

# N 98000 000 871

## National Church Management Services

5824 Bee Ridge Road, Suite 169

Sarasota, Florida 34233

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February 10, 1998

New Filings Section  
Division of Corporations  
Florida Department of State  
Post Office Box 6327  
Tallahassee, Florida 32314

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-02/12/98-01051--013  
\*\*\*\*122.50 \*\*\*\*122.50

Greetings:

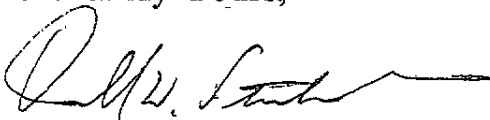
Please receive this filing of Articles of Incorporation for registering and certifying. This corporation will be a church ministry beginning here in Sarasota County. It will be a non-profit religious organization, tax exempt qualified under section 501(c)(3). I am handling the I.R.S. processing work.

Enclosed is our check for the filing fee of \$122.50.

Please return the certified copy with assigned document number to me at the address printed at the top of this letter.

Thank you for your usual efficient and courteous treatment every time I call your office.

Gratefully Yours,



Donald W. Struble, M.B.A.  
Executive Director

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98 FEB 12 AM 11:38  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

QC 2-13-98

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
THE GATHERING IN FELLOWSHIP, INC.**

(a corporation not for profit)

we the qualified undersigned, acknowledge and file in the office of the Secretary of State, Division of Corporations, State of Florida, pursuant to the provisions of Section 607.1006 of the Florida Statutes, the following Articles of Incorporation.

**ARTICLE 1.**

**Name and Location**

1.1) Name. The name of the corporation shall be The Gathering in Fellowship, Inc., and the principal office shall be located at 4460 Northgate Court, Sarasota, Florida 34234.

**ARTICLE 2.**

**Purposes and Powers**

2.1) Purposes. The corporation is organized exclusively for religious, educational, and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, and such purposes shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. To disseminate the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, to the end that people may be evangelized and believers may be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.
- B. To regularly assemble together the members of this church for fellowship one with another both in public congregations or in small fellowship groups in houses and other places, to worship God in Spirit and in truth and to cooperate in the building up of the whole body of Christ. To this end, this corporation shall function as a church and related ministries.
- C. To provide New Testament discipleship to all who are approved for this purpose by the By-laws.
- D. To involve every participant of this church in its fellowship and activities and in the ministry of the Holy Spirit throughout the Body of Christ.
- E. To strengthen the family units so that the home life of each member is healthy and fruitful by Biblical standards, and provide pastoral counseling appropriate for those who need and request such ministry.
- F. To conduct Sunday School classes and other common interest gatherings through which to instill the disciplined life of a Christian believer.
- G. To develop and offer courses of instruction and continuing education courses in church related subjects.
- H. To issue ministerial credentials, to ordain, license or certify pastors, Christian workers, Christian school teachers, and ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the church's statement of faith, to individuals, men and women, after due investigation, examination of qualifications, and approval of the Directors, Elders, or a Board of Examiners.

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I. To perform the Sacraments of the Church which include, but are not limited to, the following: to baptize in water; to anoint the sick with oil; to conduct weddings and funerals; to dedicate infants; and to celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion).

J. To act with charitable concern for, and to help, not only members of this church, but also all people in need of any help which this church can give, regardless of race, nationality or social position; to develop and carry out programs of social action for poor, widowed, orphaned, afflicted, imprisoned, underprivileged, or aged persons.

K. To affiliate with other Christian organizations, church congregations, and other organizations of like faith, by agreement.

L. To pray for the needs of all people, for local and national leaders and governments and for all that are in authority as instructed in I Timothy 2:1-3.

M. To support and encourage communication and extension of the Christian life and witness by sound and comprehensive preaching and teaching of Biblical principles to all people, both within this church and elsewhere, not only by conventional modes, but also by all means which will accomplish such communication by modern technology.

These purposes should include to sponsor, participate in, conduct or engage in radio broadcasting, television broadcasting, the printing or reproduction and publication of recordings, books and other materials, the establishment and operation of a school or schools, and the holding and conducting of seminars, study groups, work shops, and meetings, by either resident or traveling ministers; to receive offerings for such purposes; and to grant aid and pay reasonable compensation to persons, firms and corporations for services actually rendered for such purposes; provided, however, that none of the foregoing shall be done for private profit.

N. To establish and maintain a place of worship, study, recreation and social interaction, or a retreat center, ministering to the whole family and to the whole person, spirit, soul and body.

O. To recognize, support and cooperate with various national and international ministries established by God to equip believers to fulfill their respective functions as members of the Body of Christ and to bring the whole Body of Christ to unity, maturity and completion.

P. To provide and maintain homes, places and buildings for housing of such students, lecturers, teachers and ministers, as well as other related members of the church; to furnish to such students, lecturers, teachers, educators and ministers suitable meals and lodging.

Q. To establish, operate and support missions, missionaries and mission centers, both foreign and domestic, for the Christian ministry to people who do not have an established Christian place of worship.

R. To acquire, either by deed, gift or purchase, any real estate or personal property to be held in trust for the benefit of the corporation and its stated purposes.

S. To mortgage, sell, or otherwise encumber any such property when such action is deemed to be in the best interests of the corporation as defined in its stated purpose as a Christian church.

2.2) Powers. To accomplish the foregoing purposes, the corporation shall have all corporate powers permitted under Florida law, including the capacity to contract, bring suit and be sued.

A. No part of the income of the corporation shall be distributed to the members, directors, and officers of the corporation, except as may be paid as reasonable wages.

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

C. This corporation is specifically precluded from engaging in any prohibited activities as defined in Section 607.0105, Florida Statutes as amended.

D. This corporation retains all of the rights and protections of a religious or church based organization guaranteed under the First Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

### **ARTICLE 3.**

#### **Membership**

3.1) Membership. A member must be a mature person openly expressing a belief and faith in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and qualified according to provisions of the Bylaws and those stated in paragraph 3.2 below.

3.2) The subscribers to these Articles of Incorporation shall be four (4) of the Elders of the church. Additional members of the church may be selected by the Elders after being qualified as follows:

- A. Accept, believe in and rely on Jesus Christ for salvation;
- B. Believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God;
- C. Acknowledge the Statement of Faith;
- D. Having been Baptized in water;
- E. Commit themselves to participate actively in the programs of the Church;
- F. Support the Church financially with tithes and offerings;
- G. Submit themselves to the authority of the Elders and to the discipline of the Church.

### **ARTICLE 4.**

#### **Period of Duration**

4.1) Period of Duration. The corporation shall have perpetual existence. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, no part of the corporation's assets shall inure to the benefit of any member, but shall instead be distributed to such charitable organization or organizations selected by the final Directors of the corporation which organization or organizations must qualify as charitable organizations under Sections 170 and 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

**ARTICLE 5.**  
**Data Respecting Directors**

5.1) The affairs and property of the corporation shall be managed and governed by a Presbytery, which shall function as the Board of Directors, composed of not less than three persons. They shall be elected annually according to the procedure set forth in the Bylaws.

5.2) The names and addresses of the persons to serve as the current Directors, until the next annual meeting are:

Rev. Robert W. Stegemann	1721 Nelda Lane,	Sarasota, FL 34240
Avis K. Stegemann	1721 Nelda Lane,	Sarasota, FL 34240
George Depero	719 Avenida Del Norte,	Sarasota, FL 34242
Dr. Donald W. Struble	5824 Bee Ridge Road, #169,	Sarasota, FL 34233
Rev. James Stevensen	1850 McMullen Booth Road,	Clearwater, FL 34619

**ARTICLE 6.**  
**Officers**

6.1) Officers. The names of the officers who shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors are:

President:	Rev. Robert Stegemann
Secretary:	Avis Stegemann
Treasurer:	Dr. Donald W. Struble

**ARTICLE 7.**  
**Bylaws**

7.1) Bylaws. The Bylaws of the corporation may be altered, amended or rescinded in the following manner:

By vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all of the Directors, provided that a motion for such change must be made at a duly convened meeting of the Board of Directors, and may not be voted upon for acceptance or rejection until the next convened meeting of the Board of Directors and then only so long as the motion is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation.

**ARTICLE 8.**  
**Amendments**

8.1) Amendments. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may be proposed and adopted in the following manner:

Such may be proposed and considered at any regular meeting of the Directors but may not be adopted until the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors, and then only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

**ARTICLE 9.**  
**Registered Agent**

9.1) The below named subscribers, desiring to establish this corporation under the laws of the State of Florida, do hereby designate and appoint Dr. Donald W. Struble, as the Registered Agent of this corporation, to accept service of process and to serve in such capacity until his successor is selected and duly designated. His address of record is:

4460 Northgate Court, Sarasota, Florida 34234.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned hereunto set their hands and seals this

9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1998.

Signed, sealed and delivered in  
our presence:

Robert W. Springer (SEAL)

Chris K. Stegemann (SEAL)

Dr. D. W. Struble (SEAL)

George DeFoe (SEAL)

**ACCEPTANCE OF REGISTERED AGENT**

Having been named to accept service of process for The Gathering in Fellowship, Inc., at the place designated in the Articles of Incorporation, I, Dr. Donald W. Struble, of 4460 Northgate Court, Sarasota, Florida 34234, agree to act in this capacity, and agree to comply with the provisions of Florida Statutes relative to keeping open such office.

This 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1998.

Dr. D. W. Struble

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98 FEB 12 AM 11:39  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA                     )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF SARASOTA             )

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day before me, a Notary Public duly authorized to take acknowledgments, personally appeared

**Robert W. Stegemann, Avis Stegemann, Donald W. Struble, and George Depero,**  
to me known to be the persons described as directors of and who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, having shown Divers License identification,  
and they acknowledged before me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal this 9 day of  
February, 1998.

Kelley Hightower  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:



Kelley R. Hightower  
MY COMMISSION # 00624932 EXPIRES  
February 26 2001  
BONDED THRU TROY FAIR INSURANCE, INC.