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DIVISION OF CHAPCHATIONS

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# TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Department of State Division of Corporations P. O. Box 6327 Tallahassee, FL 32314

SUBJECT:	LIVING WATER CHURCH OF GOD - PALATKA, INC			
	(PROPOSED CORPORATE	: name – <u>must inclu</u>	DE SUFFIX)	
Enclosed is an original ar	nd one(1) copy of the article	es of incorporation and a	check for:	
\$70.00 Filing Fee	\$78.75 Filing Fee & Certificate of Status	□\$78.75 Filing Fee & Certified Copy	□ \$87.50 Filing Fee, Certified Copy & Certificate	
	i	ADDITIONAL CO	PY REQUIRED	
FROM: .	FROM: CURVIN L. GORDON, SR.  Name (Printed or typed)			
2408 LEIGH TERRACE / PO BOX 1543			_	
	Address  PALATKA, FLORIDA 32177  City, State & Zip			
	(386) 328-7242  Daytime Telephone number			
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NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.



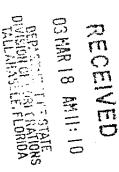
# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Glenda E. Hood Secretary of State

March 11, 2003

CURVIN L. GORDON, SR. 2408 LEIGH TERRACE PALATKA, FL 32178

SUBJECT: LIVING WATER CHURCH OF GOD, INC.

Ref. Number: W03000007037



We have received your document for LIVING WATER CHURCH OF GOD, INC. and your check(s) totaling \$82.75. However, the enclosed document has not been filed and is being returned for the following correction(s):

The name designated in your document is unavailable since it is the same as, or it is not distinguishable from the name of an existing entity.

Please select a new name and make the correction in all appropriate places. One or more major words may be added to make the name distinguishable from the one presently on file.

# Adding "of Florida" or "Florida" to the end of a name is not acceptable.

Please return the original and one copy of your document, along with a copy of this letter, within 60 days or your filing will be considered abandoned.

If you have any questions concerning the filing of your document, please call (850) 245-6067.

Neysa Culligan Document Specialist New Filings Section

Letter Number: 303A00015375

In Compliance with Chapter 617, F.S., (Not for Profit)

FILED SECRETARY OF STATE DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS

03 MAR 18 AM 11:21

#### ARTICLE I.

Name

The name of this corporation shall be: Living Water Church of God - Palatka, Inc. of the City of Palatka, State of Florida.

ARTICLE IL.

Address

1001 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street P.O. Box 1543 Palatka, Florida 32178

#### ARTICLE III.

#### Purpose

The Purpose For Which This Corporation Is Organized Are The Following:

- A. To pursue and further the worship of the triune God.
- B. To further religious instruction, public worship, and missionary undertakings.
- C. To collect tithes and offerings; to make gifts and appropriations from its resources; to carry out the purposes of the corporation; to use its income and property for the purpose of building, repairing and maintaining structures used and maintained for the purposes of the corporation; and to generally organize and act as an independent body and or fellowship with the Churches of God, Cleveland Tennessee in all respects not contrary to law.
- D. To borrow money and secure and same and issue bonds of the corporation for the purpose of building, repairing and maintaining structures which are to be used in connection with the purposes of the corporation.

# ARTICLE IV. Election And Vacancies

Section 1. The Pastor shall be able to serve for an indefinite period of time. He shall have the privilege to appoint his successor if he so desire.

Section 2. The Secretary / Clerk and the Treasurer shall be elected at the annual business meeting. They shall be chosen from the membership of the Assembly and may be nominated by the Pastor, by a nominating committee or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote. Their terms of office shall

be until the next annual business meeting. Vacancies for un-expired terms may be filled by special election.

- Section 3. The Board of Deacons shall present to the church nominees who have successfully completed their Deacon-In-Training Internship. They shall be elected by a majority vote to serve three (3) years.
- Section 4. The Trustees shall be chosen from the membership of the Assembly. They may be nominated by the Pastor, by a nominating committee, or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. They shall be elected to serve for a term of three (3) years. Vacancies for unexpired terms may be filled by special election. Or appointed by the Pastor.
- Section 5. Election Procedure. When no election has been made on the second ballot, the two remaining highest names shall be voted on and all other names eliminated.
- Section 6. Song Leader, Choir Director, Organist, Pianist. Sunday school Teachers These positions shall be appointed by the Pastor. No person who confesses or openly lives an alternate lifestyle will be granted membership nor hold office in the Assembly.
- Section 7. <u>The Pastor</u> can be removed for unscriptural conduct, Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith.
- Section 8. Other Officers. Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Board at any business meeting thereof. Grounds for such action shall be (1) unscriptural conduct. (2) Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith. (3) Incompetence in office. (4) For any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the Assembly if he so desires.

#### ARTICLE V.

# Departments and committees

The Assembly shall hereby provide for the establishment of any departments of committees as the needs of the work may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the

pastor and board and the pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

#### ARTICLE VI.

# Initial Officers/Trustees

Deborah White	1209 N. 18th Street, Palatka. Fl. 32177	Trustee
Channie Gordon	2408 Leigh Terrace, Palatka Florida 32177	Trustee
Curvin Gordon, Sr.	2408 Leigh Terrace, Palatka Florida 32177	Trustee

#### ARTICLE VII.

# Registered Agent

Curvin L. Gordon Sr.	2408 Leigh Terrace	Palatka Florida 32177
Curvin L. Gordon St.	2400 Leigh Leitace	r alatha rivi iua 341//

This Assembly voluntarily subscribes to co-operative fellowship with Churches of God of like precious faith associated in the state of Florida and the General Council of the Church of God, Inc., with headquarters at Cleveland, TN., and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. This Assembly can choose to be independent by a 2/3 vote of the membership.

This Assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts these fundamental truths.

#### 1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the 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; IThes. 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 Holy Ghost (Duet. 6:4; Isa. 43:10, 11; 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. 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- (b) His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; I peter 2:22
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21).

(e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I 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 image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; 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 to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the 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; Romans 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 immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they Have died with Christ and that they also have 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, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His Second Coming (I Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "Until He Comes!"

#### 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With this comes the enduement of the power for life and service, the bestowement of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; I 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; 11: 14-16; 15: 7-9). With the baptism in 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), an 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 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 them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I 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; I Thess. 5:23; Heb, 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (I Peter. 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection and by faith reckoning continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1,2,13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12,13; I Peter 1:5).

#### The Church and Its Missions

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 church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrew. 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for being of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16: 15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God I Cor. 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4: 11-16; I Cor. 12:28; I Cor. 14:12) The church exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to
- d. be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience
- e. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4: 29-31; Heb. 2: 3,4).
- f. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God I Cor. 2:10-16; I Cor. 12,13, and 14).
- g. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Gal. 5: 22-26; I Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4: 11,12: I Cor.
- h. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

# The Ministry

A divinely called and scriptural ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16: 15-20), (2) Worship of God (John 4: 23'24), (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4: 11-16).

#### Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel.

Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isa. 53: 4,5; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5: 14-16).

# 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 the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51,52).

# 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 one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; 24: 27,30; Rev. 1:7; 19: 11-14; 20: 1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezek. 37: 21, 22; Zeph. 3: 19,20; Rom. 11: 26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa. 11: 6-9; Ps. 72: 2-8; Micah 4: 3, 4).

# The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; Rev. 19: 20; 20: 11-15; 21: 8).

#### The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

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

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22: 19,20; I Cor. 11: 23-26).

Membership in this Assembly shall be available to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its by-laws as herein set forth. They shall be classified as follows:

Section I. Active Membership. All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership, whose names appear on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are sixteen years of age or over, that

they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives, and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Section 2. Inactive Membership. Enrolled members who have moved from the community or who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, who have ceased to contribute of 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 through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the Assembly through its elected officers.

Section 3. The Standard Membership. The standard of membership of this Assembly shall be (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration. (the new birth). (John 1: 12,13; 3: 3-8; I Peter 1: 18-25). (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Rom. 6: 4; 8: 1-4; 13: 13,14; Eph. 4: 17-32; 5:1,2,15; I John 1: 6,7). (c) To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitutional rule of order adopted by the Assembly; (d) Willingness to contribute regular to the support of the Assembly according to his or her ability.

Section 4. Reception of Members. (a) Persons desiring to become active members of the Assembly shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership. (b) The pastor Shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Board, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the Assembly publicly at any of the regular services and their names inscribed on the roster

Section 5. Discipline. (a) Any member of the Assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case. (b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this Assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. (Matt. 18: 15-18; Rom. 16: 17,18; I Cor. 5: 11; Gal. 1: 8,9; Titus 3: 1-15). This Assembly adhere to the biblical concept of the family, (male and female) husband and wife.

Section 6. Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the Assembly, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the Secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and Board, said letter to be signed by the Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly.

Section 7. The Pastor and the Board shall be authorized to revised the membership roll of the Assembly annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the Assembly. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and Board through the Secretary. If appeal is made to the Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the Assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final. (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16: 17,18; I Cor. 5: 1-5; II Thess. 3: 6-15).

# By-Laws ARTICLE VIII

#### Officers and duties

SECTION 1. Officers. The officers of the Assembly for its spiritual oversight shall be the Pastor, and the official Board.

- (a) The Pastor. The Pastor shall be chief executive officer in the church, moderator of all church meetings, and ex-officio head of all departments of the church, and an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (b) The Assistant Pastor (s). (This shall include the Youth Ministries and the Minister of Music.) The Assistant pastor (s) shall sit in on all of the official Board meetings, but shall not hold voting privileges. He (they) shall report to the Pastor concerning all areas under his (their) jurisdiction.
- (c) The Secretary/ Clerk. The secretary shall take minutes at the official Board and Annual Business Meetings. He (she) shall also maintain a current membership roll.

- (d) The Official Board. All matters of government shall be carried on by the Official Board except in matters involving the whole body. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification. This Board will consist of not less than three members, under the oversight and guidance of the pastor and they shall be responsible for the spiritual management of the Assembly.
- Section 2. Additional Offices. Additional officers may be added as needed.
- Section 3. Trustees. The Official Board by virtue of their office shall also serve the Assembly as trustees for the purpose of holding of all church Property provided they qualify for the office according to the laws of the State of Florida-. (If not, trustees will be elected who do qualify).
- Section 1. The Trustees of this corporation shall consist of three persons duly elected from the membership. Their term of office shall be for three years with elections staggered so that the term of one-third of the Board expires each year. The Trustees are to be the custodians of all property of the Assembly. They shall meet with the Pastor on the matters of maintenance and new construction of church buildings and properties, with the privilege of discussion and voting. They shall meet for the discharge of other duties as necessity demands. The pastor shall serve as chairman and will call the meetings when necessary.
- Section 2. The Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall act as Chairman of all the business meetings of the Assembly and of the Board and as President of the corporation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.
- Section 3. The Recording Secretary /Clerk shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board and of the business meetings of the Assembly. He /she shall keep a record of the membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of all corporate seal.
- Section 5 The Clerk shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly, which may be committed to him/her. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible

bank in the name of the Church, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Pastor and Board. All checks shall be countersigned by the Pastor. The Clerk shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He shall make an itemized report at regular meetings of the Board and a summarized report to the Church quarterly and at its regular business meetings. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Pastor. The Board will only be empowered to authorized spending only when there is crisis such as an act of God and in the Pastors absents.

#### ARTICLE IX

#### **Finances**

Funds for the maintenance of the Church shall be provided by the voluntary contributions or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization or from other sources as agreed upon. Offerings shall be accepted by the Church at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and Board and shall be administered by the Clerk under their direction. Al. 3: 10; Luke 6: 38; I Cor. 16: 1,2; II Cor. 9: 6-8).

#### ARTICLE X.

#### Property right

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, will be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the Assembly.

Section 2. No property shall be sold, mortgaged, leased or otherwise alienated without authorization of at least two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

Section 3. The Pastor and Secretary shall certify action taken on property. Such certificates shall be held to be evidence thereof.

#### ARTICLE XI.

Order of business

The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the Assembly shall be as follows:

- 1. Devotional
- 2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
- 3. Report of Treasurer
- 4. Report of Committees
- 5. Unfinished business
- 6. Election of Officers
- 7. New Business
- 8. Adjournment

#### ARTICLE XII

# Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Church by a majority vote of the membership present, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of meeting, announcement to be made by the Pastor or the Clerk.

#### ARTICLE XIII

#### **Commencement and Duration**

The existence of the Corporation will commence on the date of filing of these articles of Incorporation. The term of existence of the Corporation is perpetual.

#### ARTICLE XIV.

Incorporator

Curvin L. Gordon Sr.

2408 Leigh Terrace

Palatka Florida 32177

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity.

Signature/Registered Agent

Signature/Incorporator