

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND AMENDMENTS
SYLVAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
8019 HWY. 107
SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS 72120**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT THE CONGREGATION OF SYLVAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH, DESIRING TO AMEND IT'S ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION PURSUIT TO THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS REGARDING NOT-FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS, DOES HEREBY EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING ARICLES OF INCORPORATION.

Article 1

The name of the corporation shall be Sylvan Hills Community Church.

Article 2

The incorporators are the trustees and the congregation of the Sylvan Hills Community Church.

Article 3

The place of business and operation, and the office for this transaction of business shall be the Sylvan Hills Community Church, 8019 Hwy. 107, Sherwood, Arkansas 72120.

Article 4

There is no capital stock, but the property and assets of this corporation shall be the common property of said congregation.

Article 5

The object of this organization is to unite the Christian forces of this community in an inter-denominational church, in order to better maintain Christian work and worship at home, in the community, and to advance the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout the world. The form of government of the corporation is congregational.

Article 6

MEMBERSHIP: Section 1. The members of Sylvan Hills Community Church shall consist of those individuals that have publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and indicate a desire to unite with this congregational membership. Individual membership may also include those who express a desire to unite with this church by transfer of letter of good standing from another church or on the statement of Faith and their belief in Jesus Christ from any other Christian denomination whose Articles of Faith are not contrary to the covenant of this church.

Section 2. On becoming a member of this church it shall not be necessary for any person to sever their relationship with the denomination of which they may be member.

Section 3. All who desire membership in this church shall affirm the following;

CHURCH COVENANT

- 1. WE BELIEVE THE Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.**
- 2. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in Three Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
- 3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious suffering and atoning death through His shed Blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return to power and glory.**
- 4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.**
- 5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.**
- 6. We believe in the resurrection, both of the saved and the lost; the saved unto the resurrection of life, and the lost unto the resurrection of damnation.**
- 7. We believe in the spiritual unity of the believers in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

“I believe with all my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of men, and my personal Savior. Accepting Him as my Savior and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I promise to obey Him in all things according to the measure of my knowledge of His will. It is my purpose to the extent of my ability to cooperate with my brethren in the support of this church, and in the extension of it’s influence.”

Section 4. Active and Inactive Membership

A. A member is an individual who unites with the congregation of Sylvan Hills Community Church and subscribes to the conditions set forth in the previous Articles and the Articles that will follow. The membership shall include both active and inactive members.

B. An active member of Sylvan Hills Community Church shall have voting privileges. To be considered an active member, the member should be faithful in attendance of Sunday School, worship services, tithing, offerings, and be involved in the various church functions that are productive to the edifying, (building up), of the church body. In order to be a voting member this person must have met the qualifications to be an active member for a period of three months prior to the regular yearly business meeting or any special called meetings of the church.

The requirement for meeting the qualifications shall apply to those who join the congregation at least three months prior to the annual meeting or other special called meetings of the congregation. Such members are considered new members and shall not have earned the privilege of voting until the expiration of then three months.

C. A member will be considered an inactive member of the congregation of this church and will lose their voting privileges if they have absented themselves for a period of three months from all functions, services, and support of the church without just cause. Just cause is defined as those who may have had to temporarily move because of occupation,

military duty, illness, or other circumstances beyond their control. An inactive member will be restored to active membership upon returning to the church programs, services, activities, and support for a period of three months, at that time they will regain their voting privileges.

D. At all congregational business meetings each active member present shall be entitled to a vote provided they meet the following qualifications;

A. they are 18 years of age at the time of the meeting

B. They are an active member in good standing as described above. Shut-ins will be considered active members as long as they live, but will not be afforded a vote unless they are present at the meeting. Their will be no voting by proxy.

E. The Chairperson at any congregational business meeting shall privately receive any objections as to the qualifications of any person to vote and shall rule summarily. At the request of any person who deems himself or herself to be aggrieved by the chairperson's ruling, the Chairperson must report his or her ruling to the congregation who shall decide the matter by majority vote. The vote of the congregation then present shall be final.

Article 7

GOVERNMENT: Section 1 The governing body shall be known as the "Church Board" and will consist of not less than nine members of the congregation, one third of which shall be elected annually by the congregation at the annual congregation business meeting in October. The term of office shall be three years. The names of potential board members are placed in nomination by the congregation prior to the congregational business meeting. The top three individuals receiving the most votes become board members and the rest of the nominees go on a list according to votes received to fill any vacancies on the board that might occur. This list is active for one year or until the next election.

Section 2. The duly elected Church Board shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, and a Treasurer, three Trustees, and three Stewards elected by the Board members themselves at the first meeting following the Annual Congregational business meeting.

Section 3. The Trustees shall have oversight of all the properties, buildings, assets, vehicles, and any other item of personal or real property that pertains to the general possessions of Sylvan Hills Community church. The Trustees shall present to the Church Board any recommendations to be considered concerning loans, debts, contracts, insurance, vehicles, and property changes.

Section 4. The Stewards shall meet prior to the congregational business meeting and prepare a budget to be presented to the Church Board for approval. Once it is presented to the Church Board for approval it will then be presented to the Congregation for approval at the Congregational Business meeting. The Congregation will then have the opportunity to approve the budget or make any changes in the budget it feels necessary. Once the budget is approved the Church Board will have oversight of that budget until the next fiscal year ends which is September 30th of each year. The church budget expenditures cannot exceed the total receipts from the previous year.

Section 5. The church Board will be made up of the above members. They shall organize to perform the work of the church more efficiently, transacting business in the interim between congregational meetings. They shall act as a membership committee for this church and have the responsibility to regulate the membership as occasion of necessity arises, according to Matthew 18:15-17. This shall include, but not be limited to the right to remove members from active to inactive status and to remove members from congregational membership all together. This last drastic measure should only be used when said member has been found by the Church Board to be working in opposition to the church. Should any person who has been subject to any of the above measures desire to be reconciled to the body of believers in this church, they may come before the Church Board, apologize, and ask to be restored. The decisions of the Church Board in such matters shall be final. If the aggrieved person believes they have been wrongfully dismissed, they may appeal the decision of the Church Board at the next annual Congregational business meeting. Any decision of the Church Board shall stand until such time.

Section 6. Board Nominations To be accepted as a nominee to the Church Board of Sylvan Hills Community Church, a nominee must meet the following requirements;

- A.** They must be 21 years of age
- B.** They must be a Christian
- C.** They must be an active member of the church for at least two years. They must be supportive of the church in attendance, tithing, gifts, prayer, choir, teaching and other programs of this church.
- D.** They must be nominated by an active member of this church.
- E.** The nominating person must sign the nomination form.
- F.** The nominee is not permitted to solicit votes from Church members.

Section 7. The Church Pastor shall have day to day oversight and executive authority over the church. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the official Church Board and all committees. He shall supervise all activities of the church, the Church Board shall be kept informed of changes and new programs. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to perform baptism and Lord's supper services as the occasion arises. He shall submit a written report for the previous year to the annual meeting of the Congregational business meeting. When needed, a new Pastor shall be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting or at a special called meeting of the congregation. A pulpit committee will be formed to do a search for a new Pastor when needed. No Pastor shall be eligible to become Pastor of Sylvan Hills Community Church who does not accept the covenant and statement of belief of this Church.

Section 8. In addition to the members and the Church Board, the Pastor may present such individuals who meet the qualifications to the church body to be considered for the Deacon Ministry of Sylvan Hills Community Church. These individuals will serve under the guidance of the Pastor. Ordained Deacons will be elected by the congregation and will serve at the Pastor's discretion.

First time electives must serve at least one (1) year apprenticeship after which they will be officially ordained by the Pastor in a special or regular worship service. Electives who

been ordained in a prior term and who have remained active members of the church will be active Deacons until they absent themselves from the church or the church deems it necessary to remove them from this position for misconduct under the guidelines of Article 7 Section 5. Ordained Deacons will not automatically be members of the Church Board. However, an Ordained Deacon may be nominated to the Church Board and if elected by the congregation serve on the Church Board as a Board member. The maximum number of Ordained Deacons will be based on a general guideline of one Deacon per twenty five members or ten to fifteen church families. There will be no minimum required.

Section 9. If any person becomes disruptive to the services, the Ushers or Deacons present may be summoned by any person to escort the individual or individuals to a quiet area and attempt to restore order. If the individual or individuals continue to be disruptive, the Ushers or Deacons may remove the person(s) from the premises and call the local police department for assistance.

Article 8

MEETINGS: Section 1. The Annual congregational meeting shall be held on the first Sunday evening service of October each year.

Section 2. The official Church Board shall hold regular meetings on a designated day of the month each month of the year. The meeting date will be set by the Church Board.

Section 3. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by announcing a special called meeting on two successive Sunday services during regular worship times.

Section 4. At all congregational meetings each active member that qualifies shall be entitled to a vote.

Section 5. Any member present at a congregational business meeting or a special called meeting shall be given the privilege to call for a secret ballot on any issue before the congregation. Once a secret ballot is called for, there is no discussion. Roberts Rules of Order will be the guideline for all business meetings.

Article 9

USE OF BUILDINGS AND CHURCH PROPERTY; The church buildings shall be used for spiritual and educational purposes, and for any other purpose approved by the Church Board not contrary to the requirements and prohibitions of the laws regarding not-for-profit corporations. The Church Board shall have the authority to grant use of the buildings, and to make policies for execution by the Pastor to grant use of the buildings and church property on a day-to-day basis in compliance with this section.

Section 1. Weddings shall be performed by the Pastor or his authorized representative. This person must be licensed by the State of Arkansas to perform such weddings. Sylvan Hills Community Church will only recognize the Biblical concept of a marriage as one man and one woman defined in Genesis 1:21-24. Sylvan Hills Community Church will perform weddings for members of the church. At least one of the parties must be a member of said Church according to Article 6.

Article 10

This plan of organization may be amended and by-laws adopted by a majority vote of the church board, provided however that any amendment or by-law change shall be brought before the congregation for approval by the eligible voting members of said congregation in attendance. The Church Board may adopt policies and rules as necessary for the operation of the church and to carry out these Articles as amended not inconsistent with these articles.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In testimony whereof, we, the undersigned members of the Church Board Trustees of the Sylvan Hills Community Church, have set our hands this 1st day of October 2000, attest and acknowledge that these Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation were approved by a majority vote of the congregation of Sylvan Hills Community Church at it's annual business meeting on the 1st day of October 2000.

**Subscribed and Sworn to me
This 1st day of October 2000**

Notary Public

TRUSTEES

