

CONSTITUTION
(Articles of Incorporation)
(Revised October 7, 2007 and superseding any previously dated copy)
OF THE

FOUR TOWNS COMMUNITY CHURCH
181 Wolfpack Run
Deltona, FL 32725

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be known as the Four Towns Community Church of Deltona, Florida, to be incorporated for religious purposes under the laws of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Command, (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission, (Matthew 28:19-20) by ***Reaching Up, Reaching Out,*** and ***Reaching In.***

I. Reaching Up—

Celebrate God's Presence through worship— To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions. (John 4:24)

II. Reaching Out—

Communicate God's message through Evangelism and Outreach— To share the good news and life-changing message of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world. (John 14:6; Acts 1:8; 2Peter 3:9)

III. Reaching In—

Demonstrate God's love through *Fellowship, Education and Ministry/Service.*

Fellowship— To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together. (1John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5-7; John 13:34-35)

This church seeks to benefit the people of the Four Towns area by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and cultural development. (Luke 2:52)

Education— To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching. (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 18:20; 2Timothy 2:2)

Ministry/Service— To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in our church, community and in the world. (I Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:34-40; I Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13)

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs. This Church accepts "*The Baptist Faith and Message*," a 1963 affirmation of basic Christian beliefs, as a general statement of our faith.

ARTICLE IV - AFFILIATION

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however the benefits of cooperation with other churches in accomplishing our world mission, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its national, state and local expressions.

BYLAWS OF THE FOUR TOWNS COMMUNITY CHURCH

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - General. Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership. The same shall be listed on the membership roll.

Section 2 - Qualifications for Membership

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
3. Completion of the Church's membership class and its requirements.
4. Basic agreement with the Church's statement of faith as indicated by signature on the individual membership covenant

Section 3 - Designation of Membership. In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church a membership roll will be maintained. This roll will include the names of all those who have met the above qualifications and will be updated quarterly.

Section 4 - Responsibility of Members. Members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life and to faithfully attend the services of this Church, to give regularly for its support and mission causes, and to share in its organized work.

Section 5 - Voting Rights and Limitation of Members. Every member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the confirmation of Elders, the disposition of all or substantially all the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition of property and indebtedness, and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of the Church. Each member sixteen (16 years) and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Section 6 - Termination of Membership. Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Voluntary transfer of membership to another church
3. By personal request of the member (*Leaving due to irreconcilable differences or disagreement with church leadership and/or policy may be considered by a unanimous vote of the Elders as a request for termination of membership and can result in removal from the Church membership roll*).
4. Dismissal by the congregation according to the following conditions:

- a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Statement of Faith in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community
- b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

Section 7 - Restoration of Members. Members dismissed by the Church shall be restored by the vote of the Church according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8.

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Business meetings of the members shall be held in the time, in the manner and the purposes set forth below:

1. The annual meeting of the Church shall be held in January of each year. The primary purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual report.
2. A business meeting shall be held during the month of July, if necessary, to conduct any mid year business.
3. A third scheduled business meeting of the members will be held in November. The primary purpose of this meeting will be the adoption of the new annual budget and the election/confirmation of leadership.
4. The Elders may change the dates of the annual or other scheduled business meetings by notifying the members.
5. A special business meeting of the Church may be called at any time by a majority vote of the Elders.
6. Notification of members for business meetings may be given by any one by the following methods:
 - a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service.
 - b. Announcement of the meeting in the Church newsletter.
 - c. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service.
 - d. By first-class letter to members.
7. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting.
8. Members shall be notified no less than two (2) weeks prior to a business meeting.

ARTICLE III - CHURCH OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Church shall be the elders (including the pastor), trustees, clerk and financial secretary/treasurer. The actual number and nomination of any officers will be determined by the Elders and confirmed by the church at the November meeting. Each officer will have met the qualifications for membership as specified in **Article 1** of these bylaws.

Section 1 - Elders. The Elders will be the governing body of Four Towns Community Church. Qualifications for service as an Elder, in addition to church membership shall be as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1: 5-9.

The number of Elders will vary according to the needs of the Church, but their number, including the pastor shall always be an odd number.

Selection of Elders— New Elders will be nominated by those already serving. Nominations will then be published to the congregation by appropriate means at least two weeks prior to the November business meeting. Information will then be received by the Elders from the congregation as to the fitness for service of the nominees. After prayerful consideration by the

serving Elders, nominees will be offered for confirmation by the church at the November business meeting. The term of service for Elders shall be two years, but Elders may be reconfirmed by the church for additional terms without limit.

Termination of Elder Service— Elder service will terminate at the conclusion of the two year term if not reconfirmed, by the resignation of the Elder, or by unanimous vote of the remaining Elders and a majority vote of the membership at a special called meeting.

Elder Meetings— Elders will meet in conjunction with the pastor as the needs of the church dictate, but at least quarterly in order to monitor and conduct the business of the church.

Section 2 - Pastor. The pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the Church. He shall serve as one among equals with the Elders. The pastor, together with the Elders, shall constitute the administrative leadership of the Church.

Securing a Pastor—

1. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of the pastor, the Elders, without unnecessary delay, shall elect a search committee of five persons to seek out a suitable, Scripturally-qualified pastor. Their recommendation will constitute a nomination, though any member has the privilege of making recommendations to the committee.
2. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the Elders only one name at a time. Once approved by the Elders, the candidate will be invited to preach to the Congregation.
3. His call to the pastorate shall take place at a meeting called for this purpose. This called meeting shall be announced at two regular services.
4. Election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the members present being necessary for the election.
5. The pastor thus elected shall serve until the relationship is terminated either by his request, or by the unanimous vote of the Elders and a majority vote of the membership at a special called meeting.

Section 3 - Clerk. The church shall elect or reconfirm annually a clerk as its clerical officer whose duties shall include the taking and transcribing of minutes of Elder meetings, congregational meetings and Vision Team meetings and the maintenance of records of the same.

Section 4 - Financial Secretary/Treasurer. The church shall elect or reconfirm annually a Financial Secretary/Treasurer as its financial officer.

Section 5 - Trustees. The church shall elect or reconfirm annually at least the minimum number of individuals required by Florida Statutes to serve as trustees. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to act as legal representatives of the church and to take such actions and execute any documents necessary to accomplish the purpose of any matter authorized by the members concerning any real or personal property of the church.

Section 6 - Other Officers. Other officers may be elected as deemed necessary by the Elders upon the recommendation of the church.

Section 7 – Vision Team. The day to day ministry of the church shall be led by the Vision Team. The Vision Team will consist of the leaders of the various ministries of the church (e.g., The Worship Team leader, the Youth leader, etc.) as determined by the Elders.

Selection of Vision Team. Ministry leaders will be appointed by the Pastor and confirmed or reconfirmed annually by the Elders. Vision Team members will serve at the discretion of the Pastor and Elders. (In the absence of a pastor, the Elders may appoint ministry leaders.) Qualifications for Ministry Leadership shall be as follows:

1. Must be a member
2. Must demonstrate evidence of a growing relationship with Christ
3. Can be either male or female
4. Must demonstrate a commitment to the ministry they lead

Responsibilities of Vision Team members. Responsibilities of Vision Team members shall include leading their ministry, aiding in the annual budget process, serving as an ambassador of Four Towns Community Church to the community through their ministry, and supporting the overall vision and purpose of the church.

Vision Team Meetings. The Vision Team will meet monthly with the pastor to ensure the effectiveness of the ongoing ministry of Four Towns Community Church. The Elders, though represented by the Pastor at Vision Team meetings, are invited to attend and offer input.

Membership and service on a Ministry Team is at the discretion of the Ministry Leader, in conjunction with the pastor and the other members of the Vision Team.

ARTICLE IV - RECORDS AND REPORTS.

The Church will maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records).
2. Contribution statements for contributors.
(Duties of the Financial Secretary/Treasurer)
3. A record of its members, giving their names and addresses.
4. Minutes of the proceedings of its members.
(Duties of the Clerk)

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

New Bylaws may be adopted or these Bylaws may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes represented at a duly held meeting of the members.