

# Policy Plan Stichting New Ground Churches

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## Preface

During preparation for a major Christian conference in 2015, New Ground Churches (a family of churches working together and registered as a charity in the UK) was stirred to focus on mainland Europe with a programme of prayer and church planting. This resulted in one of the church leaders based in Holland, Henk Kersten, being asked to move to Maastricht, being a strategic location for travel, and become the New Ground Churches 'champion' for this development.

Funding for two years was available for Henk from New Ground Churches, which was authorised as a grant (with a review during year 1) to a church in Maastricht, where Henk was to be salaried.

As part of the review process, it became apparent that the focus of the church was slightly different to that of New Ground Churches and so an alternative vehicle had to be found to be able to accomplish the goals and vision in place.

Stichting New Ground Churches is an independent foundation but, as is evident from the name, is closely associated with New Ground Churches, the currently supporting charity in the UK. There are no legal ties, other than the grant funding for the current year, although the board members are all members of churches in the New Ground family.

## 1. Objective and approach

### 1.1 Mission and objective

With the established background of Stichting New Ground Churches, the broad mission, as stated in the articles of association, is: to advance the Christian faith by such means as the foundation shall determine from time to time and to relieve sickness, financial hardship and promote and preserve good health.

The way in which this is currently being developed is by working with existing contacts in mainland Europe and seeking to establish new ones.

### 1.2 Approach

In fulfilling the mission, the approach of Stichting New Ground Churches is to work with like-minded Christian church leaders who are already located strategically in towns and cities around mainland Europe, or who would be prepared to move in order to establish new churches that are able to impact for good the local community in which they are located.

Current contacts with established churches or church plants are located in Holland, France, Italy, Switzerland and Romania. New contacts are being pursued in Germany, Poland and Belgium.

With Henk Kersten at the forefront of this initiative, he is able to draw on the wider-ranging resources of church leaders from within the family of New Ground Churches, and this link is currently vital for the effective of this initial approach.

## 2. Organisation

### 2.1 The board

The board is responsible for the management, policy, financial management and the internal and external communication. The foundation has a board consisting of four board members: a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and one board member with general management duties.

The board members receive no remuneration for their activities. The board appoints the directors for an indefinite period of time.

#### **The following directors were appointed:**

- Tjitze Westrate                      Chairman
- Joshua de Jonge                      Secretary
- Kevin Rose                              Treasurer
- Dale Barlow                              General board member

The board takes care of the daily course of affairs with regard to the performance of the foundation and the carrying out of the board resolutions. The duties are allocated among the four board members.

### 2.2 Code of Conduct

The board recognises the importance of integrity in the broadest sense of the word. This means that contradictions between personal (financial) interests and the board membership must be avoided. No costs for attending meetings are charged to the foundation.

### 2.3 Meeting cycle

The board holds at least 4 meetings per year and additional meetings will occur as required. During the meeting the policy plan is the starting point for the reviewing of the progress. In addition, each board member can advance subjects for the meeting.

### 2.4 Cooperation

To guarantee feasibility and quality, Stichting New Ground Churches is advised and supported by a number of advisers in the field of:

- financial policy
- communications (the website among other things)
- notarial matters
- performance of projects
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### 2.5 ANBI (PBO)

Stichting New Ground Churches has the so-called ANBI status. That is to say that the foundation is recognised by the Tax department as an institution focussing on the general good (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling (ANBI)).

### 2.6 Financial statements

Through annual accounts, the board accounts for the policy conducted by it over a calendar year. The annual accounts will be issued annually after each year-end of 31 December. They will be completely public and will be published on the website.

### **3. Performance of projects**

Being in the first year of the Stichting, projects are limited to the activities identified above under 1.2 Approach. These will be reviewed by the board through the year for their effectiveness, in order to implement strategic plans for the coming years.

### **4. Communication**

Stichting New Ground Churches considers it very important to inform its donors and other interested parties in an attractive and clear way.

Openness and transparency are keywords in the communication. Not only about the methodology and financial position of Stichting New Ground Churches, but also about new plans, achieved results or disappointments.

#### **4.1 Website**

The website [www.newgroundchurches.eu](http://www.newgroundchurches.eu) is an important communication channel for (potential) donors and interested parties. Information can be found on the website about the projects and backgrounds. It is possible to become an online donor. The latest news is always shown on the website. The website is continuously improved and updated.

### **5. Financial aspects**

#### **5.1 Income**

The activities of Stichting New Ground Churches are financed by grant-funding from New Ground Churches and other gifts and donations.

Stichting New Ground Churches is happy to work with private individuals and organisations, which choose to pay an amount incidentally or periodically. There is expressly no minimum amount.

#### **5.2 Costs**

Stichting New Ground Churches spends nearly all its financial resources in supporting its currently stated activities, namely releasing Henk Kersten to work with existing and new contacts. For that reason, the other costs are almost negligible and remain limited to the costs for webhosting, administration and other incidental costs.

#### **5.3 Financial policy**

Stichting New Ground Churches spends the majority of its income on salary and travel expenses. Specifically this means that the financial policy is limited to ensuring the grant funding from New Ground Churches is at least sufficient to observe the obligations for the upcoming year.

The financial situation of Stichting New Ground Churches is completely public. The financial statements will be issued annually after each year-end of 31 December and will be found on the website.

### **6. Future**

The future plans of Stichting New Ground Churches are in no small way dependent on the relative success of the activities in this first year. Grant funding is secured through to December 2016 from New Ground Churches, but at this stage, there is no guarantee of future funding. Nevertheless the relationship with New Ground Churches remains crucial to the ongoing activities of Stichting New Ground Churches.

The existing structure of Stichting New Ground Churches has been considered carefully with the future in mind so that if the development of the mission would benefit from a closer working partnership with New Ground Churches, then this can very easily be transitioned.