

1 9-29-2016 version as amended on 10-9-2022, and 10-20-2024 of:

2
3 **THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS**

4
5 **OF**

6
7 **Abundant Life Church**

8
9 **Of Mead, Colorado**

10
11 **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

12
13 **PREAMBLE**

14
15 Whereas, we, a body of evangelical believers in Jesus Christ, organized for the purpose of fellowship and
16 propagation of the gospel of our Lord as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, deem it wise that we have certain
17 laws to serve as a criterion to work by, and help preserve the purpose and function of the local church;
18 therefore be it resolved: that beginning with its legal adoption thereof we shall be governed by the following
19 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

20
21 **ARTICLE I – NAME**

22
23 The name of this organization, a non-profit religious corporation organized under the laws of the State of
24 Colorado, is Abundant Life Church.

25
26 **ARTICLE II – MISSION AND VISION**

27
28 The mission of Abundant Life Church is to point people toward living an abundant life in Christ. Our vision
29 (heart's desire) is to be a church family that desires the abundant life Jesus offers (John 10:10). We will
30 guide people to a reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-21). We will
31 intentionally develop disciples of Jesus (Matthew 28:19) who love God and people (Matthew 22: 36-39),
32 pray and worship continuously (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 & John 4:24), search the Scriptures (2 Timothy
33 3:16,17), and are equipped and eager to share the Gospel (Romans 1:16 & 1 Corinthians 15:3,4).

34
35 **ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH**

36
37 This church is united around these ten theological convictions:

38 **God**

39 **1.** We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving
40 unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge
41 and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to
42 make all things new for His own glory.

44 **The Bible**

45 **2.** We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words
46 of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings,
47 the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human
48 knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in
49 all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

50 **The Human Condition**

51 **3.** We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In
52 union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His
53 wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

54 **Jesus Christ**

55 **4.** We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures.
56 Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
57 He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into
58 heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

59 **The Work of Christ**

60 **5.** We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the
61 perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only
62 ground for salvation.

63 **The Holy Spirit**

64 **6.** We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the
65 world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted
66 as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for
67 Christ-like living and service.

68 **The Church**

69 **7.** We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith
70 alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head.
71 The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers.
72 The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly
73 express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in
74 genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

75 **Christian Living**

76 **8.** We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose.
77 God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for
78 one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's
79 power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to
80 Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in
81 word and deed.

82

83 **Christ's Return**

84 **9.** We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ,
85 at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the
86 believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

87 **Response and Eternal Destiny**

88 **10.** We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in
89 repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge
90 the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer
91 to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His
92 glorious grace. Amen.

93
94 **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

95
96 **Section 1. Application for Membership**

97
98 **1.** This church shall receive as members only those who have by faith accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord
99 and Savior and who, by their daily living, manifest a born-again experience.

100
101 **2.** No person shall be excluded from membership because of sex, race, national or ethnic origin or color.
102 The Elder Team shall examine all applicants for membership to determine if:

- 103
104 **A.** He/she is believed to be a member of the Body of Christ;
105
106 **B.** He/she agrees to faithfully attend worship services, participate in congregational meetings, use
107 his/her gifts in the ministries of the church, and give regularly and generously as God provides;
108
109 **C.** He/she agrees to live in harmony with the Statement of Faith (Article III), and to submit to the
110 authority of the leadership of Abundant Life Church, this document, and policies and decisions
111 approved by the congregation or the Elder Team.

112
113 If the Elder Team, at its sole discretion, determines that a person does not meet the criteria stated above,
114 then his/her application for membership shall be rejected.

115
116 **3.** Any person who qualifies per above and desires membership shall sign a Membership Application and
117 Covenant (Appendix A to ALC Bylaws) and return it to a Pastor or other Elder Team member.

118
119 **4.** This person shall be required to share his or her personal testimony of faith in Christ with selected Elder
120 Team members or those whom the Elder Team designates (two or more).

121
122 **5.** When the Elder Team is confident of the applicant's faith in Christ, assurance of salvation, desire to live
123 the Christian life, and willingness to submit to the fellowship and discipline of this local Body, the Elder Team
124 shall then post the names of the candidates for membership publicly for two weeks. Any member of the
125 church objecting must give to an Elder in writing a just cause in accordance with the Word of God and the
126 Articles of Incorporation of this church why this candidate should not be accepted. Taking these objections
127 into consideration, the Elder Team shall then vote on acceptance of these candidates into the membership of
128 the church.

129
130 **6.** Those who are admitted to membership in the church shall be formally presented and given the right hand
131 of fellowship at a service the following Sunday or as soon as can be arranged.

132 7. Pastors and their wives automatically become members, with full voting privileges, on receipt and
133 acceptance of a call from the church.

134

135 **Section 2. Membership Roll**

136

137 1. The membership roll shall be periodically reviewed by the Elder Team, or those they select, to determine if
138 the needs of any members have been neglected, or if any name should be removed from the roll.

139

140 2. If any member should be absent from the church services for a period of six months, without
141 communicating with the church, the Elder Team shall endeavor to contact such member if possible. Unless
142 he/she has an acceptable reason, the name of said member shall be removed from the roll and notified of
143 this action. Exceptions to this termination procedure shall be made at the discretion of the Elder Team.

144

145 **Section 3. Conflict Resolution and Disputes**

146

147 1. This church is committed to resolving all disputes that may arise within our body in a biblical manner.
148 This commitment is based on God's command that Christians should strive earnestly to live at peace with
149 one another (Matthew 5:9; John 17:20-23) and that when disputes arise, Christians should resolve them
150 according to the principles set forth in Holy Scripture (Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 18:15-20). We believe
151 that this approach is obligatory to all Christians and essential to the well-being and work of the church.
152 Therefore, any and all disputes in this church shall be resolved according to biblical principles.

153 2. When a member of this church has a conflict with, or is concerned about the behavior of another
154 member, he shall attempt to resolve the matter as follows. First, the offended or concerned person shall
155 prayerfully examine himself and take responsibility for his contribution to a problem (Matthew 7:3-5), and
156 he shall prayerfully seek to discern whether the offense is so serious that it cannot be overlooked
157 (Proverbs 19:11). Second, if the offense is too serious to overlook, the offended or concerned person
158 shall go, repeatedly if necessary, and talk to the offender in an effort to resolve the matter personally and
159 privately, having first confessed his own wrongdoing (Matthew 18:15). Third, if the offender will not listen
160 and if the problem is too serious to overlook, the offended or concerned person shall return with one or
161 two other people who will attempt to help the parties resolve their differences (Matthew 18:16); these
162 other people may be members or leaders of the church or other respected Christians in the community.
163 At the request of either party to the dispute, the church leaders and congregation shall make every effort
164 to assist the parties in resolving their differences and being reconciled.

165 3. By joining this church, all members agree that these methods shall provide the sole remedy for any
166 dispute arising against the church and its agents, and they waive the right to file any legal action against
167 the church in a civil court or agency.

168 **Section 4. Discipline**

169

170 1. If any member of this church is found to be living or teaching contrary to the Word of God and the
171 Statement of Faith of this church, he/she shall be counseled in love by a Pastor or by the Elder Team. If
172 efforts to bring repentance and restoration fail, then the Elder Team and congregation will follow the
173 procedures outlined in Matthew 18:15-18; I Corinthians 5; II Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 6:1-2.

174

175 2. No accusation shall be considered by the church against any Elder unless supported by at least two
176 witnesses. I Timothy 5:19.

177

178 3. Any person who is an accuser or witness to behaviors subject to discipline must identify themselves so the
179 accusation can be properly investigated.

180

181 4. The dual goals of all discipline procedures are the repentance and the restoration of the person to full
182 fellowship. The process will be handled in such a way as to keep the matter as private as possible for as
183 long as possible.

184
185 5. By joining this church, all members agree that these methods shall provide the sole remedy for
186 handling any discipline measures and they waive the right to file any legal action against the church in a
187 civil court or agency. Any member who has withdrawn or has been dismissed has no right or claim upon the
188 church property, real or personal.

189
190 **Section 5. Non-Voting Members**

191
192 1. Candidates under the age of eighteen shall be received as Non-Voting Members if they meet all other
193 requirements for membership.

194
195 2. A Non-Voting Member may not make motions or vote but is encouraged to take part in the discussion of
196 business.

197
198 3. Upon reaching the age of eighteen, a Non-Voting Member shall automatically receive the full rights and
199 privileges of membership.

200
201 **ARTICLE V – RELATIONSHIPS**

202
203 1. This church is independent and free so far as it relates to its internal organization and the regulation of its
204 own affairs. It is in subjection to no ecclesiastical body, except by its own consent. It controls the admission,
205 discipline and removal of its members according to its own understanding of the Word of God.

206
207 2. Realizing the necessity and advantage of united effort, and being in general accord with the aim and
208 scope of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), this church, by vote of the congregation, has
209 applied for and has been accepted for membership in such, and endeavors to cooperate with the EFCA at
210 large and its various functions that prove in accord with its purpose. We will actively participate in the Rocky
211 Mountain District (RMD) Ministry by attending Annual District Conferences and encouraging our pastoral staff
212 to be involved in District activities. As with all mission support, the Elder Team, guided by the Holy Spirit
213 and prayer, will continuously consider the appropriate financial support for the National EFCA and the
214 Rocky Mountain District. Support will be contingent on their adherence to the Holy Scriptures, ministry
215 relevance and effectiveness and the responsible stewardship of resources.

216
217 3. In order to maintain our membership in the EFCA, this church understands that: (1) Its Statement of Faith
218 must be verbatim that of the EFCA and RMD, (2) Its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws must conform to the
219 policies and practices of the EFCA and RMD, and (3) Individuals applying for membership in this church must
220 indicate their willingness to live in harmony with all ten (10) articles in the EFCA Statement of Faith as
221 enumerated in Article III of these Articles of Incorporation.

222
223 **ARTICLE VI – PROPERTY RIGHTS**

224
225 1. This church shall have the power to buy, own, and sell property in its corporate name.

226
227 2. Conveyance or encumbrance of all or any church property requiring a deed, title, or mortgage may be
228 made, provided, however, that any such action must receive at least a two-thirds majority vote of the
229 membership of the church present at a meeting duly called pursuant to Article VII of the Articles of
230 Incorporation of this church. Instruments of conveyance or encumbrance so authorized at any such meeting
231 shall be executed in the name of the church by the Chairman and Recording Secretary of the church.

232
233 3. In the event of disagreement and division in the church membership (which God forbids), the church name

234 and all church property shall be retained by those members remaining and adhering to the Articles of
235 Incorporation and Bylaws.

236
237 **4.** In the event the church ceases to function or should the corporation be dissolved, the right, title, and
238 interest in and to all of the real and personal property of the church shall accrue to the benefit of, and be
239 vested in the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church of America or the successor to said
240 Church Body, provided, however, that the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church of America
241 or its successor organization shall at the time of designation, be exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the
242 Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or under such successor provision of the Code as may then be
243 in effect. If the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church of America is not so exempt from
244 federal income tax at the time of dissolution of the church, then all of the real and personal property of the
245 church shall be distributed to the Evangelical Free Church of America.

246
247 **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS, ADDITIONS OR CHANGES**

248
249 Amendments, additions or changes to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any Business Meeting
250 of the church when said proposed amendments, additions or changes have been presented in written form
251 and discussed at a previous regular or special meeting. A two-thirds majority vote is required to amend, add
252 to, or change these Articles of Incorporation. Articles III, VI, and VII cannot be amended or changed unless
253 affirmed by the Rocky Mountain District, EFCA.

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257 **BYLAWS**

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259
260 **Section 1 – Statement of Government**

- 261
262 **1.** Abundant Life Church shall be an Elder led, but congregational-governed body of believers. The
263 congregation has the ultimate authority and responsibility for affirming/approving selection of Pastors, Elders,
264 a Church Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and Recording Secretary. Additionally, the congregation shall
265 affirm/approve the annual operating budget and all decisions to buy or sell real estate. As the leaders of the
266 church, the Elder Team shall carry on the routine leadership, operation, and government of the church.
267
268 **2.** At the Annual Business Meeting, the voting membership of the congregation shall elect from its
269 membership a Church Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Recording Secretary to serve two-year terms.
270 These officers shall give legal notice of, plan for, preside over, and record the minutes of all special and
271 regular congregational meetings. They shall also be listed as the officers of the Corporation with the
272 Colorado Secretary of State. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected on alternating years so
273 both terms do not expire at the same time.
274
275 **2.** The Elder Team shall determine what ministry teams, committees, and positions are needed to
276 effectively and efficiently carry out the purpose of this church. Additionally, the Elder Team shall cause
277 job descriptions for these teams, committees and positions to be developed that specify their
278 responsibilities and their terms of service. If appropriate, the Elder Team may appoint a nominating
279 committee to recommend members to serve on these teams, committees, etc. Nominees for these
280 positions may also be made from the floor at a business meeting if the person being nominated has
281 indicated a willingness to serve in the position. Candidates for ministry teams, committees, etc. shall be
282 affirmed by the congregation at a Business Meeting. The Elder Team may temporarily appoint people as
283 an alternative to calling a special meeting of the congregation. Those appointed will be affirmed by the
284 congregation at the next congregational business meeting.

286 **Section 2 – Elders**

287

288 **1. Qualifications**

289

290 The Elders shall be members of this church who are mature, godly men, who fully support the Statement of
291 Faith of this church and its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Positions, and who manifest the
292 qualifications stipulated by the Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). All men who serve as pastors in the
293 Church shall automatically be members of the Elder Team. In case of question as to whether any serving
294 Elder continues to meet these Biblical requirements, the Elder Team may rule, subject to review by the
295 congregation at the request of any member, or the congregation may rule directly.

296

297 **2. Selection**

298

299 **It is the Holy Spirit who must select men for leadership. Only He knows the hearts and motives of**
300 **men.** His choices, however, must be expressed through the voting members of the church.
301 (Acts 6)

302

- 303 **A.** Selection will be made on the basis of spiritual qualifications, leadership qualifications, and
304 commitment to this church
- 305
- 306 **B.** When new or additional Elders are needed, the Elder Team will prayerfully consider qualifications of
307 men of the congregation to serve as an Elder. All potential candidates for the office of Elder shall be
308 interviewed by one or more Elders. Only if the man consents to being considered by the
309 congregation for service as an Elder will his name be proposed at a business meeting for affirmation.
- 310

311 **3. Term of Service**

312

- 313 **A.** Each Elder shall be affirmed by the congregation every two years. There shall be no limit to the
314 number of terms an Elder may serve if he remains willing to serve, and continues to demonstrate
315 effectiveness and the Biblical qualifications as an Elder.
- 316
- 317 **B.** Any Elder who does not fulfill the qualifications or duties of his office, fails to attend Elder Team
318 meetings without good reason or does not regularly attend the worship services of the church shall,
319 after notice and attempt to restore said member, be asked by the Elder Team to resign from the
320 Elder Team.
- 321

322 **4. Evaluation, Discipline and Accountability**

323

324 The Elder Team shall continually evaluate itself and its members. It shall be a self-disciplining board
325 according to Matthew 18:15-20; II Thessalonians 3:14-15; and I Timothy 5:19-20. In addition to being
326 accountable to the congregation, the Elders are directly accountable to the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ,
327 for all their actions and decisions (Hebrews 13:17).

328

329 **5. Function**

330

331 The Elders will have four major responsibilities:

332

- 333 **A.** To build and develop their own families in the Lord (I Timothy 3:4-5).
- 334
- 335 **B.** To feed, shepherd, and pray for the flock of God (John 21:15-17; Acts 10:17-32; Acts 6:1-4). This
336 involves positive impartation of truth, refutation of error, and administration of discipline.
- 337
- 338

339 C. To oversee and manage the entire ministry of Abundant Life Church (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2-3).
340 This involves assessing the needs of the entire body, performing planning and evaluating
341 functions, and ensuring leadership and service teams, committees and individuals are in place to
342 serve in various areas of the church.

343
344 D. To develop job descriptions and oversee the performance of all Pastors.
345

346 **6. Basis of Authority**

347
348 The basis of authority for all the deliberations and activities of the Elder Team shall be Scripture and the
349 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this church.
350

351 **7. Decision- Making Process**

352
353 The Elder Team shall approach decisions in prayerful dependence upon the Holy Spirit. They shall earnestly
354 seek to reach a unanimous decision without coercion. (As a last resort, the full Elder Team shall take a vote
355 to reach a decision with a two-thirds majority required).
356

357 **8. Quorum for Elder Team Meetings**

358
359 A quorum for an Elder Team meeting shall consist of a simple majority of the members of that team.
360

361 **9. Organization**

362
363 The Elder Team shall be self-organizing. That is, the various functions and areas of responsibility of the
364 Elder Team shall be delegated among its members on an annual basis. A Chairman of the Elder Team,
365 other than a Pastor, shall be selected each year by the Elder Team. He shall call meetings and preside over
366 the meetings of the Elder Team.
367

368 **Section 3 – Teams and Committees**

369
370 **1.** Adequate Ministry Teams, committees and personnel shall be established by the Elder Team as needed
371 for effective and efficient service in the church. Each ministry team and committee shall regularly meet, keep
372 records of their meetings, self-organize, and choose their own internal leadership structure in a manner that
373 they determine to be most effective. Those serving in these capacities shall be voting members of the
374 church.
375

376 **2.** The Elder Team shall maintain a current policy manual which shall include job descriptions, Church
377 Policies, and all pertinent information and instructions for efficiency in the day-by-day operation of the church.
378 The information contained in this manual may be amended or changed by the Elder Team as needed. This
379 manual shall be available to the congregation upon request.
380

381 **Section 4 – Business Meetings**

382 **1. Scheduled Meetings**

383
384
385 The congregation as a whole shall have at least one scheduled Business Meeting during the year. This will
386 be the Annual Business Meeting held during the month of October on a date set by the Church Chairman.
387 The agenda will include affirmation of the Annual Budget for the following year and affirmation of candidates
388 for the Elder Team and other Teams, Committees, and individual positions. The date, time, and location of
389 all Scheduled Meetings shall be announced publicly on two consecutive Sundays at the morning worship
390 services, or by written notice to the members and public announcement at one Sunday morning worship
391 service.

392 **2. Special Meetings**

393

394 **A.** Special Congregational Business Meetings may be called at any time by the Elder Team or by a
395 written request by ten or more voting church members presented to the Pastor, any Elder, or the
396 Church Chairman.

397

398 **B.** The date, time, and location of all Special Meetings, along with the stated purpose of the meeting,
399 shall be announced publicly on two consecutive Sundays at the morning worship services, or by
400 written notice to the members and public announcement at one Sunday morning worship service.

401

402 **3. Voting Rights**

403

404 Members who are eighteen years of age or older shall be eligible to vote.

405

406 **4. Fiscal Year**

407

408 The fiscal year shall begin January 1st and end the following December 31st.

409

410 **5. Decisions**

411

412 **A.** We will, as a congregation, operate under an affirmation of approval model for all issues brought
413 before the congregation. For issues such as the approval of an Elder, or a person to serve on a
414 Ministry Team, Committee, or individual position, each dissenting voter must be identified so that
415 the Elder Team can investigate the objection(s) and determine the validity of the objection(s). The
416 Elder Team will then report back to the congregation whether or not the objection(s) have been
417 sustained or found to be without sufficient merit to preclude the person from serving. However, if
418 there is not a two-thirds affirmation of the voting members present on the appointment of a person,
419 the person will be considered to be not affirmed by the congregation.

420

421 **B.** On elections and matters where the congregation is responsible for ruling, the candidates or matter
422 to be decided that are contained in the meeting agenda shall be presented to the congregation in a
423 public and written manner at least two weeks prior to the business meeting when a vote is to be
424 taken. Members will consider the candidate or matter prior to the meeting where a vote will be
425 taken and ask themselves the question, "Can I live with and support this candidate or matter?" If
426 the answer to this question is "No," they must explain their objection/concern to a Pastor or Elder in
427 written form as quickly as possible. The Pastor or Elder will share the concern with the entire Elder
428 Team and one or more of them may personally meet with the member objecting and hear them out
429 as to why they cannot live with and support the candidate or matter. The Elders will determine if
430 the concern has a biblical, moral, or ethical foundation and whether or not the concern is valid. If
431 the concern is one of personality or preference, the Elders will minister to those concerned and
432 seek to meet the needs of those concerned while, at the same time, moving forward with the
433 desires of the greater membership. If the concern is found to be valid, resolution will be pursued or
434 the Elders will withdraw the candidate or matter from consideration. If there are no members who
435 cannot affirm the candidate or matter, the candidate or matter will be affirmed at the business
436 meeting without a vote. Any member can call for a vote on any matter by either a show of hands
437 or secret ballot. On matters involving approving a budget, purchasing or selling real estate, or
438 calling or terminating a pastor, a vote (either by show of hands or by secret ballot) shall always be
439 taken.

440

441 **6. Quorums**

442

443 The voting members attending any business meeting which has been properly announced shall constitute a
444 quorum to conduct business.

445 **Section 5 – Pastors**

446

447 **1. The Calling of a Pastor**

448

- 449 **A.** The Elder Team shall recommend qualified persons to the congregation for a Pastoral Search
450 Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor providing the individual being nominated
451 has given prior consent. The congregation shall affirm a Pastoral Search Committee to secure
452 suitable candidates.
- 453
- 454 **B.** Qualified candidates shall be presented to the congregation one at a time and meet all the
455 requirements to become a member of Abundant Life Church.
- 456
- 457 **C.** A candidate for the position of Senior Pastor shall have the opportunity to preach at a church
458 service(s) as the Elder Team may direct, and be interviewed by the Elder Team and made
459 available to the congregation for questions. Candidates for an Associate Pastor or other ministry
460 staff position may or may not be asked to preach, but the congregation shall be given adequate
461 opportunities to become acquainted with the candidate.
- 462
- 463 **D.** Once the Elder Team determines it has a man to recommend as a candidate for a call, the
464 congregation shall be convened for a Special Business Meeting. The recommendation should be
465 presented with all the reasons for suggesting him as a candidate. Members of the congregation
466 will be afforded opportunity to ask the candidate questions. The candidate, and his immediate and
467 extended family, shall absent themselves from the meeting before the chair calls for discussion
468 and return to observe or participate (if they are members) in a secret ballot vote as to whether or
469 not to extend a call to the candidate. If he receives a two-thirds majority vote of the members
470 present, the call shall be extended. If not, the matter goes back to the Elder Team and Pastoral
471 Search Committee for the presentation of a new candidate recommendation. Each candidate shall
472 be voted upon separately following his meeting with the Elder Team and the church.
- 473
- 474 **E.** Once the congregation has approved extending a call to a candidate, the Elder Team shall
475 immediately notify the Pastor-elect of the action of the church. Upon receiving his affirmative
476 response to the call, the Elder Team will coordinate with the Deacon team concerning salary and
477 making arrangements for his moving and installation.
- 478

479 **2. The termination of a Pastor**

480

- 481 **A.** A Pastor shall serve an unlimited term of service unless other arrangements are made at the time
482 the call is accepted.
- 483
- 484 **B.** The relation between a Pastor and the church may be dissolved at the option of either, by the
485 giving of a six weeks' notice, or by mutual consent.
- 486
- 487 **C.** If a Pastor should radically depart from the Word of God in his conduct or in doctrine as contained
488 in the Statement of Faith of the church, or demonstrate proven ineffectiveness in ministry, the
489 Elders shall admonish him in love, and should this not have the desired result, said Pastor shall be
490 discharged by action of the church.
- 491
- 492
- 493 **D.** A Pastor may be discharged from his term of office by the church subject to the following
494 conditions:
- 495
- 496 **1)** A Pastor may only be dismissed by the congregation at a properly-called Business Meeting.
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- 2) After hearing the reasons for his recommended dismissal, a Pastor shall be accorded the right of stating his position before the congregation.

- 3) A ballot vote of two-thirds of the members present is required to terminate the term of office of a Pastor. He, and his immediate and extended family, shall absent themselves from the meeting before the chair calls for discussion and return to observe or participate (if they are members) in a secret ballot vote as to whether or not the Pastor should be dismissed.

3. The Duties of the Senior Pastor

- A. He shall perform all of the Scriptural duties of this office, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have freedom of the pulpit. These shall include leading and preaching at the stated services of the church, overseeing the administration of the ordinances of the church (water baptism and the Lord’s Supper), caring for the spiritual welfare of the members of the church and discipling and equipping lay people to serve in various ministries of the church.
- B. He shall be a member of the Elder Team, and an ex-officio (non-voting) member of all Ministry Teams, Committees, and all other organizations of the church.
- C. He shall supervise all church staff in consultation with the Elder Team.
- D. He shall not qualify for any elected office or appointed office on the Elder Team nor can he serve as the Church Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, or Recording Secretary.
- E. He shall abide by the Word of God in his life, teaching and preaching, taking great care in all his conduct so as to be esteemed a man of respect in the congregation and community.

4. The Duties of an Associate Pastor

- A. He shall perform such duties in connection with the work of the church as prescribed by his job description, or as directed by the Senior Pastor or the Elder Team.
- B. He shall abide by the Word of God in his life, teaching and preaching, taking great care in all his conduct so as to be esteemed a man of respect in the congregation and community.

Section 6 – Amendments and Provisions for Bylaws

Amendments, additions or changes to these Bylaws may be made at any Business Meeting of the church when said proposed amendments, additions or changes have been presented in written form and discussed at a previous Regular or Special Meeting. A two-thirds majority vote is required to amend, add to, or change these Bylaws.

Section 7 – Positions and Policies

1. Church Positions

Church Positions define or clarify what we believe or where we stand on theological issues. Church Positions shall be proposed by the Elder Team as amendments to these Bylaws. When approved by the membership, they shall become part of these Bylaws in Appendix B – Position Papers.

2. Church Policies

Church Policies govern the way we do things. Church Policies impact the church at large. An example could

551 be a “Facility Use Policy” or a “Policy Regarding Maintaining Church Records.” Church Policies shall include
552 the date of adoption, who developed the policy (which Team or Committee), and a brief explanation as to
553 why the Policy was developed. While various Teams or Committees may adopt internal policies or
554 procedures to help them perform their responsibilities, these would not be considered Church Policies.
555 Church Policies will either be approved by the Elder Team or the congregation, depending on their subject. A
556 Church Policy may be amended or rescinded by the Elder Team, if they originally approved it, or by the
557 congregation.

558

559

Section 8 – Records

560

1. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

562

563 The current Church Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are important records and shall be stored and
564 safeguarded as such. A history of amendments, additions, and changes must be maintained in each
565 document. The Church Vice-Chairman is responsible for this function. A copy of these documents should be
566 available in the church building so they can be reviewed by anyone interested in their content.

567

2. Positions and Policies

569

570 The current Church Positions and Church Policies are important records of the church and shall be
571 maintained by the Elder Team, ensuring that they are carefully passed on to their successors. A copy of
572 these documents should be maintained in the church building so they are available for review by anyone
573 interested in their content.

574

3. Church Records

576

577 Minutes of the Business Meetings of the church, Membership Application and Covenants, and legal records
578 shall be maintained and kept permanently by the Recording Secretary who will ensure they are carefully
579 passed on to his/her successor. Financial records shall be kept as long as required by government
580 regulations and destroyed in a manner that respects privacy concerns.

581

582

583 These Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are hereby adopted this 29th Day of September, in the year of our
584 Lord, 2016.

585

586

587

588

589 _____
James Coleman

590 Pastor

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592

593 _____
Bill Barnes

594 Elder

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596

597 _____
Keith Kettler

598 Elder

599 **Appendix A:** Membership Application and Covenant

600

601 **Appendix B:** Position Papers

602 **Abundant Life Church**

603 **Membership Application and Covenant**

604 I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior and desire to become an active member and support
605 the ministries of Abundant Life Church. As my Lord enables me to do so, I have decided to follow Him and allow
606 Him to control my life.
607
608

609 I believe God arranges the parts of the Body together just as He wants them to be (I Corinthians 12:18). I am
610 applying for membership with Abundant Life Church because this is where I believe He wants me to be. I
611 understand that by becoming a member, I become an essential part of the Body, with gifts that the rest of the Body
612 will depend upon. In obedience to God, I willingly covenant to live out this understanding, as God enables me, in
613 the following ways:
614

- 615 ▪ I will live in harmony with the doctrine of Abundant Life Church, as expressed in the Statement of Faith
616 (See Article III, Articles of Incorporation).
- 617
- 618 ▪ I have received a copy of, and will submit to the authority of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Positions,
619 and Policies of Abundant Life Church.
- 620
- 621 ▪ I will faithfully attend worship services (Hebrews 10:25), participate in congregational meetings, and use my
622 gifts in support of the ministries of the church (I Corinthians 12:1-11).
- 623
- 624 ▪ As God provides, I will give regularly and generously of my means (I Corinthians 16:2).
- 625
- 626 ▪ I recognize my personal responsibility to protect the unity of this Body (Ephesians 4:3), submit to its
627 leadership (Hebrews 13:17), and to encourage, pray for, and build up the other members (Romans 14:19;
628 Hebrews 10:24).
629

630 I promise to live a lifestyle that is consistent with my faith, so that no dishonor might be brought to the name of
631 Jesus or to Abundant Life Church. I will seek to be used by God in attracting people to faith in Jesus Christ, as God
632 directs, by my words and deeds.
633

634 While I believe Abundant Life Church is where God wants me to be at this time, I acknowledge His sovereignty, and
635 that He may choose to have me serve and worship somewhere else in the future. Therefore, to the extent that this
636 covenant is specific to Abundant Life Church, its provisions will only apply while I remain a member.
637
638

639 I understand that the Church may remove me as a member without my express consent. Similarly, I may withdraw
640 from membership at any time, unless I have been notified of a disciplinary proceeding involving me, in which case
641 the Church may delay the withdrawal of membership until the conclusion of the disciplinary proceeding.

642 If this Church, by congregational approval, changes its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or Statement of Faith, I
643 agree to either live in harmony with the decision of the Congregation, or to withdraw my membership within thirty
644 days of the adoption of the changes.
645

646 .
647 By God's grace,

648 _____ (Signature)

649 _____ (Date)

656 **ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH**

657 **CHURCH POSITION #1**

658 **REGARDING GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND MARRIAGE**

661 Gender – We believe that God immutably creates each human being as male or female. These two distinct,
662 complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1: 26, 27). Rejection of one’s biological
663 gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
664

665 Sexuality – We believe that sexual intimacy is a gift from God and is designed and intended to occur only between a
666 man and a woman within the confines of a covenantal, monogamous marital union (Genesis 2: 23-25; 1 Corinthians
667 6:18; Hebrews 13:4).
668

669 Marriage – We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning. Marriage, as sanctioned by God, joins one man
670 and one woman in a single, exclusive, covenantal union, as delineated in the Scriptures (Genesis 2: 24; Matthew 19: 4-
671 6). We believe that marriage is more than merely a human institution; it is a special divine institution that illustrates the
672 union between the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:22-32). It is for this reason, only a covenantal
673 marriage ceremony between one man and one woman will be performed by any Pastor, Elder, or member of Abundant
674 Life Church. Additionally, only a covenantal marriage ceremony between one man and one woman will be performed
675 at any Abundant Life Church facility.
676

CHURCH POSITION #2

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances mandated by the Lord Jesus. This Position Paper outlines ALCs position on believer's baptism.

What is believer's baptism? Baptism is the ordinance of the church serving as our initiation into His discipleship, setting us apart as God's redeemed from the rest of the world. It is not merely a symbol of faith, but our faithful response of obedience to Jesus' first command, and our action into Jesus' crucifixion. Paul tells us in Romans (6:3-7) that we who have been baptized were baptized into Christ's death, that in death to self we are freed from sin, and just as Christ has died and raised, we now have the assured hope that we will be united with Him into His resurrection. Baptism is our obedient death to self in His crucifixion knowing we will enjoy Him in His resurrection.

Why do we baptize? Jesus told his disciples to ***“Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...”***. (Matt 28:19,20) If going and making disciples is a command from Jesus, then so is baptizing and teaching. We baptize because Jesus commanded it.

Who and when do we baptize? Water baptism follows conversion and is only for believers who have made a personal commitment to the Lord. (Acts 2:41; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47) Scripture records no instance of baptism without personal consent, and only for those who have confessed Jesus as Lord. Being fully confident that His grace is sufficient for salvation, we do not baptize infants or children not yet ready to commit to follow Christ for the rest of their life.

How do we baptize? The Greek word for 'baptize' means "to immerse or submerge". All Scriptural accounts of baptism are by immersion. When Jesus was baptized, Mark 1:9,10 tells us that He was baptized in the Jordan River and that He came up "out of the water." If Jesus was baptized by sprinkling or pouring, it's highly unlikely He would go into the river. Acts 8:38 records that when Philip baptized an Ethiopian man, ***“they both went down into the water...and he baptized him.”*** As one of the earliest disciples of Jesus, Philip would have certainly known the proper manner of baptism. Unless there is an occasion where a safety reason precludes full immersion, that will be our practice. The amount of water used is secondary to the primacy of demonstrating a personal commitment to Christ.

Water baptisms conducted by any member of Abundant Life Church will be performed in accordance with scripture as reflected in this Position Paper.

Church Position #2 to Appendix B, ALC Bylaws (2016)

This Church Position was approved by ALC Congregational Affirmation on 10-9-2022.

764 **Church Position #3**

765 **QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS, DEACONS, AND DEACONESSES**

766 **REGARDING MARITAL STATUS**

767 Church leadership offices at Abundant Life Church consist of Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses. Each office
768 holder must meet specific biblical qualifications, be nominated by current office holders, and be appointed by
769 church member vote for affirmation.

770 **Why a position paper regarding a nominee’s marital status?** The purpose of this document recognizes how
771 church members are considered for nomination to these offices per the biblical qualifications listed in 1 Tim. 3:1-13,
772 and Titus 1:6-9. Since the title and qualifications for deaconesses are not specifically enumerated in scripture, we
773 hold this office to the same standards given to deacons.

774 **Why are there minimum marriage qualifications for these offices?** The New Testament lays out the
775 organizational leadership model of the local church to ensure that every aspect of ministry is met. Elders preach
776 the Word and equip the saints for the ministry of the gospel, while deacons care for the physical and logistical
777 needs of the church. Our Deaconesses, then focus on caring ministries. These roles require tremendous trust,
778 and in the early church, marriage, was a way to judge a person’s character and temperament. If a household is
779 managed with love, maturity, and care, the same can be expected for ministerial service.

780 **Who does “the husband of one wife” requirement allow or disallow for leadership consideration?** The
781 literal translation of those words in the Greek is “a one-woman man.” ALC has traditionally interpreted that to mean
782 having never been divorced. Simply stated, a divorce was a disqualifier. However, after prayer and study, the
783 leadership believes this falls short of God’s intent and unduly eliminates some whom God would allow to serve. For
784 example, a godly, but never married person would not qualify under a strict marriage interpretation. Marriage is not
785 what qualifies their character, and they should be considered. We also believe that certain circumstances require
786 additional consideration and potential allowances when divorce has occurred:

- 787 **1.** If infidelity was the determining factor and the nominee was not the offender (Matt. 5:32).
788 **2.** If divorced for any reason prior to faith being placed in Christ for forgiveness and salvation (2 Cor. 5:17).
789
790 **3.** If divorce and remarriage occurred with the same spouse in a reconciled relationship.
791 **4.** If a person was abandoned in marriage by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor 7:15).

792 The elders of ALC believe these conditions can faithfully meet the spirit of being a “one-woman man,” and such an
793 individual may properly be considered for nomination. In considering church leadership, marital status is only one
794 consideration in a list of qualifications that must be met. When a divorce is in a person’s broken history, ALC
795 leadership will take those nominations into consideration on a case-by-case basis before excluding a person for
796 nomination and affirming vote.

797
798 Church Position #3 to Appendix B, ALC Bylaws (2016)
799

800 This Church Position was approved by ALC Congregational Affirmation on October 29, 2023.