

Membership in the Vereinte Kirche Gottes (UCG-Germany)

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Vereinte Kirche Gottes • Bylaws • § 10 Membership, No. 6

INTRODUCTION

A member may be disfellowshipped according to biblical criteria and for violations of the church's Bylaws in § 10 Membership, No. 4. If a member is not in agreement with this decision, he may appeal the decision.

PROCEDURE

The disfellowshipped member appeals his disfellowshipment by submitting a written, informal appeal. The appeal shall be submitted to the chairman of the National Council and may contain a maximum of 1000 (one thousand) words. In the appeal the disfellowshipped member shall explain why he considers his disfellowshipment to be unjustified.

Within 30 days of receiving the appeal the ministerial assembly of the church shall write a response, which may contain a maximum of 1000 (one thousand) words. The disfellowshipped member shall be given a copy of the response.

The chairman of the National Council shall forward the appeal of the disfellowshipped member and the response of the ministerial assembly to the appeals committee. The appeals committee shall make a ruling on the appeal, with the available options being:

- 1.) The committee confirms the disfellowshipment of the member, which ends the appeals process.
- 2.) The committee returns the appeal to the ministerial assembly of the Vereinte Kirche Gottes (UCG-Germany) with the request that the disfellowshipment be reviewed.

In the event that the committee requests a review of the disfellowshipment by the ministerial assembly, the review shall be completed within 60 days of receiving notice from the appeals committee. The review can either confirm or withdraw the disfellowshipment. If the disfellowshipment is confirmed, the appeals process is completed.

FORMATTING OF THE APPEAL AND THE REPLY TO THE APPEAL

The appeal of the disfellowshipped member and the response to the appeal from the ministerial assembly shall not be hand-written, but typewritten with 1.5 line spacing.

COMPOSITION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

The committee is made up of five members of the United Church of God, *an International Association* who are not members of the Vereinte Kirche Gottes (UCG-Germany). They are appointed by the National Council and serve until their appointment is revoked. Their appointment is approved by the member assembly Vereinte Kirche Gottes (UCG-Germany) by a simple majority of the ballots cast. All members of the committee must be able to express themselves in both written and spoken German.