

Assets-Administration law (VVGJZ) of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany, Public Corporation

In the wording of May 27, 2009

Preamble. This law is a statement of the responsibility connected with the administration and use of the material means that are made available for the religious work of Jehovah's Witnesses, (1 Corinthians 4:2) Jehovah God is the one who moves men's hearts to generously provide the means necessary for the worldwide preaching and teaching work.

§ 1 Assets. (1) Assets in the meaning of this law are all rights of monetary value.

(2) "Rights" as described in par. 1 are all interests and claims, independent of their quality, what they are based on, or their legal enforceability in state law.

(3) Of "Monetary value" are rights, as described in par. 1 which can be attributed an economic value, whether it be on the basis of the expenditure for the first or the following acquisition, independent therefrom, whether the present holder of assets or someone else bore the costs, or if it is saleable, separately or jointly with other rights, independent of the restrictions of the actual possibility to sell, due to earmarking of funds or other limits to selling.

(4) The assets of the *Religious Association* in their entirety include all rights of monetary value, which directly serve the fulfillment of purposes of the *Religious Association*, as well as all other rights of monetary value, which were allocated (§ 2, par. 2) to a holder of assets of the *Religious Association* (§ 2, par. 1) or which were legally obtained in another manner.

§ 2 Holder of assets, Allocation. (1) Holders of assets can be structural divisions and agencies (§ 5 StRG) of the *Religious Association* that are, under religious law, independent.

(2) The *Religious Association's* assets are administered by the respective holder of assets. The Branch Committee allocates assets as property to holders of assets for their administration within the framework of their responsibilities and their competence. Insofar as the holders of assets legally obtain assets in another way, these too are to be considered as allocated to them. The assets will be registered under the name of the respective holder of assets.

(3) The allocation is made by means of a law, guideline or an administrative act.

(4) Insofar as assets of the *Religious Association* have not been allocated to another independent structural division or agency, these are to be considered as allocated to the Branch Office (§ 6 StRG).

VVGJZ-E 400-E

(5) Insofar as donations, rights or inheritances for Jehovah's Witnesses are not intended to another holder of assets, or cannot be clearly allocated to such, these are considered to be allocated to the Branch Office (§ 6 StRG), or considered as intended therefore.

§ 3 Special Asset. (1) In order to make an appropriate and effective administration of assets, special assets can be created.

(2) Any asset of the *Religious Association* can be allocated as a special asset for a specific purpose or a specific function (appropriated special asset).

(3) Any asset of the *Religious Association* that is allocated as a special asset can be put under the power of disposition of an organ, a structural division, or an agency of the worldwide *Religious Association* (dedicated special asset). The establishment of a dedicated special asset requires the consent of the Governing Body. The administration of all dedicated special assets is subject to the oversight of the Governing Body, even if a special asset is not managed for it. The Governing Body can prescribe in advance the disposition of an asset that requires approval.

(4) The special asset has to be allocated to a holder of assets for its administration (Administrator). The allocation is made by a guideline or an administrative act. It has to name the name, the nature, the principles of the administration, as well as the administrator of the special asset.

(5) Special assets are to be kept separate from the other assets of the *Religious Association*, and each special asset is to be kept separate from all other special assets, unless otherwise specifically stated by the Governing Body.

§ 4 Legal Representation. (1) Insofar as persons authorized to represent assets perform legal business within the framework of their duties or competence, and they hereby act in the name of the *Religious Association*, they are considered authorized by the Branch Committee. If necessary a certificate can be issued by the Branch Office as proof of their power of representation.

(2) Insofar as the religious law makes a legal transaction subject to approval, the effectiveness of the legal transaction is dependent upon its being approved.

(3) If authorized persons, as described in par. 1, perform a legal business by overstepping their duties or their competence, these are without effect.

§ 5 Earmarking of Funds. All assets are bound to the purposes of the *Religious Association*, as stated in the Preamble and in § 2 StRG. The earmarking of funds is formalized by means of the conferring of duties connected with the allocation of assets, according to § 2, par. 2 of this law.

§ 6 Principles for the Administration of Assets. (1) All holders of assets have the obligation to make economical and conscientious use of the resources put at their disposal. Expenditures that are not directly for the benefit of the preaching and teaching work of the *Religious Association* or the support and maintenance of the *Religious Association*, its structural divisions, and agencies are to be limited to a minimum.

(2) The holders of assets have to conscientiously care for the assets allocated to them, especially mobiles and real property, and to maintain their value.

(3) Additional principles for the administration of assets are regulated separately for the individual holder of assets.

§ 7 Resources of the *Religious Association*. (1) Generally the *Religious Association* finances its preaching and teaching work through gifts and other donations in money or other material assets, as well as inheritances and legacies, which it receives to further its purposes.

(2) The Branch Committee can provide for other measures to procure funds, according to the religious law.

(3) Borrowing money is prohibited; however, in exceptional cases, borrowing money is permissible if the Branch Committee has created a corresponding legal basis therefore or if taking out a loan in an individual case has been approved by them.

§ 8 Preferential Treatment Forbidden. (1) No person may be granted expenditures foreign to the purpose of the *Religious Association* or be favored by disproportionately high compensation.

(2) Employer/Employee relationships in any of the services and spiritual offices are foreign to the *Religious Association* and are therefore ruled out. No claims for reimbursement, support, and care based on holding these offices can be made of the *Religious Association*, with the exception of members of the Order who receive support in accord with its regulations. (§ 9, par. 1, sentence 2 StRG)

(3) With the exception of members of the Order only persons willing and able to accept an office without economic support or material compensation from the *Religious Association* are called to serve in spiritual offices.

§ 9 Coming into effect. This law comes into effect on January 1, 2009.