

Bylaws of
Northwest Indiana Hindu Religious Center
A Not for Profit Corporation
8605 Merrillville Road
Merrillville Indiana 46410

Article I
Preamble

1. The name of the corporation following this amendment to the Article of Incorporation is Northwest Indiana Hindu Religious Center, Inc.
2. The date of incorporation is September 19, 1995.
3. The Corporation shall maintain a registered office with in the State of Indiana. 8605 Merrillville Road, Merrillville, Indiana, 46410.
4. Said Corporation is organized exclusively for purpose of charitable, religious, educational, and scientific activity. The making of distributions to Corporations that qualify as exempt Corporations under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding Section of any future federal tax code.

Article II
Purpose and objectives

This Not for Profit Corporation shall be chartered with the State of Indiana for the purpose and objectives stated in the articles of incorporation and stated herein under:


1. To provide a place of worship for the followers of the Hindu Religion in Northwest Indiana. To provide a place for sharing the Hindu culture with our children and community. To provide a place for the education of children and adults about the Hindu Culture and religion.
2. To provide for individuals who have faith in or who believe in Hindu religion as a place of worship, and where they may administer religious functions, which will enable the members to introduce their religion to their children, friends and the generations to come
3. To serve and fulfill the educational, religious and cultural needs of the Hindu Community Of Northwest Indiana.
4. To do charitable work and help the poor, distressed, and needy people.
5. To coordinate and cooperate with other similar organizations in their activities and programs of mutual interest.
6. To foster, promote and encourage goodwill and understanding through cross-cultural activities.
7. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized

and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate of public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted on (a) by an corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code.

8. Upon dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state government or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is located, exclusively for such purposes or to such corporation or corporations, as said court determines which are organized and operated for such purposes.

Article III Members

1. Classes of Members and eligibility requirements.
There shall be four classes of voting members:
 - a. Annual membership: \$100.00 per year.
 - b. Life membership: \$1250.00.
 - c. Patron Membership: \$6000.00
 - d. Trustee Membership: \$13500.00
 - i. There are two ways to become a member by a pledge or by payment.
If one becomes member by payment the board often checks membership level and award the membership upon Receiving full payment.
 - ii. The amounts could be revised from time to time by the General Body at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.
 - iii. The Board of Trustees can appoint any person as Honorary Trustee for a period of two years. The Honorary Trustee can attend the meetings, but will not enjoy the powers of Trustee Board, not shall constitute quorum, and shall have no voting power. Any person who practices the Hindu Religion and/or affiliated religions, such as Jainism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism Sikhism, shall be eligible for membership in this Corporation. The honorary membership is open to any individual who has made significant contribution to the growth and success of this organization or the Hindu religion, this person shall be elected as an honorary member by the Board of Trustees. In addition, the Board of Trustees at its discretion may admit others to the membership of the association.
2. Voting Rights

All regular members shall have the right to vote on the basis of their membership. Honorary members shall have no voting rights. New members who have been granted membership will have a waiting period of 60 days before they are eligible to vote. (March 10 2010) 

3. Termination of Membership

The Board of Trustees by affirmative vote of two-third majority may remove a member for cause after appropriate consideration.

4. Resignation

Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Secretary, but such resignation shall not relieve the member so resigning of the obligation to pay any commitments (financial or otherwise) or other charges thereto accrued and unpaid.

5. Transfer of Membership


Membership in this Corporation is not transferable or assignable, except a Trustee who has donated at least \$25,000 over a period of ten (10) years may transfer the position of trustees to any designated family member.

6. Non-payment of dues automatically terminates membership.


7. Members who have paid dues and are below 18 years of age will be under junior membership category. Only members 18 years of age or over can vote.

8. Membership Category

A person making donations above and beyond the required membership dues should specify within two years as to how the amount should be designated.-Whether to apply to a higher level of membership or to designate a family member to specific category of membership.


9. Effective Jan 1 2013 any donation made to North-West Indiana Hindu Religious Center, including Priestly or other services will be credited towards annual member/life-member/patron/or trustee obligation. 

Article IV Executive Board

1. The administration of the Corporation shall be vested in an Executive Board made of thirteen (13) members of Corporation who will be known as Directors. The Executive Board reports to the Board of Trustees. The Executive Board shall be comprised of The President, Past president President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) members of executive board. Three members shall be elected by the all members (annual, life, patron and trustee members) every year by majority vote, for a term of two years. Temple committee chair and Hall committee chair to be part of the executive Board. They shall be elected by all members for a period of two years. They should have served on the Executive Board or Hall or Temple committee for one Year. 


2. The election shall be held by secret ballot system by a Nominating/Election Committee as stated in Article III.4. This Election Committee shall notify regarding the election at least four (4) weeks before the election. Other nominations duly proposed and seconded shall be accepted no later than one week prior to the election.

3. Meetings and quorum
 The Executive Board shall be responsible for the day to day operations and shall meet time to time or a minimum of four (4) times a year. The executive committee shall follow the rules and regulations for the day to day operations. One third (1/3) of voting members present will form quorum for trustee and executive boards. Members present will form quorum for General body and all trustees.
 - a. The President of Indiana Medical Association of Northwest Indiana will be ex-officio members of the executive board.

4.  Nominating Committee and election committee: The nominating/election committee for the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board will consist of the President, Past President, and president elect of the Executive Board, also Chairman, Past Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Past Chairman will preside over this meeting

5. The term of the executive board
 The term of the all members of the Executive Board members shall be for two years.

6. Qualifications for the Executive Board
 - a. Member shall not be less than 21 years of age.
 - b. Member shall be a permanent resident of the United State of America.
 - c. Candidates for the Executive Board should have paid the membership dues and must be members in good standing for at least one year.
 - d. Any person wishing to be eligible for President or Chairman of the Board of Trustees must have served on the Executive Board or Board of Trustees for at least 2 years.

7. Replacing membership
 - a.  If a vacancy arises in the board of trustees or in the executive board, the chairman of the board of trustees or the president of the executive board will nominate a qualified member to fill the vacancy. The newly nominated member shall serve the remaining term of the member.
 - b. Any member who is unable to fulfill the current term may be replaced by the President for executive committee and chairman for the board of trustee.

Article V
Duties and powers of the officers of the executive board

1. President
 The President shall be the Principal Executive officer of the Executive Board. He shall be in charge of the business and affairs of the Corporation; he shall see that the resolutions and directives of the Executive Board and the Board of Trustees are carried into effect except in those

instances in which that responsibility is assigned to some other by the Boards; and in general, he shall discharge all duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Boards. The President or his appointee shall attend the meeting of the Board of Trustees and shall serve as a Liaison between the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors. He shall not enjoy the power of Trustees except the specific powers associated with his duties and responsibilities. **In the absence of the President-Elect, Hall committee chair or Temple Committee Chair or in the event of his disability, the President fulfills their role or may delegate specific authority to any other specified executive committee members or trustee board member.** Such delegation shall be specific as to the delegated authority.

2. President-elect

The President-Elect shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties as the President may direct and shall perform such other duties from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Boards. In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The President-Elect represents the Corporation and coordinated activities of mutual interest with other similar organizations.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall record the minutes of meetings of the members of this Executive Board in one or more books provided for that purpose, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law; keep a register of the post office address which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member; he shall be responsible for informing the members about events of interest to them and perform all the duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President or by the Board.

4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall (a) have charge, custody of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of accounts for the Executive Board; (b) have charge and custody of all funds and securities allocated for operation of the Executive Board, and be responsible for the receipt and disbursement thereof (all disbursements shall be made only after the same has been sanctioned by the Board) and (c) perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties from time to time as may be assigned to him by the President or by the Boards. He shall prepare event wise reports and statements of the financial activities and report to the Board. He shall participate in financial negotiations and transactions pertaining to the Corporation as assigned by the Boards.

Article VI Trustees

1. Eligibility for trusteeship

A person who is a permanent resident of U.S.A. is eligible for Trusteeship provided.

- a. He donates a cumulative sum of \$13,500.00 or more over a period of 5 years with \$3,500 payable initially and \$2,500 payable every year (by June 1) in subsequent 4 years. These amounts may be revised from time to time by a simple majority of all the trustees.
- b. He shall be a life member of the Corporation by virtue of his contribution.
- c. Honorary Trustee: The Board of Trustees can appoint any person as Honorary Trustee for a period of two years. The Honorary Trustee can attend the meetings, but will not enjoy the powers of Trustee Board, not shall constitute quorum, and shall have no voting power.

2. Functions and powers of the board of trustees


- a. The Power and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees subject to the best interest of the Corporation, its purpose, its objectives and requirements of its tax-exempt Internal Revenue Service Section 501 (C) (3) status are:
 - b. The Board of Trustees is totally responsible for the operations of the religious Center, and any decision made by the Board of Trustees will supersede the decisions of the Executive Board. They shall handle all insurance needs, mortgage Payment, employment and salaries and capital projects.
 - c. The Board of Trustees may receive and accept property, whether real, personal or mixed by way of gift, bequest or devise from any person, firm trust or corporation to be held, administered and disposed of in accordance with the bylaws, but no gift bequest or devise of any such property shall be received and accepted if it is conditioned and limited in such a manner as to require the disposition of the income or its principal to any person or any organization other than a charitable and or religious organization or for other than charitable purposes within the meaning of such terms as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, or as in the opinion of the Board of Trustees shall jeopardize the Federal Income Tax Exemption of this Corporation pursuant to Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as now force or afterwards amended.
 - d. The principal and the income of all property received and accepted by the Board
 - e. Of Trustees shall be deposited in the Corporation, and the Board of Trustees may make payments or distribution from income or principal, or both, to or for the use of such charitable and religious organization purposes of the Corporation as the Board of Trustees shall from time to time select and determine.
- 3. To invest and reinvest the principal and income of the Corporation in such property, real, personal or mixed and in such a manner as they shall deem proper, subject to prudent man investment standard and from time to time to change investments as they shall be advisable to invest in or retain any stocks, bonds, notes, obligations or personal or real property. No principal or income however shall be loaned, directly or indirectly, to any Trustee or to anyone else, Corporate or otherwise, who has at any time made a contribution of this Corporation, nor to anyone except on the basis of an adequate interest charge and with adequate security.

- a. To sell, lease or exchange any personal, mixed or real property, for such consideration and on such terms as to credit or otherwise, and to make such contract and enter into such undertakings relating to the Corporation property, as they consider prudent and advisable.
- b. To borrow money for such periods, at such rates of interest, and upon such terms as the Board of Trustees shall consider prudent and advisable, and as security for such loans to mortgage or pledge any real or personal property with or without power of sale, to acquire or hold any real or personal property, subject to any mortgage or pledge on or of the property acquired or held by this Corporation.
- c. To execute and deliver deeds, assignments, transfers, mortgages, pledges, leases, covenants, contract, promissory notes, releases and other instruments, sealed or unsealed, incident to any transaction in which the Corporation engages.
- d. To employ a bank or trust company as custodian of any funds or securities and to delegate to it such powers as they deem appropriate; to keep any or all of the Corporation property or funds in any place or places in the United States of America; to employ clerk, accountants, investment counsel, investment agents, and any special services and to pay the reasonable compensation and expenses of all such services.
- e. The Board of Trustees and in the individual Trustees powers is the purposes of this Corporation as specified in the articles of incorporation and Article II of the bylaws.


4. Board of trustees

- a. Qualifications for the Trustee Board Member
 - i. Member shall not be less than 21 years of age.
 - ii. Member shall be a permanent resident of the United State of America.
 - iii. Candidates for the Trustee Board should have paid the membership dues and must be members in good standing.
 - iv. After the first six years, any person wishing to be eligible for President or Chairman of The Board of Trustees must have served on the Executive Board of Board of Trustees for at least 2 years.
- b. The Board of trustee will consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Past Chairman and Nine Trustee Board Members.
 - i. The Vice Chairman will become chairman at the end of two years term. Vice Chairman will be elected by all Trustees with a simple majority vote for a period of two (2) years. The Vice Chairman will assume the position of chairman after the term of the current Chairman is over.
 - ii. Nine (9) other members will be elected in a staggered fashion initially three (3) trustees for one (1) year, three (3) trustees for two (2) years and three (3) more trustees for three (3) years. Each trustee board member will have a three year term and three new members will be

elected by the trustees each year. If a member replaces another member in the Board of Trustees or Executive Board, He or she shall serve the remaining term of the member being replaced.

- iii. The Treasurer and the General Secretary will be appointed by the Chairman from the elected Board of Trustees.
- iv. Comptroller will be an appointed by the Chairman of the board of trustees. The comptroller should be a life member. He or she should attend all the Trustee Board meetings and will be a nonvoting member. Comptroller can be reappointed. 
- v. The election for the board of trustees shall be held by secret ballot system by the election committee nominated by the board of trustees. The election committee shall notify regarding the election at least four (4) weeks before the election. Nominations duly proposed and seconded shall be accepted no later than one week prior to the election.

c. Meetings and Quorum

A regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held at the registered office unless otherwise notified. The Board of Trustees may provide by resolution the time and place, for holding additional regular meetings of the Board. The Board may have one regular meeting each month, but in no event shall there be less than two (2) regular Board meetings in any fiscal year. These meetings may be called by the Chairman, General Secretary or by any four (4) members of the Board of Trustees. 

Article VII
Duties and powers of the Board of trustees

1. Chairman

The Chairman shall be the Principal Executive Offices of the Trustee Board. He shall be in charge of the business and affairs of the Corporation; he shall see that the resolutions and directives of the Board of Trustees are carried into effect except in those instances in which that responsibility is assigned to some other by the Boards; and, in general, he shall discharge all duties incident to the office of the Chairman and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board. In the event of a tie in the Board of Trustees meeting the Chairman shall have the additional tie breaking vote, except in those instances in which the authority to execute expressly prescribed by the Board or these bylaws, he may execute for the Corporation any contract, deeds, mortgages, bonds or other instruments which the Board has authorized to be executed, and he may accomplish such execution either under or without the seal of the Corporation and with the General Secretary, or any existing member of the Board thereunto authorized by the Board. In the absence of the Vice Chairman or in the event of his disability, the Chairman may delegate specific authority to any other specified Trustee. Such delegation shall be specific as to the delegated authority and be in writing.

2. Vice Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman in the discharge of his duties as the Chairman may direct and shall perform such other duties from time to time may be assigned to him by the Chairman or by the Board. In the absence of the Chairman or in the event of his inability or

refusal to act, the Vice Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman represents the Corporation and coordinates activities of mutual interest with other similar organizations.

3. General Secretary

The General Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the members of this Trustee Board in one or more books provided for that purpose, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law; be custodian of the Corporate record and of the seal of the Corporation; he shall perform all the duties incident to the office of the General Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Chairman or by the Board.

4. Comptroller

The Comptroller shall be the principal financial and accounting officer of the Corporation. He shall; (a) have charge, custody of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of account for the Corporation, (b) have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the Corporation and be responsible for the receipt and disbursement thereof (all disbursement shall be made only after the same has been sanctioned by the Board) and (c) perform all the duties incident to the office of the Comptroller and such other duties from time to time that may be assigned to him by the Chairman or by the Board. Further, the Comptroller shall be responsible to collect and deposit all funds. He shall prepare quarterly reports and statements of the financial activities and status of the Corporation to the Board. He shall be responsible for filing the tax return and other documents required by the Internal Revenue Service.

5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall (a) have charge, custody of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of accounts for the Trustee Board; (b) have charge and custody of all funds and securities allocated for operation of the Trustee Board, and be responsible for the receipt and disbursement thereof (all disbursements shall be made only after the same has been sanctioned by the Board) and (c) perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties from time to time as may be assigned to him by the President or by the Boards. He shall prepare reports and statements of the financial activities and report to the Board. He shall participate in financial negotiations and transactions pertaining to the Corporation as assigned by the Boards.

Article VIII

Contracts, Checks, Deposits, Gifts, Audits and Net Earnings.

1. Contracts

The Board of Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

2. Checks drafts etc.

All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Boards. In the absence of such determination by the Boards, such instruments shall be signed by any the following officers:

- a. Chairman and treasurer from the Board of Trustees or its accounts.
- b. President, Secretary and Treasurer from the Executive Board for its accounts.



3. Deposits

All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Trustees may select. Unless otherwise directed, all such funds shall be deposited in the existing checking and/or existing savings account of the Corporation.

4. Gifts

The Boards may accept on behalf of the Corporation and contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Corporation, provided such special purpose does not violate the Corporation's objectives and the Internal Revenue Service Section 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status of the Corporation.

5. Audits

Each year, all accounts, financial records, reports and statements of the Corporation shall be audited by an independent Accountant approved by the Board of Trustees. The audit shall be completed within 180 days after the last day of the fiscal year. On completion of the audit, the auditor's report or its appropriate summary shall be made available to members of upon request.

6. Net earnings

No part of the net earnings of the Corporations shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate of public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, 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, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article IX
Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be from January 1 to December 31, both days inclusive.

Article X Gender/grammar

Whenever appropriate, the singular includes the plurals and masculine include the feminine and vice versa.

Article XI Standing Committees



1. Temple Committee

- a. Chairperson will be elected by all members for a period of 2 years elected by all members. This will be for a period of two (2) years, which can be renewed. Members of this committee will be appointed by the Chairperson in consultation with the Chairman of the trustees and President of the Executive Board. Reports of this committee should go to both boards. They should have served on the Executive Board or Hall or Temple committee for one Year.
- b. The temple committee will follow the rules and regulations currently in force as formulated by the temple committee and the executive committee.
- c. In the absence of the temple committee chair the President of the executive committee or his designee will manage the operations of the temple.

2. Hall Committee

- a. Chairperson will be elected by all members for a period of 2 years. This will be for a period of two (2) years, which can be renewed. Members of this committee will be appointed by the Chairperson in consultation with the Chairman of the trustees and President of the Executive Board. Reports of this committee should go to both boards. They should have served on the Executive Board or Hall or Temple committee for one Year.
- b. The hall committee will follow the rules and regulations currently in force as formulated by the hall committee and the executive committee.
- c. In the absence of the hall committee chair the President of the executive committee or his designee will manage the operations of the temple.

3. Bylaws Committee

Chairperson will be elected by all members for a period of 2 years. The members should include Past-Chairman of the trustee Board, present Chairman, Vice chairman, past president of the Executive Board, President and president Elect. Other persons may be appointed by the chairperson in consultation with the Chairman and President.

- a. The bylaws committee chairperson will be elected by the general body, term of the bylaws committee will be two years.
- b. The bylaws committee will consist of 9 members. Elected chairman, past chairman and president, Current chairman and president and president elect and vice chairman. There will be 2 members at large that will be nominated by the chairman of the by-laws committee in consultation with the chairman of the board of trustees.
- c. Quorum for bylaws committee will be simple majority.
- d. Any change in bylaws suggested will have to be presented to the bylaws committee. If approved this will be forwarded to the general body
- e. Bylaw changes: The changes in bylaws approved by the bylaws committee will be presented to the general body for approval. The approval is by simple majority of members present.

Article XII

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, of shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such Corporation or Corporations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article X111

Attachments Rules and regulations of the Executive board of NWHRC.

Signed

Dr. P.R. Unni

. Surendra Shah

Chairman Bylaws

Chairman Board of Trustees

Date

Date