

NO1000004446

FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

Post Office Box 647
Century, Florida 32535

June 19, 2001

Division of Corporations
Post Office Box 6327
Tallahassee, Florida 32314

Re: First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc.

600004437396--1
-06/22/01--01074--013
*****78.75 *****78.75

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find for filing an original and one copy of the Articles of Incorporation for the above corporation with our check number 1002 in the amount of \$78.50 in payment of the following:

Filing Fee	\$35.00
Registered Agent Designation	\$35.00
Certified Copy	\$ 8.50

Please send the certified copy and other documentation to the above address.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

Enclosures

FILED
2001 JUN 22 PM 3:18
SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

6/25/01

FILED

2001 JUN 22 PM 3: 18

SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.,

A Nonprofit Religious Corporation

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing, and maintaining a place for the worship of the Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for the Christian Fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

We, the undersigned, being natural persons of lawful age, hereby acting as incorporators pursuant to Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, adopts the following Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the Corporation shall be:

FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA, INC.

ARTICLE II

PRIMARY PLACE OF BUSINESS AND MAILING ADDRESS

The principal place of assembly shall be:

8451 N. Century Blvd.

Century, Florida 32535

ARTICLE III

PURPOSE

A. SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

The specific purpose for which this corporation was organized is as follows:

1. This assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace . . . Till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:3. The purpose is to spread the Gospel to man.

2. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift or bequest any real estate chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and its constitution and bylaws as stated hereafter or as the same may be hereafter modified.

B. TENANTS OF FAITH.

This assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the State of Fundamental Truths of the Holy Bible.

1. The Scriptures Inspired.

The scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God.

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I Am" the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and the Holy Ghost (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matt. 123; Luke 1:31, 35).
- b. His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Cor. 5:3).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11, 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man.

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26, 27, 2:17; Rom. 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man.

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the

Son of God.

a. Conditions of Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).

b. The Evidence of Salvation. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church.

a. Baptism in Water. The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4).

b. Holy Communion. The Lord's Supper, constituting of the element of bread and the fruit of the vine, is a symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of his suffering and death (1 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes."

7. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly see the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was a normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes

endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:29; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17, 10:44-46, 15:7-9). With the baptism of the Holy Ghost comes such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), and intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His word and for the Lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essences as the gift of tongues (Cor. 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification.

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1,2; 1 Thess. 5:23, Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of holiness "without which no man shall see the Lord." (9 Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye Holy, for I am Holy." (1 Peter 15:16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1, 13, 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit,

with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, which are written in Heaven (Eph. 1:22, 23, 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

11. The Ministry.

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two fold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world, and (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ.

12. Divine Healing.

A divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and it is the privilege of all believers (Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope.

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of Christ is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51, 52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ.

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for the one thousand years (Zech. 14:15; Matt. 24:27, 30; Rev. 1:7, 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of the nation of Israel (Ezek. 37:21, 22; Zeph. 3:19, 20; Rom. 11:26, 27), and the establishment of universal peace (Isa. 11:6-9; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. The Final Judgment.

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged accordingly to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and fallen prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20, 20:11-15, 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth.

“We, according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness (2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:22).

C. ORDINANCES.

1. The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

2. The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 1:23-26).

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The corporation shall be directed by Board of Directors, which shall have all of the powers granted to a Board of Directors under Chapters 607 and 617, Florida Statutes, as they may be amended from time to time, to the extent that such powers are not in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation.

A. THE MANNER OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

The manner in which the Directors are elected shall be as follows:

1. The Directors shall be recommended by the Pastor of the Corporation to the membership, and the Directors shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc.

2. The initial Board of Directors shall consist of four (4) directors, listed below. The number of Directors may be increased or decreased by the members, but in no event shall there be fewer than three (3) Directors.

3. The names and addresses of the initial Board of Directors who shall hold office until their successors are elected as stated herein at the regular, annual business meeting, are:

Henry Leonard
3050 Holland Road
McDavid, Florida 32568

Stephen Leonard
3250 Holland Road
McDavid, Florida 32568

I. J. Thomley
Post Office Box 146
Molino, Florida 32577

Wilbur Weeks
12685 Scenic Lake Drive
Jay, Florida 32565

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The officers of the corporation shall consist of the following officers:

1. President. The Pastor shall serve as the President of the Corporation. When a Pastor is called to serve the Corporation, he shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc.

2. Secretary. The Secretary of the Corporation shall be recommended by the Pastor of the Corporation to the membership, and the Secretary shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc.

3. Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Corporation shall be recommended by the Pastor of the Corporation to the membership, and the Treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc.

The names and addresses of the initial officers of the Corporation who shall hold office until their successors are appointed by the Pastor at the next regular, annual meeting are:

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Title</u>
Dykes L. Strickling (Pastor) 13012 Highway 89 Jay, Florida 32565	President
Ramona Fischer 3100 Holland Road McDavid, Florida 32568	Secretary
Carolyn Leonard 3050 Holland Road McDavid, Florida 32568	Treasurer

ARTICLE VI

BUSINESS MEETINGS

The members of First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc. shall hold an annual

business meeting the third Sunday of June each year, and special business meeting as necessary. Notice of all special business meetings shall be given at all the services on at least two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting. No business meeting shall be held with less than two-thirds (2/3) of the membership present.

ARTICLE VII

MEMBERSHIP

A. MEMBERSHIP.

First Community Church Northwest Florida, Inc. will accept any and all persons regardless of race, color and nationality. When the appropriate values have been made, such persons shall be received into the Church as a member of the local Church of their choice.

1. The membership of First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc. shall consist of all persons who have been received into its fellowship upon the profession of their faith, whether by transfer from another Church, Christian experience or watch-care.

2. All members received into the Church fellowship, shall be required to give their support to the Church with faithful attendance, tithes, and offerings. All members should become active in some auxiliary in the Church if health permits.

B. VOTING MEMBERSHIP.

All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, those whose names appear on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those whose names shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal membership of the assembly, provided they are eighteen (18) years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in services, that they are living consistent Christian lives in

agreement with our distinctive testimony.

C. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of assembly for a period of six (6) weeks or more and who cease to contribute to their means to its support, who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation considered inactive members, and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship. Their standing to be settled by definite action of the assembly through its Pastor.

Temporarily absenteeism from the Church will not affect a members, membership, however, while absent from the local Church all tithes and offerings should be held in escrow or sent to the Church by the absent member until his/her return.

ARTICLE VIII

LIMITATION OF CORPORATE POWERS

The corporation shall have all the rights and powers now or subsequently conferred on non-profit corporations by the State of Florida.

ARTICLE IX

INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT

The name and street address of the registered agent is:

Dykes L. Strickling
13012 Highway 89
Jay, Florida 32565

ARTICLE X

INCORPORATORS

The names and addresses of the incorporators of the Corporation are:

Henry Leonard
3050 Holland Road
McDavid, Florida 32568

Stephen Leonard
3250 Holland Road
McDavid, Florida 32568

I. J. Thomley
Post Office Box 146
Molino, Florida 32577

Wilbur Weeks
12685 Scenic Lake Drive
Jay, Florida 32565

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended, altered, changed, repealed, or added to by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members eligible to vote, and all rights conferred on members herein are granted subject to this reservation.

ARTICLES XII

ACTS AFFECTING NON-TAXABLE STATUS PROHIBITED

This Corporation is organized exclusively for religious, educational, scientific and charitable purposes as a not for profit Corporation within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America, and its activities shall be conducted for such purposes and in such manner that no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member, director, officer or individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation affecting one or more of its purposes). No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall

be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

1. The Corporation shall distribute its income for each tax year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax on undistributed income imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.

2. The Corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

3. The Corporation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

4. The Corporation shall not make any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under the Internal Revenue Code.

5. The Corporation shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

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 Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XIII

DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purpose within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, or shall be distributed to the federal

government, or to state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction over the value of the assets in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have hereunto set their hands and seal on the dates written below:

Date: 6/17/01

Henry W. Leonard
Henry Leonard

Date: 6/17/01

Stephen Leonard
Stephen Leonard

Date: 6/17/2001

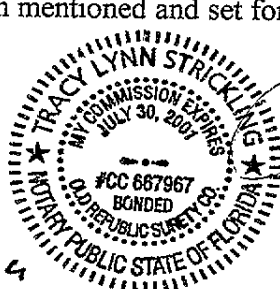
I. J. Thombley
I. J. Thombley

Date: 6/17/01

Wilbur Weeks
Wilbur Weeks

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Escambia

Before me the undersigned authority in and for said State and County personally appeared, Henry Leonard, personally known to me or who has presented _____ as identification and who freely and voluntarily subscribed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.



Tracy Lynn Strickling
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Escambia

Before me the undersigned authority in and for said State and County personally appeared, Stephen Leonard, personally known to me or who has presented _____ as

identification and who freely and voluntarily subscribed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Essex



Tracy Lynn Strickling
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA

Before me the undersigned authority in and for said State and County personally appeared, I. J. Thibault, personally known to me or who has presented _____ as identification and who freely and voluntarily subscribed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF Essex



Tracy Lynn Strickling
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA

Before me the undersigned authority in and for said State and County personally appeared, Wilbur Weeks, personally known to me or who has presented _____ as identification and who freely and voluntarily subscribed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and set forth.

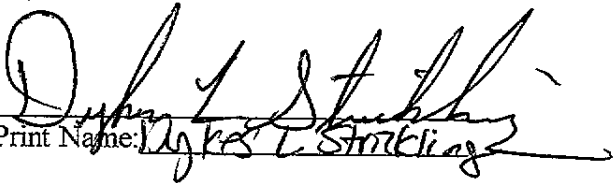


Tracy Lynn Strickling
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF FLORIDA

ACCEPTANCE AND APPOINTMENT AS REGISTERED AGENT

I, Dykes L. Strickling, hereby accept the appointment as Registered Agent for First Community Church of Northwest Florida, Inc., a Not for Profit Corporation, as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation being filed simultaneously herewith.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 19th day of June, 2001.


Print Name: Dykes L. Strickling

FILED
2001 JUN 22 PM 3:18
SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA