

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

UNITED DELIVERANCE CHURCHES IN AMERICA, INC.

A Covenant Connection of Autonomous Churches

One Lord. One Faith. One Covenant.

Prepared under the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, S.C. Code § 33-31-202.
Draft for legal review before filing.

The undersigned incorporator(s), desiring to form a nonprofit religious corporation under the laws of the State of South Carolina, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the nonprofit corporation is UNITED DELIVERANCE CHURCHES IN AMERICA, INC. (the "Corporation").

ARTICLE II - CORPORATE CLASSIFICATION AND DURATION

The Corporation is organized as a religious corporation under the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act. The Corporation shall have perpetual duration unless dissolved in accordance with applicable law and these Articles.

ARTICLE III - RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE, AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

The Corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax law.

Its purposes include, without limitation: proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ; uniting, equipping, and strengthening Deliverance, Holiness, and Spirit-filled churches and ministry leaders; encouraging prayer, worship, evangelism, discipleship, ethical deliverance ministry, holy living, leadership development, church health, missions, community transformation, education, benevolence, and cooperative Kingdom service; developing resources and training for churches and ministry leaders; conducting convocations, conferences, worship gatherings, educational programs, and mission initiatives; and engaging in any lawful activity that advances the Corporation's religious and charitable purposes.

The Corporation shall operate in a manner consistent with its Christian religious identity, governing documents, adopted statement of faith, and applicable law.

ARTICLE IV - COVENANT CONNECTION AND AUTONOMY OF AFFILIATED CHURCHES

The Corporation is a covenant connection of autonomous churches, ministries, clergy, and Christian leaders. Affiliation is relational and connectional and shall not, by itself, transfer local ecclesiastical or corporate authority to the Corporation.

Each affiliated local church or ministry retains its own identity and, subject to its own governing documents and applicable law, retains authority over its worship, membership, pastoral leadership, employees, finances, property, assets, ministry programs, internal discipline, governance, and local mission.

The Corporation shall not acquire, encumber, control, transfer, or dispose of the property or assets of an affiliated church solely by reason of affiliation. The Corporation shall not appoint or remove a local pastor, control local membership, direct local church finances, or financially obligate an affiliated church without authority granted by a separate written agreement or by that church's own governing documents.

Affiliation alone shall not make an affiliated church liable for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of the Corporation, nor shall affiliation alone make the Corporation liable for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of an affiliated church.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERS

The Corporation will have members. The classes, qualifications, admission, rights, responsibilities, voting rights, suspension, withdrawal, and termination of membership or affiliation shall be established in the Bylaws and other duly adopted governing policies.

Nothing in the existence of corporate membership shall be construed to diminish the local autonomy protections stated in Article IV.

ARTICLE VI - GOVERNANCE AND ECCLESIASTICAL LEADERSHIP

The affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors or other governing body as provided in the Bylaws and consistent with South Carolina law.

The Corporation may establish ecclesiastical and connectional offices, including a Presiding Bishop, Executive Council, Board of Presbyters/Covenant Council, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, General Counsel, Executive Bishops, State Bishops, District Elders, coordinators, departments, centers, collaboratives, commissions, and ministries. Their selection, authority, terms, responsibilities, succession, and accountability shall be governed by the Bylaws and duly adopted policies.

Ecclesiastical titles and offices do not, solely by virtue of title, create ownership of corporate or affiliated-church property.

ARTICLE VII - POWERS

The Corporation shall possess all powers permitted to a South Carolina nonprofit religious corporation that are necessary or convenient to accomplish its purposes, including the power to receive gifts, grants, contributions, bequests, and other lawful support; own or lease property; employ personnel; enter contracts; establish programs and ministries; conduct religious and educational gatherings; publish and distribute resources; and cooperate with churches, ministries, charitable organizations, governmental entities, educational institutions, and community partners, provided such activities remain consistent with these Articles and applicable law.

ARTICLE VIII - LIMITATIONS AND PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, any director, officer, member, clergy leader, incorporator, or other private person, except that the Corporation may pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered and make payments and distributions in furtherance of its exempt purposes.

No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except to the extent permitted for an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office to the extent prohibited by Section 501(c)(3). The Corporation shall not conduct activities that are not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) or by an organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IX - SAFEGUARDING, ETHICS, AND MINISTRY INTEGRITY

The Corporation shall encourage ministry practices characterized by Christian integrity, dignity, informed participation, accountability, appropriate confidentiality, safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons, responsible financial stewardship, and compliance with applicable law.

The Corporation may adopt ethical, safeguarding, credentialing, training, financial, and ministry standards applicable to its own programs and, as provided by covenant, policy, or agreement, to participating leaders and affiliates, without assuming control of the internal governance of an autonomous affiliated church.

ARTICLE X - REGISTERED OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

The street address of the Corporation's initial registered office in South Carolina is:

Street Address

_____, South Carolina _____

City ZIP Code

The name of the initial registered agent at that office is:

Registered Agent

The registered agent's written consent/signature shall accompany the filing as required.

ARTICLE XI - PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The proposed principal office of the Corporation is:

1201 Main Street, Suite 1980

Columbia, South Carolina [ZIP CODE TO BE CONFIRMED]

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, after payment or adequate provision for all liabilities, the Corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed exclusively for one or more purposes described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to one or more religious or public benefit corporations, churches, or other organizations then recognized as exempt under Section 501(c)(3), as determined by the governing body.

No remaining assets shall be distributed to any director, officer, member, clergy leader, incorporator, or other private individual, except for lawful payment of obligations. Any assets not otherwise disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction exclusively for exempt purposes.

ARTICLE XIII - INDEMNIFICATION

To the fullest extent permitted by South Carolina law, the Corporation may indemnify its directors, officers, employees, agents, and authorized ministry leaders against liabilities and expenses incurred by reason of service to the Corporation, subject to the standards, procedures, limitations, and insurance provisions established by law and the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended in the manner authorized by the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act and the Corporation's Bylaws. No amendment shall authorize the Corporation to operate for purposes inconsistent with its status as a religious nonprofit corporation or, while applicable, its qualification under Section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE XV - INCORPORATOR

The name and address of each incorporator are:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Additional incorporator(s), if any, may be listed on an attachment incorporated into these Articles.

ARTICLE XVI - EFFECTIVE DATE AND ADOPTION

These Articles shall become effective upon filing by the South Carolina Secretary of State unless a lawful delayed effective date is stated below.

Delayed effective date, if any: _____

Executed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Incorporator Signature

Printed Name

The undersigned initial registered agent consents to appointment:

Registered Agent Signature

Printed Name

FILING CHECKLIST

- Confirm corporate name availability.
- Insert the South Carolina registered office and registered agent.
- Obtain registered-agent consent/signature.
- Confirm the principal-office ZIP code.
- Insert incorporator information and signature.
- Confirm statutory membership structure.
- Obtain South Carolina legal review before filing.
- Submit with the applicable Secretary of State filing fee.