

Fund of the Archdiocese of Berlin for the Promotion of Engagement in the Global Church

- Rules of Procedure -

Preamble

4^o (...) Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:40)

The Church in Germany recognises that it is part of a worldwide community of faith, prayer and solidarity. Within the Archdiocese of Berlin, this takes various forms, such as through partnerships with other countries and continents, through the promotion of projects relating to the Global Church, or through support for parishes, associations and institutions in their commitment to the Global Church.

This encompasses both learning from one another and the task of bringing the Global Church's perspective into the Archdiocese in order to foster an awareness of solidarity and shared responsibility.

At the same time, the Archdiocese of Berlin is committed to the Global Church's responsibility for our 'common home', as recalled by Pope Francis in his encyclicals 'Laudato si' from 2015 and 'Fratelli tutti' from 2020. The Archdiocese of Berlin also finds encouragement for its work within the Global Church in the Apostolic Exhortation 'Dilexi te. On Love for the Poor' by Pope Leo XIV.

§ 1

Establishment and Name

1. At the suggestion of the then 'One World and Care for Creation' committee of the Diocesan Council of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Berlin, and in consultation with the then 'World Church' working group of the Archiepiscopal Ordinariate, the Archdiocese of Berlin established this fund at the beginning of 2006.
2. It bears the name 'Fund of the Archdiocese of Berlin for the Promotion of Commitment to the Global Church' (hereinafter referred to simply as the Fund).

§ 2

Legal Status

1. The Fund is subordinate to the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Berlin.
2. The management of the Fund and its tasks and affairs is undertaken by the diocesan representative for Global Church affairs, or, in their absence, by a member of the Fund's committee, appointed for this task by the Vicar General.

§ 3

Purpose and Objectives

1. The Fund aims to support the Archdiocese of Berlin's engagement with the Global Church, to strengthen its financial base and to contribute towards the associated costs.
2. This also includes highlighting developments in the mission of the Global Church and its organisations, generating financial resources on a long-term basis, and ensuring transparency in their distribution.
3. The aim is to provide conceptual, informal and material support and encouragement for the Church's missionary, development and peace work, to promote projects of the Global Church, and to support parishes, associations and institutions in their commitment to the Global Church.

§ 4

Allocation Committee

1. An Allocation Committee shall be established to advise on the allocation of funds.

2. In addition to the Vicar General and the Diocesan Representative for Global Church Affairs, who act as managing directors, the Allocation Committee shall comprise one designated person from each of the following areas of work:
 - a) Specialised pastoral care in the Archdiocese of Berlin (S.I)
 - b) Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of Berlin (S.I)
 - c) Specialist Committee of the Diocesan Council of the Archdiocese of BerlinIn addition to the appointed representative, a deputy from each of the areas of work must be nominated.
3. The participation of further individuals in an advisory capacity from various areas of work and institutions within the Archdiocese of Berlin is, in principle, possible, for example representatives of Catholic charitable organisations or of religious orders and spiritual communities with a Global Church focus.
4. The Allocation Committee meets at least once a quarter. Further meetings may be convened by the Executive Director.
5. The Allocation Committee has a quorum if at least half of the members entitled to vote are present. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.
6. Resolutions may also be passed by circular resolution, provided that no member objects to the circular resolution procedure.
7. Minutes are taken of the Grants Committee meetings.
8. The financial administration of the fund is the responsibility of the Finance Department of the Archiepiscopal Ordinariate. The person responsible for the budget is the Diocesan Representative for Global Church Affairs.

§ 5

Areas of Support

1. In order to fulfil the tasks and objectives of the Fund, various areas of support have been defined.
2. Areas of support within the scope of the Fund are:
 - a) Support for Global Church projects, particularly outside Germany. Funding priorities lie in the areas of education, pastoral care, social welfare, health and empowerment.
 - b) Support for safeguarding measures implemented by global church partners
 - c) Grants for individuals from the Archdiocese of Berlin who are taking part in voluntary international service or comparable programmes
 - d) Support for Global Church missionary causes brought personally to the attention of the Archbishop of Berlin
 - e) Grants for initiatives of international encounters within the Global Church
 - f) Support for Global Church educational and public relations initiatives within the Archdiocese of Berlin
 - g) Ensuring the Archbishop of Berlin's Christmas gift is provided to individuals from the Archdiocese of Berlin who are engaged in missionary work or church development work
3. In addition to these areas of support, the Fund is responsible for supporting, as far as possible, individual causes which it deems worthy of support and which do not fall within the aforementioned areas.

§ 6

Award Criteria

1. A written application is required in order to enable the funding and support of projects and measures under § 5 (2) a, b, c, e and f.
2. The application must demonstrate that the projects and measures to be funded meet several of the following criteria:
 - a) Partnership, solidarity and fraternity
 - b) Helping people to help themselves
 - c) Partners' own initiatives take into account the 'preferential option for the poor'

- d) missionary awareness
 - e) pastoral tasks of the local Churches in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Oceania
 - f) Aspects of climate protection and sustainability
 - g) Principles of Catholic social teaching, in particular the principle of subsidiarity
 - h) Measures to address the causes of flight and displacement in the respective countries of origin
3. All applicants must undertake to ensure that the physical and spiritual well-being of those in their care is fully protected. To this end, the mandatory letter of recommendation from the local bishop or the provincial superior must, following consultation with the relevant safeguarding officer, be confirmed with a signature and seal, stating that an institutional safeguarding policy is in place for the project organiser.
 4. There is no legal entitlement to funding.
 5. Retrospective funding is not possible.
 6. One-off, earmarked grants do not entitle the recipient to further funding.
 7. In the event of attempted fraud, corruption or inappropriate conduct in the area of safeguarding, funding that has already been approved will not be paid out.
 8. The Fund Committee works in collaboration with the Catholic aid organisations (e.g. Missio, Misereor, Adveniat, Renovabis, Kindermissionswerk, Caritas International, etc.) to gather information and exchange views. Prior to each meeting of the Allocation Committee, the aid organisations are provided with the funding applications received, with a request for their assessment.
 9. The implementing regulations relating to individual funding areas and to safeguarding form part of these rules of procedure and the award criteria (see Annex).

§ 7

Fund Resources

1. The Archdiocese of Berlin undertakes to allocate to the Fund, on an annual basis, 1 per cent of the church tax revenue as calculated under the clearing system, minus the funds allocated to the Global Church via the Association of German Dioceses (VDD) and the funds allocated to the Global Church budget line.
2. In addition, 80 per cent of the annual collection for Global Church tasks within the Archdiocese of Berlin is made available to the Fund. The Archbishop of Berlin has discretion over 20 per cent of the aforementioned collection. Any funds from this portion not used during the financial year are returned to the Fund.
3. Any further income and donations, provided they are not earmarked for a specific purpose, are at the Fund's free disposal for the fulfilment of its objectives and tasks.
4. In an annual report, the Allocation Committee documents both the income from the Global Church collection and the projects funded, as well as the amount of funding committed. This report is publicly available on the Archdiocese's website.

§ 8

Final Provisions

1. These Rules of Procedure shall be agreed with the Diocesan Council of the Archdiocese of Berlin or with the relevant specialist committee. They shall be reviewed for their suitability and effectiveness three years after coming into force and amended where necessary.
2. Where these rules of procedure do not clearly regulate a procedural matter, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Berlin shall take the relevant decisions.

§ 9

Entry into Force

These Rules of Procedure shall come into force on 1st July 2026 upon publication in the Official Gazette. They replace the Fund's Rules of Procedure of 1st November 2021, published in the Official Gazette No. 11/2021 (No. 194).