

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
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39	Preamble
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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.
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50	Article I: Name
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52	This incorporated church body will be known as Alfred Street Baptist Church (from this point
53	forward, also referred to as the "Church").
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55	Article II: Purpose
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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).
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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.
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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.
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74	Article III: Mission Statement
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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.
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Alfred Street Baptist Church

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

95 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).

101 Section 3 JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the Living Word (John 1:1-14), virgin born through the 102 miraculous conception of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35). He lived a sinless 103 life on earth (Hebrews 7:26, I Peter 2:22), and performed many undeniable miracles through 104 the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:22; 10:38). He voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by 105 dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice, reconciling men back 106 unto God, and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone (Romans 5:8-11; I 107 Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21). He rose from the dead in the same body, though 108 glorified, in which He lived and died (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4). He 109 was exalted and ascended bodily into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father, where 110 He, and He alone, is the only mediator between God and man, continually making 111 intercession for those who believe in Him (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 112 1:3). 113

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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; 22:616; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48).

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121 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). 128

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Section 5 THE SALVATION OF MAN

131 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 132 works, goodness or religious ceremony (Ephesians 2:4-10). Salvation is received through 133 repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ by the regeneration and 134 135 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 136 3:1-21; Romans 10:13-15; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7). It is the privilege of all who are born again by 137 the Holy Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment they trust in and 138 confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. This assurance is not based upon human merit, 139 but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the assurance 140 of their salvation according to the testimony of God's Word (Romans 8:35-39). The inward 141 evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16) and the outward 142 evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness unto God (Ephesians 4:24; 143 Romans 6:1-18; 8:1-9). 144

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146Section 6THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ and to apply the 147 saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life unto 148 them, seals them until the day of redemption, leads and aides them in a life of holiness unto 149 God not fulfilling the lust of the flesh, and equips them for service and work in God's 150 Kingdom bearing spiritual fruit unto the glory of God. Every believer is called to live under 151 the power of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and should ardently expect and earnestly seek 152 the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to the command of our 153 Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31). With the baptism of the 154 Holy Spirit comes an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened 155 reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and 156 dedication to His works (Acts 2:42), and a manifestation of the fruit and gifts of the Spirit 157 (Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 12:3-9; I Corinthians 12:1-31). 158

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Section 7 SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication to God 161 (Romans 12:1, 2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach that the goal 162 of believers is to pursue a life of "holiness without which no one can see God" (Hebrews 163 12:14). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to be obedient to God's command: 164 "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is the process whereby we are 165 saved from the power of sin in our lives through a commitment to the spiritual disciplines of 166 prayer, daily devotions and worship, the study of God's Word, and the fellowship of 167 believers (Romans 6:1-13; Romans 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12; I Peter 1:5). 168

170 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 to Him through saving faith (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).
According to the Scriptures the church exists to magnify and exalt God in worship, to train and instruct believers in their discipleship, to minister to the needs of its members and the world, to encourage and develop the Christian fellowship of its members, and to equip its members to evangelize the world and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41-47).

180Section 9THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

181 There are two ordinances of the church – Baptism and Holy Communion.

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized as they are physically able and have opportunity (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 8:26-38). Baptism is an outward sign of an inward spiritual renewal and rebirth. Thus they who are baptized declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

- Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, consisting of broken bread, the body of
 Jesus Christ, and the fruit of the vine, the shed blood of our Lord and Savior, is the symbol
 expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of
 His suffering and death (I Corinthians 11:26); our fellowship and communion with all
 believers (Ephesians 4:4-6); and our prophetic expectation of His second coming (I
 Corinthians 11:26).
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We accept these large areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. We desire to allow for freedom of conviction on doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based on the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.

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Article V: Church Covenant

The Church Covenant is a declaration of the duties and responsibilities to God and to our fellowChurch members, by which we agree to be governed.

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our
Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly,
most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

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We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimouslyagree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

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

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

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

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

Article VII: Affiliations

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

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Article VIII: Amendments

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

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
- 3. The proposed amendment has been announced at a previous Sunday worship service at least two (2) weeks before meeting to act on the amendment.