

1 9-29-2016 version as amended on 10-9-2022 of:

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

4  
5 **OF**

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7 **Abundant Life Church**

8  
9 **Of Mead, Colorado**

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11 **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

12 **PREAMBLE**

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

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22 The name of this organization, a non-profit religious corporation organized under the laws of the State of  
23 Colorado, is Abundant Life Church.  
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25 **ARTICLE II – MISSION AND VISION**

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

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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  
41 knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for  
42 Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.  
43

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.  
52 In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under  
53 His 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  
61 the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the  
62 only 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  
66 adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers  
67 believers for 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  
77 purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with  
78 care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the  
79 Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In  
80 obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to  
81 the gospel in word and deed.

82 **Christ's Return**

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

86 **Response and Eternal Destiny**

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

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93 **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

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95 **Section 1. Application for Membership**

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

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

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103 **A.** He/she is believed to be a member of the Body of Christ;

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105 **B.** He/she agrees to faithfully attend worship services, participate in congregational meetings, use  
106 his/her gifts in the ministries of the church, and give regularly and generously as God provides;

107  
108 **C.** He/she agrees to live in harmony with the Statement of Faith (Article III), and to submit to the  
109 authority of the leadership of Abundant Life Church, this document, and policies and decisions  
110 approved by the congregation or the Elder Team.

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

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

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

120  
121 **5.** When the Elder Team is confident of the applicant's faith in Christ, assurance of salvation, desire to live  
122 the Christian life, and willingness to submit to the fellowship and discipline of this local Body, the Elder Team  
123 shall then post the names of the candidates for membership publicly for two weeks. Any member of the  
124 church objecting must give to an Elder in writing a just cause in accordance with the Word of God and the  
125 Articles of Incorporation of this church why this candidate should not be accepted. Taking these objections  
126 into consideration, the Elder Team shall then vote on acceptance of these candidates into the membership  
127 of the church.

128  
129 **6.** Those who are admitted to membership in the church shall be formally presented and given the right  
130 hand of fellowship at a service the following Sunday or as soon as can be arranged.

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

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## 134 **Section 2. Membership Roll**

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

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

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## 144 **Section 3. Conflict Resolution and Disputes**

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

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

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

## 167 **Section 4. Discipline**

168

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

173

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

176

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

179

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

184 5. By joining this church, all members agree that these methods shall provide the sole remedy for  
185 handling any discipline measures and they waive the right to file any legal action against the church in a  
186 civil court or agency. Any member who has withdrawn or has been dismissed has no right or claim upon the  
187 church property, real or personal.  
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189 **Section 5. Non-Voting Members**  
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191 1. Candidates under the age of eighteen shall be received as Non-Voting Members if they meet all other  
192 requirements for membership.  
193

194 2. A Non-Voting Member may not make motions or vote but is encouraged to take part in the discussion of  
195 business.  
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197 3. Upon reaching the age of eighteen, a Non-Voting Member shall automatically receive the full rights and  
198 privileges of membership.  
199

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

206 2. Realizing the necessity and advantage of united effort, and being in general accord with the aim and  
207 scope of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), this church, by vote of the congregation, has  
208 applied for and has been accepted for membership in such, and endeavors to cooperate with the EFCA at  
209 large and its various functions that prove in accord with its purpose. We will actively participate in the Rocky  
210 Mountain District (RMD) Ministry by attending Annual District Conferences and encouraging our pastoral  
211 staff to be involved in District activities. This church covenants to contribute two percent of general  
212 income to the RMD, two percent to the RMD Church Planting ministry, and one percent to the National  
213 EFCA for a total of five percent. This church, led by the elder team and guided by the Holy Spirit and  
214 prayer, will continue to support these associations unless there is a significant departure from the clear  
215 teachings of and adherence to the Holy Scriptures, or the godly stewardship of resources. Any deviation  
216 from the above support levels can only be recommended to the congregation by the Elder Team after  
217 seeking clarification/reconciliation with the RMD or the EFCA National office and such recommendation  
218 must be affirmed by the congregation.  
219

220 3. In order to maintain our membership in the EFCA, this church understands that: (1) Its Statement of Faith  
221 must be verbatim that of the EFCA and RMD, (2) Its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws must conform to  
222 the policies and practices of the EFCA and RMD, and (3) Individuals applying for membership in this church  
223 must indicate their willingness to live in harmony with all ten (10) articles in the EFCA Statement of Faith as  
224 enumerated in Article III of these Articles of Incorporation.  
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226 **ARTICLE VI – PROPERTY RIGHTS**  
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228 1. This church shall have the power to buy, own, and sell property in its corporate name.  
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230 2. Conveyance or encumbrance of all or any church property requiring a deed, title, or mortgage may be  
231 made, provided, however, that any such action must receive at least a two-thirds majority vote of the

232 membership of the church present at a meeting duly called pursuant to Article VII of the Articles of  
233 Incorporation of this church. Instruments of conveyance or encumbrance so authorized at any such meeting  
234 shall be executed in the name of the church by the Chairman and Recording Secretary of the church.  
235

236 **3.** In the event of disagreement and division in the church membership (which God forbids), the church  
237 name and all church property shall be retained by those members remaining and adhering to the Articles of  
238 Incorporation and Bylaws.  
239

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

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

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

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263 **1.** Abundant Life Church shall be an Elder led, but congregational-governed body of believers. The  
264 congregation has the ultimate authority and responsibility for affirming/approving selection of Pastors,  
265 Elders, a Church Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and Recording Secretary. Additionally, the congregation shall  
266 affirm/approve the annual operating budget and all decisions to buy or sell real estate. As the leaders of the  
267 church, the Elder Team shall carry on the routine leadership, operation, and government of the church.  
268

269 **2.** At the Annual Business Meeting, the voting membership of the congregation shall elect from its  
270 membership a Church Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Recording Secretary to serve two-year terms.  
271 These officers shall give legal notice of, plan for, preside over, and record the minutes of all special and  
272 regular congregational meetings. They shall also be listed as the officers of the Corporation with the  
273 Colorado Secretary of State. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected on alternating years so  
274 both terms do not expire at the same time.  
275

276 **3.** The Elder Team shall determine what ministry teams, committees, and positions are needed to effectively  
277 and efficiently carry out the purpose of this church. Additionally, the Elder Team shall cause job descriptions  
278 for these teams, committees and positions to be developed that specify their responsibilities and their terms  
279 of service. If appropriate, the Elder Team may appoint a nominating committee to recommend members to  
280 serve on these teams, committees, etc. Nominees for these positions may also be made from the floor at a  
281 business meeting if the person being nominated has indicated a willingness to serve in the position.  
282 Candidates for ministry teams, committees, etc. shall be affirmed by the congregation at a Business  
283 Meeting. The Elder Team may temporarily appoint people as an alternative to calling a special meeting of

284 the congregation. Those appointed will be affirmed by the congregation at the next congregational business  
285 meeting.

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## Section 2 – Elders

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### **1. Qualifications**

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

### **2. Selection**

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

(Acts 6)

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

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### **3. Term of Service**

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

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

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

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### **5. Function**

The Elders will have four major responsibilities:

- A. To build and develop their own families in the Lord (I Timothy 3:4-5).
- B. To feed, shepherd, and pray for the flock of God (John 21:15-17; Acts 10:17-32; Acts 6:1-4). This

337 involves positive impartation of truth, refutation of error, and administration of discipline.

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.

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344 **D.** To develop job descriptions and oversee the performance of all Pastors.  
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## 346 **6. Basis of Authority**

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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 **7. Decision- Making Process**

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

## 356 **8. Quorum for Elder Team Meetings**

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

## 360 **9. Organization**

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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 **Section 3 – Teams and Committees**

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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 church.

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

### 379 **Section 4 – Business Meetings**

#### 380 **1. Scheduled Meetings**

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

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394 **2. Special Meetings**

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

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

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404 **3. Voting Rights**

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

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408 **4. Fiscal Year**

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

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412 **5. Decisions**

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

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

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443 **6. Quorums**

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

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**Section 5 – Pastors**

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

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**2. The Termination of a Pastor**

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- A. The Elder Team shall recommend qualified persons to the congregation for a Pastoral Search Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor providing the individual being nominated has given prior consent. The congregation shall affirm a Pastoral Search Committee to secure suitable candidates.
- B. Qualified candidates shall be presented to the congregation one at a time and meet all the requirements to become a member of Abundant Life Church.
- C. A candidate for the position of Senior Pastor shall have the opportunity to preach at a church service(s) as the Elder Team may direct, and be interviewed by the Elder Team and made available to the congregation for questions. Candidates for an Associate Pastor or other ministry staff position may or may not be asked to preach, but the congregation shall be given adequate opportunities to become acquainted with the candidate.
- D. Once the Elder Team determines it has a man to recommend as a candidate for a call, the congregation shall be convened for a Special Business Meeting. The recommendation should be presented with all the reasons for suggesting him as a candidate. Members of the congregation will be afforded opportunity to ask the candidate questions. The candidate, 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 to extend a call to the candidate. If he receives a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, the call shall be extended. If not, the matter goes back to the Elder Team and Pastoral Search Committee for the presentation of a new candidate recommendation. Each candidate shall be voted upon separately following his meeting with the Elder Team and the church.
- E. Once the congregation has approved extending a call to a candidate, the Elder Team shall immediately notify the Pastor-elect of the action of the church. Upon receiving his affirmative response to the call, the Elder Team will coordinate with the Deacon team concerning salary and making arrangements for his moving and installation.

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- D. A Pastor may be discharged from his term of office by the church subject to the following conditions:
- 1) A Pastor may only be dismissed by the congregation at a properly-called Business Meeting.
  - 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.

549 **2. Church Policies**

550  
551 Church Policies govern the way we do things. Church Policies impact the church at large. An example could  
552 be a “Facility Use Policy” or a “Policy Regarding Maintaining Church Records.” Church Policies shall include  
553 the date of adoption, who developed the policy (which Team or Committee), and a brief explanation as to  
554 why the Policy was developed. While various Teams or Committees may adopt internal policies or procedures to  
555 help them perform their responsibilities, these would not be considered Church Policies. Church Policies will  
556 either be approved by the Elder Team or the congregation, depending on their subject. A Church Policy may  
557 be amended or rescinded by the Elder Team, if they originally approved it, or by the congregation.

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559 **Section 8 – Records**

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561 **1. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws**

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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  
566 be available in the church building so they can be reviewed by anyone interested in their content.

567  
568 **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  
575 **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 29<sup>th</sup> Day of September, in the year of  
584 our Lord, 2016.

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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**

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601 **Appendix B: Position Papers**

602 **Abundant Life Church**

603  
604 **Membership Application and Covenant**

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

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

- 615
- 616     ▪ I will live in harmony with the doctrine of Abundant Life Church, as expressed in the Statement of
- 617        Faith (See Article III, Articles of Incorporation).
- 618
- 619     ▪ I have received a copy of, and will submit to the authority of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws,
- 620        Positions, and Policies of Abundant Life Church.
- 621
- 622     ▪ I will faithfully attend worship services (Hebrews 10:25), participate in congregational meetings,
- 623        and use my gifts in support of the ministries of the church (I Corinthians 12:1-11).
- 624
- 625     ▪ As God provides, I will give regularly and generously of my means (I Corinthians 16:2).
- 626
- 627     ▪ I recognize my personal responsibility to protect the unity of this Body (Ephesians 4:3), submit to
- 628        its leadership (Hebrews 13:17), and to encourage, pray for, and build up the other members
- 629        (Romans 14:19; Hebrews 10:24).
- 630

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

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

638  
639 I understand that the Church may remove me as a member without my express consent. Similarly, I may  
640 withdraw from membership at any time, unless I have been notified of a disciplinary proceeding involving  
641 me, in which case the Church may delay the withdrawal of membership until the conclusion of the  
642 disciplinary proceeding.

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

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648 By God's grace,

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651 \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

652 \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

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## **ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH**

### **CHURCH POSITION #1**

#### **REGARDING GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND MARRIAGE**

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

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

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

706 **ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH**

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708 **CHURCH POSITION #2**

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710 **BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**

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712 Believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances mandated by the Lord Jesus. This

713 Position Paper outlines ALC's position on believer's baptism.

714

715 **What is believer's baptism?** Baptism is the ordinance of the church serving as our initiation into His

716 discipleship, setting us apart as God's redeemed from the rest of the world. It is not merely a symbol of

717 faith, but our faithful response of obedience to Jesus' first command, and our action into Jesus' crucifixion.

718 Paul tells us in Romans (6:3-7) that we who have been baptized were baptized into Christ's death, that in

719 death to self we are freed from sin, and just as Christ has died and raised, we now have the assured hope

720 that we will be united with Him into His resurrection. Baptism is our obedient death to self in His crucifixion

721 knowing we will enjoy Him in His resurrection.

722

723 **Why do we baptize?** Jesus told his disciples to ***“Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing***

724 ***them...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...”***. (Matt 28:19,20) If going and making

725 disciples is a command from Jesus, then so is baptizing and teaching. We baptize because Jesus

726 commanded it.

727

728 **Who and when do we baptize?** Water **baptism** follows conversion and is only for believers who have made

729 a personal commitment to the Lord. (Acts 2:41; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47) Scripture records no instance of

730 baptism without personal consent, and only for those who have confessed Jesus as Lord. Being fully confident

731 that His grace is sufficient for salvation, we do not baptize infants or children not yet ready to commit to follow

732 Christ for the rest of their life.

733

734 **How do we baptize?** The Greek word for 'baptize' means "to immerse or submerge". All Scriptural accounts

735 of baptism are by immersion. When Jesus was baptized, Mark 1:9,10 tells us that He was baptized in the

736 Jordan River and that He came up "out of the water." If Jesus was baptized by sprinkling or pouring, it's highly

737 unlikely He would go into the river. Acts 8:38 records that when Philip baptized an Ethiopian man, ***“they both***

738 ***went down into the water...and he baptized him.”*** As one of the earliest disciples of Jesus, Philip would

739 have certainly known the proper manner of baptism. Unless there is an occasion where a safety reason

740 precludes full immersion, that will be our practice. The amount of water used is secondary to the primacy of

741 demonstrating a personal commitment to Christ.

742

743 Water baptisms conducted by any member of Abundant Life Church will be performed in accordance with

744 scripture as reflected in this Position Paper.

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

This Position Paper was unanimously approved by ALC Congregational Vote on 10-9-2022.

### Church Position #3

## QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS, DEACONS, AND DEACONESSES

### REGARDING MARITAL STATUS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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