

HELPFUL TIPS

ESTABLISHING CORE BELIEFS

Before starting a church (nonprofit), the IRS requires a fellowship of people that share the same beliefs. Your core group must have at least three people not related by blood or marriage.

TAX EXEMPTION

To become exempt, nonprofit organizations must meet certain requirements and apply with the IRS. Registration guidelines vary by state so check with your state comptroller for current guidelines.

CHOOSING A NAME

Pray and enlist input from all members of the core startup group then choose a name (shorter is better) with meaning that is easy to say and remember.

Consider your area and/or the culture while avoiding acronyms, trendy names, and names already in use. Then, research your state database. If your chosen name is in use by another entity, you will need to receive their permission to use that name.

INCORPORATING

Incorporating allows a church to become its own legal entity which is helpful when dealing with liability, litigation, and ownership issues.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- » You will need to obtain licensing to print, record or livestream music and videos.
- » Your church will need insurance.

AFFILIATE WITH AFCC

The AFCC allows affiliated churches to operate under its 501(c)(3).

AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP OF COWBOY CHURCHES

MISSION AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

The American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches (AFCC) is organized to resource and develop Cowboy Churches.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- » There is only one God who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit.
- » God as Father is our Deliverer, our Healer and our Provider.
- » Jesus Christ created all things in the beginning. He later came to earth to purchase mankind back as our Redeemer through His death, burial and resurrection.
- » God as Holy Spirit draws all people to Jesus Christ, resides in and guides all who receive Christ as their Savior.
- » The Bible is God's Word and contains everything needed for life and godliness.
- » God created man in His own likeness and image, and man was given the earth to rule over and subdue.
- » The family unit has been ordained by God as the foundation of humanity with the covenant relationship of marriage joining one man to one woman for life. As Christ loved the church, a husband must love his wife and lead, provide for, and protect his family while a wife must willingly submit to, respect, and help her husband just as the church submits to Christ. Parents must lead by example, correct in a loving manner, and teach their children to make choices based on biblical truth with spiritual and moral values. Children must honor and obey their parents.
- » Baptism by immersion is a public demonstration of what has spiritually taken place in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ.
- » Baptism is a demonstration of what has spiritually taken place in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ.
- » The church is the body of Christ working together to spread the message of salvation and to equip God's people for service in the Kingdom.
- » Everything that we are and possess comes from God and has been given to us to care for. We give back to God's work through the local church so that the message of salvation through Jesus Christ may multiply.
- » In Christ, we are members of the Kingdom of God.

WHY WE EXIST

- » Training: Schools, clinics, conferences
- » New Starts & Affiliates: Pastor processings, support, one-on-one
- » Mentoring: bunch ministries, camps, one-on-one
- » Communicating: Website, Facebook, bunch ministries, one-on-one
- » Connecting: Bunch ministries, one-on-one

THE NARROW PASS

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK
FOR STARTING A COWBOY CHURCH

AFCC

TRAILHEAD

TRAIL'S END

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

MINISTRY ALLEY

It all starts here. The Ministry Alley provides the biblical foundation of a Cowboy Church.

Pray

Start a Round Pen

Determine man called by God to lead the Church

Identify and Invest in a Core Group

Identify Those with Leadership Skills

WORKING ALLEY

These are the practical steps of a Cowboy Church that will help it flourish.

Pastor Processing

Cowboy Church 101 / AFCC Small Church Model

Find a Physical Location to Meet

Set and Promote Launch Date

Begin Meeting

Open a Bank Account

Establish an Accounting System

Estimate Giving and Create Budget

LEGAL ALLEY

These are the legal steps for properly establishing a new organization.

Choose a Legal Name

Acquire Physical, Mailing Addresses

File for EIN by Submitting IRS Form SS-4

Draft Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws

Determine Steps for Tax Exemption and File a Certificate of Formation with Secretary of State




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