least two other Church Council members.
 - b) Should a member of the Church Council prove unable to fulfill his responsibility for practical or health reasons, he or she can be dismissed by the other members.
 - c) New candidates will be proposed by the existing Church Council, and elected and appointed by the Church by means of a secret Yes/No vote for every member proposed.
 - d) The members of the Church Council will serve for a period of two years extendable for a maximum in total of three consecutive periods.
 - e) Other members of the Church may be asked to assist the Church Council with advice or any other function decided by the latter.
 - f) The Church Council will control the activities and financial dealings of the Church for which the Treasurer is responsible.
 - g) The Church Council has final responsibility for all matters pertaining to the Church.
 - h) Members of the Church Council retain their respective responsibilities during their 2 year period of service until such time as they voluntarily withdraw or the regulation b, above, applies.
2. Making decisions

Decisions of Church Council meetings will be made by majority vote unless otherwise stated.

Funds

The funds required to maintain the activities of the Church and to expand the Kingdom of God will be procured from voluntary tithes and donations, legacies, inheritances and gains.

Changing the statutes

Article 7

These Articles cannot be modified unless the Church Council decides so unanimously with the proviso that none of the following is changed.

- 1 . The purpose as laid down in article 3
- 2 . The statement of doctrine in Article 4.

House regulations

Article 8

The Church Council can draw up house regulations:

- a) For the activities of the Church, the appropriate and effective management of the Church in general and for the supervision of the preceding.
- b) For the various activities which from time to time are carried out by the Church.

Authority of Church Council

Article 9

The Church will be represented by two of its members acting jointly and, as such, are authorized to effect any and all legal transactions which the Church Council deems to be in the interest of the Church.

Dissolution

Article 10

1. The Church Council can at all times decide to dissolve the Church.
2. In case of dissolution of the Church all her properties will be transferred to another church designated by the Church Council, or to any other legal entity with similar aims.

Concluding clauses

Article 11

1. The Church can legally sue, or be sued, and in case of legal conflict the Church will be represented by the Chairperson. However, the Church Council may for this purpose also appoint one or several other persons.
2. All matters not provided for in the present statutes will be decided upon by the Church Council.
3. In case of differences of opinion about the exact nature of the present statutes, the Church Council will decide by majority vote.