



**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ICARD, INC.
A Nonprofit Corporation**

*Adopted December 19, 2021
Amended October 22, 2023*

1 **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**
 2 **OF**
 3 **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ICARD, INC.**
 4 **A Nonprofit Corporation**
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6 **Article I. Name**

7 The name of this nonprofit corporation is the First Baptist Church, Icard, Inc. (the “Church”).

8 **Article II. Purpose**

9 The Church is organized exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes as
 10 permitted under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”), including, but not
 11 limited to, the following:

- 12 • **WORSHIP** – To participate in public worship services through prayer, singing,
- 13 giving, and the proclamation of the Word.
- 14 • **DISCIPLESHIP** – To promote personal, spiritual growth through Bible teaching.
- 15 • **MINISTRY** – To serve those in our church, community, and world according to
- 16 the example of Jesus Christ.
- 17 • **MISSIONS** – To share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community and
- 18 the world.

19 Through this purpose, we commit to invest in one another through encouragement, support, and
 20 prayer as we share our lives together.

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 22 **Article III. Statement of Faith**

23 We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and as the only basis for our beliefs and
 24 practices. This Church ascribes to “The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (as amended in 2023)”
 25 as the general statement of our faith in addition to other statements contained in our bylaws.

26
 27 **Article IV. Affiliation and Governance**

28 As a Baptist, we affirm congregational polity. We recognize the benefits of cooperation with
 29 other churches in local and international missions, therefore we voluntarily affiliate with the
 30 Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Catawba Valley
 31 Baptist Association, and the Catawba River Baptist Association.

32
 33 **Article V. Congregational Membership**

34 The Church shall be composed of members who meet the following requirements.

- 35 A. A statement of personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- 36 B. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
- 37 C. Participation in the Prospective Members Class, signing and committing to abide by the
- 38 FBI Membership Covenant, and receiving a majority vote in a business meeting.

39 All members are expected to remain active in the worship of the church and abide by the FBI
 40 Membership Covenant. After a year of inactivity, a member will be automatically removed from

1 membership by the Elders. Attendance exceptions can be made for those with medical and/or
2 physical limitations, military service, for those otherwise providently hindered at the discretion
3 of the Elders. All rights and responsibilities of members of the Church will be set forth in the
4 bylaws.

5 **Article VI. Church Meetings**

6 The Church shall hold meetings of the members for worship, teaching, training, outreach,
7 fellowship, and business. Written minutes of all business meetings will be kept by the Church
8 Clerk and available for review. Twenty (20) percent of members shall constitute a quorum of the
9 membership for the transaction of business. All recommendations requiring a two-thirds
10 approval will be done by secret ballot.

11 A general business meeting of the members shall be held quarterly and at such times as
12 determined by the Elders after the Sunday Morning Worship Service.

13 **Article VII. Officers**

14 The Trustees will serve as corporate officers. The chair will serve as President and the vice-chair
15 will serve as Vice President. The moderator of business meetings will be chosen annually by the
16 Elders in their first meeting each year and will serve at the discretion of the Elder Board as
17 described in the bylaws.

18 **Article VIII. Address**

19 The Church maintains its principal office at 2178 Highway 70, Connelly Springs, North
20 Carolina. Any change to this location shall be recorded by the Vice-President of the Corporation
21 on these articles opposite this section, or this section may be amended to state the new location.

22 **Article IX. Dissolution**

23 In the event of its dissolution, the Church, after paying or making provision for the payment of
24 all the liabilities of the Church, shall distribute all of the net assets of the Church to one or more
25 organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501 (c) (3)
26 and 170 (c) (2) of the Code organized for like purposes as the Church.

27 **Article X. Incorporator**

28 The name and address of the incorporator is Jimmy Hipps, 2178 US Hwy 70 Connelly Springs,
29 NC 28612 (Burke County).

30 **Article XI. Amendments**

31 The Articles may be changed or amended during a properly called meeting of the Church.
32 Amendments to be considered must be presented to the Elders and Deacons. The Elders and
33 Deacons will present, in writing, any changes to be made to the entire Congregation at least two
34 weeks prior to the meeting. In order to approve the amendment, it must be accepted by a two-
35 thirds vote of the members present and voting.

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Article XII. Effective Date; Validate

The Articles shall be effective upon filing in the office of the North Carolina Secretary of State.
The adoption of the Articles shall not invalidate any action validly taken by or on behalf of the Church to the date the Articles of Incorporation becomes effective.