



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

April 29, 2026

JULIA SANDSTROM
6595 CASCADE RD SE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

Notice of Approval

Entity Name: THORNAPPLE COVENANT CHURCH

Identification Number: 800794405

Document Type: Restated Articles of Incorporation

Filed Date: 04/29/2026

Thank you for your recent submission to the Corporations Division. The referenced document has been approved and filed.

Documents submitted by mail or in person:

- The filed document is enclosed.
- To obtain copies of filed documents, visit: www.michigan.gov/corpenitysearch

Documents submitted online using the MiBusiness Registry Portal:

- Downloads are available in the My Work Queue for 75 days.
- When a certificate accompanies an endorsed document, promptly download and save it to your device via the My Work Queue. Certificates are not publicly available under the entity's filings.
- To obtain copies of filed documents, visit: www.michigan.gov/corpenitysearch

Additional Resources:

- **Michigan Business Roadmap:** www.michigan.gov/businessroadmap
- **Michigan Small Business Development Center:** www.michigansbdc.org

For further assistance, contact the Corporations Division at (517) 241-6470 or by email corpsmail@michigan.gov.

FILED

Doc #: 28499822

Filed Date: 4/29/2026

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES & COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU**

Date Received

AC1

(FOR BUREAU USE ONLY)

This document is effective on the date filed, unless a subsequent effective date within 90 days after received date is stated in the document.

Name
Julia SandstromAddress
6595 Cascade Road SECity
Grand RapidsState
MIZIP Code
49546TranInfo:1 26105254-1 03/23/26
Chk#: 1740 Amt: \$10.00
ID: 800794405Document will be returned to the name and address you enter above.
If left blank, document will be returned to the registered office.**RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION****For use by Ecclesiastical Corporations**

(Please read information and instructions on the last page)

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 327, Public Acts of 1931, and Act 162, Public Acts of 1982, the undersigned person(s) execute the following Restated Articles:

1. The present name of the corporation is:

Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan

2. The identification number assigned by the Bureau is:
- 800794405

3. All former names of the corporation are:

Evangelical Covenant Church in Cascade

4. The date of the filing the original Articles of Incorporation was:
- 08/29/1979

*The following Restated Articles of Incorporation supersede the original Articles of Incorporation as amended and shall be the Articles of Incorporation for the corporation:***FIRST**

The name assumed by this corporation and by which it shall be known in law, is:

Thornapple Covenant Church**SECOND**

1. The location of said church or society shall be in the city (or village) of:

Cascade Township county of, Kent, and
State of Michigan.

2. The address of the registered office is:

6595 Cascade Road SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
(Street Address) (City) (ZIP Code)

3. The mailing address of the registered office if different than above is:

, Michigan
(Street Address or P.O. Box) (City) (ZIP Code)

4. The name of the resident agent at the registered office is:
- Julia Sandstrom

THIRD

The time for which the corporation shall be created shall be perpetual. (If term is for a fixed number of years, then state the number of years instead of perpetual.)

FOURTH

The members of the church or society shall worship and labor together according to the discipline, rules and usages of the
Evangelical Covenant church in the United State of America (or
 other jurisdiction as the case may be), as from time to time authorized and declared by the
Covenant and its Great Lakes Conference (and its successors)
 (here insert the name of the higher ecclesiastical body or bodies, if any, authorized to determine such question)

FIFTH (Insert any desired additional provisions authorized by the Act; attach additional pages if needed.)

ATTACHED AS ADDITIONAL ARTICLES ARE ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, ARTICLE VI - LIMITATION OF LIABILITY; ARTICLE VII - INDEMNIFICATION; ARTICLE VIII - ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITIES FOR ACTS OF VOLUNTEERS; ARTICLE IX - COMPROMISE OF CLAIMS; ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION; AND ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS.

5. COMPLETE SECTION (a) IF THE RESTATED ARTICLES DO NOT FURTHER AMEND THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION; OTHERWISE, COMPLETE SECTION (b)

- a. These Restated Articles of Incorporation were duly adopted on the _____ day of _____, _____, in accordance with the provisions of Section 642 of Act 162, Public Acts of 1982, by the Board of Directors without a vote of the members. These Restated Articles of Incorporation only restate and integrate and do not further amend the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation as heretofore amended and there is no material discrepancy between those provisions and the provisions of these Restated Articles.
- b. These Restated Articles of Incorporation were duly adopted on the 22nd day of February, 2026, in accordance with the provisions of Section 642 of Act 162, Public Acts of 1982 and Section 182 of Act 327, Public Acts of 1931, as amended, by the necessary number of members and do further amend the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation.
- (i) The following is a copy of the Call for the Meeting:
 (The call notifying the members of the meeting should be copied here, using the wording as it appeared in the church bulletin, paper, notice, or as it was announced from the pulpit. Minutes of the meeting are not required.)
 ATTACHMENT A
- (ii) The number of members present at such meeting: 232
- (iii) The number of members voting in favor of the Restated Articles of Incorporation: 231

**SIGNATURES AND NOTARIZATION OF RESTATED ARTICLES OF
INCORPORATION FOR THORNAPPLE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF GRAND
RAPIDS MICHIGAN ADOPTED AT ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

Signed this 19th day of March, 2026 by the persons controlling the temporal affairs (all
signees must appear before the Notary):

Julia S. Sandstrom
Julia S. Sandstrom, Lead Pastor

Laura Bartlett
Laura Bartlett, Elder & Council Secretary

David D. Harrell
David D. Harrell, Elder

Lori DeKruif
Lori DeKruif, Elder

Todd Sytsma
Todd Sytsma, Elder

Douglas N. Datema
Douglas N. Datema, Elder & Council Vice-Chair

Susan K. Smith
Susan K. Smith, Elder & Council Chair

Stephen M. Abbott
Stephen M. Abbott, Elder & Treasurer

Kristina C. Witters
Kristina C. Witters, Elder

Ross Veldheer
Ross Veldheer, Elder

Molly DeHoog
Molly DeHoog, Elder

State of Michigan

County of Kent

Subscribed and sworn to me on this 19th day of March, 2026 by Julia S. Sandstrom, Susan
K. Smith, Laura Bartlett, Stephen M. Abbott, David D. Harrell, Kristina C. Witters, Lori
DeKruif, Ross Veldheer, Todd Sytsma, Molly DeHoog and Douglas N. Datema.

Nicole M. Zuldema
Nicole M. Zuldema, Notary

Notary Public for Kent County

State of Michigan

My commission expires 1/29/2028

[Notary Seal]



NICOLE ZUIDEMA NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF KENT My Commission Expires January 29, 2028 Acting in the County of _____
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ATTACHMENT A

The call notifying the members of the February 22, 2026 meeting

Preparations for this year's annual meeting (February 22 following worship) are well under way and our traditional pre-read packets and 2025 year-in-review page on the website will be available as usual at the beginning of February.

Ahead of the annual meeting, we have one point of business that especially needs every Thornapple member's attention. In addition to the usual items of approving the budget and leadership nominees, we are presenting a complete revision of our church's governing documents for membership ratification. The most significant change to these documents is structural: the existing Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

All information related to these changes can be found on our website at thornapple.org/governance. There you will find direct links to the full versions of the proposed new documents along with a high-level summary and comparison of all the changes. It should be noted that the Council of Elders has unanimously approved both proposed documents.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THORNAPPLE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This church's purpose is to cultivate a community of worship committed to prayer, preaching and study of the Word of God, the celebration of the sacraments, and fellowship across gender, race, age, culture, and class. In so doing, its members covenant to equip loving, giving, growing Christians to reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ— evangelizing the lost, ministering to those in need, and seeking justice for the oppressed.

Notwithstanding any other provision in these articles or the church's constitution and bylaws, the church shall not carry on any activities or have any purposes not permitted to a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other corresponding section of any future federal tax code. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office. No part of the assets of the church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its elders, officers, members or other private persons, except that the church is authorized to make reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these articles.

ARTICLE VI - LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

1. Liability Limitation. A volunteer elder or volunteer officer of the church shall not be personally liable to this church or its members for monetary damages for any action taken or any failure to take any action as a voluntary elder or voluntary officer, except as provided in Section 2 of this Article VI.

2. Exclusions. Article VI, Section 1, shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a volunteer elder or volunteer officer for any of the following:

- a. The amount of a financial benefit received by a volunteer elder or director to which he or she is not entitled;
- b. Intentional infliction of harm to the church or its members;
- c. A violation of section 551 of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act (the "Act");
- d. An intentional criminal act; or

- e. A liability imposed under Section 497(a) of the Act.

3. Later Statutory Changes. If, after the adoption of this article, the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act is amended to further eliminate or limit the liability of a volunteer elder, trustee, or officer, then a volunteer elder, trustee, or officer of this church (in addition to the circumstances in which an elder, trustee, or officer is not personally liable as set forth in the preceding section) shall, to the fullest extent permitted by the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, not be liable as so amended. No amendment, alteration, modification, or repeal of this article shall increase the liability or alleged liability of any volunteer elder, trustee, or officer of this church for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such elder, trustee, or officer occurring prior to such amendment, alteration, modification, or repeal.

ARTICLE VII - INDEMNIFICATION

1. Rights and Benefits. Each elder of this church shall be indemnified as of right to the fullest extent now or later permitted by law, except for the exclusions provided in Article VI, *Limitation of Liability*, Section 2, *Exclusions*, in connection with any actual or threatened civil or criminal suit or proceeding (whether brought by or in the name of this church or otherwise) arising out of his or her service as an elder, officer, or any other capacity to this church. Any officer, employee, representative, agent, member, or other person who is not an elder of this church may be similarly indemnified in respect of his or her service to this church to the extent authorized at any time by this church's constitution and bylaws or the church council.

2. Insurance. The church may purchase and maintain insurance to protect itself and any elder or other person against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in respect of service to the church whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him or her against any liability by law or under the provisions of this Article VII. The purchase of insurance shall not, however, diminish the church's obligation, if any, to an elder under this article.

3. Actions and Suits Brought by Others.

a. This church shall indemnify and hold harmless (fully reimburse and make whole) an elder who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, and whether formal or informal, *other than an action by or in the right of this church*, by reason of his or her service to this church. Such indemnification shall cover expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, penalties, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of this church or its members and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

b. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of this church, or its members, or, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, that he or she had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

c. An officer, employee, representative, agent, member, or person other than an elder of this church may be similarly indemnified in respect of such service to the extent authorized at any time by the church council, except as otherwise provided by statute.

4. *Actions and Suits in the Name of this Church.*

a This church shall indemnify and hold harmless (fully reimburse and make whole) an elder who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action or suit *by or in the right of this church* to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of his or her service to this church. Such indemnification shall be against expenses (including actual and reasonable attorneys' fees) and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of this church or its members.

b. No indemnification under this section of this article shall be made in respect of any claim, issue, or matter as to which such person shall have been found liable to this church, except to the extent authorized in Section 7, *Determination by Court*, of this article.

c. An officer, employee, representative, agent, member, or person other than an elder of this church may be similarly indemnified in respect of such service to the extent authorized at any time by the church council, except as otherwise provided by statute.

5. *Authorization of Indemnification.* Any indemnification of any person under sections 3 and 4 of this article shall be made by this church only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification is proper in the circumstances because he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in this article. Such a determination shall be made:

a By the church council by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of members who were not parties or threatened to be made parties to such action, suit, or proceeding; or

b If such a quorum is not obtainable, by a majority vote of a committee appointed by the church council consisting solely of two or more council members not at the time parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding; all council members may participate in the appointment of a committee under this subsection; or

c By all independent council members who are not parties or threatened to be made parties to the action, suit, or proceeding; or

d. By the members, but a person who is a party or threatened to be made a party to the action, suit, or proceeding may not vote; or

e. By order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

6. Advancing of Expenses. This church may pay or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a person who is or may be entitled to indemnification under this article and who is a party or threatened to be made a party to an action, suit, or proceeding described in Section 3 or 4 of this article in advance of final disposition of the proceeding if:

a The person furnishes this church a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Sections 3 or 4 of this article; and

b The person furnishes this church a written undertaking, executed personally or on his or her behalf, to repay the advance if it is ultimately determined that he or she did not meet the applicable standard of conduct; and

c A determination is made that the facts then known to those making the determination would not preclude indemnification under this Article.

The undertaking required by subsection b. above must be an unlimited general obligation of the person but need not be secured. Determinations of payments under this section shall be made in the manner specified in Section 5 of this article.

7. Determination by Court. An elder who is a party or threatened to be made a party to an action, suit, or proceeding may apply for indemnification to the court conducting the proceeding or to another court of competent jurisdiction. This church shall indemnify such person if the court determines that the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification under this article in view of all the relevant circumstances.

ARTICLE VIII - ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITIES FOR ACTS OF VOLUNTEERS

The church shall assume all liability to any person other than the church or its members for all acts of omissions of a volunteer elder incurred in the good faith performance of the volunteer elder's duties as such. In addition, the church shall assume the liability for all acts or omissions of a volunteer elder or volunteer officer (and may, as determined by the church council, assume the liability for all acts or omissions of another volunteer) if all these conditions are met:

a. The volunteer was acting or reasonably believed he or she was acting within the scope of his or her authority;

b. The volunteer was acting in good faith;

- c. The volunteer's conduct did not amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct;
- d. The volunteer's conduct was not an intentional tort; and
- e. The volunteer's conduct was not a tort arising out of ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle for which tort liability may be imposed as provided by Section 3135 of the Michigan Insurance Code of 1956.

No amendment to or alteration, modification or repeal of this article shall reduce the scope of the church's assumption of liability under this article for or with respect to any volunteer's acts or omissions that occur before such amendment, alteration, modification or repeal. Provisions of this article added by amendment shall apply only to the acts or omissions and to breaches of duty occurring after the date the amended article was adopted.

ARTICLE IX - COMPROMISE OF CLAIMS

When a compromise or arrangement or a plan of reorganization of the church is proposed between the church and its creditors or any class of them, or between this church and its members, or any class of them, a court of equity jurisdiction within the state, on application of this church or of a creditor, member, or class of members of this church, or an application of a receiver appointed for this church, may order a meeting of the creditors or class of creditors or of the members to be affected by the proposed compromise or arrangement or reorganization, to be summoned in such manner as the court directs. If a majority in number representing three-fourths (3/4) in value of the creditors, class of creditors, member, or class of members to be affected by the proposed compromise or arrangement or a reorganization agree to a compromise or arrangement or a reorganization of this church as a consequence of the compromise or arrangement, then the compromise or arrangement and the reorganization, if sanctioned by the court to which the application has been made, shall be binding on all the creditors, class of creditors, member, or class of members and also on this church.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the church, all rights, titles and interests of the church and all property of the church shall be transferred to the Evangelical Covenant Church.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

1. **General.** An amendment of these articles of incorporation requires member approval at an annual or special membership meeting. A proposal to amend may be made by a majority vote of all members of the church council or by petition of at least twenty-five percent of the members eligible to vote (Const. & Bylaws, Section 6.6). However, a motion to amend articles of incorporation may not be made at a membership meeting itself. An amendment is approved if there are affirmative votes by three quarters of those members voting at the meeting who are eligible to vote.

upon shall also include information concerning how a member may examine in person or remotely a) the proposed amendment; b) the church council's recommendation and reasons to either approve or disapprove the proposed amendment; and c) a summary of any church council member's opposition to that recommendation.

3. Constitution and Bylaws. The church's constitution and bylaws address all procedural issues arising in connection with Sections 1 and 2 – e.g. location of meeting, quorum and members eligible to vote.

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