

**THE REVISED CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

Proposed for adoption by the membership of Alfred Street Baptist Church by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at a called Church meeting on October 18, 2017, to become effective \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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36 **ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
37 **CONSTITUTION**  
38

39 **Preamble**  
40

41 We, the members of Alfred Street Baptist Church, believers in the authority of the HOLY  
42 BIBLE and power of the resurrected JESUS CHRIST, establish and ordain this Constitution and  
43 Bylaws of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, in order to fully disclose our  
44 faith-based practices and worship, and promote the comprehension of our administrative policies  
45 and procedures. This Constitution and the accompanying Bylaws allow us to operate in  
46 conformity with the laws of the jurisdiction under which we fall, while continuing as a collective  
47 church body, to strive towards the perfection of our faith in harmony, love, and with  
48 benevolence.  
49

50 **Article I: Name**  
51

52 This incorporated church body will be known as Alfred Street Baptist Church (from this point  
53 forward, also referred to as the “Church”).  
54

55 **Article II: Purpose**  
56

- 57 • The purpose of the Church is to magnify and exalt God in worship, to train and instruct  
58 believers in their discipleship, to minister to the needs of its members and the world, to  
59 encourage and develop the Christian fellowship of its members, and to equip its members  
60 to evangelize the world and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41-47).  
61
- 62 • We seek to fulfill this calling for religious, charitable, and educational purposes stated  
63 herein including but not limited to worship, evangelism, missions, ministry to the poor  
64 and needy, Christian education, discipleship, fellowship, and the licensing,  
65 commissioning, ordaining and overseeing of ministers of the gospel, according to  
66 Biblical principles.  
67
- 68 • The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively as a nonprofit Church, exempt  
69 from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or  
70 any successor statute of similar import. The Church is not organized for profit and it is  
71 not authorized to issue capital stock and may engage in any and all lawful acts that may  
72 be necessary or useful for the furtherance of its purposes.  
73

74 **Article III: Mission Statement**  
75

76 Alfred Street Baptist Church is called by God to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, uphold the  
77 beliefs of the Christian faith, and to make disciples for Christ. We will worship God, inspire a  
78 love for Christ in others, be passionate for righteousness, and be exemplary in fulfilling the  
79 duties to God and mankind.  
80  
81

## Article IV: Articles of Faith

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. These Articles of Faith are a summary statement taken from the Bible of the foundational beliefs held by this Church. No claim is made that these Articles contain all Biblical truths, only that they cover our need as these fundamental doctrines.

### Section 1 THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

The sole basis of all our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible inerrant written revelation of His Word. We believe that the scriptures, both the Old and the New Testament, are uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and serves as the supreme and final authority in all matters in which it speaks (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21).

### Section 2 THE ONE TRUE GOD

There is one true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, eternally self-existent as three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and characteristics of personality (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 3:22).

### Section 3 JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the Living Word (John 1:1-14), virgin born through the miraculous conception of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35). He lived a sinless life on earth (Hebrews 7:26, I Peter 2:22), and performed many undeniable miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:22; 10:38). He voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice, reconciling men back unto God, and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone (Romans 5:8-11; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21). He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4). He was exalted and ascended bodily into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father, where He, and He alone, is the only mediator between God and man, continually making intercession for those who believe in Him (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus Christ shall come again to the earth, personally, visibly, and bodily to establish His Kingdom. At this time, the dead in Christ shall be resurrected, the believer to eternal joy with the Lord, and the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal suffering (Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15:51; Hebrews 9:28; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 22:6-16; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48).

### Section 4 THE FALL OF MAN

Man was originally created good and upright in the image of God. However, man by voluntary transgression, sinned by disobeying God. Thus he alienated himself from God and experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death. That historic fall brought all men under divine condemnation. Therefore, all men are born into a sin filled world with a sinful nature, totally unable to please God without regeneration, redemption, and renewal (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12-19).

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*Section 5*      **THE SALVATION OF MAN**

Man’s only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is wholly the work of God’s free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works, goodness or religious ceremony (Ephesians 2:4-10). Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ by the regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:1-21; Romans 10:13-15; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7). It is the privilege of all who are born again by the Holy Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment they trust in and confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This assurance is not based upon human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the assurance of their salvation according to the testimony of God’s Word (Romans 8:35-39). The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16) and the outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness unto God (Ephesians 4:24; Romans 6:1-18; 8:1-9).

*Section 6*      **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life unto them, seals them until the day of redemption, leads and aids them in a life of holiness unto God not fulfilling the lust of the flesh, and equips them for service and work in God’s Kingdom bearing spiritual fruit unto the glory of God. Every believer is called to live under the power of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31). With the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His works (Acts 2:42), and a manifestation of the fruit and gifts of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 12:3-9; I Corinthians 12:1-31).

*Section 7*      **SANCTIFICATION**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication to God (Romans 12:1, 2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach that the goal of believers is to pursue a life of “holiness without which no one can see God” (Hebrews 12:14). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to be obedient to God’s command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (I Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is the process whereby we are saved from the power of sin in our lives through a commitment to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, daily devotions and worship, the study of God’s Word, and the fellowship of believers (Romans 6:1-13; Romans 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12; I Peter 1:5).

*Section 8*      **THE CHURCH**

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Holy Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her mission to win the world for Christ. Jesus Christ is the head of the church, which is composed of all men, living and dead, who have been joined



219 opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously  
220 agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

221  
222 We also engage to maintain congregational and personal devotion; to study diligently the  
223 word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and  
224 acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in our world; to be kind and just to those in our employ,  
225 and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will  
226 towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

227  
228 We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every  
229 good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of  
230 others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens  
231 and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready  
232 to reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew,  
233 to secure it without delay; and through life, amid good and evil report, to seek to live to the glory  
234 of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

235  
236 When we remove from this place, we will endeavor, as soon as possible, to unite with  
237 some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's  
238 word.

239  
240 We have read the Articles, Constitution, and Bylaws, including but not limited to those  
241 policies dealing with church discipline, conflict resolution, and members' privileges and  
242 responsibilities and agree to be bound by the Articles, Constitution and Bylaws.

#### 243 244 **Article VII: Affiliations**

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246 Alfred Street Baptist Church operates as an independent Church with its own governance  
247 structure. The Church may affiliate with any like-minded churches, associations or  
248 denominations as it decides to further its purposes, including but not limited to the Baptist  
249 General Convention of Virginia, National Baptist Convention, USA, the Progressive National  
250 Baptist Convention, the Baptist World Alliance, and Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

#### 251 252 **Article VIII: Amendments**

253  
254 Members may propose changes to the Constitution to the Governance and Legal Committee for  
255 consideration and comment. The Governance and Legal Committee, upon an affirmative three-  
256 fourths (3/4) majority vote, shall present the proposed changes and their comments to the  
257 Council. The Council shall present the proposed changes and the committee's comments to the  
258 Church Members at a duly called business meeting. If the changes are substantial in nature, the  
259 Church may vote to recommend the creation of a Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The  
260 Council may seek Church approval for changes not requiring the creation of a Constitution and  
261 Bylaws Committee. This Constitution may be amended by an affirmative three-fourths (3/4)  
262 vote of the Church members present and voting at the business meeting, provided that the  
263 following procedure has been followed:

264 1. The proposed written amendment has been presented at a previous business meeting;

- 265 2. The proposed amendment has been mailed or made available to the members at least four  
266 (4) weeks before the meeting to act on the amendment; and  
267 3. The proposed amendment has been announced at a previous Sunday worship service at  
268 least two (2) weeks before meeting to act on the amendment.

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