

No 1000001288

Clement H. White

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February 8, 2001

Business Organization Filing Section
Division of Corporations
Post Office Box 6327
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Re: Gateway Community Church of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find the following items submitted for a Florida Non-Profit
Incorporation:

Articles of Incorporation (2 copies)

Check in the amount of \$78.75

Incorporation Fee - \$35.00

Designation of Registered Agent - \$35.00

Certificate Under Seal - \$8.75

If all is in order, please send your Letter of Notification, the Certificate
Under Seal and one copy of the Articles to the letterhead address.

Sincerely,


Clement H. White

enc.

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01 FEB 22 AM 9:47
SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REGISTER FEB 23 2001

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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TAMPA BAY, INC.**

We, the undersigned, hereby associate ourselves for the purpose of forming and organizing a corporation, not for profit, under the laws of the State of Florida, and do hereby adopt and declare the following as the Articles of Incorporation.

PREAMBLE

We hereby declare and establish **GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TAMPA BAY, INC.** to secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner so to preserve the freedoms and responsibilities of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Corporation is **GATEWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TAMPA BAY, INC.** located in Pinellas County, Florida.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE & DURATION

Section 1. Purpose: The general purpose of the corporation shall be religious, benevolent and educational, and as such it shall have all the powers incident to non-profit corporations of such character. The specific religious purpose of the church is for the worship of Almighty God, the extension of His Kingdom throughout the world, and to associate its members in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, recognizing Him as Lord and Savior of their lives.

Section 2. Duration: This Florida Not-For-Profit Corporation shall exist in Perpetuity.

ARTICLE III - POLITY & DOCTRINE

Section 1. Polity: The governance of this church is vested in the body of baptized believers as provided for in the church bylaws. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes the obligations and privileges of mutual counsel, respect and cooperation which have been common among Baptists and other Free churches since the 17th century, and so chooses voluntarily to affiliate and cooperate in the work and

fellowship of Baptist Christian bodies and mission ministries as the church shall see fit.

Section 2. Doctrine: This church receives the Scriptures as its authority in all matters of faith and practice. It takes the Bible alone, as properly understood and interpreted by the informed Christian mind and applied responsibly by Christians acting in the Spirit of Christ, as the standard by which all matters of Christian belief and conduct are to be decided. It holds that true Christianity does not consist of creeds and confessions of faith or in published statements of faith and message, but is essentially the relationship of the mature responsible regenerate believer to God in Christ through the Holy Spirit on the basis of careful study and understanding of the Word of God. No interpretation of the Bible by any other body or organization shall be imposed upon this church; it shall make its own best informed, conscientious, responsible interpretation and statements of faith, polity, application and practice of the Christian Scriptures. It shall encourage the freedom of the individual, the freedom and autonomy of the local church, the freedom of the larger body of Jesus Christ as expressed in various Christian traditions, the servant role of leadership within the church, a positive role for the spiritual ministry and leadership of both men and women in the church, responsible and reverent theological education characterized by respect for open inquiry and scholarship, the faithful proclamation of all aspects of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the principle of a free church in a free state including the necessary corollary of the separation of Church and State.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Membership qualifications and method of admission and dismissal shall be as specified in the church bylaws.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS, POWERS AND MANAGEMENT

Section 1. Officers, Councils and Committees: The church congregation shall elect such officers, (directors or trustees) as required, and may establish councils and committees, specifying the number, method of election, qualifications, duties and functions in the bylaws.

Section 2. Powers: The church, in addition to the powers granted by Florida law, shall have full power to acquire by gift, grant, purchase, devise, legacy or otherwise, real estate for use of said church, and to hold possess, enjoy, mortgage, alienate and dispose of the same. No real property belonging to the church shall at any time be alienated or encumbered except by a majority vote of the members of the church over the age of twelve present and voting at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose, the same having been presented and discussed at a regular or special business meeting preceding by at least two weeks the said business meeting at which the final vote is taken, and having been

announced from pulpit during the worship services the Lord's Day preceding such vote.

Section 3. Management: The church congregation shall, as further provided in the bylaws, serve as the corporate management body. All officers, groups, councils and committees shall coordinate closely together for the purpose of promoting harmony, good understanding and cooperation in a unified church mission plan, but their duties and functions shall remain separate and distinct, all reporting to the church membership body, and receiving their policy guidance from that body, without acting independently of congregational approval. All meetings of the church, its councils and committees shall be open to all members, and none are to be held in secret. Minutes of all meetings shall be maintained and be open to inspection by any interested church member.

ARTICLE VI - INITIAL CORPORATE OFFICE, INITIAL REGISTERED OFFICE & AGENT

The initial corporate address is 217 Arbor Woods Circle, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. The street address of the initial registered office of this Corporation is 217 Arbor Woods Circle, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. The name of the initial registered agent at that address is Rev. Alphonse G. Zwan, Jr.

ARTICLE VII- INCORPORATORS

The name and address of the incorporators signing these Articles of Incorporation are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Rev. Alphonse G. Zwan, Jr.	217 Arbor Woods Circle, Oldsmar, Florida 34677
Lewis F. McMullen, Jr	5212 Old Village Way, Oldsmar, FL 34677
Oliver E. White	2597 Brandywine Drive, Clearwater, FL 33761

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENT & BYLAWS

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended, and church bylaws may be enacted, amended or rescinded by a three-fourths vote of the members present at a regular or specially called business meeting of the church, provided the following actions have been accomplished:

1. Proposed amendments to the Articles, enactment or amendment of Bylaws must be presented in writing and be made available to the membership at least two weeks prior to a regular or specially called business meeting, where such will be discussed and possibly amended; then referred to the church for final vote without discussion

or amendment.

2. The proposed amendments to the Articles or to the Bylaws must be published and made readily available to the church membership by the Lord's Day preceding the business meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

3. An announcement must be made from the pulpit during the worship services preceding each business meeting notifying the church of the proposed vote and specifying the subject, time, date and place of the business meeting plus a reference to the published and available text of the amendment(s).

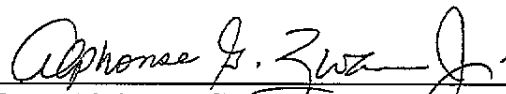
4. Three-Fourths of the members present and voting must give their approval of the enactment or amendment(s) at both the discussion and final vote meeting.

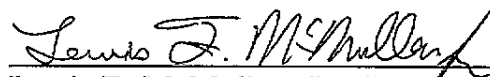
5. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State of Florida in accordance with the manner provided for in law.

ARTICLE IX - DISSOLUTION

The existence of this non-profit corporation shall be perpetual. In the event of dissolution of the corporation, all of its assets remaining after payment of all costs and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to another church or Christian organization of like faith, order, doctrine and polity as selected by the members which has qualified for exemption under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. None of the remaining assets shall be distributed to any member or officer of this corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned as incorporators and registered agent for the Corporation, so accepting that appointment, execute these Articles of Incorporation on the ___ day of February, 2001.


Rev. Alphonse G. Zwan, Jr., Incorporator


Lewis F. McMullen, Jr., Incorporator

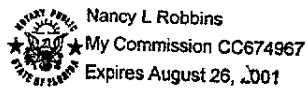

Oliver E. White, Incorporator

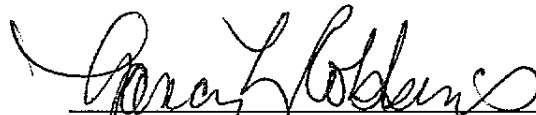
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF PINELLAS

The foregoing Articles of Incorporation were acknowledged before me by **REV. ALPHONSE G. ZWAN, JR., LEWIS F. MCMULLAN, JR. and OLIVER E. WHITE.**

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal this 19 day of February 2001.

(SEAL)

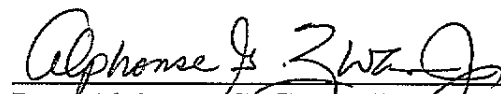




Notary Public, State of Florida

Registered Agent's Acceptance

Having been named to accept service of process for the above named corporation, I hereby accept appointment as its agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the duties and responsibilities as registered agent for said corporation.



Rev. Alphonse G. Zwan, Jr.

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