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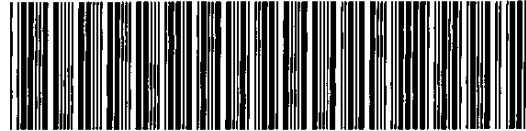
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FIRST STEP MINISTRIES INC.

235 ESTRADA

NORTH PORT FL 34287

These Articles of Incorporation are being sent to the State of Florida to comply with the Internal revenue service Code section 501(c)(3). Enclosed you will find a check for \$43.75 - — \$35.00 filing fee and \$8.95 for a certified copy to be returned to me at : 770 Mt. Zion Rd, E. Bernstadt KY 40729. This is address at which First Step Ministries, Inc is currently ministering. Our main address is still in North Port but any mail sent there would currently have to be transferred here under our temporary address change. 235 Estrada is also our primary residence. Thank you for your service and the courteous and professionalism of your employee I spoke to on the telephone.



GERALD V. SMITH, PRESIDENT/CEO

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ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

FIRST STEP MINISTRIES, INCORPORATED

As amended in their entirety this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2006. Said amendments were so amended to comply with the Internal Revenue Service Code section 501(c)(3). These amendments supersede those submitted to the State of Florida, electronic filing, on November 23, 2005.

# ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF FIRST STEP MINISTRIES, INCORPORATED

Pursuant to and in compliance with the requirements of Florida state law and U.S. federal law, the undersigned, all of whom are of lawful age, have this day voluntarily associated themselves together for the purpose of forming a non-profit corporation, and do hereby certify and adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

## ARTICLE I

The name of the Corporation shall be First Step Ministries, Incorporated.

## ARTICLE II

All Trustees of the Corporation now in good and regular standing, and such other members as the Board of Directors shall from time to time admit to membership, shall be members of this Corporation.

## ARTICLE III

A. The purposes for which this organization is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary and/or educational within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.

B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

C. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the Federal, 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 of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes.

D. The business, property, and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors of not less than, although not limited to three (3), and no more than seven (7) Trustees. The present Trustees now duly constituted and elected shall constitute the Board of Directors and they shall hold their offices permanently and so far as may be until other or further election. In the event of the inability of any Trustee to act, or in the event of the death of an Trustee, the remaining Trustees shall elect another Trustee, or Trustees, to fill the vacancy, or vacancies, thus created. Each Trustee shall be a member in good standing of the Corporation. A new Trustee shall be elected by a majority vote of the total Trustees, excluding the Trustee whose position is being filled by vote.

(a) The Trustees in their collective capacity shall be known as the Board of Directors and under that name shall constitute the governing body, and shall conduct and transact all business of the Corporation.

(b) The Trustees shall have power and authority to hold an annual meeting of the Board of Directors and may likewise hold special meetings as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting, if and when held, shall be held at the offices of the Corporation at 235 Estrada, North Port Fl 34287, or at such other office where the ministry is located while traveling, on the first Monday of January in each year at the hour of 6:00 P.M. of such day, or as soon thereafter in each year as is possible for the Trustees to call such meeting; and any special meetings may be held at such time as the Trustees may determine, and all meetings shall be held at the offices of the Corporation in North Port Fl 34287.

(c) The Board of Directors shall have and is hereby given power and authority to provide for the qualifications and requirements for membership which without doctrinal provisions or terminology shall primarily require a belief in the Christian religion and in the salvation of men by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the only atonement made for sin, and in the Trinity of the Godhead and the Church as one Spiritual Body made up of all true believers and shall provide the means and manner of admission of membership, which admission shall be free of charge therefore, and shall likewise provide means for suspension from its membership.

(d) The Board of Directors shall have authority and power, which is hereby given, to provide suitable and proper means and religious ceremony and required tests and qualifications for entrance into the ministry , hereby being established and organized and by and through the means as established and administered that any and all applicants may be inducted into the ministry thereby license, commission or full ordination with all ministry authority possible for an ecclesiastical body to be given or to possess or to administer, giving therein authority to administer all sacred services of ecclesiastical bodies and to include all sacred and sacramental services, and to further include the marriage services and together with the sacred services of baptism.

(e) The Board of Directors shall have the authority and power, which is hereby given, to establish, institute, operate and maintain any and all such additional departments, associations, institutions, schools, mission station, programs, and/or any and all such other vehicles as may be deemed appropriate and advisable by said Board of Directors for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of Christian and religious worship anywhere within the United States of America and/or in any other country.

(f) The Board of Directors of the First Step Ministries, incorporated, shall have power and authority which is hereby given, to negotiate or designate agents to negotiate all of the business transactions, all receipts and all disbursements, for any such additional departments, associations, institutions, schools, mission stations, programs, and/or any and all such other vehicles established or instituted by this Corporation.

(g) A majority of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction by the Board of Directors of any and all business, in accordance to the laws of the state of Florida.

## ARTICLE IV

The place where the business of First Step Ministries, incorporated shall be transacted is 235 Estrada, North Port FL 34287, where said principal office shall be.

## ARTICLE V

First Step Ministries, Incorporated is organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, educational, philanthropic, and benevolent purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or any superseding statute thereto, and such purposes shall include the following:

(a) Religious.

I. A recognized Creed, Code of Doctrine, discipline and form of worship shall be established.

II. The ministry will include, but not be limited to, visitation of the lost, sick or homeless, training in Christian principles, and performance of maintenance and other chores that the needy are not able to do themselves. This will include such tasks as, cleaning, restoring or otherwise improving such property of said individuals at no cost to them as the ministry is so enabled under current finances.

III. Spread the Word of the Gospel through seminars, radio, television, and other forms of mass media for the purpose of educating the individual in the Word of God, , and other forms of mass media for the purpose of educating the individual in the Word of God.

IV. Establishment of various religious meetings pursuant to the recognized Creed, form of worship, code of doctrine and discipline of the ministry.

(b) Promote and encourage, through, the ministry of the Organization, cooperation with other Organizations ministering within the community.

(c) Minister the Word of God to the faithful.

(d) To require and hold such property, either real or personal, for ministry purposes, as may be necessary for the ministry and the worship of God.

## ARTICLE VI

In accordance with and in addition to the powers conferred by the laws of the State of Florida, the non-Profit Corporation shall have the following powers:

(a) To receive and accept gifts of money and property and to hold the same for any of the purposes of the Corporation and its work

- (b) To raise and assist in raising funds for the purposes herein set forth, including the issuance of bonds or other instruments of credit.
- (c) To acquire, own, lease, mortgage and dispose of property, both real and personal.
- (d) To conduct and carry on religious services and instruction through the public media, including electronic broadcasting, AM and Fm radio, telecasting, microwave distribution, closed circuit transmission, cable television, and the internet.
- (e) To acquire, own and operate such broadcasting and/or telecasting facilities.
- (f) To issue annuities and to enter into gift-annuity contracts.
- (g) To accept property and donations in trust for religious or charitable purposes.
- (h) To acquire, hold, own, sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of shares of the capital stock, bonds, obligations or other securities of other corporations. Domestic, or foreign, as investments or otherwise, in carrying out any of the purposes of the Corporation and, while the owner thereof, to exercise all rights, powers and privileges of ownership, including the power to vote, the powers and privileges of ownership, including the power to vote thereon.

## ARTICLE VII

The Corporation shall have members. The admission and status of such members shall be governed by Bylaws of the Corporation.

## ARTICLE VIII

The manner in which the Directors or Trustees of the Corporation shall be elected or appointed shall be governed by the provisions of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

## ARTICLE IX

The Corporation shall be a sovereign body, and the regulation of the internal affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by the provisions of the Bylaws of the Corporation.



## ARTICLE X

First Step Ministries, Incorporated is not organized for pecuniary gain or profit, nor shall it have any power to issue certificates of stock or declare dividends, and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any members, directors, trustees or individuals, except that First Step Ministries, Incorporated shall be authorized and empowered to pay and to be paid a reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article V hereof.

Notwithstanding

Any other provisions of these Articles, First Step Ministries, Incorporated shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by:

(a) A Corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

(b) By Corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 c (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

(c) In the event of the dissolution of this Corporation, or in the event it shall cease to carry out the objects and purposes herein set forth, all of the business, property, and assets of the Corporation shall go and be distributed to such Non-Profit Corporation qualifying as an Organization exempt under the provisions of Section 501 c (3) if the provisions of Section 509 (2) (1) or 509 (a) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, or any superseding statute, as the Directors or Trustees of the Corporation may select and

designate; and in no event shall any of said assets or property, in the event of dissolution thereof, go or be distributed to members, either for the reimbursement of any sum subscribed donated or contributed by such members, or for any other such purpose.

## ARTICLE XI

The period of duration of First Step Ministries, Incorporated, shall be perpetual.

## ARTICLE XII

The registered agent of the First Step Ministries, Incorporated, whose address is the same as that of the registered address of Gerald Vance Smith.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

**Gerald V. Smith, CEO/President  
235 Estrada  
North Port, FL 34287**

**Pastor Chris W. Davidson, Vice President  
6600 Hwy 490  
E. Bernstadt KY 40729**

**Pastor Michael A . Wynn, Vice President/ Secretary  
610 Maple Grove rd  
London KY 40744**

**Kelly Jean Treat, Treasurer  
587 Colgate Rd  
Venice Fl 34293**