

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

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 **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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

120 **6.** Those who are admitted to membership in the church shall be formally presented and given the right hand  
121 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  
154     **2. When a member of this church has a conflict with, or is concerned about the behavior of another**  
155     **member, he shall attempt to resolve the matter as follows. First, the offended or concerned person shall**  
156     **prayerfully examine himself and take responsibility for his contribution to a problem (Matthew 7:3-5), and**  
157     **he shall prayerfully seek to discern whether the offense is so serious that it cannot be overlooked**  
158     **(Proverbs 19:11). Second, if the offense is too serious to overlook, the offended or concerned person**  
159     **shall go, repeatedly if necessary, and talk to the offender in an effort to resolve the matter personally and**  
160     **privately, having first confessed his own wrongdoing (Matthew 18:15). Third, if the offender will not listen**  
161     **and if the problem is too serious to overlook, the offended or concerned person shall return with one or**  
162     **two other people who will attempt to help the parties resolve their differences (Matthew 18:16); these**  
163     **other people may be members or leaders of the church or other respected Christians in the community.**  
164     **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  
166     **3. By joining this church, all members agree that these methods shall provide the sole remedy for any**  
167     **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.**

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.

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.**

## **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS, ADDITIONS OR CHANGES**

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.

## **BYLAWS**

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

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.**

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.**

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.**

## Section 2 – Elders

## 1. Qualifications

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.

### 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.

#### **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).

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

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

383           **1. Scheduled Meetings**  
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     **3. Voting Rights**

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

403     **4. Fiscal Year**

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

405     **5. Decisions**

406

407

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

416

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

436     **6. Quorums**

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

445  
446  
447 **Section 5 – Pastors**  
448

449 **1. The Calling of a Pastor**  
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453

- 454 A. The Elder Team shall recommend qualified persons to the congregation for a Pastoral Search  
455 Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor providing the individual being nominated  
456 has given prior consent. The congregation shall affirm a Pastoral Search Committee to secure  
457 suitable candidates.

458

- B. Qualified candidates shall be presented to the congregation one at a time and meet all the  
459 requirements to become a member of Abundant Life Church.

460

- C. A candidate for the position of Senior Pastor shall have the opportunity to preach at a church  
461 service(s) as the Elder Team may direct, and be interviewed by the Elder Team and made  
462 available to the congregation for questions. Candidates for an Associate Pastor or other ministry  
463 staff position may or may not be asked to preach, but the congregation shall be given adequate  
464 opportunities to become acquainted with the candidate.

465

- D. Once the Elder Team determines it has a man to recommend as a candidate for a call, the  
466 congregation shall be convened for a Special Business Meeting. The recommendation should be  
467 presented with all the reasons for suggesting him as a candidate. Members of the congregation  
468 will be afforded opportunity to ask the candidate questions. The candidate, and his immediate and  
469 extended family, shall absent themselves from the meeting before the chair calls for discussion  
470 and return to observe or participate (if they are members) in a secret ballot vote as to whether or  
471 not to extend a call to the candidate. If he receives a two-thirds majority vote of the members  
472 present, the call shall be extended. If not, the matter goes back to the Elder Team and Pastoral  
473 Search Committee for the presentation of a new candidate recommendation. Each candidate shall  
474 be voted upon separately following his meeting with the Elder Team and the church.

475

- E. Once the congregation has approved extending a call to a candidate, the Elder Team shall  
476 immediately notify the Pastor-elect of the action of the church. Upon receiving his affirmative  
477 response to the call, the Elder Team will coordinate with the Deacon team concerning salary and  
478 making arrangements for his moving and installation.

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.

497

498                   **2)** After hearing the reasons for his recommended dismissal, a Pastor shall be accorded the  
499                   right of stating his position before the congregation.  
500

501                   **3)** A ballot vote of two-thirds of the members present is required to terminate the term of office  
502                   of a Pastor. He, and his immediate and extended family, shall absent themselves from the  
503                   meeting before the chair calls for discussion and return to observe or participate (if they are  
504                   members) in a secret ballot vote as to whether or not the Pastor should be dismissed.  
505

506                   **3. The Duties of the Senior Pastor**  
507

508                   **A.** He shall perform all of the Scriptural duties of this office, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit,  
509                   have freedom of the pulpit. These shall include leading and preaching at the stated services of the  
510                   church, overseeing the administration of the ordinances of the church (water baptism and the  
511                   Lord's Supper), caring for the spiritual welfare of the members of the church and discipling and  
512                   equipping lay people to serve in various ministries of the church.  
513

514                   **B.** He shall be a member of the Elder Team, and an ex-officio (non-voting) member of all Ministry  
515                   Teams, Committees, and all other organizations of the church.  
516

517                   **C.** He shall supervise all church staff in consultation with the Elder Team.  
518

519                   **D.** He shall not qualify for any elected office or appointed office on the Elder Team nor can he serve  
520                   as the Church Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, or Recording Secretary.  
521

522                   **E.** He shall abide by the Word of God in his life, teaching and preaching, taking great care in all his  
523                   conduct so as to be esteemed a man of respect in the congregation and community.  
524

525                   **4. The Duties of an Associate Pastor**  
526

527                   **A.** He shall perform such duties in connection with the work of the church as prescribed by his job  
528                   description, or as directed by the Senior Pastor or the Elder Team.  
529

530                   **B.** He shall abide by the Word of God in his life, teaching and preaching, taking great care in all his  
531                   conduct so as to be esteemed a man of respect in the congregation and community.  
532

533                   **Section 6 – Amendments and Provisions for Bylaws**  
534

535                   Amendments, additions or changes to these Bylaws may be made at any Business Meeting of the church  
536                   when said proposed amendments, additions or changes have been presented in written form and discussed  
537                   at a previous Regular or Special Meeting. A two-thirds majority vote is required to amend, add to, or change  
538                   these Bylaws.  
539

540                   **Section 7 – Positions and Policies**  
541

542                   **1. Church Positions**  
543

544                   Church Positions define or clarify what we believe or where we stand on theological issues. Church Positions  
545                   shall be proposed by the Elder Team as amendments to these Bylaws. When approved by the membership,  
546                   they shall become part of these Bylaws in Appendix B – Position Papers.  
547

548                   **2. Church Policies**  
549

550                   Church Policies govern the way we do things. Church Policies impact the church at large. An example could  
11

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

## **Section 8 – Records**

559

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

560

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**

568

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**

575

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

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

585

586

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588

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589 James Coleman

590 Pastor

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592

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593 Bill Barnes

594 Elder

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596

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597 Keith Kettler

598 Elder

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

600

601 **Appendix B: Position Papers**

Abundant Life Church

## **Membership Application and Covenant**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By God's grace,

(Signature)

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

## Appendix A, ALC Bylaws (2016)

# 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.

## 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.

### Church Position #3

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

## **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.

**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).

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.

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

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