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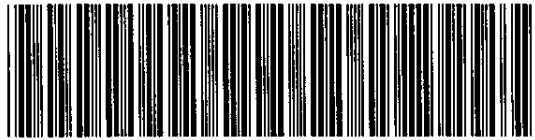
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02/02/17

COVER LETTER

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

SUBJECT: Faith in the Word International Churches, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME – MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles 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

ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED

FROM: Edward Ekwa

Name (Printed or typed)

1704 SE 8th Avenue

Address

Cape Coral, Florida 33990

City, State & Zip

239.338.7245

Daytime Telephone number

edekwa@yahoo.com

E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.

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

ARTICLE I. Name

**The name of this corporation shall be:
Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.**

ARTICLE II. Principal Office

The principal place of business of this corporation shall be at :

**13850 Treeline Ave South # 10
Forth Myers, FL 33913**

**Mailing Address
1704 SE 8TH Ave
Cape Coral, FL 33990**

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ARTICLE III. Purpose

Church is the English rendering of one Greek word *ekklesia*, signifying a "call out assembly." The Church is the Body of Christ. It is God's body on earth and the instrument through which His presence flows. Scripture plainly states that we are not to forsake the assembling together. The reason that **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** exists is as follows:

- 1.** Biblical worship: We are called to seeking the heart of the Father and ministering before the Lord in true worship; which leads one to experience the presence of God and covers one by the glory of God. Our services shall be nonpolitical but greed towards exalting Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- 2.** The corporation shall be devoted to promoting a spirit of Prophetic prayer and intercession, uniting the brotherhood of all believers, and fellowship on an Interdenominational basis.
- 3.** To train and teach religious education for Christian and public service through the school of biblical studies and seminary, job training, youth Christian School, daycare facility, and a family life center. To purchase and own properties that is necessary to carry out the objective purposes of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.**

- 4.** To be the vessel where God builds upon the Body through the perfecting work of Jesus Christ as we are conformed to His image. [II Corinthians 3:18] The disciple of Christ, Releasing the presence of God through the power of prayer as revealed by the Holy Spirit for people, communities, and the nations.
- 5.** To be the vessel whom God can use and make a loving place where the people of God may assemble, calling upon the name of the Lord, and worship Him in Spirit and truth. [Acts 2:1, 2; Hebrews 10:24-25] Also, demonstrating the power and love of God through evangelizing the people whom haven't yet received the love of God in Salvation. (Acts 1:8)
- 6.** Discipleship of the newly saved; empowering them with the word of God, to discover their spiritual gifts and how to use them for Christian service to help change their communities and nations.
- 7.** To be the vessel that God uses to strengthen the family by teaching and exemplifying Biblical family values. [Deuteronomy 6:6-11]
- 8.** To receive property by gift, devise or bequest subject to the laws relating to the transfer of property by gift or will;
- 9.** To act as Trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation and to receive, hold, administer and expend funds and property subject to such trust;
- 10.** To take, purchase or otherwise acquire; to own, hold, occupy, use, manage, improve, develop, and work; to grant, sell, exchange, let, demise, and otherwise dispose of real estate, buildings, and improvements and every right, interest, and estate therein without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever's the same may be situated; to erect, construct, alter, and repair buildings; to assume any and every kind of contract, agreement, and obligation by or with any person, firm, corporation, or association, or any Federal, State, or other government for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, renewal, equipment, improvement, development, use, leasing, management, or control of any buildings, improvements or structures of any kind wherever the same may be situated;
- 11.** To enter into, make, perform, and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose without limit as to amount, and with any person, firm, association, or corporation; to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, issue, and execute promissory notes, warrants, and other negotiable or transferrable interests;

- 12.** To purchase or otherwise acquire, to own, hold, use, to sell, assign, and transfer, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, deal in, or deal with personal property of every kind and description without limit as to the amount thereof, and affairs and attainment of the exempt purposes of the corporation, and to have and exercise all the powers now or hereafter conferred by the laws of the State of Florida.

SPECIFIC and GENERAL PURPOSES

The specific and general purposes for which the Corporation [also referred to as the “organization”] is formed and exists, being consistent with the Word of God found in the scriptures of the Holy Bible, are to train and equip Christians with a sound and solid understanding of the Word of God that builds strong, faith-filled, grace-conscious, world-impacting Christian saints of the Church, who impact the world with the love of Christ; and in the pursuit of which:

- A.** To provide a place for support of the public worship, by organizing a church and enhancing all the functions and privileges necessary and non-political services, which shall be devoted to promoting a spirit of religious brotherhood and fellowship on an Interdenominational/Nondenominational basis, and providing Inter-Faith chaplain ministry.
- B.** To train and equip Christians and with a sound and solid understanding of the Word of God that builds strong, faith-filled, grace-conscious, world-impacting Christian saints of the Church; and to be the instrument that God uses to reveal the love and grace of Jesus Christ to the world, evangelizing the world by the “spreading of the Light” of Jesus Christ and God’s grace so that people may see our works of God, come to glorify God, and come to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and become members of His Body. [John 15:5, 8; Acts 1:8]
- C.** To train and teach religious education for Christian and public service, with the Holy Bible (using the King James Version and such other translations and related works as shed Holy Spirit-directed light onto the Word of God) through: the school of biblical studies and seminary; job training; youth Christian school; daycare facility; prison, hospital, shut-in, and crisis ministries; and a mobile and fixed family life center, as needs arise and the resources of the Your Church Names Goes Here evolve and grow.
- D.** To proclaim the Word of God; to teach and exemplify the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and to worship and serve Jesus Christ; to be the vessel where God builds upon the Body through the perfecting of

the work of Jesus Christ, as we are conformed to His image (II Corinthians 3:18); and to be the vessel where the people of God may assemble, calling upon the Name of the Lord, and may worship Him in Spirit and Truth. [Acts 2:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25]

- E.** In the effecting of the foregoing, to teach the Word of God and the Gospel of Grace to both seekers and Christians, and to create Christian saints of the Church, without regard to denomination, who: (i) fully experience the promised abundant life [John 10:10]; (ii) are a blessing to others [Genesis 12:2; 27:17; Hebrews 6:14]; (iii) have a sound revelation of the Gospel of Grace and a corresponding relationship with Jesus Christ, that makes them living, walking models of the Faith [Matthew 5:16]; and (iv) demonstrate the Gospel and that relationship in action, so that others are inspired to come to know the Lord. [Matthew 5:13-15; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:15-16]
- F.** To be organized and operated exclusively in any other manner for such charitable, religious, and educational purposes as will qualify it as an exempt organization under §§ 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code [the "Code"], as the same may from time-to-time exist, including those covering the distributions to organizations qualified as tax exempt organizations under the Code.

ARTICLE IV. What We Believe

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. is a cooperative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership. It is a not-for-profit religious organization.

ARTICLE V. Covenant

FAITH IN THE WORD INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES, Inc.

Believes :

- 1. There is only one true God; immutable in essence, nature, and attributes, but existing and revealing Himself in three Persons: Father; Son (Jesus Christ); and Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost).** [Genesis 1:1-2, 26; Psalm 89:34; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1-3, 18; 14:7, 9; I Corinthians 12:4-6; Hebrews 1:1-4; I John 5:6-8; see, Hebrews 1:8]

2. **Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God (one of the three Persons of God, eternal in existence in His Divine form, and one in being with God).** [John 1:1-3, 14, 18; 8:23-26; 17:5; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2-12; 13:8; see, I John 5:5-6, 7-8] **Jesus Christ took on human form to come into the earth; was born of a virgin (conceived by the seed of the Holy Spirit, not by the seed of a man/human father), as prophesied in the Old Testament.** [Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-15 (see, Matthew 1:18-25); 16:13-17; Luke 1:26-37; see, John 1:14; see also, Philippians 2:5-8] **He lived a sinless life on the earth.** [Acts 2:22; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15; I Peter 2:21-23; I John 3:5] **He demonstrated the authority and power of God in works and speech.** [Matthew 4:23-24; 7:28-29; Mark 1:21-27; 5:35-42; Luke 7:2-10, 12-15; 11:14-20; John 10:24-26, 37-38; 11:1-7, 11-14, 32-44; 14:9-11; see, Hebrews 2:14-18; Philippians 2:5-8] **He then allowed Himself to be scourged and bruised.** [Matthew 27:11-14, 27-31; Mark 15:2-5, 15-19; 27:26; Luke 22:49-53, 63; 23:1-4; John 18:1-11, 33-38; 19:1-4; see, Matthew 26:47-57, 61-63; see, also, Isaiah 53:4-5, 7] **He then went to the cross, where He took upon Himself all the sins of all mankind (past, present, and future) – taking on Himself all the wrath of God that is reserved for sinners.** [Isaiah 53:5; Romans 3:23-25; Romans 5:6-10, 15; I Thessalonians 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:9-10; see, II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:2-6; Colossians 2:14; I John 2:2; see, also, Matthew 27:31-35; Mark 15:20-24; Luke 23:26, 33; 19:16-18] **He was crucified, voluntarily shedding His sinless Blood as the only perfect sacrifice/payment for all sin, for all mankind, for all time.** [Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; John 10:14-18; John 19:34; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 5:6-9, 17-21; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:12-16; Hebrews 9:12, 24-28; Hebrews 10:4-10, 12-18; I John 1:7; see, Romans 6:4-11; II Corinthians 5:19, 21; Colossians 1:14] **He then physically died** [Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30-31, 33; see, Romans 5:8, 6:10, 8:34, 14:8-9; I Corinthians 15:3; see, also, Acts 25:19] **and was buried.** [Matthew 27:56-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:49-55; John 19:38-42; I Corinthians 15:3-4] **He descended into Hell (i.e., “Abraham’s Bosom,” the upper “Paradise” chamber of Hell, where the Old Testament and pre-resurrection saints of God had been held, awaiting Jesus’ arrival).** [Acts 2:22-32; Romans 10:7; Ephesians 4:8-10; I Peter 3:18-20; Revelation 1:17-18; see, Matthew 12:40; Luke 16:20-26; I Peter 4:5-6] **On the third day, He rose from the dead in tangible (physical), bodily form.** [Matthew 28:1-10, 16-18; Mark 16:12-14; Luke 24:36-40; John 20:11-17, 19-20, 26-28; Acts 1:1-4; 39:41; I Corinthians 15:3-8; see, Matthew 27:50-53] **Later, He ascended into Heaven.** [Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51; John 3:13-14; Acts 1:8-11; Ephesians 4:7-8] **There, He sat down at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, having accomplished all things necessary for our salvation, redemption, reconciliation with God, and deliverance from all the**

powers of darkness. [Romans 5:8-11, 17, 6:5-10; 8:1-2, 10-16; I Corinthians 1:30-31; II Corinthians 5:17-19; Ephesians 2:8, 13-20; Galatians 1:3-5; 3:13-14; 4:4-6; Colossians 1:13-14; I Timothy 2:5; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 10:10-14; 12:1-2; 13:8; I John 4:4; James 4:7; Revelation 3:21; 5:9; *see*, John 1:12, 3:16-17; Acts 2:34-36; *see, also*, Luke 10:19; I John 3:1-3, 5-6a] **He is alive forevermore.** [Romans 6:7-9; Hebrews 7:22-25; 13:8; Revelation 1:18; 4:9-10; 5:14; *see*, Revelation 11:15]

3. **The Bible [the “Word of God”; the “Holy Scriptures”] and its Scriptures, as originally written, are divinely-inspired; its Scriptures are “God-breathed” – the Holy Spirit inspired the authors, revealing to them what God wanted written.** [II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:10-11; II Peter 1:19-21; *see*, I Corinthians 2:12-13; I Thessalonians 2:13; *see, also*, Ephesians 2:19-22; II Peter 3:15b-16; *and see also*, Psalm 119:160] **The Bible’s Scriptures are infallible truth** [John 10:35; *see*, John 17:17], **contain no contradiction or error** [Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 24:44-45; John 17:17; I Corinthians 2:11-13; *see*, John 1:15-18; 14:6; Romans 9:6; II Timothy 2:14-15; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; II Peter 3:15-16], **and are authoritative (being the final authority for faith, doctrine, and life).** [Matthew 5:17-18; 21:42; John 1:15-18; II Peter 1:16-21; II Timothy 3:16] **The Word of God is “living Word”** [Hebrews 4:12; *see*, I Peter 1:23]; **and Christians need to remain receptive to the illumination of Scriptural truth by the Holy Spirit, as Christians mature and grow in the knowledge of the Lord, from glory-to-glory.** [Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 5:18; Luke 24:44-45; John 1:15-18; 14:25-26, 17:15-19; Romans 10:14-17; I Corinthians 2:10-14; 10:11; II Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 4:12; 8:7-11; I John 26-17; *see*, Romans 9:6; 12:2]

We recognize the King James Version Bible and the New King James Version Bible as the primary foundations for Christian instruction, which may be amplified and clarified for teaching purposes by other accepted, non-contradictory in principle, translations; *e.g.*, through other, non-contradictory, direct-from Hebrew and Greek, writings translations and word/term definition reference works such as *Strong’s Concordance*.

4. **Every person inherited a “sin nature” from Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden, and it separates them from God.** [Romans 3:21-23; 5:12-14, 19, 21; *see*, Genesis 6:6-19; John 8:31-36; I John 3:8; *see, also, e.g.*, Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:3]; **yet, God loved mankind so much that He gave His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to come into the earth realm – to take on all sin, shed His Divine Blood, and to accept the full penalty for all sin – in order to save mankind from the penalty of sin, redeem them from their sin nature, and make them justified**

before God. [Matthew 20:28; John 3:16-17; Romans 3:21-26; 8:3-4; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:17; 7:26-28; I John 4:10; *see*, Acts 11:17-18; 20:20-21; Romans 2:4; 6:9-11, 23] **To receive this free gift of salvation, redemption, and justification, one must – by faith: repent of sin; believe and confess that Jesus Christ is the only Begotten Son of God, Who paid the full price to for salvation from the penalty for sin; and accept and confess Him as one’s personal Lord and Savior.** [John 1:12-13; 8:24, 31-32; Acts 11:17-18;

20:20-21; Romans 1:16; 2:4; 3:21-26; 4:23-25; 10:8-10; II Corinthians 3:9; 7:8-10; Galatians 2:15-17; 3:22-23; *see*, Titus 3:4-7; I John 5:1; II John 9-11] **At that moment, *by* God’s grace, one is saved, redeemed, and justified *through* his or her faith; and the Holy Spirit immediately in-fills the person’s spirit, regenerates that person’s spirit from a sin nature to a Christ-nature, and seals the person’s new, regenerated, Christ-nature spirit.** [Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:11, 16-17, 19-20; 12:13; II Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:16-17; Ephesians 1:12-14; 2:1-10 (*esp.* vv. 5, 8-9); *see*, John 14:25-26; Romans 5:1-2; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 6:15; Titus 3:5; *see, also*, John 3:5-16; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; II Timothy 1:13-14] **The person is thus “born-again” – originally born only “of the flesh” (the physical birth of a person), now “born of the Spirit” (the rebirth of the person’s spirit, *by* the seed of the Holy Spirit).** [*Id.*; John 3:5-8; Ephesians 2:1-10; I Peter 1:22-23; I John 3:24] **The Holy Spirit then teaches, guides, and leads born-again believers in the ways of the Lord, in all areas of their lives; empowering them to produce the fruit of the Spirit in their lives; and empowering them to live more and more Christ-like lives, as they transform/renew their minds through the Word of God.** [John 16:13-15 (*with* 15:26); Romans 6:13; 8:1-3, 3-6, 9-10, 13; 12: 1-2; II Corinthians 3:17-18; Ephesians 3:16; 5:8-10; *see*, Romans 6:17-18; 7:5-6; 8:13-15; I Corinthians 2:9-11; Ephesians 4:22-24; I Thessalonians 4:7-9; *see, also*, II John 9-11]

5. **There is a separate, distinct baptism *of/with* the Holy Spirit *by* Christ, versus baptism *into* Christ *by/ into* the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, with the evidence of speaking in “tongues” (*i.e.*, one’s “personal prayer language,” as distinguished from the Holy Spirit’s unique, non-universally conferred, gift of speaking in “diverse tongues”). It must be appropriated by faith; it is given to believers who ask for it; and this separate baptism *of/with* the Holy Spirit *by* Christ, may occur almost simultaneously with the Holy Spirit’s *in-filling* at the moment of salvation.** [Matthew 3:11; 28:19-20; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4, 8-11, 38-39; 8:14-19, 36-39; 10:34-38; 44-47; 11:15-17; 18:24-26; 19:1-6; 22:16; Romans 6:3; I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-28; Titus 3:5-

6; see, e.g., John 3:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; I Peter 3:21] **Baptism of/with the Holy Spirit also brings the ability of the believer to operate in the various “gifts of the Spirit” (including the gift of speaking with “diverse tongues”), as the Holy Spirit wills.** [Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:1-4, 6-8; 8:5-17; 10: 19:1-6; 12:1-11; 14:12; I Corinthians 12:1-11; Hebrews 2:3-4; see, Mark 16:17; John 20:28 (with Romans 10:9-10, and with Acts 1:4, 8); see, also, Luke 11:13; Acts 1:5]

6. **After physical death, eternal life begins – either in Heaven or in Hell.** [Luke 16:22-24; 23:42-43; John 5:24; II Corinthians 5:6-8; Hebrews 9:27; see, Matthew 10:28; Acts 2:31; Psalm 55:15]. **Where a person spends eternity depends on the person’s decision to reject Jesus Christ or to accept Jesus Christ as his/her Lord and Savior, while the person was alive.** [Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-10, 13; Hebrews 9:27; see, Mark 16:16; Luke 16:19-31; John 3:16, 36; 14:5-7; II Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 21:27]

There is only one way to Heaven: belief in Jesus Christ and acceptance of Him as one’s personal Lord and Savior. Jesus is The Way (to salvation from Hell and its eternal torment), The Truth (about God and about all things), and The Life (eternal life with God, in Heaven; and *zoë*, abundant life in this world). [John 3:18, 36; 8:4; 10:10; 14:6; 17:3; see, John 10:7-10; 14:1; Hebrews 2:14-15; I Timothy 2:5]

7. **The one true Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ.** [Matthew 16:18; I Corinthians 3:10-11; 12:13; Ephesians 2:19-20] **It is made up of all born-again believers in Christ; and includes all born-again believers - from all nations, from all generations, regardless of Bible-believing denominational affiliation - who believe in and adhere to the Truth of the Gospel. All born-again believers are “saints” of God/of the Church, as defined in the Word of God.** [Romans 1:7-8; I Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:1; 2:11-22; 4:1-6; Hebrews 12:23-24; I Peter 2:5; see, Acts 9:13, 32, 41; 26:10; Romans 8:27; 15:25-26; I Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:12; 5:3; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; Philippians 1:1; 4:21; Colossians 1:26; Hebrews 2:11; 12:23]
8. **Jesus Christ will soon appear in the clouds, and He will take all born-again believers out of the earth and up to Heaven, with Him, in the “Rapture” (“catching away”) of the Church before a seven-year “Tribulation” period occurs. When the Rapture takes place, those believers who have already physically died will rise first (in regenerated, glorified bodies; including those who believed in the Messiah Who was prophesied to be coming – but who died before He**

came to earth), then those believers who are living and remain will be caught up with them, to meet Jesus in the air. [I Corinthians 15:50-54; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10-11; see, Acts 1:11; see, also, Matthew 24:40-41; Acts 1:11]

9. **After the Rapture and the Tribulation, there will be a literal, physical second return of Jesus Christ to the earth (the Second Coming). At His Second Coming, those who are then born-again will be resurrected/regenerated to live in a heavenly dwelling, in an incorruptible body; and those who rejected Jesus and are not born-again will ultimately join Satan and his host, in everlasting torment and separation from God.** [Matthew 24:29-44; John 5:26-29; I Corinthians 15:35-43, 45-49, 53; II Corinthians 5:7-10; II Thessalonians 2:3-4; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-16; 20:4-6, 12-13; 20:7-15 (*with* Matthew 25:41-46; Romans 2:4-11; 14:7-12; James 1:12); 21:1 (*with* John 3:36); see, Mark 12:26-27; Acts 2:19-21; I John 3:2; Revelation 7:15-17 (*with* 9:4); 14:9-11; see, also, Daniel 9:20-27; 12:2; Jeremiah 30:7 (*with* Romans 11:17-31); II Thessalonians 1:3-10; Revelation 6:9-11; 7:4; 11:3-9, 11-12; 13:7 (*with* 14:12-13); 20:4; see, generally, Revelation 6-19, 21-22]

After the initial judgment at the Second Coming, earth will serve as a throne for the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ, without the presence and influence of Satan and his host, for 1,000 years. At the end of the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth, there will be a final judgment of those who rejected Jesus Christ and of Satan and his host (including his agents and those choosing to follow him, rejecting Jesus Christ); and at that point, Satan and his host (including his agents and his followers; i.e., those who rejected Jesus Christ), will be finally judged and sent into everlasting torment and separation from God. [Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15] **Then, the earth and the heavens will be transformed to a new earth and a new heaven, with a New Jerusalem; and all the saints (believers) will have eternal citizenship in the New Jerusalem.** [Revelation 3:12; 21 and 22; see, Matthew 5:18; 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; II Peter 3:10, 13]

10. **Jesus Christ instituted water baptism by immersion (where and when feasible) as a commanded rite of the Church, as the outward sign and symbol of the cleansing, saving power of the Blood of Jesus and an outward testimony of each believer's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.** [Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16] **Water baptism is not a requirement for salvation** [John 3:16-18; John 5:24; John 6:47; John 20:31; see, e.g., Acts 8:37, 38-39; 10:43-48; 16:31; Romans 4:1-8, 9-25; I Corinthians 1:17; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; see, also, Romans 5:1-2, 8-10;

Titus 3:5]; **however, at the earliest opportunity, all believers should be baptized, in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit [Holy Ghost].** [Matthew 28:19; **nevertheless, baptism in the Name of Jesus is acceptable inasmuch as the Three are One, it is the Name of Jesus Christ alone that saves, and is in His Name that the Apostles baptized believers in the early church;** Acts 2:38; 4:8-12; I John 5:7; *see, Acts 8:12, 15-17; 10:48; 19:5; see, also, John 10:30*]

11. **Jesus Christ instituted Holy Communion as a rite of the Church, which is to be taken: as a remembrance of the high price Jesus paid to save man; in celebration of our healing (the bread, representing His scourged and crucified body) and salvation (the cup, representing His perfect, Precious Blood, shed at the Cross); as a reminder and celebration of the promised New Covenant of Grace under which all born-again believers now live – being redeemed from the curse of the Law (under the Old Covenant) by the Blood of Jesus; and a reminder and celebration of His imminent return. It should be regularly dispensed by the Church and believers may also partake of Holy Communion at any time and place.** [Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:48-54; I Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26; *see, I Corinthians 11:23-34; I Corinthians 5:7 (with Hebrews 8:8-13)*]
12. **The Name of Jesus holds all power over Satan and his ungodly influence, in all forms.** [Matthew 28:18; Luke 10:17-19; Mark 16:17; Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 2:9-10, 15; Hebrews 1:1-6] **Jesus gave all born-again believers the right to use His Name to overcome Satan and every manifestation of satanic work. Believers have the authority of the Name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring all the promises of God to pass in this earth and to defeat Satan, in all forms.** [Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:1-2, 8-9, 17-19; John 14:12-13; 15:15-16; 16:23-24, 26; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 1:18-21; Ephesians 1:17-23; *see, e.g., Mark 9:38-39; Acts 3:1-8, 12-16; 4:7-12*]
13. **All born-again believers have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to share the complete Gospel of Jesus Christ with the whole world.** [Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:14-15; Luke 14:23; Acts 1:8; *see, II Corinthians 5:20; Philippians 2:9-11; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 2:5-9; 3:15-16*]
14. **The benefit of all the works that Jesus Christ did while on the earth (divine healing and restoration of the sick and afflicted, resurrecting the dead, casting out demons, removing lack and limitation, freeing people from bondage and the curse of the Law, etc.), all the work the Holy Spirit accomplished through the early disciples, and the benefit of all the promises of God – including the benefits of the**

Blessing on Abraham and his Seed – are available to all born-again believers who believe and will act on the Truths written in the Bible. [Psalm 103:2-5; Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 10:8; Mark 16:17-20; John 4:12; 10:10; 16:23-24; Acts 10:34; Romans 8:37; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 1:19-20; Ephesians 1:3 (*with* Matthew 18:20; 28:20; Ephesians 2:4-7; Colossians 1:12-13, 26-27); Galatians 3:9, 13-15; Philippians 4:13, 19; I Peter 2:24; II Peter 1:2-3; I John 4:17; III John 2; *see*, Exodus 15; Deuteronomy 8:18; Matthew 8:16-17; Romans 8:11; James 5:14-15]

The works and powers of the Jesus Christ (and the Holy Spirit) did not pass away with the early Church. As it is written, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* [Hebrews 13:8; *see*, John 1:1-2, 3-4, 14, 18] **Jesus said that all born-again believers who believe and who act on the His Word would be able to do the same works that He did on the earth – and greater works than He did – because He was going to leave earth and would send the Holy Spirit to in-dwell and empower them.** [John 14:12-13; *see*, Mark 16:17-20] **Jesus never changes** [Hebrews 13:8; *see*, John 1:1-2, 3-4, 14, 18; *see, also*, Psalm 89:34; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:8-13]; **and Jesus gave all believers the power to do those same works, without any time limitation.** [*id.*, (*together with*) John 14:12] **The works and powers of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in operation on the earth could not pass away with the early church, unless Jesus were to change – which He does not [*id.*]; therefore, these works and powers are – as He is – still operating today.** [*id.*, (*together with*) Mark 13:31; Mark 16:17-20; John 14:12; I Corinthians 12:1-11; Galatians 3:14; Hebrews 13:5, 8; *see, also*, Psalm 119:89]

15. **God wants to transform, heal, strengthen, and provide for us so that we can live blessed and victorious lives that allow us to be a blessing to others and to be powerful, loving, positive, living witnesses to the goodness and grace of God.** [Deuteronomy 8:18; Psalm 35:27; Psalm 107:20 (*with* John 1:1-4, 12-14); Proverbs 4:20-22; Proverbs 10:22; Isaiah 53:5; Galatians 6:10; I Peter 2:24; Matthew 6:30, 33; Matthew 8:17; Mark 16:17-18; John 10:10; John 15:11; Romans 12:2; Galatians 3:11-14 (*with* Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:2), 27-29; II Corinthians 3:2-3; II Corinthians 4:10-11; II Corinthians 5:17, 19-21; II Corinthians 9:6-15; I Timothy 6:17; II Timothy 1:7; II Peter 2:9-10; *see*, Romans 8:31-37; I Corinthians 1:30-31; Colossians 1:11; III John 2] **We receive the manifested blessed and victorious life through faith.** [Matthew 9:22, 29; Matthew 15:28; Matthew 17:21; Mark 5:34; Luke 7:50; Romans 4:8-9; Galatians 3:9, 14; Hebrews 11 (*esp.* vv. 6, 11); I John 5:4; *see*, Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 6:16; James 5:15; I Peter 5:7; II Peter 1:1-13; I John 5:4] **“Faith” is acting on the Word of God.** [James 1:22-25;

see, John 2:1-10; II Corinthians 4:11-15; see, also, e.g. Acts 14:7-10; Ephesians 1:1-3; Ephesians 6:16]

- 16. Only heterosexual relationships between a biologically born adult male and a biologically born adult female, within the confines of Biblically lawful matrimony, are Biblically permitted and such a marriage is honorable in all; further, God holds certain relations between husband and wife and private and sacred; and into such holy union of marriage, no one has any right to inquire. No member of the clergy is Biblically, or by the doctrine of Faith In The Word International Churches (ada Faith Empowerment Centre), permitted or authorized to officiate at the ceremony of the marriage of any other persons, nor to sanctify or bless any other union. [Genesis 1:27-28; 2:23-24; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 6:9; 7:1-5; Hebrews 3:4; see, John 15:18-19; Romans 13:1; I Timothy 1:10; see, also, Malachi 3:6; Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8; Hebrews 13:8]**

No individual or group shall have authority to change this Covenant.

ARTICLE VI. Doctrinal Views

Salvation. “Salvation” comes from the Greek word *soteria* <Strong’s 4991>, meaning “deliverance, preservation, safety, [salvation].” It primarily involves deliverance from the bondage of sin (man’s innate sin nature and resulting sin actions) [Galatians 5:1]; but it also includes deliverance from enemies [Luke 1:71] and from sickness and disease [Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24].

Salvation is a *gift* of God’s grace. [Ephesians 2:8-9] This *gift* cannot be earned through good deeds, by simply being a “good person,” or by performing ritualistic works or ceremonies. [Ephesians 2:8-9] It is a matter of *faith* (i.e., acting on what you believe, according to God’s Word concerning salvation.

Salvation is made available to those who repent from their unbelief in Jesus Christ and from their sin, and believe on and confess their belief that:

- (a)** Jesus Christ is God’s Divine Son (part of the Triune God – a “Person” of God);
- (b)** Jesus He came to earth, took on the body of a human being, lived a sinless life, and showed God’s love and taught God’s ways;
- (c)** Though innocent of all wrongdoing and having lived a perfect life – meeting every requirement of the whole Law of Moses – Jesus bore

stripes on His back, was crucified, and paid the penalty for all sin on the cross as His physical body died there;

(d) Jesus descended into hell on behalf of, in place of, all mankind; then

(e) Jesus rose from the dead – triumphant over satan – and ascended back to heaven, and is alive today and forevermore.

[See, Covenant – Beliefs, above; see, also, Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10]

Repent/Repentance. Our relationship with God is solely dependent on the doctrine of repentance. There are three Greek words used in the New Testament to denote repentance: (1) The verb *metamelomai* <Strong's 3338> is used of a change of mind, such as to produce regret or even remorse on account of sin, but not necessarily a change of heart. This word is used with reference to the repentance of Judas [Matthew 27:3]; (2) *Matanoeo* <Strong's 3340>, meaning to change one's mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge; and this verb, with (3) The cognate noun *metanoia* <Strong's 3341>, is used of true repentance, a change of mind and purpose and life, to which remission of sin is promised.

Thus, to repent is: to change one's mind/mindset; to change one's direction (in life); to have a change of heart. New Testament repentance refers to a change of one's mind and mindset that involves both (a) a turning *away* from sin (the sin-mindset, which leads to the practice of sinful acts) and (b) a turning *toward* God (a Christ-mindset which leads to a progressive renewal to godly living).

Conversion. There are two Greek words used in the New Testament to denote conversion: *strephe* <Strong's 4762>, meaning to turn oneself from one's course of conduct (*i.e.*, to change one's mind/mindset); and *epistrophe* <Strong's 1995>, denoting a moral revolution, and speaking primarily of a conversion of Gentiles from idolatry (in whatever form) to the true God and to Jesus Christ, His Son and the Savior of mankind.

The Greek words for conversion and for repentance are essentially synonyms, but having one a key distinction: repentance speaks of a deliberate act of a person, born of the person having a revelation of God's love, which is what leads one to repentance [Romans 2:4]; while the words for conversion (which correspond with both repentance and faith) speak of God's Divine grace as the being efficient cause, and human agency/action as the responding effect.

Doctrinally, Faith In The word International Churches, Inc. speaks of the combination of repentance and conversion as: the act of a sinner in turning from his sins and error beliefs to Jesus Christ and to God's righteousness [Matthew 13: 15; Acts 3:18-22], by way of a quality decision:

(i) to ask forgiveness of his/ her sins and to turn away from ungodly living and his/ her ungodly mindset [Romans 8:5; Romans 12:1-2], as the realization of the incredible love God has for him/ her moves him/ her to respond; and thereafter, through his/ her accompanying conversion, and

(ii) to let God's love, His Word, and the Holy Spirit lead him/ her along the path of walking out his/ her repentance [Romans 2:4], as demonstrated in the resulting progressive, godly change in his/ her mindset and actions [Luke 3:8-14; Acts 3:19; 26:20] and his/ her progressively-manifested submission to God's will for his/ her life [Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12; James 4:7].

Interrelationship of Salvation, Repentance, and Conversion. In essence, Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. speaks of salvation as that divine cleansing and adoptive act and gift of God that we receive only through Christ Jesus by:

(a) believing that He is who He says He is; (b) asking Jesus to cleanse oneself from sin; (c) making a public confession of Jesus' Lordship; and (d) having an inner witness that the confessed sinner has received cleansing from sin.

Procedurally, Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. holds that the steps to Christian salvation are that one:

1. Recognize/Admit that the person is, by innate nature, a sinner.

Understand and acknowledge that, because of Adam's sin and disobedience in the Garden of Eden, all humanity was affected by and infected with, sin and death. [Romans 5:12-14; see, Psalm 51:5] Mankind took on the nature of sin; therefore, everyone that was born after Adam was born into a life of sin (*i.e.*, having a sin nature and resulting sinful conduct) and death. [Romans 5:18a - 19a]

2. Repent of the person's underlying sin.

Make a 180-degree turn away from sin and toward leading a life that is pleasing to God; apprehending that repentance does not merely mean "I'm sorry." Rather, it is a quality decision to ask forgiveness of one's sins and to be cleansed from unrighteousness. [I John 1:9]

3. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Verbally declare that Jesus Christ is the ultimate authority over one's life. Say out loud [or if unable to speak, then make public by whatever means able] that He is one's personal Lord and Savior and declare one's belief that He lived, died, and was raised from the dead for the forgiveness of one's sins. [Romans 10:9-10; II Corinthians 4:13]

Justification/Justified/Just – Righteous/Righteousness. In the New Testament, the primary Greek word used for justification is the noun *dikaiosis* <Strong's 1347>, which denotes "the act of pronouncing righteous, justification, acquittal." Its precise meaning is determined by that of the verb *dikaioo* <Strong's 1344>, meaning "to justify," "to deem to be right." In the Active Voice, *dikaioo* signifies, "to show to be right or righteous"; and in the Passive Voice, it signifies "to be justified." The Greek word for the adjective "just" [as in "the just person"] is *dikaios* <Strong's 1342>, which signifies one who is "approved of or acceptable of God" and, in God's view, is "innocent, faultless, guiltless." Likewise, the Greek word *dikaios* <Strong's 1342> is also used for the adjective "righteous" in the New Testament [e.g., Romans 5:19]; and the Greek word *dikaiosune* <Strong's 1343> is used for "righteousness," denoting "the state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God" [e.g., Romans 10:10]. *Vine's Expository Dictionary for New Testament Words*.

[Easton's Definition]: Justification and righteousness are inseparably united in scripture. The New Testament word is *Dikaioo*, which means to declare one just or justified. As such justification is a forensic term opposed to condemnation. As regards to its nature, it is the judicial act of God, by which He pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law. In addition to pardon of sin, justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. It is the act of a judge and not of a sovereign. The law is not relaxed or set-aside but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law [Romans 5: 1-10].

Sanctification/Holiness. In both the Old and New Testaments, the Hebrew and Greek translations of sanctification and holiness are essentially the same. In the Divine Mind of God, therefore, sanctification and holiness are one. The sanctified man is the holy man. In Hebrew, *qadesh* [or *qadash*] <Strong's 06942> means *to separate, set apart*. [e.g., II Chronicles 5:11] In Greek, *hagios* [or *hagiazō*] <Strong's 37> means *to separate, set apart*. Sanctification is the carrying on to completion the work begun in regeneration, and it extends to the whole man. [Romans 6:13; II Corinthians 4: 6; Colossians 3: 10; I John 4:7; 1 Corinthians 6: 19] The Holy Spirit, in the plan of redemption, fulfils this work in the believers. [I Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13] Faith is instrumental in securing sanctification, inasmuch as it: (1) secures the believer's union to Christ [Galatians 2:20]; and (2) brings the believer into living contact with the truth, whereby he is led to yield the fruit of obedience. Sinless perfection is not attainable by man in this life [I Kings 8:46; Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; James 3:2; I John 1:8; Romans 7:14-25]; as it is written, *for*

we must all be changed. We don't know what we shall appear, but we do know that when we see Him, we shall be like Him. [1 John 3:2]

Political Government. Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc. believes that governments are God-given institutions for the benefit of mankind. We admonish and exhort our people to honor magistrates and the powers that be, and to respect and obey civil laws. We declare our loyalty to the President and to the Constitution of the United States. Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc. pledges fidelity to the flag for which this Republic stands. Also as God-fearing, peace-loving, and law-abiding people, we claim our inheritance as American citizens, namely to worship God according to the dictation of our conscience. We, the body of Christ, will adhere to all the laws of the land **UNLESS** it contradicts the Word of God.

ARTICLE VII. Ordinances

Section 1: Marriage

Marriage as defined by ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** is the union of a biologically born adult male and a biologically born adult female as husband and wife. Thus, all such marriages performed by official governmentally-certified individuals or ordained clergy are recognized by this organization as legal and binding; however, we do not recognize “common law.” ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. does not*** recognize or condone same sex or transgender marriages, polygamy, or any other civil unions in violation of the beliefs and practices of this organization, as more specifically provided in its Covenant, set forth in this instrument.

God instituted marriage. *And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. And the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh. [Genesis 2:18, 22-24]* It suggests that God's most wholesome provision for humans to receive nurturing and comforting is through marriage. God also expects that in “cleaving” to each other, the husband and wife form a permanent relationship.

Section 2: The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper [“Holy Communion”] is a sacramental rite instituted by the Lord Jesus. It was an act initiated by Jesus Himself to show forth an example of commemorating His death and suffering. It consists of two (2) separate and distinct elements: (1) the bread, representing the Lord Jesus' broken and

scourged body [Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24], which was broken for us, to provide for our healing [I Corinthians 11:24; see, Isaiah 53:4-5; I Peter 2:24]; and (2) the fruit of the vine, representing the Lord Jesus' precious blood that was shed for the forgiveness, remission, and washing away of all our sin, and by which He established the New Covenant [Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; I Corinthians 11:25; Colossians 1:14; Ephesians 1:7]. The Lord also told the Apostles at the table with Him, and later revealed to the Apostle Paul, that this rite is to be observed by all Christians, in remembrance of Him, until He returns. [Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24-25] The twelve Apostles were witnesses, as narrated in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning it, he said that it was given to him by direct revelation from the Lord Jesus. [I Corinthians 11:23] Therefore, the Lord's Supper is a sacred rite to be instituted and regularly enjoyed by the local church, "[f]or as often as you eat of

this bread and drink of this cup, you do show forth the Lord's death until He comes." [I Corinthians 11: 26] The Pastor(s) shall administer the Lord's Supper at the local church. In the absence of a Pastor, any Elder, Deacon, or other delegated believer in the midst, and in that order of priority, may administer it at or for the benefit of the local Church. In addition, as was the custom of the early church, believers are free to partake of the Lord's Supper in their homes or other settings, themselves, as often as the Holy Spirit moves them to do so. [E.g., Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7; 27:33-36]

Section 3: Water Baptism

Baptism is sacramental and covenantal. It is also symbolic and serves as a public indication of the inner change that has already occurred in the believer's life. It is the outward expression of the inner change that took place upon repentance, conversion, and salvation; and is an act of obedience *after* salvation has occurred.

The Greek word *baptisma* <Strong's 908> is the word used for "baptism" in many New Testament verses. *Strong's* defines *baptisma* as "a rite of immersion in water as commanded by Christ, by which one after confessing his sins and professing his faith in Christ, having been born again by the Holy Spirit unto a new life, identifies publicly with the fellowship of Christ and the church." The root word for *baptisma*, which is used interchangeably with *baptisma* throughout New Testament scripture relating to baptism or being baptized, is *baptizo* <Strong's 907>. An important, common definition of both *baptizo*, and of *baptisma* is "to overwhelm," or "[to be] quite overwhelmed." *Strong's* explains:

When used in the New Testament, this word [*i.e.*, *baptizo* – as distinct from *bapto* (to dip)] more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. *e.g.* [Mark] 16:16: 'He that believes

and is baptised [sic] shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with Him, a real change, like the [process of change the cucumber vegetable to the pickle]. [citation to: "Bible Study Magazine," James Montgomery Boice, May 1989.]

Clearly, water baptism refers to an act that is undertaken subsequent to one's salvation (*i.e.*, one's "new birth," one being "born again" "by the Holy Spirit"). The word *baptisma*, taken from and akin to *baptizo*, is the word used by the Apostle Paul and is translated as "baptism" in two particularly instructive verses: (1) Romans 6:4, *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*; and (2) Colossians 2:12, *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead*. Strong's makes the

baptisma/baptizo syntax connection apparent, saying, "In Ro. 6:3 'Paul states we are "baptised [sic] unto death" meaning that we are not only dead to our former ways, but they are buried.'" Strong's, *supra*.

The examples of baptism in the Scripture, *after the resurrection of Jesus Christ* (the event which confirmed and ratified the New Covenant), all show that while *spiritual baptism* (*by* Jesus, *with* the indwelling Holy Spirit), occurred upon one's salvation, *water baptism* happened after the person was born again. [E.g., Acts 2:28; 8:12, 26-39; 10:47-48; 16:13-15, 30-33] Water baptism [*i.e.*, being immersed in water (or, if unique circumstances require, being doused or sprinkled with water)] cannot change a person's *heart* – *that* is the Holy Spirit's work; as it is written, "The Spirit gives life" [II Corinthians 3:6]. Salvation is a *heart* issue; not a *rite* issue. [Romans 10:9-10]

The Bible is clear that salvation is *by* God's grace, *through* the person's faith in Jesus Christ, *and not by* "works" of any kind, including water baptism. [Ephesians 2:8-9] Nonetheless, the Lord Jesus having personally set the precedent for water baptism [Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22] and having ordained it as a sacrament for all believers [Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16], baptism is an act of obedience, commitment, and proclamation; and every believer should be baptized at the earliest possible opportunity after salvation. [I Corinthians 11:1; I John 2:6]

ARTICLE VIII. Unacceptable Doctrines

Section 1: Unconditional Security

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. disapproves of the unconditional security position that holds that it is impossible for a person

once saved to “lose” their salvation, *as such*. It is clear that man can have his part taken out of the Book of Life. [Revelation 22:19] It is also clear that: (1) a person who has been saved may effectively reject or renounce his salvation, *subject to the qualifications of Hebrews 6:4-6*; and, (2) a person may erroneously “believe” that he is saved – based on his adherence to and practice of rituals, traditions of men, and rationales that are not consistent with the New Testament’s teachings about salvation – without ever experiencing the true change of heart and personal relationship required for true salvation [*i.e.*, such a person may know a lot *about* Jesus; but does *not* know Jesus]. In the latter case, if the person is not rescued and saved from his/her error belief and led into true salvation and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the person will ultimately be turned away from heaven’s door, despite all the good “works” he or she may have done “in Jesus’ Name” during his life. [Matthew 7:21-23]

Section 2: Legalism

Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc. disapproves matters of conscience such as forbidding the eating of meats, requiring certain attire other than employment uniforms, prohibiting the public ministry of women, being overtly critical of modest hairstyle and clothing style, etc., and those who self-righteously impose their religious (or other) opinions on others. ***Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc.*** disapproves of adding anything unscriptural as a basis of obtaining salvation.

Section 3: Worldliness

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. [I John 1: 15-16] The Word teaches that we should abstain from anything that will defile or harm the body. [*e.g.*, I Corinthians 6:19-20] It also teaches us to guard our minds and our mouths with all diligence. [*e.g.*, Romans 8:6; 12:2; II Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:22-24; Proverbs 18:21; Matthew 15:11, 18; Ephesians 4:29; James 3:10] Therefore, ***Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc.*** admonishes its members to abstain from any messages that are not profitable for the edification of the soul.

Matters of Personal Ethics. The Holy Spirit deals with believers corporally and individually. As such, it is important that each believer adheres to the “inner” unction of the Holy Spirit in gauging daily conduct, and especially if personal conduct or ethics misrepresents Christ. *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient; all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.* [I Corinthians 6:12]

The Legal System. The Holy Spirit does things decently and in order and helps believers to submit to Biblical and legal authority. It is unscriptural for

holy people to disobey the laws of the legal system (to the extent such laws do not go against the Word of God) and/or to disrespect those in rule over us. *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not terrors to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain. For his is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.* [Romans 13: 1-5]

The Family Structure

- **Respect for Parents.** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that is may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.* [Ephesians 6:1-3; see, Exodus 20: 12]
- **Respect for Husband.** *Wives submit yourselves [yield to the admonition or advice of, give deference to, show respect for, adapt to] unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church and He is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.* [Ephesians 5:22-23]
- **Respect for Wife.** *Husbands, love [nourish, cherish; treat affectionately and kindly; give time and attention to; sacrificially provide what is best for] your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.* [Ephesians 5:23, 28]
- **Mutual Respect Between Husband and Wife.** In the beginning, God created both male and female in His own image, and He blessed them. [Genesis 1:27-28] In order of creation, recognizing that “it is not good for man to be alone,” God created Adam from the dust of the earth, then created a “helper comparable to [Adam]” (i.e., the first woman, “Eve”). [Genesis 2:7, 18]. Eve was created from a rib from Adam’s side, indicating she was intended to walk beside him, not behind him; she was the “helper comparable to” Adam, not “subservient to” him. [Genesis 2:21-23; see, Genesis 1:27-28] Adam took Eve as his wife; and God’s directive was, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* [Genesis 2:23-24] God’s pattern for

marriage and for the husband-wife relationship is thus: a loving, complementary, mutually respectful relationship. [Genesis 1:27; 2:18, 21-24; 5:2] Ephesians 5:22-23, 28 should be understood in the context of Ephesians 5:21-33; guided by Genesis 1:27; 2:18, 21-24; 5:2. Being “one flesh,” neither spouse is to seek to dominate the other; rather each should, given his/her respective gifts, expertise, and availability, serve and support the other, with mutual respect. Nevertheless, to keep peace and to avoid disorder/confusion in the home due to lack of a designated “leader,” God’s perfect plan is that the husband be – and lovingly/sacrificially undertake the duties of being – the home’s *godly* “leader” (to the extent the husband is able), while acknowledging, respecting, seeking, and duly considering such input and assistance as his wife’s wisdom and her particular gifts, expertise, and experience may be able to provide to complement him in that role.

Control. To usurp control of an individual utilizing taskmaster tactics is against the will of God. Jesus with all of His power and Glory does not force a person to accept Him or to serve Him, *viz., Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him and will sup with him and he with me.* [Revelations 3: 20] [See, e.g., Luke 13:34; Mark 8:34; James 1:13-16] Brute force manifested to control the conduct of an individual who is not adversely affecting self or others is worldly and satanic. [E.g., Revelation 13:15-18]

Adultery/Immorality

- **Fornication and Adultery.** Fornication is the general term for all sexual contact outside of marriage. Adultery is the term that refers to the sexual sin of married people with someone other than their spouse; *i.e.,* engaging in sexual intercourse (or fornication without consummation of intercourse) with the spouse of another, or with someone other than one’s own spouse. *Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.* [Hebrews 13:4]

- **Homosexuality.** Homosexuality is sexual intercourse or other form of fornication with the same sex, hence male-to-male or female-to-female. It is not “natural,” and does not reflect the nature of mankind, as created and intended by God. [See, Genesis 1:27; 2:24] *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections. For even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient [fit, allowed, right]....* [Romans 1:26-28]

- **Pornography.** Pornography is defined as writings, pictures, etc., intended primarily to arouse sexual desire and its creation and/or its use by a person is a result of lust and covetousness harbored in the heart and mind. *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery; But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman [or a man] to lust after her [or him] hath already committed adultery with her [or him] in his [or her] heart.* [Matthew 5:27-28]

- **Drunkenness, Drugs, and Tobacco Products.** *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.* [I Corinthians 3:16-17] Therefore, any controlled substance (marijuana, cocaine, heroin, acid, alcoholic beverages, etc.) that is destructive to the body and counterproductive to the mission of **Faith In the Word International Churches, Inc.** should be avoided. Any non-medically prescribed uncontrolled substance (pain killers, tobacco products, and the like) taken into the body that has an adverse and/or addictive effect of affecting behavior is destructive to the body and counterproductive to the mission of Christ and this organization. *Be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.* [Ephesians 5:18]

Section 4: Errors in Money Matters

Tithing. **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** believes in the biblical principal and custom of financing the work of the ministry through tithes and offerings. [Romans 10:14 (vv. 13-15); see, I Corinthians 9:11; see, also, Malachi 3:8, 10; Hebrews 7:5] A “tithe” is one-tenth (1/10) of one’s increase BEFORE deductions, as reflected in the pre-Law tithe basis on which the tithe was paid by Abraham and Jacob, among many others. [Genesis 14:18-20; 28:22] An “offering” is what is given of free will in honor and sacrifice to God, and is above and beyond the tithe. [II Corinthians 9:6-8] In tithing, the ministers should be the examples. [See, I Timothy 4:12b; see, also, Ephesians 4:1] We recognize the duty and blessing of tithing and urge all our people to offer tithes to God by bringing them into the “storehouse” (local church) so that adequate support to the church and pastor can be satisfactorily provided. However, we disapprove of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his/her support.

Solicitation of funds. It is improper and unethical for ministers and laymen to solicit funds without proper authorization from their immediate overseer. The intent is to discourage activities of those who would employ methods not in harmony with **Faith In The Word In The Word International Churches, Inc.** The pastor must approve local projects. Each church is authorized to form a Fund Raising Committee with persons skilled in this area.

Section 5: Infringement of the Local Pastor

All members are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of congregations, whether it is by interfering with projects or work without consent. Communication to and with members of **Faith In the Word International Churches, Inc.** that will damage the influence of the leader is also forbidden. Communication that concerns the local church should be addressed to the one in charge of that fellowship. Any minister or member found guilty of such infringement will be subject to discipline by **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** Ministry credentials may also be reviewed, suspended, or revoked.

At the time of this incorporation, **Edward Ekwa** is the Founding Pastor & Senior Pastor, of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** **Edward Ekwa** shall serve in this position in perpetuity and shall not be removed except for cause of proven illegal, immoral, and/or unethical activity which shall require a quorum and a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote of all members of the Board of Directors (whether present or absent and voting by proxy or by delivery of his/her signed vote to the Board, as provided in Article XIII, entitled "Amendments") other than **Edward Ekwa**. If **Edward Ekwa** is removed as the Pastor, any successor Pastor shall serve for a term and upon the terms and conditions established by the Board of Directors. Attendance of a Board member via video conference or by teleconference shall be sufficient presence to constitute personal attendance to determine a quorum, for voice votes (where applicable), and for all other purposes.

ARTICLE IX. Indemnification

Section 1: Definitions

For the purpose of this Article, an Agent ["Agent"] means any person who is or was a pastor, chaplain, elder, deacon, director, officer, trustee, employee, or other agent of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.**, or is or was serving at the request of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** as a pastor, chaplain, elder, director, officer, trustee, employee, or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, or was a pastor, chaplain, elder, director, officer, employee, or agent of a foreign or domestic corporation that was a predecessor corporation of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** or of another enterprise at the request of such predecessor corporation.

Proceeding. "Proceeding" means any threatened, pending or completed action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative.

Expenses. "Expenses" include, without limitation, all attorneys' fees and any other expenses incurred in the defense of any claims or proceedings against an

Agent by reason of his or her position or relationship as Agent and all attorneys' fees, costs, and other expenses incurred in establishing a right to indemnification under this Article.

Section 2: Successful Defense by Agent

To the extent that an Agent of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** has been successful on the merits in the defense of any proceeding referred to in this Article, or in the defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, the Agent shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the Agent in connection with the claim. If an Agent either settles any such claim or sustains a judgment rendered against him or her, then the provisions of Sections 3 through 5 of this Article shall determine whether the Agent is entitled to indemnification.

Section 3: Actions Brought by Persons Other than

Your Church Names Goes Here

Subject to the required findings to be made pursuant to Section 5 below, **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** shall indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any proceeding other than action brought by, or in the right of, **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** to procure judgment in its favor, an action brought under State or Federal law, by reason of the fact that such person is or was an Agent of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** for all expenses, judgments, fines, settlements, and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the proceeding.

Section 4: Action Brought by or on Behalf of

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.

Claims Settled Out of Court. If any Agent settles or otherwise disposes of a threatened or pending action brought by or on behalf of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** without (i) court approval or (ii) the approval of a supermajority of the Board of Directors of **Faith In The word International Churches, Inc.** excluding any such Agent who is a member of the Board of Directors – the Agent shall receive no indemnification for either amounts paid pursuant to the terms of the settlement or other disposition or for any expenses incurred in defending against the proceeding.

Threatened, Pending, or Completed Actions Against Agent.

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action brought by or in the right of

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. or brought under State or Federal law, to procure a judgment in its favor, by reason of the fact that the person is or was an Agent of ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** for all expenses actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of that action, provided that both the following criteria are met:

- The determination of good faith conduct required by Section 5 below, must be made in the manner provided for in that section; and
- Where the Agent has actually been adjudged liable to ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** in the performance of such person's duty to ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** unless and only to the extent that, the court in which such proceeding is or was pending, shall, upon application, determine that, in view of all of the circumstances of the case, the Agent is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for the expenses incurred. If the Agent is found to be so entitled, the court shall determine the appropriate amount of expenses to be reimbursed.

Section 5: Determination of Agent's Good Faith Conduct

The indemnification granted to an Agent in Sections 3 and 4 of the Article is conditioned on the following:

Required Standard of Conduct. The Agent seeking reimbursement must be found, in the manner provided below, to have acted in good faith, in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interest of ***Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc.*** and with such care, including reasonable inquiry as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use in similar circumstances. The termination of any proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the affected Agent did not act in good faith or in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interest of ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** or that he or she had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. In the case of a criminal proceeding, the Agent must have had no reasonable cause to believe that his/her conduct was unlawful.

Manner of Determination of Good Faith Conduct. The determination that the Agent did act in a manner complying with Section 5 above shall be made by:

- The elders, by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of elders who are not parties to the proceeding; or if none, then

- The Board of Directors, by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of Directors who are not parties to the proceeding; or
- Approval of ***Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc.*** membership, with the Agents to be indemnified not being entitled to vote thereon; or
- The court in which the proceeding is or was pending. In that event, such determination may be made on application brought by ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** or the Agent or the attorney or other person rendering a defense to the Agent, whether or not the application by the Agent, attorney or other person is opposed by ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.***
- Attendance at any such proceeding by an Elder or Board member via video conference or by teleconference, where contemporaneous visuals are not used (or where personal demeanor is not a factor and each video conferee has been provided with the written materials dealing with the issue at hand in advance), shall be sufficient presence to constitute personal attendance to determine a quorum, for voice votes (where applicable), and for all related purposes.

Section 6: Limitations

No indemnification or advance shall be made under this Article, except as provided in Sections 2 or 5, in any circumstances when it appears:

- That the indemnification or advance would be inconsistent with a provision of the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, a resolution of the Leadership Board (or if none, the Board of Directors) or Church membership, or an agreement in effect at the time of the accrual of the alleged cause of action asserted in the proceeding in which the expenses were incurred or other amounts were paid, which prohibits or otherwise limits indemnification; or
- That the indemnification would be inconsistent with any condition expressly imposed by a court in approving a settlement.

Section 7: Advance of Expenses

Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be advanced by ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** before the final disposition of the proceeding on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Agent to repay the amount of the advance unless it is ultimately determined that the Agent is entitled to be indemnified as authorized in this Article.

Section 8: Insurance

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any Agent of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** against any liability asserted against or incurred by the Agent in such capacity or arising out of the Agent's status as such, whether or not **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** would have the power to indemnify the agent; provided, however, **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** shall have no power to purchase and maintain such insurance to indemnify any Agent of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** for violation of State or Federal laws.

ARTICLE X. Binding Arbitration

Members of **Faith In The word International Churches, Inc.** believe that Scripture teaches in Matthew 18:15-20 and I Corinthians 6:1-8 that every effort must be made to live at peace and to resolve disputes or conflicts with each other in private or within the Church. Therefore, the members of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to being a member of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** which claim or dispute is not resolved between the parties through the use of principles set forth in Matthew 18, shall be settled by biblically based and legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation.

A copy can be found at the proceeding web site
http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.nuIWL7MOJtE/b.5335917/k.D8A2/Rules_of_Procedure.htm

Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. Members understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of their Church membership and expressly waive their right to file any suit or claim against one another for such claims or disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision or the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE XI. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on January 1 and end December 31 of each calendar year.

ARTICLE XII. Amendments

Amendments to the may be made at any regularly called session of **Faith In The Word International Churches (dba Faith Empowerment Centre** if the proposed amendments shall have been submitted at least two (2) months (60 days) prior, in writing. Before the proposed amendments may be considered before **Faith In The Word International Churches (dba Faith Empowerment Centre** , it shall cause notice to be provided by mail or by other dated, receipted, and confirmed delivery recognized by Florida Statutes 617.0141 and 736.0109 (e.g., hand delivery, signed delivery receipt received; telefax with evidence of receipt and legibility received from intended recipient, if authorized by the recipient; expedited mail, signed delivery receipt received; or email with delivery confirmation and electronically signed reply email from the recipient stating that he or she is the intended recipient and has received all referenced attachments and content, and that it is readable, if authorized by the recipient) to each pastor not later than thirty (30) days before the next meeting. Amendments to the constitution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of **Faith In The Word International Churches (dba Faith Empowerment Centre** , or in default of less than three (3) such formal members, then by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a group comprising (i) all the members of **Faith In The Word International Churches (dba Faith Empowerment Centre** (if any), and (ii) the members of the Leadership Board (or, if none, then the Board of Directors). Members may vote by written proxy; and absentee written votes may be delivered to the organization at any time prior to or within five (5) business days after the scheduled meeting, using the same methods set out above for notice.

ARTICLE XIII. Dissolution

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. exists perpetually. In the event, however, of dissolution of the corporation, all of its assets remaining after payment of all costs and expenses of such dissolution, shall be distributed to organizations which have qualified for exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the Federal Government or to a state or local government for public purposes and none of the assets will be distributed to any member or officer of this corporation.

ARTICLE XIV. Disclaimer

Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc. endeavors to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ as described, established, and mandated by the New Testament. The purpose of these Bylaws is to help us accomplish the vision of this Church in a “decent and orderly” manner through the use of effective and

efficient means of good stewardship of the body's time, gifts and resources. Our ultimate desire is to bring glory to God through the Church.

These Bylaws are to provide general guidance on organization, governance and operation, based upon biblical principles and practices. However, the ultimate authority for ***Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.*** organization, governance and operation is the Bible (Genesis to Revelation). When a conflict or ambiguity exists with regard to the Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws, deference is to be given to the biblical reference to resolve the conflict or ambiguity.

ARTICLE XV. Members

Members, including Affiliate Members, can be accepted upon right hand of fellowship and completion of required new membership orientation class that consist of different processes.

ARTICLE XVI. Manner of Elections

The manner in which the directors are appointed by the Senior Pastor and president :

Section 1 – The business of the organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of no fewer than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) members, together with the officers of this organization. At least one of the Directors appointed shall be a resident of the State of Florida and a citizen of the United States.

Section 2 – The Directors to be chosen for the ensuing year shall be chosen at the annual meeting of this organization in the same manner and style as the officers of this organization and they shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Terms are renewable.

Section 3 – The Pastor and Board of Directors shall have the control and management of the affairs of the business of this organization.

Section 4 – At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a quorum shall consist of one (1) more than Fifty Percent (50%) of the total members of appointed Directors. For purposes of determining a quorum, attendance of a Board member via video conference or by teleconference, shall be sufficient presence to constitute personal attendance to determine a quorum.

Section 5 – Each Director shall have one vote and such voting may be done by proxy over the phone, via text, by email, via video conference audio, or telefax;

in addition, each Director may submit his/her vote by absentee ballot. Further, attendance of a Board member via video conference or by teleconference shall be sufficient presence to constitute personal attendance to determine a quorum, for voice votes and for all related purposes.

Section 6 – The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may in its discretion determine is necessary.

Section 7 – Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the President and Senior Pastor appointing a new Director who shall be announced in a meeting of the board of Directors for the balance of the term, unless indicated otherwise at the time of meeting.

Section 8 – A Director may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such Removal. The Board of Directors may entertain charges against any Director, and upon finding him or her guilty, the Pastor shall then look into the matter finding a true course of misconduct, shall make a decision to remove the director.

The Board of Directors shall adopt such rules for this hearing and in its discretion consider what is necessary for the best interests of the organization.

ARTICLE XVII. Initial Directors and/or Officers

Dr Edward Ekwa	1704 SE 8 th Ave Cape Coral FL 33990	President & Senior Pastor
Belinda Temple	1621 Mayfair Road Fort Myers, FL 33919	Secretary/Treasurer
Amy Rodney	18129 Horizon View Blvd Lehigh Acres, FL 33973	Director
Remme Malo	17030 Lockhart Dr Naples, FL 33114	Director

ARTICLE XVIII Initial Registered Agent & Street Address

The name and Florida street address of the Registered Agent is:

Dr Edward Ekwa

1704 SE 8th Ave

Cape Coral FL 33990

ARTICLE XIX. Incorporator

The **name and address** of the Incorporator is:

Dr Edward Ekwa

1704 SE 8th Ave

Cape Coral FL 33990

ARTICLE XX. Meetings

Section 1 – Meetings will be held at intervals necessary to conduct the business of the organization.

Section 2 – Notice of any regular or special meeting shall be provided to any person entitled to vote at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting, in the manner set out above; unless such notice is waived by the person entitled thereto or otherwise provided, above. Notice may be oral (in person, by videoconference, or by telephone), if the applicable person consents in writing to oral notice (whether for a particular instance, during a particular timeframe, or ongoing until further written notice withdrawing consent to oral notice is received by **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** (and may otherwise be made by U.S. Mail, by hand delivery (receipt acknowledged), by receipted UPS/FedEx/ USPS Priority Mail delivery or other receipted courier delivery service, by email (with delivery confirmation receipt), or by telefax (receipt acknowledged).

ARTICLE XXI. Duties of Senior Pastor, Officers, & Directors

Section 1 – The President and Senior Pastor shall oversee and maintain the primary business of the organization and shall:

- a. With the Secretary, sign and deliver transactions pertaining to the business of the organization.
- b. Assist in directing the communications and marketing of **Faith In The Word International Churches, Inc.** and any programs as approved by the Board of Directors.
- c. The President and Senior Pastor is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors with voting rights.
- d. Supervise and control the affairs of the corporation. The President and Senior Pastor's duties shall include the performance of all duties and

matters pertinent to the office and others duties that may be required by law and the Articles of Incorporation. The Pastor shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and be a voting member.

- e. The position of Original Founding Pastor is unique and carries a lifetime term at the discretion of the Original Founding Pastor.
- f. If the Original Founding Pastor is no longer in office due to resignation, illness, or death, the subsequent Pastor will not be subject to a lifetime term or seat on the Board of Directors as a voting member.
- g. If the Original Founding Pastor becomes ill or otherwise becomes unable to perform the duties of the office due to becoming incapacitated or death, the Board of Directors will be responsible for selecting an Interim Senior Pastor until the position of Senior Pastor is filled.
- h. At the time of such circumstances, the Board of Directors will be responsible for hiring a new Senior Pastor.

Section 2 – The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – The Vice-President shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors in the absence of the President.

Section 4 – The Secretary or his or her designated agent shall:

- a. Maintain records of and, whenever necessary, certify all proceeds for the organization.
- b. See that all notices are given in accordance with the provisions of these Articles or as required by law.
- c. Be custodian of the corporate records.
- d. With the Pastor, sign and deliver any transactions pertaining to the business of the organization.

Section 5 – The Treasurer or his or her designated agent shall:

- a. Ensure that accurate financial records for the organization are kept.
- b. Deposit all moneys and checks in the name of and to the credit of **Faith In the Word International Churches, Inc.** Disburse funds and issue checks for the primary business of the organization according to the approval of the Pastor.
- c. Render whenever requested, an account of all transactions by the Treasurer and of the financial condition of **Faith in The Word International Churches, Inc.**

- d. Oversee the work of the Budget as set forth by the Pastor and the Board of Directors.

Section 6 – All members of the Board of Directors shall complete a standard application for the organization's primary management file.

ARTICLE XXII. Territories

The territory in which the operations of the corporation are principally to be conducted is the United States of America and its territories and possessions; but the operation of the corporations shall not be limited to such territory.

ARTICLE XXIII. Non-Stock Corporation

The corporation shall be considered organized on a non-stock basis, and therefore, certificate of shares of stock in the corporation shall not be issued.

ARTICLE XXIV. Limitations

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for service rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by any organization exempt from federal income tax under 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XXV. Reimbursements of Expenses

By resolution of the organization, the Directors and the Pastor may be paid for their expenses and/or reimbursed as is reasonable and necessary as approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XXVI. Robert's Rules of Order

Except as for specific situations approved by the Board of Directors, meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rule of Order as most recently revised in addition to the agenda line items the Leadership Team (or, if none, then the Pastor) implements (*i.e.*, prayer).

Section 1 – The recommended order of business for meetings is:

- a. Roll Call
- b. Minutes Provided of Previous Meeting
- c. Correspondence
- d. Committee Reports
- e. Treasurer's Report
- f. Unfinished Business
- g. New Business
- h. Elections
- i. Bylaws and Rule Changes
- j. Adjournment

ARTICLE XXVII. Salaries

The Board of Directors shall hire and develop the compensation of any and all employees, which they in their discretion may determine to be necessary for the conduct of the business of the organization.

ARTICLE XXVIII. Committees

Section 1 – The Board of Directors shall appoint all committees of this organization. The term of office of such committees shall be for a period of one year or less if sooner terminated by such action of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Committees and the assignments and purview thereof shall be determined by the Board of Directors and may be modified by the Board of Directors as may be determined appropriate to the circumstances.

ARTICLE XXIX. Voting

Section 1 – In order for the Board of Directors to recommend any action, the vote ratifying this recommendation must be a majority vote.

Section 2 – The Secretary or his/her designated substitute shall make a record of such votes, which shall be filed with the organizational records.

ARTICLE XXX. Staff

Section 1 – The Board of Directors may, at its option, employ such professional assistance as it deems necessary to assist in the operation of the organization and its programs. Such authorization may be given to the Pastor for the cause of conducting pertinent business.

Section 2 – A written record (whether by memorandum or otherwise) shall be made of each such employment decision and filed with the organizational records.

ARTICLE XXXI. Finances

Section 1 – The funding for this organization shall be established by the Pastor and Board of Directors.

Section 2 – The fiscal year for accounting purposes will be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 3 – Financial Statements shall be rendered on a detailed and regular basis and made available for the Board of Directors for inspection.

ARTICLE XXXII. Liability

Nothing in these Articles shall constitute any member of the Board of Directors as partners for any purpose. No Director, officer, agent, or employee of this organization shall be liable for the acts or failure to act on the part of any other member, officer, agent, or employee of this organization. Nor shall any member, officer, agent, or employee be liable for his/her acts or failure to act under these Articles, excepting only acts or omissions to act arising out of his/her negligence or misconduct in the performance of day for this organization.

ARTICLE XXXIII. Conflict of Interest

Section 1 – The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the organization's interest when it is considering negotiating a transaction or

agreement that might benefit the personal interest of an officer or director of the organization or might result in a possible gain inuring to an officer or director for the transaction. This Article is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organization.

Section 2 – The officers, employees, or agents of the organization should neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors/vendors.

Section 3 – No officer, employee, or agent of the organization shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a purchase or contract with a vendor where, to his/her knowledge, any of the following has a financial interest in that purchase or contract.

Section 4 – Disclosure – Any possible conflict of interest shall be disclosed by the person or persons concerned.

Section 5 – Board Action – When a conflict of interest is relevant to a matter requiring action by the Board of Directors, the interested person(s) shall call it to the attention of the Board of Directors and said person(s) shall not vote on the matter. In addition, the person(s) shall not participate in the final deliberation or decision regarding the matter under consideration and shall retire from the room during the vote of the Board of Directors. When there is a doubt as to whether a conflict exists, the matter shall be resolved by vote of the Board of Directors, excluding the person(s) concerning whose situation the doubt has arisen.

Section 6 – Record of Conflict- The official minutes of the Board of Directors shall reflect that the conflict of interest was disclosed and the interested person(s) was (were) not present during the final discussion or vote and did not vote on the matter.

Section 7 – Violations of Conflict of Interest Policy- If the governing Board has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest; it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and allow the member the opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing Board determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

ARTICLE XXXIV. Bylaws

Bylaws, not inconsistent with applicable law or these Articles, shall be adopted by the Board of Directors to provide for the administration of the affairs of the Corporation and the exercise of its corporate powers. Upon proper notice Pastors and members of the Board of Directors may amend, alter, or rescind any bylaws at any regular or special meeting that can be called for that purpose. Final approval must be completed by a two-thirds [2/3] vote, as provided above.

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

Signature/Registered Agent Edward Ekwa **Date** 12/23/16

I, Edward Ekwa, as Incorporator, submit this document and affirm that the facts stated herein are true. I am aware that any false information submitted in a document to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in s.817.155, F.S.

Signature/Incorporator Edward Ekwa

FILED
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SECRETARY OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA