



ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

An Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation
(as amended July 18, 2018)

I. The name of the corporation is Converge (formerly known as the Baptist General Conference).

II. The objects and purposes of Converge will be as follows:

To advance the teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and to institute and maintain missionary work at home and abroad.

To cause to be published and distribute denominational periodicals and general literature and such books as are in harmony with the objects and purposes of the Conference.

To establish new churches and encourage growth in existing churches by providing support services, financial and otherwise, for churches to accomplish their ministry at home and abroad.

To provide avenues and agencies that will give its churches and constituents an opportunity to minister to others, through cooperative service for Christ, both inside and outside the church.

III. The management of the corporation shall be cared for as follows:

The responsibility for the ministry and other corporate affairs of Converge shall be vested in its board of directors, which shall be known as the "board of overseers."

IV. The location of the principal office is in the City of Arlington Heights in the County of Cook, State of Illinois.

V. Other items relating to the corporation as follows:

Converge is a voluntary fellowship or association of regularly organized Baptist churches in the United States and islands of the Caribbean and Bahamas. Its membership shall consist of those Baptist churches which meet the requirements for membership defined in the bylaws of Converge.

This corporation is organized exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding section of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, and the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation 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, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

1. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as provided in Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and this corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including publishing or distributing statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office except as otherwise provided in Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
2. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, as set forth in Article III above. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of its directors, trustees, officers, or members, or to any individual.
3. On the winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets of this corporation shall be distributed to an organization (or organizations) organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and that is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The period of duration of corporate existence of this corporation shall be perpetual.

There shall be no personal liability of members for corporation obligations.

This corporation shall have no capital stock and shall declare no dividends.

Bylaws may be adopted by Converge, and such bylaws may define the responsibilities of the board of overseers and Converge's various ministry divisions, officers of the biennial meeting, relationship with district conferences, procedures for elections and such other matters not inconsistent with these Articles of Incorporation, as may be required to carry out the ministries and business affairs of Converge.

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by the biennial meeting of Converge by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates present, provided that the proposed amendment has been approved by the board of overseers and that written notice setting forth the proposed amendment has been delivered to all member churches at least one month prior to the biennial meeting.