

VERSION 1.0E

2021-05-25



REPORT

HISTORY, ACTIVITIES AND GOALS OF THE CHURCH

ZBÓR STANOWCZYCH CHRZEŚCIJAN W RP

MALINCZANÓW 4A, 43-460 WISŁA, POLAND

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of contents	1
1. Administration and organization.....	2
1.1 Details of the church	2
1.2 Structure	2
1.3 Locations	3
2. The mission of the church	3
3. Our Faith	4
3.1 Basis	4
3.2 The Bible - God's Word	4
3.3 Jesus Christ.....	4
3.4 Ministries in the Congregation	5
3.5 The mission of the church.....	5
3.6 Outlook for the future	5
3.7 Profile of the church	6
4. History of the church	9
4.1 Origin, roots	9
4.2 International Contacts	9
4.3 Registration of the ZSCH	9
4.4 Demographics	9
5. Ways to achieve the objectives	9
5.1 Services in the church	10
5.2 Youth Services, Sunday School.....	10
5.3 Meetings for children with interesting activities	10
5.4 Youth exchange projects.....	11
5.5 Visits from abroad.....	11
5.6 Holidays and Special Events.....	11
5.7 Conferences, visits, invitations	12
5.8 Youth exchange.....	12
6. Future plans	13
7. Finance	14
7.1 Budget, financing	14
7.2 Completed and planned investments	14
7.3 Financial reporting	14
8. Summary	14
8.1 Message	15
8.2 Literature	15
8.3 Contact, how to get there.....	15

1. ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

1.1 DETAILS OF THE CHURCH

The Assemblies of Standing Christians in the Republic of Poland
4a Malinczanow Street
43-460 Wisła
PL NIP 548-21-74-817
PL REGON 072287400
NL NIP 8258.21.885

The church under this name was entered in the Register of Churches and Other Religious Associations in 1990 under entry number 47.

<https://www.gov.pl/web/mswia/rejestr-kosciolow-i-innych-zwiazkow-wyznaniowych>

1.2 STRUCTURE

The statutory bodies of the church are:

1. General Meeting of Members - the highest body of the church. It convenes at least once a year, passes strategic resolutions, approves the financial statements of the church and elects the Council of Elders.
2. Council of Elders - manages the current affairs of the church. Its members represent the church outside in accordance with the Statutes.
3. The Audit Committee - the controlling body of the church, supervising the activities especially in financial and economic matters.

The church is jointly represented externally by the Superior and the Secretary.

Documents binding the church financially shall be signed jointly by the Superior and the Treasurer.

Council of Elders

Function	Name
Superior	Piotr Pilch
Secretary	Leszek Czyż
Treasurer	Roman Szalbot
Member	Jerzy Polok
Member	Witold Czyż
Member	Jan Kędzior
Member	Jerzy Wrzecionko

Audit Committee

Function	Name
Member	Bronisław Bujok
Member	Czesław Podzorski
Member	Jarosław Wisetka

None of the above persons who hold statutory office in the church shall receive compensation for their work for the church.

1.3 LOCATIONS

The headquarters of the church is located in Wisła, Silesia. In addition, there are two branches in the provinces of Dolnoslaskie and Lubuskie.

In addition to the main new building in Ustroń, the church still has the previous building in Wisła-Malinka for about 210 people and a property in Kowale near Wrocław, where it is planned to build a meeting hall for about 50 people for the needs of local members.

2. MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The mission and main goal of the church is to preach the Gospel on the basis of Jesus' words to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-20). It is the Bible that is the authority and foundation for all the work of our church.

More specifically, the purpose can be stated as follows: in keeping with our Christian foundation, church aims to spread the message of the New Testament and to teach those who choose to live according to that message. Church fulfills his purpose by continually working to improve the ways he spread the message and by building faith and fellowship in every way possible.

The church is not motivated by profit in any of its activities. Donations and other income of the church are used entirely for the purposes directly related to our mission.

<https://bcc.no/en/beliefs-and-values/>

<https://activechristianity.org/about-us>



3. OUR FAITH

3.1 BASIS

The church was founded as a Christian faith community in Poland in 1990, on the same principle as the international faith community, Brunstad Christian Church (BCC), which was established in Norway in the early 20th century as a result of the life and work of Johan Oscar Smith (1871-1943). The foundation is the Bible's New Testament message about personal Christian living and Christian church life.



3.2 THE BIBLE - GOD'S WORD

We believe that both the Old and New Testaments, which together make up the Bible, were written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. This makes the Bible the Word of God and the foundation of faith that defines our personal Christian life and our Christian church life. The Old Testament of the Bible describes human history from the time God created man and woman and the history of the nation of Israel in the time before Christ. The New Testament of the Bible describes the life of Christ Jesus and the first Christian church.

3.3 JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is from eternity the Son of God. He was born as a man from the virgin Mary. He was crucified as an innocent man and died. On the third day He rose from the grave and then appeared to His disciples for forty days before He ascended into heaven. Ten days later in Jerusalem, the disciples received the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised them.

RECONCILIATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Because Jesus Christ died as a just man for unjust people, we are reconciled to God. He was crucified and died as an innocent man for us, so anyone who repents of their sins and transgressions can be forgiven through faith in Christ Jesus.

JESUS AS A MAN

During His life here on earth, Jesus always lived according to the will of His heavenly Father. Since He took on the form of a man, He had to fight a spiritual battle in the power of the Holy Spirit to not do His own will, but to obey the will of His heavenly Father.

SANCTIFICATION

Therefore, Christ Jesus can help those who want to follow Him to live a new life in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit in victory over all the sins of which they are aware. This new life results in personal spiritual growth - sanctification. In this way, every follower of Christ becomes an ever-increasing blessing to his or her neighbors.

THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE CHURCH

The followers of Christ form a body, the Church, of which Christ Jesus is the head. As the Apostle Paul writes in his Letter to the Ephesians, Jesus Christ gives his Church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for service, for the edification of the Church. This body is one because of the Holy Spirit, which has been given to each member. Because each member is connected to Christ Jesus, each in his own way contributes to the building up of the Church.

3.4 MINISTRIES IN THE CONGREGATION

The early apostles distinguished between the ministry of the word and the ministry of tables, in other words: the spiritual, pastoral ministry and the practical, auxiliary ministry. All ministries in a congregation are intended to benefit and build up the congregation.

3.5 THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The mission of the church is to spread the message of the New Testament and to teach those who have chosen it to live according to that message.

3.6 FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Bible speaks of new times for this world and eternity. For this world, the Bible speaks of a thousand-year kingdom of peace in which Christ Jesus himself will rule the earth from Jerusalem. Then God himself will judge all people according to their deeds, after which he will create a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness will dwell.





3.7 PROFILE OF THE CHURCH

According to our Biblical foundation, being a Christian is a personal, voluntary choice and conviction to live as a follower of Christ according to God's Word, the Bible. How each person interprets this in his or her personal life, family, and society is also each person's personal, voluntary choice and responsibility.

It is also everyone's personal, voluntary choice as to whether they want to unite with the foundation of the church and be part of its community.

The essence of the social life of the church is faith building. The central place is occupied by worship services. This core is supported by unifying activities for different target groups. The community life is characterized by the involvement and active contribution of its members.

The church assumes the equality of the man and woman God created with their unique characteristics and tasks. In the family and in church life, man and woman work together with mutual respect.





The church wants to offer its members the opportunity to participate and contribute to the community according to their interests, gifts and talents.

The church strives to provide a positive, stimulating and safe environment for its members - especially children and youth.

The church wants every child to be able to remember a happy and joyful childhood in the community, even if they later decide not to belong to the church.

Children are a gift from God. Parents have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and welfare of their child. Together with the church, parents can dedicate their child to God's blessing in prayer during the worship service.

A person who has chosen to live as a follower of Christ Jesus can be baptized by immersion in water.



The Lord's Supper (Communion) is a gathering of reflection, fellowship and empowerment. During the celebration, bread and wine are shared in remembrance of Jesus.



Marriage according to the New Testament is a covenant - a union between a man and a woman who have decided to share the rest of their lives together in love and fidelity. The bride and groom may ask for the blessing of God and the congregation for their marriage. This takes place during a solemn service, after the marriage is officially legalized.

When a member of the church dies, the community may hold a gathering where church members share memories of the deceased's life as a member of the community. At the request of the family, the church may also make funeral arrangements.



4. HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

4.1 ORIGIN, ROOTS

The beginnings of the church are considered to be in the first decade of the 20th century. When 9 Lutheran neo-pietists, excluded from Evangelical Christian Community in Cieszyn, registered in 1910 the Union of Steadfast Christians. In Wisla the churches of ZSCH were registered in 1929. After the Second World War Firm Christians joined the United Evangelical Church (ZKE).

4.2 INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

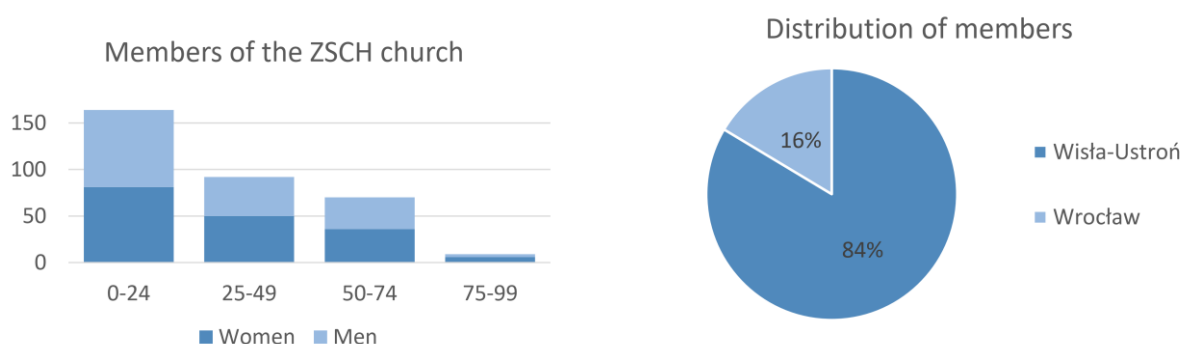
In 1968 contact was made with the Norwegian Brethren, which caused a group to develop among the firm Christians of Malinka that identified itself with the so-called Norwegian Brethren.

4.3 REGISTRATION OF THE ZSCH

In 1988, the church left the ZKE and affiliated with the Brunstad Christian Church (BCC). On July 31, 1990, the church was entered into the register of churches and religious associations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

4.4 DEMOGRAPHICS

The church today has 335 members nationwide, consists of two locations - in Ustroń and near Wrocław - and is a relatively young community; nearly half of the members are under the age of 25.



5. MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

5.1 SERVICES IN THE CHURCH

The main source of mutual edification of faith and proclamation of the Gospel are the general services. These are held once a week on Sundays and everyone is invited, whether they are members of the church, guests or interested parties. The services consist of prayers, songs and testimonies.



5.2 YOUTH SERVICES , SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES



Meeting people ages 12 to 35 is important to us, so the church holds weekly youth meetings. At the meetings, everyone has the opportunity to hear God's Word preached, sing edifying songs, and give testimonies.



A valuable part of our church are the children, for whom Sunday school classes are prepared every Sunday. During the Sunday school classes, children can learn about the Bible and what it means for our everyday lives. The Sunday school classes are prepared and conducted by volunteers from the church - parents, grandparents and youth.

5.3 MEETINGS FOR CHILDREN WITH INTERESTING ACTIVITIES



Meetings for children with interesting activities are also an important area of our activity. We want each age group to find the time spent at the church worthwhile, so we organize activities - both physical and other - during which children have the opportunity to spend time together, doing what they like - in a friendly atmosphere.

5.4 YOUTH EXCHANGE PROJECTS

A part of our Christian activities is also organizing youth exchanges. They take the form of weekend trips abroad or hosting a group of young people in Ustroń. The fundamental part of these events is preaching the Gospel and edifying conversations about the Word of God and our life. Young people also have the opportunity to make new friends and exchange experiences with people from other cultures.



5.5 VISITS FROM ABROAD

Several times a year we invite foreign guests so that we can grow in our faith with them and listen to the preaching of the Gospel. These meetings are not regular, but they are an important part of our church life. Most often these meetings are organized during weekends and consist of 2 or 3 meetings, edifying talks, common reflections on God's Word and songs.



5.6 HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Important for us as Christians and Poles are holidays like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and national holidays like Independence Day or Constitution Day.

On each of these occasions we hold an occasional service of edification for the whole church.

The purpose of these meetings is always to preach the Gospel and build up faith.



From time to time there are edifying meetings for seniors, and usually once a year there is a conference up north to build together with a small group of believers from the Gdansk area.

At the end of the summer, we host an outdoor end of summer party with a worship service and activities for children.

The ceremony of blessing young children often takes place with the participation of brothers from abroad, although this is not the rule.



5.7 CONFERENCES, VISITS, INVITATIONS

We keep in touch with friends from abroad who have the same goal in their lives.

We invite brothers from Germany, Holland, Norway, Hungary and many other countries to listen to the Word of God together and exchange thoughts and experiences to build up our common faith.



5.8 YOUTH EXCHANGES

Young people make contact easily, and thanks to social media, borders are no longer of any importance. Therefore, the young people are all the more eager to make international friends, so we visit churches abroad and welcome them in our home.

When they visit us, we usually organize cultural and sightseeing activities - a regular item on the agenda is a visit to the concentration camp and museum in Oświęcim. This always makes a great impression and strengthens the motivation to lead a personal Christian life and to acquire the virtues of Christ, which are a huge contrast to evil.



6. FUTURE PLANS

Recently, we had to adjust to many restrictions during the pandemic. Therefore, we are looking forward to seeing the social situation normalize. We have high hopes and many plans for the use of the recently opened church facility.

During the time of restriction, we hold services that are streamed online. It's been a long time since we've been able to gather as we used to, and it's very precious to us, so we long to reopen such opportunities.



We have a great desire to invite groups of young people from Holland and Germany to Ustroń in order to have fellowship together and strengthen Christian bonds, which is not hindered by cultural differences.

We ourselves also very much look forward to spending time together in the new facility - primarily to preach the Gospel, but also after the service of God's Word - in outdoor conversations and games for the little ones.



7. FINANCE

7.1 BUDGET, FINANCING

The main income of the church for many years consisted solely of donations from its members. Due to the need to build a larger building, the church established a 100% church-owned company in 2013, through which the level of church income increased, but was still not sufficient to launch the necessary investment. In 2018, the needs of the church were met by the Dutch foundations WEW and HMC, that made the largest and the most important investment of the church's entire history possible.

7.2 COMPLETED AND PLANNED INVESTMENTS

In the spring of 2021, a new church facility with a spacious and modern fellowship hall was completed. Some of the adjacent rooms will be successively finished in the following years. The investment lasted 2 years and its cost amounts to 23,3 million PLN gross.

Further interior work and landscaping around the building is planned for 2021-2024.



7.3 FINANCIAL REPORTING

Bookkeeping is done by the Treasurer, Roman Szalbot.

The finances of the church, beginning in 2019, are audited by a certified financial auditor RSM Poland, 3b Droga Dębińska Street, 61-555 Poznań.

The annual financial reports of Standing Christian Church can be found at zsch.org.

8. SUMMARY

8.1 MESSAGE

The mission of the Standing Christians Church is to preach the gospel and teach through God's Word. The example of Jesus proves that everyone can enter the process of sanctification and be happy here on earth. We want the church to grow in harmony and good atmosphere, so we organize meetings that develop children and youth, strengthen the bonds of adult community, and foster good relationships between generations.

8.2 LITERATURE

If you are interested in our faith, please visit our website: aktywnechrzescijanstwo.pl, where you can find a lot of materials and practical examples from real life. You can also contact us directly by sending an e-mail to: kontakt@zsch.org.

It is also possible to purchase literature in various versions at christianbookshop.org.



8.3 CONTACT, ACCESS

Services are held in Ustroń near Cieszyn, at the following address:
134 Skoczowska Street, 43-450 Ustroń.

<https://goo.gl/maps/zjrqA2Fw2E9UtXUn7>





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www.zsch.org
www.aktywnechrzescijanstwo.pl