

Church Charter

508(c)(1)(a) Church Body — Articles of Organization

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete every gold field with your specific information. This document establishes your church as a legal entity. Keep the signed original and make copies for banking and records.

ARTICLE I — NAME

Full Legal Name of Church

Choose a name that reflects your ministry's identity and calling.

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

This church is organized exclusively for religious and charitable purposes. Its mission is:

Mission Statement

1-3 sentences describing what this church does and who it serves.

This church operates under the authority of Section 508(c)(1)(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and is automatically exempt from federal income tax as a religious organization. No application for tax exempt status is required.

ARTICLE III — FOUNDING

Date Founded

State of Organization

Primary Address / Meeting Location

Physical address where the church gathers or is based.

ARTICLE IV — LEADERSHIP

The founding leaders of this church are:

Minister / Pastor*Full legal name*

Elder / Co-Leader*Full legal name*

Elder / Co-Leader (if applicable)*Full legal name*

Leadership decisions shall be made by [**DESCRIBE YOUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS – e.g. unanimous agreement of elders, majority vote, minister authority**].

ARTICLE V — CONGREGATION

Membership in this church is open to all who share the faith and mission of the congregation. Membership requires:

Membership Requirements*e.g. Agreement with Statement of Faith, regular attendance, commitment to the mission.*

ARTICLE VI — FINANCES

All tithes, offerings, and donations received by this church are held in trust for the church's religious mission. No personal income tax applies to these funds as they are received by a tax-exempt religious organization.

The church shall maintain a dedicated bank account in the church's name under the church's EIN. Church funds shall never be commingled with personal funds.

Church EIN*Obtained free from IRS.gov using Form SS-4.*

Church Bank / Account*Name of bank and type of account.*

ARTICLE VII — DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution, all remaining assets shall be distributed to [**ANOTHER RELIGIOUS OR CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION**], consistent with the religious purposes of this church.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the founding members of this church have executed this Charter on the date first written above.

Founding Minister / Pastor**Date:**

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Founding Elder / Witness**Date:**

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Founding Elder / Witness**Date:**

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____