



## **DEMANDS BY THE CHRISTIANS FOR FUTURE TO THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN GERMANY**

Christians for Future is a national association of Christians who are active within the For-Future movement for climate justice. The churches are already promoting climate justice in their statements such as the encyclical *Laudato Si'* or the EKD statement 130 "Borrowed is the star on which we live" and in many concrete initiatives<sup>1</sup>. These efforts are very positive and are welcomed by the Christians For Future. The progressing climate crisis illustrates, however, that the current efforts have not been sufficient. The command to love our neighbour and to care for the creation requires a more drastic conversion in our own actions and a clearer testimony in society and politics. In this context we put the following demands to the church leadership of the (arch-) dioceses and regional churches in Germany.

### **THE PROPHETIC VOICE OF THE CHURCH**

1. The church leadership show public solidarity with the demands of Fridays for Future Germany both in words and in deeds.
2. Together with other religious leaders at national and sub-national level, the church leadership maintains a structured and regular dialogue with the movement for climate justice aimed at joint action.
3. The church leadership at national and sub-national level highlight the urgency of climate action by regular public actions, such as participation in climate marches, vigils or other forms of action.
4. The church leadership seek dialogue with politicians and demand a clear change towards climate just politics.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of these demands are already implemented in some places as illustrated in the background document.

5. The international ecumenical cooperation and the global solidarity at different levels is strengthened with regard to the joint challenge of the global climate and environmental crisis that hits many countries in Africa, Latin-America, Asia and Oceania particularly hard.

## **ACTION WITHIN THE CHURCHES**

6. The regional churches, free churches and (arch-) dioceses aim at becoming climate neutral by 2030. Budgetary planning and investment decisions are aligned with this goal.
7. Regional churches, free churches and (arch-) dioceses ensure, that all land in church ownership will be managed in a climate-positive manner by 2035 and aligned with the criteria for ecological agriculture. All new lease agreements for land follow these criteria with immediate effect. The use of peat is discontinued immediately.
8. Regional churches, free churches and (arch-) dioceses publicly commit to divestment from coal, oil and gas.
9. All (arch-) dioceses, free churches and regional churches create one full-time staff position working on environment and climate per 100.000 church members. At national level, the churches create an advisory service for climate neutrality.

## **AWARENESS RAISING WITHIN THE CHURCHES**

10. The church leadership promote networks to foster cooperation on climate justice within the churches, such as the ecumenical network for climate Justice (Ökumenische Netzwerk Klimagerechtigkeit).
11. The church leadership ensures that urgent action to protect the creation is embedded in the pastoral work and in training. For this purpose they organise compulsory training for all church staff on the climate crisis.
12. The church leadership ensures that the stewardship for creation is embedded more in liturgy and spirituality. In addition, the churches participate in providing pastoral answers to growing fears of the future and pastoral offers to interested activists.

**--VERTRAULICH--**