



**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**
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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.
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

82 **Article IV: Articles of Faith**

83
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.

88
89 *Section 1* **THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE**

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

94
95 *Section 2* **THE ONE TRUE GOD**

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

100
101 *Section 3* **JESUS CHRIST**

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

114
115 Jesus Christ shall come again to the earth, personally, visibly, and bodily to establish His
116 Kingdom. At this time, the dead in Christ shall be resurrected, the believer to eternal joy
117 with the Lord, and the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal suffering (Acts 1:11; I
118 Corinthians 15:51; Hebrews 9:28; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 22:6-
119 16; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48).

120
121 *Section 4* **THE FALL OF MAN**

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

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**

245
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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