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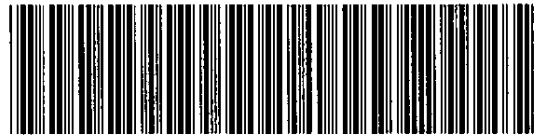
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W09000016254

SP 5/6/09

The Florida District of the Brethren Church, Inc.

150 North Shade Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34237

March 28, 2009

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

SUBJECT: The Florida District of the Brethren Church, Inc.

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation, an original and one (1) copy of the initial officers and registered agent, and a check for the \$70 filing fee.

FROM: David Stone
150 North Shade Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34237
941-955-9239

*Newly
Revised
4-23-09*

The Florida District of the Brethren Church, Inc.

150 North Shade Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34237

April 21, 2009

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

SUBJECT: The Florida District of the Brethren Church, Inc.

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation, an original and one (1) copy of the initial officers and registered agent, and a check for the \$70 filing fee.

Directors are chosen as described in the By-laws of the District.

FROM: David Stone
150 North Shade Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34237
941-955-9239

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Corporations

April 7, 2009

DAVID STONE
150 NORTH SHADE AVENUE
SARASOTA, FL 34237

SUBJECT: THE FLORIDA DISTRICT OF THE BRETHERN CHURCH, INC.
Ref. Number: W09000016254

We have received your document for THE FLORIDA DISTRICT OF THE BRETHERN CHURCH, INC. and your check(s) totaling \$70.00. However, the enclosed document has not been filed and is being returned for the following correction(s):

Section 617.0202(d), Florida Statutes, requires the manner in which directors are elected or appointed be contained in the articles of incorporation or a statement that the method of election of directors is as stated in the bylaws.

You must list at least one incorporator with a complete business street address.

Please return the corrected 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) 245-6062.

Eula Peterson
Regulatory Specialist II
New Filing Section

Letter Number: 809A00011708

THE FLORIDA DISTRICT OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Florida District of the Brethren Church, represent congregations of organized believers of the church established by the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ. We do ordain and establish this Constitution to govern the procedures, faith and fellowship of the District.

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1

The name of the District shall be "The Florida District of The Brethren Church, Inc."

SECTION 2

Thursday, August 18, 1977, the 89th General Conference of The Brethren Church, meeting in Ashland, Ohio, voted to form the Florida District. The first session of the Florida District of The Brethren Church met May 7, 1978, at the Bradenton Brethren Church in Bradenton, Florida. Voting privileges were given to all members of the Florida Brethren Churches (Bradenton, Brandon, Sarasota, St Petersburg, and Town & Country).

ARTICLE II: PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the District will be 150 North Shade Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34237.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SECTION 1

The purpose of the Florida District of The Brethren Church follows: To bring glory to God and our Lord Jesus Christ as we carry out His great commission; to do together what individual churches cannot do; to meet needs of others and ourselves in a supportive and creative way, communicating and working to involve the gifts and talents of as many as possible for the purposes of growing spiritually as individuals, and of reaching out as a District.

SECTION 2

In carrying forward this purpose, the District will receive and hold donations, offerings, bequests, regular District funds, and all properties from other sources. The District will expend funds; establish such ministries as will carry forward the work of the District; and cooperate with the General Conference of The Brethren Church with headquarters in Ashland, Ohio.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

Membership shall include all Brethren Churches within the State of Florida, which are affiliated with the General Conference of The Brethren Church as incorporated in the State of Ohio, with headquarters in Ashland, Ohio

SECTION 2

The membership of the Brethren Church is constituted of baptized believers. The mode of receiving members into the church is upon profession of faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God; repentance; baptism by triune immersion; and confirmation by the laying on of hands. Local churches, at their option, may receive believers who reaffirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, who have been previously baptized by believer's immersion and who evidence a personal faith and walk in Jesus Christ as Lord.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be filed in writing with the secretary at least ninety (90) days before the Annual District Conference. The Ministry of Administration shall be responsible to distribute copies of such amendments to each member congregation at least sixty (60) days prior to Annual District Conference. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the District Conference voting delegates shall be required to adopt a proposed amendment.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: MEETINGS

SECTION 1

The Annual District Conference shall be held at a time and place designated by the Ministry of Administration.

Each congregation shall receive notice of the time and place of the annual meeting at least ninety (90) days in advance of the meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Ministry of Administration.

SECTION 2

Members of the Florida Brethren Churches who attend the Annual District Conference shall be the voting delegates.

ARTICLE II: MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION (officers)

SECTION 1

The Ministry of Administration is composed of the following officers: Moderator, Moderator-elect, Past Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and several Members-at-Large. The Members-at-Large shall consist of one representative from each Florida church and class, to be appointed or elected by each local church. Each officer shall be a member of a Florida Brethren Church. (See the Handbook of Job Descriptions for a listing of duties for each officer.)

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SECTION 2

The Ministry of Administration shall hold in trust for the District all Charters, Deeds, Chattels, and other properties of the Church as the Conference may, from time to time, determine. All properties of all sorts whatsoever held by the Ministry of Administration shall be subject to the order of the District Conference. In the event of the disorganization of any Church, all rights of the Properties held by such Church shall revert to the Ministry of Administration.

SECTION 3

The members of the Ministry of Administration will serve as the Directors of the Corporation.

ARTICLE III: ELECTION

SECTION 1

The Ministry of Administration shall serve as the Nominating Committee. All of the nominees must have been contacted and agreed to serve prior to the Annual District Conference. The secretary of the Conference shall supply a list of the nominees to all churches at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual District Conference. Other nominations may be made from the floor at District Conference provided they have been contacted and agree to serve.

SECTION 2

All officers of the Florida District shall be elected by ballot. A plurality of all votes cast shall be required to elect. Those elected will begin their one-year term at the conclusion of each annual conference.

SECTION 3

One or two nominees for Ashland College Trustee(s) to represent the Florida District shall be elected (for a three-year term) at an Annual District Conference. This name(s) will then be submitted to the Ashland College Board of Trustees for their final selection.

ARTICLE IV: MINISTRIES

SECTION 1

The Ministry of Administration (officers) is to supervise and coordinate the work of the District; to evaluate the work of the District Ministries; to plan and lead Annual Conference; to prepare and present an annual budget; to appoint the Chairpersons for the ministries; and to appoint the membership of the Church/Pastor Relations Ministry. The Church/Pastor Relations Ministry is to be composed of three (3) ordained Brethren Ministers and two (2) laypersons.

SECTION 2

The Ministry of Ministries is composed of the Ministry of Administration and the Chairpersons of all other Ministries. The Chairpersons must be members of a Florida Brethren Church and will be appointed annually for a one (1) year term by the Ministry of Administration (as soon as possible after Annual District Conference). The term of service for all Chairpersons will begin June 1st. Chairpersons may not succeed themselves after three (3) consecutive years.

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SECTION 3

Each Ministry will be organized according to specific need of the Florida District. They will be evaluated by the Ministry of Administration, and Ministries will be discontinued and/or added according to the needs

- A. The Ministries are directly responsible to the Ministry of Administration.
- B. Each Ministry will meet when needed.

SECTION 4

Membership on the Ministries is available to everyone attending a Florida Brethren Church.

SECTION 5

Members are free to serve on a Ministry either until they choose to resign (at which time they are asked to notify in writing the Chairperson of their Ministry) or until they may be removed by the Ministry of Administration.

ARTICLE V: HANDBOOK OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS

SECTION 1

This Handbook lists the District Ministries, their job descriptions and District Officers' job descriptions.

SECTION 2

The Ministries are responsible to the Ministry of Administration. Changes in Ministries and job descriptions are to be made by the Ministry of Administration as needed and reported at the annual District Conference.

ARTICLE VI: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1

The District Conference fiscal year will be from January 1 to December 31.

SECTION 2

The District Conference is supported by each congregation with an apportionment designated by the Annual District Conference. The apportionment is due within the first quarter of each fiscal year.

SECTION 3

An apportionment determined at an Annual District Conference becomes effective January 1st of the following year.

ARTICLE VII: ORDAINED MINISTERS

Upon the completion of the proper forms, as prepared by the Ministry of Church/Pastor Relations, the Ministry of Administration is authorized to issue a ministerial card annually to each licensed and ordained minister in good standing in the Florida District.

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ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1

In the event that this District Conference should cease to function as an organization, the assets held by the District shall be divided on a pro rata basis (according to membership) among the Florida Brethren Churches as determined by the Ministry of Administration.

SECTION 2

In the event that this District Conference and member congregations should both cease to function as entities of The Brethren Church or cease to fellowship with the General Conference of The Brethren Church, the assets shall automatically become the property of the General Conference of The Brethren Church, with headquarters at Ashland, Ohio.

ARTICLE IX: RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall serve as the parliamentary guide in business meetings, except as it may be superseded by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Florida District of The Brethren Church.

ARTICLE X: QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members present at the start of the first business session of the Annual District Conference.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendment to these By-Laws shall be filed in writing with the secretary at least ninety (90) days before the Annual District Conference. The Ministry of Administration shall be responsible to distribute copies of such amendments to each member congregation at least sixty (60) days prior to Annual District Conference. A majority vote of the District Conference voting delegates shall be required to adopt a proposed amendment.

ADOPTED-- May 19, 1979 (Sarasota, Florida)

AMENDED -- March 7, 1982, March 4, 1990, March 3, 1991, February 2, 1992, February 11, 1996, February 8-9, 1997, February 22, 2009

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

The Florida District of the Brethren Church, Inc.

150 North Shade Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34237

March 28, 2009

INITIAL DIRECTORS AND/OR OFFICERS

Moderator (President):	David Stone 3161 Meyer Dr. Sarasota, FL 34239
Moderator-Elect (Vice-President):	Dennis Bowers 6316 Murdock Av. Sarasota, FL 34231
Past Moderator:	Iris Helmuth 7140 Wilderness Ln. Sarasota, FL 34240
Secretary:	Dianna Scribner 3223 N Lockwood Ridge Lot 30A Sarasota, FL 34234
Treasurer:	Martha Stone 4156 Bowling Green Cr. Sarasota, FL 34233

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND STREET ADDRESS

Gary Weller
2539 Huntington Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34232

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.

Gary Weller
Signature/Gary Weller, Registered Agent

4-1-09
Date

David Stone
Signature/David Stone, Incorporator

3/28/09
Date