

APPENDIX G

Articles of Incorporation for Churches

(Form provided by Mission Strategy {NewStart} Office)

The accompanying form of Articles of Incorporation was prepared for use by churches desiring to incorporate. In many states the copy will be acceptable as it is; but each state has its own regulations, and these articles should be checked by an attorney familiar with the state requirements. Some change of wording or some additional articles may be required.

The purpose in supplying this form for Articles of Incorporation is to frame a more uniform statement particularly of the objects and purposes of the local church corporation (Article VII). A local attorney would not have a form for these purposes available to him or her in a uniform statement. This also will aid in avoiding litigation due to faulty papers prepared by inexperienced counsel. Your district or local church attorney will be glad to assist you in preparation and filing of your Articles of Incorporation.

Please note that the officers of the corporation are not necessarily the officers of the church. For example, Article V provides that the various officers of the corporation shall be elected by the Board of Trustees from among its members. This provision is required in a number of states. However, the *Manual* does not require that the church treasurer, for instance, must be a member of the Board of Trustees. Corporation officers are not often needed, but in legal matters, duly elected corporate officers are required for the signing of legal documents and soon.

Article VI provides for Bylaws for the corporation. These Bylaws will vary according to procedure followed in the local church. In the main, however, the provisions of the *Manual* will serve as Bylaws, especially Paragraphs 10114.1, 414-15, and 127-46.

Churches in non-U.S.A areas should change the wording and spellings appropriately.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF**

(exact corporate name, which should be the same as the name by which the church is generally known)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That we, the undersigned, citizens of the United States, and residents of the state of (state of incorporation) have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation and we hereby form and agree to become a corporation, under and by virtue of the laws of the state of (state of incorporation), and to that end we hereby agree to the following Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE I

The name of this corporation shall be (exact corporate name); its location and chief place of business shall be in the city of _____ county of _____ state of _____

ARTICLE II

The terms of admission to membership in this corporation shall consist of membership in good standing in the ecclesiastical body known as (name of church congregation, which should be the same as the corporate name), and each member in good standing in such ecclesiastical body shall by virtue thereof be a member of this corporation.

ARTICLE III

The duration of the corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE IV

The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a Board of Trustees, which shall consist of not less than three and not more than nine members of the corporation in good standing. The number, tenure of office, manner of election, and filling of vacancies shall be as provided in the Bylaws of the corporation. (If required, add the following.)
The initial members

of the Board of Trustees and their respective addresses are as follows: _____

ARTICLE V

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. The secretary and treasurer may be the same person. The officers shall be elected by the Board of Trustees from among its members, and the tenure of office, manner of election, and filling of vacancies shall be as provided in the Bylaws of the corporation. (If required, add the following.) The initial officers of the corporation are as follows: _____

ARTICLE VI

The corporation shall provide Bylaws for its government not inconsistent with these Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the state of _____ and the United States, nor inconsistent with the government and discipline of the Church of the Nazarene as may be from time to time provided in the official *Manual* of said church.

ARTICLE VII

The objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed are as follows:

1. To establish and maintain a local congregation of the Church of the Nazarene.
2. To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, promote holiness and the worship of God among its members and attendants, and the practice of Christian virtues inculcated in the Holy Scriptures.
3. To employ and discharge ordained ministers of the gospel, and others, to conduct and carry on divine services at the place of worship, and elsewhere, and to collect and disburse any and all necessary funds for the maintenance of said corporation and ecclesiastical body being the local congregation known as (insert the name of the congregation, which should be the same as the corporate name).
4. To provide appropriate religious education

and training for its members and those attending its church school and other educational meetings and classes.

5. To acquire property whether real, personal, or mixed, by purchase, gift, legacy, bequest, or in any other manner and to borrow money, issue bonds or notes, and all other documents necessary or appropriate in carrying out the objects and purposes set forth in this Article VII.

6. To do all and everything necessary, suitable, or proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes or the attainment of anyone or more of the objects herein enumerated, or incidental to the powers named, or which shall at any time appear conducive or expedient for the promotion of its welfare, and the accomplishment of the objects herein enumerated.

7. All of the objects, purposes, and powers of the corporation shall be subject to and in accordance with the government and discipline of the Church of the Nazarene as is from time to time set forth in the official *Manual* of said church published by the authority of the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene.

ARTICLE VIII

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by a vote of (insert percentage: check local requirements, if any) of the members present at any annual meeting or special meeting called for such purpose, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to the membership in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws, and in accordance with any requirements of the Church of the Nazarene as they are from time to time set forth in the official *Manual* of said church, published by the authority of the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our respective names to these Articles of Incorporation this _____ day of _____, _____ (year)

