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**T. SCOTT**<sub>i</sub> MAY 3 1 2022

### **COVER LETTER**

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

### SUBJECT: One Vine Church (USA), Inc.

### (PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for:

\$78.75		
Filing Fee		
& Certified Copy		

Once these Articles have been approved please send a certified copy to the following address:

2022 Normandy Circle, West Palm Beach, FL 33409

The contact phone number is (954) 805-7569. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

FROM: Mario A. LaVette 2022 Normandy Circle West Palm Beach, FL (954) 805-7569

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

# Articles of Incorporation One Vine Church (USA), Inc.

**Florida Not for Profit Corporation** 



The undersigned hereby adopts the following articles of incorporation in Compliance with Chapter 617, F.S., (Not for Profit).

# PREAMBLE

**WHEREAS**, God has in these last days founded His church upon Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:20; I Corinthians 3:11); built it through His people (I Corinthians 12:14), given it power and authority (Matthew 16:19), and unified it with internal structure (I Corinthians 12:28) and the Holy Ghost as the guide (John 16:13), that we, as the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), might present His Gospel (Mark 16:15) by assisting in the implementation of the vision for this church with the following articles of incorporation (constitution) and by-Laws of the church.

We, whose names appear as members of the board of directors, in order to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, do hereby; recognize ourselves as a sovereign church. We desire to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; and for this purpose we do adopt the articles of incorporation (constitution) and by-Laws of the church on the date of commencement of Carporate existence shall be when these articles have been filed with the Department of State and approved and submit ourselves to be governed by them. Articles of Incorporation (Constitution).

# Article 1 - Name

The name of this corporation shall be **One Vine Church (USA), Inc.,** shall be herein referred to as the "the church" unless otherwise noted. The names and logos of the church shall be the property of the church and may only be changed by the board of directors.

# Article 2 - Principal Office

### Section 1

The principal street address is:

2022 Normandy Circle West Palm Beach, FL 33409 And mailing address is:

2022 Normandy Circle West Palm Beach, FL 33409

The Board may, from time to time, move its principal office in the State of Florida to another place in this state.

### Section 2 - Other Offices

The board of directors may at any time establish a branch of subordinate offices at any place or places where The church is qualified to do business.

### **Article 3 - Purposes and Powers**

The specific purpose for which the corporation is initially organized is establish and oversee places of worship, teach and preach the gospel to all people, conduct evangelistic and humanitarian outreach, license and ordain ministers of the gospel and to also engage in activities which are necessary, suitable or convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose, or which are incidental thereto or connected therewith which are consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, literary or educational, scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

It shall be the purpose of **One Vine Church (USA)**, **Inc.** to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the preaching and teaching of the Holy Bible, to bring the unsaved to Jesus Christ, to build up and disciple the saved in Christian grace and living, to have a vital part in missions here and abroad, and to strive toward unity with all races for the sake of peace in the Body of Christ.

The purpose for which the Corporation is organized is for transacting any and all lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the Florida Not for Profit Corporation Act and to distribute the whole or any part of the income therefrom and the principal thereof exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational purposes, either directly or by contributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations issued pursuant thereto, as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

It shall be the purpose of **One Vine Church (USA), Inc.** to teach the uncut word of God according to the Prophets (Old Testament) and the Apostles (New Testament). We observe (Saturday) the Lord's Sabbath Day, the Lord's Feast Days (as outlined in Leviticus 23rd chapter), and the Lord's Dietary Law (as outlined in Leviticus 11th chapter). We teach and observe the Royal Law, which is the Ten Commandments.

### We are united in one accord for the following purposes:

- 1. To praise and worship God.
- 2. To proclaim the full Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 3. To proclaim the Holy Spirit to all.
- 4. To present salvation unto the lost.
- 5. To edify and unify the Body of Christ.
- 6. To perpetrate all the above to the subsequent generations.

The Corporation shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful acts and things and to engage in any and all lawful activities which may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering or attainment of any or all of the purposes for which a Corporation is organized, and to aid or assist other organizations whose activities are such as to further accomplish, foster or attain any of such purposes. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Corporation shall exercise only such powers as are in furtherance of the exempt purposes of organizations set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the regulations thereunder as the same now exist or as they may be hereinafter amended from time to time.

The church shall have all the rights and powers customary and proper for tax exempt Not for Profit corporations, including the powers specifically enumerated in Section 617.0302 of the Florida Statutes as amended. The church shall have the power to hold or administer property for the purposes stated in this Article 3, including the power to act as trustee.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or, (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

Since **One Vine Church (USA), Inc.** is under the law and commandments of God, the Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members are constituted to obey the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. In connection therewith or incidental thereto, this church shall have the right to do any and all things necessary for the furtherance of its purpose, all in accordance with its by-laws as the same may hereafter be modified or amended.

# Article 4 - Affiliation

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this church holds Biblical (Judeo-Christian) values and shall seek to be trans-denominational and to maintain voluntarily cooperative fellowship with other churches, fellowships, church ministries, and groups that are deemed mutually benevolent and beneficial to the vision and purpose of this church.

### **Article 5 - Non-Stock Corporation**

The Corporation shall be organized on a non-stock basis under the Florida Not for Profit Corporation Act and may issue **Certificate of Membership**.

The corporation shall **not** have or issue shares of **stock**. No compensation or payment shall ever be made to any director, officer or organizer of this corporation or contributor to it, except as a reasonable allowance for actual expenditures or services actually made or rendered to or for this corporation; and neither the whole nor any part or portion of the assets or net earnings, current or accumulated, of the corporation shall ever be distributed or divided among such persons; provided further that neither the whole nor any part or portion of such assets or net earnings shall ever be used for, accrue to, or inure to the benefit of any individual within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

# **Article 6 - Manner of Appointing Directors**

Directors shall be appointed in the manner set forth in the by-laws. Directors may be removed and the vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided by the by-laws.

### Article 7 - Initial Directors

The directors named in these articles shall serve as initial directors for the ensuing year, or until the first meeting of the corporation, and any vacancies before then shall be filled in the manner set forth in the by-laws.

President/Treasurer/Director Mario A. LaVette	Director Othnial Sculley
2022 Normandy Circle	17900 NW 5th Street, Suite 106
West Palm Beach, FL 33409	Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Director	Vice-President/Secretary
Miguel Rodriguez	Althea M. Anderson
8988 NW 187th Street	2022 Normandy Circle
Hialeah, FL 33018	West Palm Beach, FL 33409

### Section 1 - Board of Directors

The affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), subject to the restriction that, except as specifically set forth to the contrary in the by-laws, the exercise of any powers or actions of the Board shall require the approval thereof by a majority vote of the Board present at a meeting at which a quorum of no less than three (3) Directors are present. The affirmative vote of any three (3) Directors shall be necessary for all corporate action requiring a vote of the Board, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Approval of charitable gifts, transfers, distributions and grants by the Corporation to other entities,

2. Adoption of an amendment to the articles of incorporation (constitution) or the by-laws.

3. Organization of a subsidiary or affiliate by the Corporation,

4. Approval of any merger, consolidation or sale or other transfer of all or a substantial part of the assets of the Corporation.

# Article 8 - Initial Registered Office and Agent

The name and street address of the Initial Registered Agent of the corporation is as follows:

Mario A. LaVette 2022 Normandy Circle West Palm Beach, FL 33409

### Article 9 - Incorporator

The name and address of the Incorporator is:

Mario A. LaVette 2022 Normandy Circle West Palm Beach, FL 33409

### Article 10 - Members

**This corporation shall have members.** The members of this corporation shall consist of those persons who join as subscribers to these Articles of Incorporation, and such other persons as may from time to time be elected and admitted to membership in this

corporation in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of this corporation. The eligibility, rights and obligations of the members will be determined by the organization's by-laws. (hereinafter referred to as the "Congregation").

The membership of the corporation shall be known as the **"congregation"** and may vary by the withdrawal of present members and the addition of others in the future in accordance with the then existing by-laws of the corporation.

Any action which would otherwise require a vote of members shall require only a vote of the members of the Board of Directors, and no meeting of vote of members shall be required for this Corporation (except for Limited-voting in the manner provided by such bylaws, See: "the church council": a body of lay delegates chosen from the congregation and charged with supporting the pastor in religious instruction, contributions to the church, etc.) any provision of the articles of incorporation (constitution) of this Corporation or the bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding. All rights which otherwise would vest in the members shall vest in the Board of Directors.

# Article 11 - Congregational Membership: Covenant Partnership, Individual Membership and Corporate Membership

**One Vine Church (USA), Inc.** is committed to the concept of "**Congregational membership**". The categories of membership, qualifications for membership and the manner of admission shall be as set forth in and regulated by the Bylaws of the Corporation. The 3 categories of membership are 1.) "Covenant Partnership," 2.) "Individual Membership," 3.) "Corporate Membership," and that any individual who accepts the inspiration of the Scriptures in theory and in practice, and who successfully completes the "new covenant partners," the "new individual members," and or the "new corporate members" classes is then considered in covenant fellowship with the Body of Christ at One **Vine Church (USA), Inc.** 

Congregational membership: Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members in the Body of Christ is achieved by means of the new birth. One of the most important things any believer can do is to become rooted and grounded in a local church where the Word of God is taught, believed and acted upon. Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members is offered as a means of enabling one to become involved and engaged with the church as we labor together in His ministry.

Congregational membership: Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members will cause one to be able to draw on all the resources of the ministry without reservation. It will also provide one with an opportunity to give as well as receive. There are many areas of ministry where one can use the talents and abilities the Lord has given him/ her. This can be accomplished as all are joined together in unity and love to accomplish God's will.

# Article 12 - Term and Dissolution

The date of commencement of corporate existence shall be when these articles have been filed with the Department of State and approved by it and the respective filing fee has been paid; the term for which the corporation is to exist shall be perpetual.

In the event of dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

# Article 13 - Non Profit Organization

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in <u>Article 3</u>.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation 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 these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on: (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law or: (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue United States Internal Revenue Laws.

The Corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941 (d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

The Corporation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

The Corporation shall not made any investments in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

The Corporation shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945 (d)of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

The church shall not, except in an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that rate not in furtherance of the purposes described above.

# Article 14 - Order

For the purpose of conducting business, the Senior Pastor/President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

# **Article 15 - Management of Corporate Affairs**

The Holy Spirit of God shall guide the affairs of **One Vine Church (USA)**, **Inc.** The senior pastor of the church and the board of directors are authorized to administer final judgment on all matters concerning the organization as a whole.

# Article 16 - Government

### **Board of Directors**

- 1. There shall be a Senior Pastor/President.
- 2. There may be an Executive Pastor/Executive Vice-President.
- 3. There shall be a Secretary.
- 4. There shall be a Treasurer.
- 5. Other individuals may be added as needed.

### **Official Board and Voting Power**

**1**. The Board of Directors is that group of persons vested with the management of the business and affairs of the corporation.

2. The official board shall consist of individuals listed above and those added by official action of the board of directors.

3. The majority shall serve without remuneration and not be related by blood or marriage.

4. The Senior Pastor/President shall be chairman of the board and chief executive of the corporation.

# Article 17 - Quorum

Two-thirds of the board members (including the Senior Pastor/President) at an official board meeting constitutes a quorum.

# Article 18 - Ecclesiastical Authority

**This church is theocratic in government.** In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of the by-laws, doctrine, or matters of faith, shall be deferred to the highest ecclesiastical authority of this church. In this case it would be the Senior Pastor/President, with the advice of the Board of Directors in conjunction with the counsel of the advisory presbytery board and the church councils.

In Watson v. Jones, the court ruled that: "Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them ...."

# Article 19 - Ordaining the Founding Pastors

By virtue of their call and being chief stewards of this church, the founders (Mario A. LaVette and Althea M. Anderson LaVette) or current senior pastors of this organization shall be under the direct authority of the presbytery. The founders (Mario A. LaVette and Althea Anderson) or current senior pastors of this organization (church) shall make application to the presbytery to become licensed Ordain as ordained ministers of the gospel of this church.

Once the presbytery issues a license to the founders (Mario A. LaVette and Althea M. Anderson LaVette) or current senior pastors of this organization, their license shall be valid for life unless the founders (Mario A. LaVette and Althea M. Anderson LaVette) or current

senior pastors are replaced by the presbytery according to the articles of incorporation (constitution) and by-Laws of this organization (church). All other candidates for licensing or ordination must be of the necessary experience and qualifications, as set forth by the founders or current senior pastors and shall have demonstrated their ability to undertake the responsibilities of the Full Gospel ministry.

No minister shall be licensed or ordained until he/she shall have been engaged in the active work of the ministry, exhibiting a teachable spirit. Credentials shall be valid only when sealed by the church seal, and shall be renewed annually. See: The ministerial exception, sometimes known as the "ecclesiastical exception," is a legal doctrine.

# Article 20 - Religious Order

The religious order of this church shall be called the "Levitical Order Ministry." Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members of the order may be either married or single, and may be either male or female. This order shall be an integral part of this church and shall be governed and directed by the local presbytery and senior pastor (Numbers 3-4).

# Article 21 - Ordinances and Practices

We hold that the following sacraments (ordinances and practices) are in harmony with the Scriptures and are to be observed by the church. These sacraments are to be administered by those Scripturally qualified (I Timothy 3:1-11; Titus 1:5-6).

**1. Baptism by immersion** shall be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have repented of their sins and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Those who have become partakers of Christ by faith in His shed blood are commanded to be water baptized (by immersion) into Christ. In this act of faith we participate in Christ's burial and resurrection and receive a circumcision of the heart (Genesis 17:1-4; John 3:1-6; Romans 2:28-29; I Peter 3:18-22; I John 5:8)

**2. The Lord's Supper/Passover** is a memorial of the covenant made with God through the blood of Christ. It is a continuation of the Passover Feast, which God commanded His covenant people to observe. Those who have made covenant with God through the blood of Christ and have been water baptized are instructed to participate. The church participates in the Lord's Supper as a body or family, with each Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members in fellowship adding to the blessedness of the experience (Exodus 11, 12; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26).

**3. The dedication of children** is the presentation of a child to God, and therefore establishes a covenant between God and parents. God promises blessing and protection to the child whose parents are faithful to rear him/her in the services of the Lord. Such a child

is made holy and is part of the covenant family of God by the faith of his parents until he/ she reaches the age of accountability, whereupon he/she becomes responsible as an individual before God and is commanded to repent (Psalms 34:11; Isaiah 54:13; Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:13-1 6; Luke 18:15-1 6; I Corinthians 7:14).

**4. Anointing oil is administered for healing.** If there have been sins committed against Christ or His Body they are to be confessed. The anointing oil is then administered for both physical and spiritual restoration with the laying on of hands when required (Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

**5. The baptism in the Holy Spirit** is a necessary and vital experience for every believer, is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. (Note: Tongues is one the gifts of the spirit). Those who seek the fullness of the Spirit shall receive prayer for the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15-17; 19:2-6).

6. Marriage is a covenant made between man, woman, and God. The marriage covenant requires the married parties to be faithful, loving and helpful to each other as long as they both shall live. Christians are not to marry unbelievers, and are not to be divorced except for adultery or abandonment. Those whom God has directed to be joined together shall, after counseling with the pastor concerning what God requires of them, be joined in Christian marriage (Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:5- 6,9; Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 7:10-11, 15; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:22-23).

**7. Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands** of the presbytery to confirm the believer in the faith and service of Christ. This is done after the believer has been instructed and established in the doctrines of Christ (John 7:17; I John 9; Acts 8:17; 14:21-23; 15:32, 41;19:6, Galatians 2:9, I Timothy 5:24).

# Article 22 - Prerogatives

### Section 1 - the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause.

This church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures. "I endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4: 1-13).

### Section 2

This church shall implement its New Testament Christianity commissioned by the further prerogatives:

1. To administer the regular ordinance of a New Testament church (Matthew 28;19; 1 Corinthians 11:20; 12:13; Colossians 3:16).

2. To establish and maintain such departments, institutions and services for the propagation of the Gospel and its work embraced by the purposes of this corporation; ie,

music ministries (Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Proverbs 2:6; 22:6; Colossians 2:8; I Timothy 6:20-21). To examine candidates for the ministry, and to license and ordain those who shall have been approved for the Christian ministry by the senior pastor, board of directors, and presbytery according to standards set forth by the New Testament as accepted by this church (Titus 1:5; I Corinthians 7:17; Acts 14:23).

3. To examine candidates and appoint missionaries and to endorse and support missionary programs according to standards set forth by the New Testament Mark 16:15-16; Acts 4:29-30; 13:47; 14:21, 24-28; 15:22-29, 36-39; 18:23).

4. To establish other churches, church schools, missions, Christian camps, Christian centers, and Christian academic institutions, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (Acts 15:41; 16:5; Proverbs 8:10; 13:1; I Timothy 3:16; John 14:26; I Peter 4:6; I Chronicles 16:23-24; Psalms 68:4; Revelation 14:2).

5. To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through seminars, conferences, the establishment of church literature and any other forms of mass media for the purpose of educating people about Jesus Christ, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (I Chronicles 16:24, Mark 1:38,16:15, Gal. 1:16-17, I Cor. 10:15-16, Acts 16:10).

6. To conduct and carry on religious services and instruction through public media, including but not limited to radio and television programs, the Internet, satellite transmission, cable television, closed circuit transmission, microwave distribution, telecasting, and electronic broadcasting, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (I Chronicles 16:24, Mark 1:38. 16:15. Gal. 1:16-17.1 Cor.10:15-16, Acts 16:10).

7. To acquire, own and operate any and all such broadcasting and/or telecasting facilities necessary for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (I Chronicles 16:24, Mark 1:38,16:15, Gal. 1:16-17, I Cor. 10:15-16, Acts 16:10).

8. To designate its own officers, to appoint committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself in accordance with the by-laws.

9. To uncompromisingly minister the Word of God to the faithful (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6; I Corinthians 7:14; 13:8; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:5-6; I Thessalonians 2:13; I Timothy 2:7; 6:1-3; II Timothy 2:1-2, 24-26; Revelation 22:18-19).

10. To conduct a local church by the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in accordance with all the provisions as set forth in the Holy Bible.

11. To establish a religious order (one or more) to provide the present day equivalent of the Levitical and deaconate ministries of the Old and New Testaments, respectively (Numbers 3 and 7; I Chronicles 9, 23-28; Ezekiel 44; Acts 6; I Timothy 2:7; 6:1-3; I Timothy 2:1-2, 24-26; Revelation 22:18-1 9).

12. The presbyters/elders of this church shall have the right to determine who may attend church meetings and functions, but the final decision is made by the senior pastor/ president, because this church is not a public institution and its property is not a public place (Acts 20:28-31; I Peter 2:1-3; I Timothy 1:20, 6:5; I Corinthians 5:1-13; I Thessalonians 3:6-15; I John 9-11; II Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:10-11; Romans 16:17).

13. The church maintains that it has a divine mandate to practice its religion as dictated by God. Scripture states explicitly that Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18). There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**" (Galatians 3:28). In Christ all ethnic, social and cultural distinctions blend together harmoniously to enrich His love in this church. We therefore will extend our Christian love to "whosoever will" Revelation 22:17).

14. We categorically reject any and all claims by the state (civil government) to headship or sovereignty over the church (Exodus 8, 9 & 10; Daniel 3 & 6). When earthy governments overstep their boundaries by seeking to restrict, hamper, or limit the church's obedience to Christ, we must and will obey God rather than man (Acts 4:19; 5:29).

15. Scripture teaches that all tithes and offerings "belong to the Lord" and are "holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30). Therefore, the church is tax immune. Attempts by civil government to tax the church or its property, or to tax the gifts of God's people to God or to claim the right to grant a revocable tax exemption are attempts by the state to usurp the sovereignty of Christ. The civil government that seeks to tax the church or gifts to the church is literally and specifically robbing that which has been "rendered unto God." Such taxation violates the parameter of the authority of civil government as outlined in Scripture Romans 13:1-7: I Timothy 2:1-6; I Peter 2:13-17; Mark 12:13-17).

16. Scripture teaches that the responsibility for education of children rests with the parents of those children and not the state (Deuteronomy 6:5-8; 11:19; 18:19; Leviticus 10:11; Nehemiah 8:9; Isaiah 48:17; Jeremiah 10:2). The church recognizes the right and duty of the parents to educate their children by and through the church school or Christian academy under the covering of the church as the parents need to oversee and be involved in the education of their children (Galatians 4:1-2; Luke 6:40 Deuteronomy 6:5-8; Psalm 78:4-6; Ephesians 6:4).

17. The authority of the church as established by God (set ministry and those placed by set ministry) has the responsibility to oversee the finances of the church, both income and expenses; to maintain a list of those who are in Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members with the church and to maintain all records of the church Numbers 18:8-32; Nehemiah 10:37-39; Malachi 3:8-12; Hebrews 7:4-5; Il Kings 12:4-16).

18. Scripture teaches that the responsibility for the operation of the finances of the church is left in the hands of the church authority and they alone are responsible for the spending of the same without the need to report to the people (I Kings 12:11-15,I Kings 22:5-7).

19. Those who attend this church or contribute to the finances are not necessarily entitled to see any of the records of the church, as the authority of the church is responsible to God

alone for the conduct of the affairs of the church including how God's money is spent. The sheep of the flock have no Biblical right or access to any of the church records, as the authority has no accountability to them. The authority shall decide whether to make such records available to the people and under what conditions they may be viewed in accordance with <u>Article 36</u>. All who give tithes, offerings and alms do so at the direction of the Lord to whom it belongs and as such it is a gift to the Lord and no longer the property of or the concern of the giver (Psalms 50:7-14; Nehemiah 13:10-14; I Chronicles 31:1-14; I Chronicles 26:20-28; I Kings 20:12-1 9; 24:12-16, 20; John 12:5-8; Mark 14:4-9).

### Section 3

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, the church shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gifts, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustees, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with the by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### Section 4

The vision of **One Vine Church (USA), Inc.** is encompassed in but not limited to the following:

1. As a church composed of a body of believers, to be a soul-saving station and outreach center to the world Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 10:39; Romans 10:13; I Corinthians 10:33; I Timothy 4:12).

2. As individual believers, to be faithful to the soul winning vision (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20).

3. To have a body ministry fellowship, allowing and encouraging believers to flow with the anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to grow and develop the call of God on their lives (1 Corinthians 12; 14:1-5; Mark 16:18; James 5:14; I John 4:1; Romans 12:4-8)

4. To feed and clothe the truly poor by having a soup kitchen, food pantry, clothes closet (Leviticus 25:35; Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 6:10; Psalms 142:7; 146:7; Luke 4:18; I Peter 3:19), and whatever other means the Lord may tell the senior pastor to fulfill this vision (Habakkuk 2:2; Isaiah 30:8) including providing a home for the homeless and runaways (Proverbs 19:17; Luke 3:11; I Corinthians 8:14-15).

5.To raise up preachers with a similar vision to reach the lost and poor (I Chronicles 9:22-23; Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23). To send them out with the guidance and help of this church to start other churches both here and abroad (Acts 15:41; 16:5).

6. To implement a Bible training program with the future goal of developing a full time, livein Bible school, designed to operate under the full anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to train men and women to function in the five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12. Our conviction is that in exalting the Scriptures, we are exalting Jesus Christ who is the Living Word. The Bible training program and Bible school will also provide teaching and development to those who would be led of the Holy Spirit to build Holy Spirit anointed churches with a vision to save those who are lost and without Christ (Psalms 40:9-10; John 14:26; 1 Peter 4:6).

7. To purpose fully strive toward people of all races regardless of skin color or nationality for sake of unity in the Body of Christ (Phil.1: 27; 2:2-3, Eph.4:3).

8. To provide a place of rest for missionaries and their families (Matthew 10:40-42, Mark 9:41, 1 Kings 17).

# Article 23 - Clarifying Our Final Authority: King James Version

The "articles of faith", the "statement of fundamental truths," the "biblical principles," and the "sound doctrines," shall be adopted as provided for in the by-laws of the church.

There are differing views held by different groups of sincere believers who all claim that their positions are **"biblical"**. There are some statements in Scripture which are very clear and direct. Some of its teachings require us to compare various statements which approach the matter from different perspectives. The problem comes when we bring in ideas that seem right to us or things we have been taught, but which are not supported by God's inspired word.

**The Bible alone is our final authority** in all matters of what is true and what ought to be done or not done. It goes beyond just teaching us facts and behaviors. God's word also tells us what should be our inner thoughts, our attitudes, and our true preferences. All these matters must be grounded in the Bible alone. We often hear the old Latin expression, *"Sola Scriptura"*, which means "Scripture Alone".

The Bible is the only source of truth which was superintended by the Holy Spirit as each book of Scripture was written. (2 Timothy 3:15-16, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Deuteronomy 25:4). The Bible expands this authority to the New Testament books too. (1 Timothy 5:18, Luke 10:7, 2 Peter 3:15-16).

When we bring verses together to help us understand larger topics, we need to use the Bible itself as it's own interpreter. There is another old Latin expression we often use to describe this, "*Scriptura Scripturae Interpres*", which means "Scripture interprets Scripture".

As we try to teach and explain our findings of what the Bible says, we need to be clear about the evidence we rely upon in drawing our conclusions. We also need to be clear when we cite scholars and historic documents, that we are not using them as evidence to add to what the Bible teaches. Quotes from sources outside of Scripture can be helpful when they clearly explain what's taught in God's word, but they should not be presented in a way that appears we are relying upon them as authoritative sources of truth. 1. "The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself: and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly."

2. "The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture."

**The Bible alone, as God's infallible and inspired word, is our final authority** in all matters of what God has revealed and done. Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of the fundamental truths, principles, doctrines and or any matters of faith, shall be deferred to **the highest ecclesiastical authority** of this church.

In this case it would be the Senior Pastor/President, with the advice of the Board of Directors in conjunction with the counsel of the advisory presbytery board, and a body of lay delegates (*chosen from the congregation and charged with supporting the pastor in religious instruction, contributions to the church, etc.*). shall be herein referred to as "the church councils".

The purpose of Church councils is to seek and obtain divine revelation. Church councils are an environment where we can receive inspiration to make decisions, better serve individuals and families, and plan and coordinate the work of the Church.

# Article 24 - Manner of Appointing Officers & Presbytery/Elders

The Officers and presbyters/elders shall be appointed as provided for in the by-laws of the church.

# Article 25 - Officers and Presbytery/Elders

The officers of the church shall be: chairman of the board/president (senior pastor), vice president(s), the corporate secretary and the treasurer. Appointed directors and the senior pastor shall constitute the board of directors. The presbytery of the church shall be: the senior pastor, and appointed elders. Being an elder is separate from being a director. The senior pastor may appoint an elder to serve as both presbyter and director; however, being an elder does not constitute the appointment of director.

There shall be no less than three (3) members of the board of directors including the senior pastor; all other than the senior pastor shall be selected for a term of four years. The senior pastor shall appoint the directors with the counsel of the advisory presbytery board.

The board of directors shall display evident and consistent adherence to the Statement of Fundamental Truths, Biblical Principles, the Prerogatives and the Ordinances and Practices

as set forth in this articles of incorporation (constitution). In the event that an office of the board of directors becomes vacant, the senior pastor may, with the counsel of the board of directors, appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

The qualifications for presbyters/elders and directors are outlined in the by-laws.

# Article 26 - Non-Discriminatory Policy

This church, including all of its educational programs and sponsored activities admits participants of any race, color and national or ethnic origin, to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to other participants in any of its educational or sponsored programs. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletic and other educational or sponsored programs.

# Article 27 - Mutual Interest

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Directors and Congregational membership. (Gal. 6:1) This church requires every Corporate Executive, Board of Directors member, Congregational Membership: Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members to adhere to a Lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their Lifestyle to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

# Article 28 - Founder's Vision

In establishing effective leadership within church, the vision of the founding Senior Pastor/ President will be represented and carried out. It is the responsibility of the founding Senior Pastor/President to clearly articulate to the Board of Directors and the members of the congregation the vision and mission of the church. In the event of retirement, passing, removal, or incapacity of the Founding Senior Pastor/President, his successor shall carry on the vision and mission for the life of the church.

# **Article 29 - Prohibited Activities**

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

### Article 30 - Ministry of Helps

To help ensure the protection, security and safety of congregants, guest and volunteers during church functions, this church recognizes the Ministry of Helps. The Board of Directors may establish teams and committees who are trained in the policy and procedures of the church to carry out this ministry.

# Article 31 - Congregational membership: Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members -Faith and Practice

### Section 1

The Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members of this church family shall consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who have obeyed Him in the Scriptural ordinance of baptism. Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members are expected to confirm a firm and continuing commitment through;

**1**. Public and private affirmation of the Statement of Fundamental Truths, Biblical Principles set forth in the by-laws of the church.

2. Regular attendance at all services of the church (Saturday morning, midweek, etc.).

- 3. Attendance at all congregational meetings
- 4. Participation in times of prayer and fasting when called by the senior pastor.

5. Payment of tithes and the giving of offerings to accomplish the work of Christ through the church;

6. Recognition of a personal function in the Body of Christ and pursuit of the fulfillment of that function.

### Section 2

The standard of faith and practice shall be that as set forth in the New Testament and incorporated in the articles of faith and in the church by-laws as adopted by this church.

### Section 3 - Church Services

Meetings for public worship shall be on each **Saturday (Sabbath Day)** and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the senior pastor with the counsel of the board of directors.

1. In any established place of worship the appointed Senior Pastor/President will be responsible for regular church services.

### **Section 4 - Corporation Meetings**

The corporation year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January lst, and running through December 31st.

# Article 32 - Non-Bureaucracy Corporation

"The purpose of structure is to free the organization to accomplish its mission." The Mission, for the churches this is established by Christ, and in order to keep bureaucracy and self-preservation from derailing this organization (church). Remember only the mission (our why we exist) endures. Therefore; every policy, decision and action needs to be proceeded by one question:

1. Does This Drive Us Closer To The Fulfillment of our Mission?

# Article 33 - Accountability Board

There shall be an Accountability Board made up of no less than three (3) persons and no more than five (5). The Accountability Board shall be made up of individuals nominated by the Senior Pastor/President of the corporation and confirmed by a simple majority of the Board of Directors after careful consideration. (II Timothy 3:16, 17; Acts 15). The Board of Directors shall consider the nominations and vote to have each nomination appointed.

### Purpose

The purpose of the Accountability Board is to:

1. Provide a spiritual covering by prayerfully giving necessary aid, instruction, guidance, protection and correction as well as counsel, wisdom and fellowship to the SeniorPastor/ President (Il Timothy 3:16, 17; Acts 15) and, 2. To hear accusations against the Senior Pastor/President of the corporation brought to them unanimously by the official Board of Directors excluding any disqualified individuals serving on the Board of Directors and make a determination as to whether the Senior Pastor/President has committed any of the infractions listed in by-laws of the church.

# Article 34 - Finances

The church shall be financed according to the Scriptural method by voluntary religious offering: the tithes and offerings, feast days offerings and freewill generosity of the Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members and friends of the church (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-9; Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 15:7-11).

This church shall also be financed by Pledges: membership fees, donation and gifts of the Covenant partners, Individual members and Corporate members and friends of the church. The senior pastor/president may approve additional fund-raising activities. These gifts when given to the church divest the donor of all interest in the donated funds and property.

The disposition of those funds shall be left to the senior pastor and board of directors of the church (Acts 4:34-37).

### **Section 1 Audit**

The Treasurer and or other Board of Directors appointed person shall complete an internal audit. This audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year, prior to the end of February.

### Section 2 Checks, Payments and Withdrawals

The Board of Directors of **One Vine Church (USA)**, **Inc.** shall adopt a Corporate Expenditures Policy detailing the procedure for properly executing checks, payments and withdrawals.

### **Section 3 Salaries**

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

1. A compensation committee shall be formed which will consider each candidate and create a compensation package that shall be forwarded to the corporate membership for approval.

2. The corporate membership shall appoint members of the committee.

3. The corporate membership shall consider the recommendation of the compensation committee and shall vote on the package.

4. The Senior Pastor/President shall consider each candidate and create a compensation package that shall be forwarded to the corporate membership for approval

5. The corporate membership shall consider the recommendation of the Senior Pastor/ President and shall vote on the package.

6. The corporate membership shall consider each candidate, create a compensation package and vote on the package.

Only uncompensated individuals of the corporate membership shall vote on any recommended compensation package.

All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

# Article 35 - Privacy

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records.

# Article 36 - Review of Church Records

### Section 1 Requests Made by Congregant

**Generosity flows organically from trust**, so to ensure the trust of the congregants and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, church records and basic financial information may be available for congregational inspection and review. At no time may information be supplied that would violate Section 4 of this Article 36. Any questions by any congregant shall be addressed to the treasurer either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

### Section 2 Required Provisions of the Request

The request must state the name of the individual, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other congregant in a way that will jeopardize the church.

### **Section 3 Required Fee**

This corporation may require a reasonable per page fee for any copies that are required in order to accommodate approved records requests.

### Section 4 Confidentiality

In order to keep the records of the church confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified

subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of Section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of Section 7611.

### Section 5 Denying a Request

The Board of Directors reserves the right to deny (Section 2, Paragraph 18 of Article 22) such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. The request is considered by the Board of Directors and deemed to be frivolous;

2. The individual making the request has a history of being divisive;

3. The individual does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in this Article;

4. The person making a request is not a regular attendee or tither.

# Article 37 - Property

1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in then name of **One Vine Church (USA), Inc.** 

2. No real or chattel property of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same being authorized by at least two-thirds majority vote of the board of directors, including the senior pastor.

3. The senior pastor and secretary of the board of directors/corporate secretary shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the board of directors. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

4. Should the church cease to function as a church body, then such property, real or personal, shall be donated by the board of directors and senior pastor together with the local presbytery to a worthy nonprofit religious institution according to the articles of incorporation (constitution) as amended.

# Article 38 - By-Laws

The first by-laws of the corporation shall be adopted by the board of directors and may be amended, altered or rescinded by the board of directors in the manner provided by such by-laws.

### **Article 39 - Amendments to Articles of Incorporation**

These articles of incorporation (constitution) may be amended in the manner provided by statute or in the following manner:

- 1. Every amendment shall be approved by the board of directors made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the board of directors, including the senior pastor.
- 2. Amendments to the articles of incorporation (constitution) shall be adopted as provided in the by-laws of the church.

### THIS SPACE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY SIGNATURES ARE ON THE FOLLOWING 2 PAGES

### CERTIFICATE

**I, THE UNDERSIGNED INCORPORATOR**, for the purposes of becoming a corporation not for profit under the provisions of the laws of Florida, do make and affix my signature to acknowledge and file in the office of the Secretary of State these articles of incorporation.

April 28,2022 Date ario A. Lavette, President

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.

<u>April 28,2022</u> Date **Registered** Agent

Attested to by: Miguel Rodriguez

STATE OF FLORIDA

### COUNTY OF PALM BEACH

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that on the <u>28</u> day of <u>April</u> 2022, before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Mario LaVette as president and Miguel Rodriguez as director, both well known to me and known to be the persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, or presenting \_\_\_\_\_\_ as identification, and they severally acknowledge the execution of said instrument for the uses and purposes therein expressed, and that they were natural persons competent to contract.

Notary Public Natthews Notary Public Marthews



JAYNE E. MATTHEWS Commission # GG 939051 Expires December 11, 2023 Bonced Thru Budget Notary Services

# **REGISTERED AGENT CERTIFICATE**

### CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING PLACE OF BUSINESS OR DOMICILE FOR THE SERVICE OF PROCESS WITHIN THIS STATE, NAMING AGENT UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED

In pursuance of Section 48.091 and Section 617.0501(3), Florida Statutes, the following is submitted in compliance with sad Sections;

The Corporation desiring to organize under the laws of the State of Florida with its principal office as indicated in the Articles of Incorporation, at 2022 Normandy Circle, FL 33409, County of Palm Beach, State of Florida, as its agent to accept service of process within this State.

That this designation has been duly approved by a resolution of the church's board of directors as applicable under Florida Statute.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Having been named to accept service of process for the above-named corporation, at the place designated in this Certificate, I hereby accept to act in this capacity, and agree to comply with the provisions of said Act relative to keeping open said office.

Dated the 28 day of 402 ( 2022

REGISTERED AGENT: Mario A Lavette