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**COVER LETTER**

TO: Amendment Section  
Division of Corporations

NAME OF CORPORATION: Living Hope Community Church, Inc.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 732270

The enclosed *Articles of Amendment* and fee are submitted for filing.

Please return all correspondence concerning this matter to the following:

**Robert A. Stermer, Attorney at Law**

(Name of Contact Person)

(Firm/ Company)

**7480 SW Hwy. 200**

(Address)

**Ocala, FL 34476**

(City/ State and Zip Code)

**sv1@atlantic.net**

E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

For further information concerning this matter, please call:

**Robert A. Stermer**

(Name of Contact Person)

at **352 861-0447**

(Area Code & Daytime Telephone Number)

Enclosed is a check for the following amount made payable to the Florida Department of State:

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|---|--|---|--|

**Mailing Address**

Amendment Section  
Division of Corporations  
P.O. Box 6327  
Tallahassee, FL 32314

**Street Address**

Amendment Section  
Division of Corporations  
Clifton Building  
2661 Executive Center Circle  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

**CERTIFICATE**  
**LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH, INC.**

1. Attached hereto are the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of Living Hope Community Church, Inc . (hereinafter "Restatement")
2. The Restatement contains an amendment to the articles of incorporation requiring member approval.
3. The name of the corporation is Living Hope Community Church, Inc.
4. The attached Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation contain the text of each amendment adopted.
5. The date of the adoption of the amendment by the members was December 2, 2012.
6. The number of votes cast for the amendment was sufficient for approval.

Living Hope Community Church, Inc.

By: 

Robert A. Stermer, Director

**FILED**  
12 DEC 26 PM 2:57  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

# **Living Hope Community Church, Inc.**

Amended and Restated  
Articles of Incorporation

2111 NE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ocala, FL 34470-3126

December 2, 2012

**Living Hope Community Church, Inc.**  
**2111 NE 36th Ave, Ocala, FL 34470-3126**

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**AMENDED AND RESTATED  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

**Living Hope Community Church, Inc.**

**ARTICLE I**

These Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, approved by majority vote of the membership on November 18, 2012 replace the Articles of Incorporation approved by the membership on March 25, 1975, and updated, revised and approved on December 31, 1980; May 22, 1988; September 5, 1993; July 5, 2010 and September 19, 2010.

**ARTICLE II**

The name of this corporation is LIVING HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Inc. and its permanent location is and will be in Marion County, Florida. Its Post Office address is 2111 NE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ocala, Florida 34470-3126.

**ARTICLE III**

We, a congregate body of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, declare and establish these amended and restated Articles of Incorporation and By-laws as the governing documents of this church. The purpose is to develop a fellowship of believers, to reach out compassionately and creatively to all persons, to minister to the whole person in His name, to develop good stewards of all God's gifts, to maintain an attitude of Christlikeness by being yielded to His Spirit; and to preserve, secure and promote the principles of our faith.

**ARTICLE IV**

The general purpose and object of the Corporation is to establish and maintain Christian worship, to build and maintain churches, parsonages, schools, hospitals, chapels, and such other religious, educational or benevolent institutions as may be necessary or proper, to maintain missionary undertakings in the United States or in any foreign country, and to perform all other acts as provided by and permitted under the laws of the State of Florida to accomplish the general purpose and object.

**ARTICLE V**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**The Scriptures**

We believe the Bible, consisting of the 39 Books of the Old Testament and the 27 Books of the New Testament, is God's absolute, objective truth for all people for all times. We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of Scripture. It is without error in concept or detail in the original writings. It is inspired in every word, divinely preserved and therefore trustworthy. It is God's written, propositional revelation. It is complete in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe the Holy Spirit directed the human authors so that through their individual personalities and literary styles they composed and recorded God's Word. We believe the true meaning of Scripture is found as one diligently applies the literal, grammatical, historical and contextual method of interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Biblical Support:** II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; John 10:35; II Peter 3:16; John 16:7-14; I Corinthians 2:7-16.

**The Trinity**

We believe in the one personal, living God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He eternally exists in

three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They execute distinct, but harmonious roles in creation, providence, and redemption. They are equal in nature, attributes and perfections. Nevertheless the Son and the Spirit are submissive to the Father's will. The triune God is worthy of our worship, confidence and obedience.

**Biblical Support:** Deuteronomy 6:4; I Kings 8:60; Psalm 90:1-2; Isaiah 45:5-6; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 16:16; Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-14; Luke 22:70; Luke 11:13; John 10:30; John 14:10-11; John 14:16-17; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6.

### **The Father**

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity. We believe He works everything in accordance with His perfect will, though His sovereignty does not eliminate or minimize human responsibility. God's foreknowledge is exhaustive and not dependent on human decisions and actions. We believe He hears and answers prayer and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

**Biblical Support:** Genesis 1:1; Psalm 34:6; Psalm 147:5; John 1:3; John 3:36; John 6:27; Romans 6:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:2-4; Colossians 1:16-26; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 1:5; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 3:20; Revelation 19:6.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's one and only eternal Son and is fully God and fully Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe in His sinless life, His accuracy and truthfulness in all He spoke, His death on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead and His substitutionary atonement. He ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of God the Father He is our High Priest and advocate.

**Biblical Support:** John 1:1; John 1:29; 1 Timothy 2:6; Romans 3:25-26; 1 Corinthians 5:14; Hebrews 10:5-14; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; Revelation 19; Revelation 20.

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, who was sent by God the Father and God the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. His ministry glorifies Jesus Christ and implements Christ's work of redemption. He regenerates, baptizes, seals and indwells all believers, securing them in Christ forever, and empowers them for godly living and service. The ministry of the Spirit in the church does not need signs and wonders to verify it, nor does His work guarantee abundant wealth or life without illness. His presence is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit and the building up of believers into Christ-likeness. The Spirit controls, leads and gifts believers, but no one specific gift is a sign of His baptism or filling, nor do they provide extra Biblical revelation contrary to the Word of God, but all are for the common good.

**Biblical Support:** 1 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 4:30; John 16:13-14; John 15:26; John 16:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Genesis 1:2; II Peter 1:21; Acts 5:3-4; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 5:5; II Corinthians 1:22; I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 5:18.

### **Humanity**

We believe that humanity, male and female, was uniquely made in the image of God and for His glory, to exercise dominion over the earth, and to enjoy a relationship with Him forever. God created Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from Adam's rib. Subsequent human life, which begins at conception, is a gift from God deserving of respect, care and protection. Sin entered the world when Adam, representing us, disobeyed God. The effect is that all people are sinners by nature and choice, are spiritually dead, and are in need of a Savior. The family is established by God and is the foundation institution of society. He

has designed marriage to be a life-long commitment between one man and one woman.

**Biblical Support:** Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15-25; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; James 3:9; Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 5:22-23; Ephesians 6:1-4.

### **Salvation**

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern, culminating in glorification in God's presence in heaven.

**Biblical Support:** Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:5; John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 16:19-20; Romans 6:13; Colossians 3:17; John 5:24; Romans 8:29-39; John 17:15; II Timothy 1:12.

### **The Church**

We believe the universal Church, launched on the day of Pentecost, is the spiritual body of Christ of which He is the head. This local church administers the ordinances of Believer's Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. This local church is made up of all who having made a credible confession of faith and are baptized as believers by immersion, for the purpose of publicly declaring their relationship with Jesus Christ. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is administered in obedience to His command for the purpose of remembering His death and burial, anticipating the return of Jesus Christ. The church is built into Christ-likeness through the preaching and teaching of the Word, prayer, evangelism, and worship in the context of accountable community.

While the local church is autonomous and congregational, we commit to Biblical interdependence with other churches. Her leaders are responsible first to Jesus Christ and then to the congregation. We recognize the calling and giftedness of men and women to serve together in ministry; however, we believe the office of Elder and Lead Pastor are intended to be filled by biblically qualified men. It is imperative that every believer be an active part of a local church.

**Biblical Support:** Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:46-47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 18:15-18; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Romans 6:3; Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 2:4-6; Acts 2:38-41; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.

### **Separation of Church and State**

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life and that each one should be free to worship God according to the dictates of conscience.

**Biblical Support:** Daniel 3:17-18; 6:11; Acts 5:29; I Peter 2:9

### **Angels**

We believe God created angels, spirit-beings possessing power and intellect, who worship and serve Him. Angels are sent to minister to those who will inherit salvation. Satan is a fallen angel, who masquerades as an angel of light. Satan's role on earth, often implemented by demons, is to deceive and destroy. He, along with his demons, have been defeated for eternity by Jesus Christ at the cross.

**Biblical Support:** Psalm 148:2-5; Hebrews 1:14; Isaiah 44:12-17; James 2:19; II Peter 2:4; Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:12; II Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:10; John 12:31; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:1-3; Revelation 20:10.



### **Last Things**

We believe a person's eternal destiny is forever sealed by their acceptance or rejection of Christ and His work on the cross in this lifetime. Unbelievers will experience eternal separation from the presence of God in hell, a place of great suffering and loss. Believers will experience eternity with God, in a place of joyful worship and fellowship with the redeemed of all ages. We also believe in the pre-millennial coming of Jesus Christ to the earth with His saints to establish His kingdom on earth.

**Biblical Support:** Biblical Support: Luke 16:22-23; Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Daniel 9:27; Daniel 2:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Revelation 6:1-9; Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-16; Deuteronomy 65:15-17; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Revelation 19:11; Revelation 19:14; Revelation 1-6; Mark 9:43-48; I Corinthians 15:24-28; II Thessalonians 1:9; II Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:5; Rev 22:11.

### **ARTICLE VI**

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers of whom it is comprised. It is subject to the control of no ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of fellowship, mutual counsel and cooperation with churches of like faith and practice. The governance structure of the church shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE VII**

All persons who have been received as members of Living Hope Community Church, Inc., pursuant to provisions in its by-laws, shall be and are declared to be members of the incorporated church. All those who shall hereafter be received by said church pursuant to provisions in its by-laws, shall likewise be members of the same.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

The membership shall have the power to amend, strike out, or change any of the Articles of Incorporation or the By-laws by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the members present and voting in a church business meeting; provided that notice of any proposed change(s) shall be given by announcement during two Sunday worship services prior to the business meeting at which the proposed change(s) will be considered. Regular business matters of the church may be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting with the exception of the call of a paid or non-paid Elder or encumbrance of the property either of which will require a 75% vote of the members present and voting in a church business meeting; provided that notice of any proposed change(s) shall be given by announcement during two Sunday worship services prior to the business meeting at which the proposed change(s) will be considered.

### **ARTICLE IX**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

#### ARTICLE X

The assets of the corporation are irrevocably dedicated to Christian purposes. No part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private persons. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision of payment of, all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to tax-exempt Christian organizations whose purposes are within those specified in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### ARTICLE XI

The period of existence of this organization shall be perpetual.

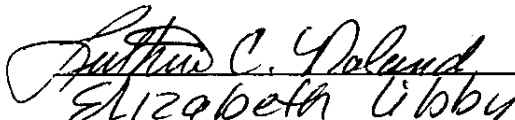
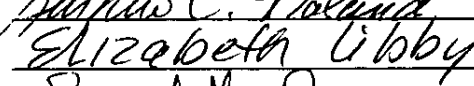
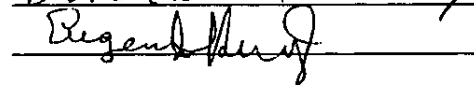


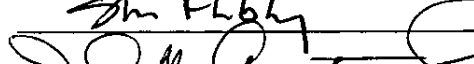
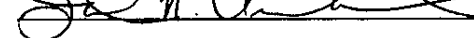
#### ARTICLE XII

The members may adopt Bylaws not inconsistent with these Articles and may amend the same from time to time as may be deemed desirable or necessary.


#### ARTICLE XIII

The Registered Agent is designated as Elizabeth J. Libby. The Registered Agent of the corporation may be changed at any time by a vote of the Elders without an amendment of these Articles. The street address of the registered office of this corporation in the State of Florida is 2111 NE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ocala, Florida 34470-3126. The Elders may from time to time, without amending these Articles, move the principal office to any other address within the State of Florida.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 2nd day of December 2012.

 _____  _____  _____	 _____  _____  _____  _____
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Pursuant to Florida Statute 48.091 and Article 12 of these Articles of Incorporation, the undersigned Registered Agent does hereby accept the duties as Registered Agent and designates the Registered Agent's location for service of process as 2111 NE 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ocala, Florida 34470-3126. The undersigned shall serve as Registered Agent until otherwise removed or shall resign pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Elizabeth J. Libby**