

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
of the  
***[Name of Church]***  
*A [Name of state] Nonprofit Religious Corporation*

**Article I**

The name of this corporation is the *[Name of church]* (hereinafter the “Corporation”).

**Article II**

This Corporation is a religious corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the *[Name of state]* Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law primarily for religious purposes.

**Article III**

The name and address in the State of *[Name of state]* of the Corporation's initial agent for service of process is *[Name and full business address of agent, including state and county (no P.O. Boxes)]*.

**Article IV**

- A. This Corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding section of any future United States internal revenue law).
- B. Within the context of the purposes stated above, this Corporation shall:
  - (1) Promote, encourage, foster and engage in, by all proper and legitimate means, the dissemination of religious and moral teaching and instruction for the support of public worship, such means to include but not be limited to engaging the services of men and women to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ and making donations for the purposes of missionary work; and
  - (2) Promote, encourage, foster and engage in, by all proper and legitimate means, charitable, educational, medical, scientific, civic, religious and similar causes, such means to include but not be limited to making donations for the public welfare.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this Corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this Corporation, and the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding section of any future United States internal revenue law), or (2) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding section of any future United States internal revenue law).
- D. No substantial part of the activities of this Corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including publishing or distributing statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### Article V

- A. The property of this Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, as set forth in Articles II and IV(B) above. No part of the net earnings or assets of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its directors, trustees, officers, members, or any individual, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, or to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Articles II and IV(B) above.
- B. On the winding up and dissolution of this Corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the Corporation, the remaining assets of this Corporation shall be distributed to an organization (or organizations) that is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 (or the corresponding section of any future United States internal revenue law). That organization shall be the *[Name of your World Sector]*, a *[Name of state]* nonprofit religious corporation and Association of Churches of which this Corporation is a member, whose principal offices are located at *[Full address]*, if it qualifies as a distributee under the provisions of this section.

### Article VI

There shall be only one class of membership and all members in that class shall have all the same rights and privileges of membership as set forth in these articles and the bylaws. *[If your church membership is 500 or more, we recommend using the delegate system as set forth below. We make this recommendation because as your church grows, it may become more difficult to call a meeting of the entire membership to vote on corporate matters that they are privileged to vote on. An exception to this recommendation applies if your church meets together frequently and expects to continue doing so in the next several years. If you believe that the delegate system may best serve your needs, it will require the vote of the entire church membership to be effective (because it affects members' voting). The provisions below were taken from the Articles of Incorporation of the Los Angeles International Church of Christ and may be used for this purpose.]*

### Article VI

There shall be two classes of membership, Class One and Class Two *[You may substitute other names for the classes of members.]*, as follows:

- A. Class One shall be comprised of all the membership of the local congregation, except Region Leaders *[Please use your own terminology instead of "Region Leaders," depending on how your church is organized and how you refer to the leaders of the subgroups in the church.]* Class One members may vote only on matters related to the application of Section 11.2(c) of the corporate bylaws. Class One members may enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership as set forth in the articles and these bylaws.
- B. Class Two shall be comprised of all the Region Leaders (defined at Article VII(A), below) of the local congregation. Region Leaders may vote on all corporate matters,

except those matters reserved to Class One members. Region Leaders may enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership as set forth in the articles and these bylaws.

**Article VII**

- A. Region leaders *[Please use your own terminology.]*, all of whom are men and ordained ministers, shall be comprised of the heads of the ten (10) (or more) different regions of the Corporation *[Or, indicate how your church membership is organized.]*, or any other criteria that may be determined by the church's ecclesiastical leadership. For the purposes of voting on corporate matters, Region Leaders are "delegates" of the membership in their respective region of the local congregation, and represent their interests. Region Leaders shall be elected to serve by and at the pleasure of the church's ecclesiastical leadership. Any reference in these bylaws to Region Leaders is a reference to delegates and vice versa.
- B. Subject to Section 11.2(c) of the corporate bylaws, Region Leaders shall vote, on behalf of all the members in their respective regions, on any and all matters that corporate members are generally privileged to vote upon, as well as on the election of directors, on the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Corporation, on a merger and its principal terms and any amendment of those terms, and on an election to dissolve the Corporation.
- C. A Region Leader may be removed only by the church's ecclesiastical leadership, with or without cause, or with or without a recommendation of the board for removal. A board recommendation for removal must be determined at a meeting of the board called expressly for that purpose, by a 75% vote of the entire board, provided that at least the number of directors required to achieve such vote are present at the meeting. In the event a Region Leader is suspended or terminated, or resigns from membership in the Corporation, or otherwise leaves the local congregation for any reason, he ceases to be a member, is automatically removed as Region Leader, and may no longer exercise any rights or privileges of membership, including voting.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, at *[City and state]*.

*[Name of Incorporator]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Incorporator

I hereby declare that I am the person who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, which execution is my act and deed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Incorporator