

Revised Constitution and Bylaws of ARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

Receiving by faith the Lord Jesus Christ and relying wholly upon Him for our salvation, believing the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God, and knowing that “all things should be done decently and in order” we do willingly and joyfully join together as a body of baptized believers and adopt this revised constitution as a declaration of our faith and as the foundation for governing at Arlington Baptist Church to the glory of God.

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Name

This congregation of believers shall be known as Arlington Baptist Church hereinafter referred to as the Church. The Church is and shall be understood to include all related extension and auxiliary ministries.

Because the corporate name of the church, as registered with the State of Maryland, is the The Board of Trustees of the Arlington Baptist Church, Inc., the Deacons as a Board, as established and defined in Article III, Section 3, are hereby deemed to be The Board of Trustees of the Arlington Baptist Church, Inc. for any and all matters where the action of said Board of Trustees is required.¹

Section 2: – Purpose (Mission Statement)

The congregation of the Arlington Baptist Church exists to fulfill the commission given to the church by our Lord Jesus Christ; to propagate the gospel worldwide, to teach the Word of God, and to baptize all converts. To such ends we seek the maturity of believers for the work of the ministry for the edification of the church.

The congregation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including, but not limited to such purposes as the establishing and maintaining of public worship, the building, maintaining, and operating of any other ministry the church may be led of God to establish, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of the State of Maryland; and in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws as the same may be hereinafter amended.

¹ Paragraph amended, January 1999

ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1: Articles of Faith

A. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Bible, in its entirety, is the inspired Word of God; that it is true without any mixture of error, that it is God's complete and final revelation to man, and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not only contain but is the very Word of God. By "inspired" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of God who were "moved by the Holy Spirit" in such a way as to insure their writings were the exact words of God. (2 TIMOTHY 3:16; 1 PETER 1:21).

B. The Godhead

We believe that there is one God manifested in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that God is the Creator of all that is; that He is the Sovereign Governor of the Universe, that He is Holy, Just, and Good; that He is worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. We believe there is perfect unity within the Godhead; that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal in every divine attribute and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption and in the accomplishment of His eternal plan and purpose.

C. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; eternal and equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same essence (1 John 5:7); that He was active in creation (Genesis 1:2); that in the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, bears witness to the Truth, and that He seals the believer until the day of redemption. We further believe that the Holy Spirit is active in the life of believers enduing them with power for service, guiding and helping them in prayer, and comforting them in trials. (JOHN 16:8-13; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-14; ROMANS 8:9 14, 16, 26-27).

D. The Son of God

We believe in the incarnation and virgin birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; His identification as the Son of God, His vicarious atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the tomb, His ministry of intercession at the Father's right hand, and His physical return to earth in power and glory.

E. Satan

We believe that Satan through pride fell and drew after him a host of other angels; that he is now the Prince of darkness, the god of this world, the tempter of men, and the accuser of the brethren. We further believe he operates strategically to thwart the work of God in this present age. We believe that he is a defeated enemy and that he will suffer ultimate doom in the lake of fire.

F. Creature

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is literal, neither allegorical nor figurative. We believe that God created man in His own image and after His own likeness, and that man was not a product of

evolutionary processes. Therefore, we further deny any form of atheistic or theistic evolution. We further believe that it is this special creation of man that gives dignity to humankind and makes human life sacred. Therefore, we are opposed to abortion on these grounds.

G. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless state of perfection (GENESIS 3), and in consequence of which, all mankind is now sinful and therefore under the just condemnation without defense or excuse and is guilty before God. (ROMANS 5:12; PSALM 51:5; ROMANS 3)

H. The Salvation of Man

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast." EPHESIANS 2:8-9. "Not by works of righteousness that we have done but according to his mercy hath he saved us." TITUS 3:5. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 PETER 3:9. We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, and that this new birth is conditioned by repentance and faith which are inseparable graces brought about in man's soul by the Holy Spirit. "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" JOHN 3:3. "Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." ACTS 20:21. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." JOHN 6:44. "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." 1 PETER 1:2. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." ROMANS 10:13. We believe that once a person has received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, he or she is eternally saved, being kept by the power of God and sealed by the Holy Spirit. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." JOHN 1:12. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." JOHN 10:27-28. "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 PETER 1:5. We further believe that salvation will culminate in the glorification of the saints, and that they will live eternally to love and serve the Lord their God. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." PHILIPPIANS 1:6. "Moreover who he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." ROMANS 8:30. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him." REVELATION 22:3.

I. The Church

We believe that the Church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts and privileges invested in them by God's Word; that its officers are pastors (elders) and deacons. We believe that the local church has authority under God to govern itself free from the interference of any hierarchy or imposed organization; that Christ is the Head of the church and superintends over the work of the church through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for churches of like faith and practice to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge

of the measure and method of its cooperation on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, and that the will of the church, in accordance with Biblical principle, is final. (MATTHEW 18:15-20; ACTS 5:29; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8)

J. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christ has given the church two ordinances; baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that the New Testament baptism is the immersion in water of a born again believer in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with the authority and approval of the local church to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Lord, as it pictures our death to sin and our resurrection to walk in newness of life; that it is a pre-requisite to the privilege of church membership and to the observing of the Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper should always be preceded by solemn self-examination and that the sacred use of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine symbolically commemorate the love of Christ until His return.

K. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the second coming of Christ will take place in two stages: first, the rapture of the church; and secondly, the revelation of Christ in glory as He physically returns to judge the earth and set up His earthly kingdom. We believe the coming of Christ is imminent, and that the believer is to be looking for the appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

L. Human Sexuality

We believe that the only sexual relationship acceptable to God is that within the lifelong, monogamous, heterosexual commitment to marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that all other forms of sexuality, including any attempt to alter one's gender by either surgery or appearance, are perversions of God's created order and are clearly forbidden in Scripture. (LEVITICUS 18:22, 20:13; ROMANS 1:18-26; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11; 1 TIMOTHY 1:10)²

Section 2: Authority of Statement and Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We believe that the foregoing statement accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore is binding upon all members.

Section 3: Covenant

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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

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, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

² Paragraph added, November 26, 2001

We further engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid gossip, murmuring, and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of God. We further endeavor to yield to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in all areas and activities of our lives and to walk in freedom from the bondage of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS, WORKERS, AND DUTIES

Since officers and workers are in a position of respect, all those who have been elected or appointed to responsibilities within the church must live exemplary lives and conscientiously endeavor to faithfully live for Christ. All personnel must be members of Arlington Baptist Church and shall:

- 1. Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the abuse of drugs or the sale thereof. (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20; PROVERBS 20:1, 31; ISAIAH 28:7)*
- 2. Abstain from amusements which hinder the testimony of the church. (1 John 2:15; Romans 14:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 101:3)*
- 3. Be exemplary in matters of Christian standards; that women adorn themselves in modest apparel and that men dress and groom themselves as becoming to masculinity. (1 TIMOTHY 2:9; 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13; EPHESIANS 5:21-25)*
- 4. Be faithful in personal Bible study and prayer, visitation and outreach ministries of the Church, honoring the Lord in tithes and offerings and by faithful church attendance unless providentially hindered. (1 CORINTHIANS 4:2; 2 TIMOTHY 2:15; HEBREWS 10:25)*
- 5. No person divorced and remarried or married to a divorced person shall hold any office or teach any class. (ROMANS 7:2, 3; MARK 10:11, 12; 1 CORINTHIANS 7:39)*

The officers and workers of Arlington Baptist Church shall be composed of the following and shall be installed when the need may arise and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 1: Pastor

A. Qualifications

The Pastor shall be a male; called of God to preach, meeting the scriptural demands set forth in 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 and TITUS 1:5-11. He must believe in and adhere to the Articles of Faith as set forth in this Constitution and be uncompromising in the preaching of the Biblical Truth.

B. Call

A pulpit committee composed of the deacons and two members in good standing elected from the congregation shall recommend qualified candidates to the Church. After hearing him preach and allowing sufficient time for proper interviewing, the membership shall vote on said candidate. He shall be elected by a two-thirds majority vote in accordance with Article V. Only one candidate may be considered at a time, and each must be voted on prior to permitting another one to be considered. Voting shall take place at a regularly scheduled service at the discretion of the deacons. Only when the need occurs and the membership is properly notified in a service shall the pulpit committee act.

C. Tenure

Having been duly elected, the pastor shall serve until such time as he resigns his office or until such time as he is requested by the Church to resign his office upon two thirds majority vote in accordance with Article V. It shall be understood that sixty days notice shall be given by either party in case of desired separation. The sixty days notice may be dispensed by mutual consent of the pastor and the Church.

D. Responsibilities

The pastor, as the under shepherd, is accountable to God, shall preach the Word, administer the ordinances, shall be the spiritual leader of the Church, and shall advance the spiritual life of the congregation. He is the overseer of all phases of the Church's work. He is at liberty to schedule special meetings and conferences and to invite special guest speakers as he is led of the Lord. He shall retain authority for the hiring and termination of employees and shall serve as the ex-officio member of every committee and organization of the Church.

E. Pastor – Vacancy of the Senior Pastor Position

In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Board of Deacons will oversee all areas of the Church's work, until a new Pastor is installed.³

Section 2: Staff

In order to meet the needs of the congregation, the pastor, in consultation with the deacons, is at liberty to fill salaried and unsalaried positions with personnel who are equipped for the task and meet the spiritual qualifications previously set forth. All pastoral positions will be filled after the Pastor has secured approval of the deacons and the congregation. Salaried personnel may only be hired after funds have been allocated for the positions.⁴

Section 3: Deacons

A. Qualifications

Deacons shall be males and shall meet the Scriptural qualifications of the office as set forth in 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13, and shall have been active members of the Church for at least one year.

³ Paragraph added, December 1, 2003, by Congregational Approval

⁴ Paragraph adopted, December 1, 2003, by Congregational Approval

B. Election and Tenure

The term of office for deacons shall be four years, with one-fourth to be elected each year. A retiring deacon shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year. Deacons shall be chosen from among the congregation by consensus election (ACTS 6). After a careful consideration of 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13 and ACTS 6:3, the voting members of the congregation will write the names of those that they believe qualify to serve in this office on a slip of paper provided by the Church at a duly called meeting in the month of September, in accordance with Article V, Section 2. The selections will be tallied and the current deacons will serve as a screening committee to ascertain that the selected candidate's life is in conformity with biblical standards and this constitution. The men who have been selected by the congregation will be contacted in order to determine their willingness and worthiness to serve. Selected deacons will be contacted in a manner consistent with the majority votes of the congregation. At the annual meeting the selected men will be presented to the congregation for a final vote of approval and will begin their term on January 1 of the following year.

C. Responsibilities

The deacons shall assist the pastor in carrying out the work of the Church, caring for the widows, and assisting in benevolence and outreach ministry. They will also assist the pastor in the observance of the ordinances. The deacons shall serve as the Board of Trustees of the Corporation and the Church's Finance Committee. They will be responsible for the weekly collection of tithes and offerings and will assist in counseling spiritual decisions. Any deacon who is remiss in his responsibilities or whose life or family brings reproach to his office will be recommended by the Pastor and Deacons to the congregation for dismissal.

The deacons, as trustees, shall have the actual care of the place of worship and until their successors shall be elected, shall hold in trust all properties, effects, etc., for the benefit of the Church. They shall not incur expenses for the Church except to promptly meet such current expenditures as may be necessary to secure continuity and effectiveness in the work of the Church. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action.

In matters which would require the signatures of all the Deacons, the chairman and one other deacon, as appointed by the entire Board of Deacons, are hereby authorized as signatories for the Deacons individually and the Board of Deacons collectively.⁵

The deacons, as the Finance Committee, shall be responsible for presenting to the Church the budget at the annual business meeting and shall pursue such a course as is necessary to secure the support of the membership. They shall have supervision on the entire question of church finances.

Deacons' meetings will be held monthly. The pastor shall be moderator for all meetings. Special meetings may be called by the pastor as needed. A chairman and church treasurer shall be elected annually by the Board of Deacons to administer the affairs discussed at meetings.

⁵ Paragraph Added, January 1999

Section 4: Deaconess

Deaconesses, who are the wives of present deacons, shall assist in the preparation of the Lord's Supper, the baptism of women and girls, and be available to comfort and care for those who grieve due to the death of immediate family members.⁶

Section 5: Other Personnel

All other personnel, such as, church clerk, financial secretary, head of ushers, Sunday School Superintendent, etc., shall be appointed by the pastor in consultation with the deacons.⁷

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Admission

Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior who gives satisfactory evidence of having been born again, may, by the vote of the church, be received into the membership of Arlington Baptist Church after baptism, provided that he/she will subscribe to the Constitution of this Church with the Covenant and Articles of Faith set therein. Each candidate for membership shall be received into the fellowship by the vote of the congregation in one of the following ways:

- 1. By a statement of personal faith and experience of salvation followed by baptism by immersion.*
- 2. On the promise of a letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and practice.*

We believe that membership in a local church is a spiritual decision and therefore, anyone desiring to join Arlington Baptist Church will come forward in one of the public invitations of a regularly scheduled service and speak with the deacons. Membership will be granted upon approval vote of the congregation following recommendation by the pastor and deacons.

Section 2: Termination of Membership

Any member of good standing may request that his membership be withdrawn and a letter of recommendation granted to another church of like faith and practice.

Membership may be terminated when a member persistently practices conduct unbecoming to professing Christians or when he or she has become inactive and non-contributing for a year or more. Having been duly warned and informed of his or her removal, the member's name shall be placed before the congregation for action.

No member of this Church may, at the same time, hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person's membership is automatically terminated without notice.

⁶ Paragraph Amended, January 1999

⁷ Paragraph Amended, January 1999

Section 3: Discipline of Members

A. Grounds

Discipline is a scriptural responsibility given to the Church. (MATTHEW 16:19; 18:15-20; LUKE 17:3; ACTS 16:4; 1 CORINTHIANS 5; HEBREWS 13:17) The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of this Church is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal deviation from this Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Procedure

The Church will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in MATTHEW 18:15-18. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The Pastor or a designated member of the Deacons discusses the charges with the member in question in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the Pastor and deacons or with at least two designated members of the deacons in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first and second steps do not resolve the matter, then the member or the Pastor and/or deacons may submit the matter to the membership in a special meeting called for that purpose. The decision of the voting members present shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the Church; however, lesser sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1: Meetings for Worship

Unless otherwise determined by the Pastor, the Church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible Study and prayer. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the Church for purposes other than those stated in Article I, Section 2 of this Constitution, shall be under the control of the Pastor and deacons.

Section 2: Meetings

All regular and special business meetings shall be called and held at any time and place designated by the Pastor and/or Deacons and shall be so opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing. All recommendations for motions when requested shall be presented by the Pastor or an appointed moderator. The Pastor, or his appointed moderator, shall call for the motion to be acted upon.

The Pastor, or deacons, may duly call a special meeting to consider matters of Church business and administration, provided that two weeks' notice shall be given except in emergencies, when Pastor and deacons shall determine the terms of notice. The meeting shall be limited to the matter for which it was called.

The regular business meeting of the Church shall be held annually in November. Business conducted at the annual meeting shall cover items such as a review of the previous year's activities, the approval of the annual budget, and the election of officers. The fiscal year of the Church shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

Section 3: Quorum for Meetings

Thirty percent of the active membership, in compliance with Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws, shall constitute a quorum for business matters involving either (1) the calling or dismissal of a Pastor; (2) revisions to the Church's Constitution and Bylaws; (3) the buying, selling, mortgaging, leasing or transfer of property; or (4) the borrowing of money. For all other matters of church business, a quorum shall be equal to the number of members present at the meeting providing proper notice has been given to the congregation in accordance with Article V, Section 2. The Pastor or deacons shall count and record the number of members present at each meeting for the purposes of voting.⁸

Section 4: Rules of Order

All questions of order shall be governed by the parliamentary procedures loosely governing deliberate bodies as set forth in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Revised" in all cases where they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church, along with any amendments thereto and any other special rules of order the Church may adopt in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 5: Voting

A. Qualifications

Members, at least eighteen years of age, who regularly attend the services of Arlington Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws shall be entitled to vote.

B. Procedures

Votes may be cast orally, by show of hands, or by secret ballot. The Pastor and deacons will govern the method used unless sufficient objection by the members is raised.⁹ The members of the Church shall not be entitled to vote by proxy on any matter, unless otherwise provided by the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto. Members who regularly attend the services of Arlington Baptist Church and conduct themselves in compliance with Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution and Bylaws may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot when the matter involves the calling or dismissal of a pastor, the buying, selling, mortgaging, leasing or transfer of property, the borrowing of money, or the selection of deacons.¹⁰ Procedures to be followed in voting by absentee ballot shall be approved by the deacons.

A simple majority vote of the members present at a meeting shall be sufficient to accept or reject the item of business unless otherwise provided by the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto.

⁸ Paragraph Adopted, January 2000

⁹ Adopted, November 2000

¹⁰ Adopted, November 2000

ARTICLE VI: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Section 1: Statement

All educational programs shall be conducted in harmony with the Articles of Faith and as an integral part and inseparable ministry of the church. Arlington Bible College and Bible Institute and Arlington Baptist School shall be included under the incorporation of the Church.

The Pastor of Arlington Baptist Church will be the president of the schools. School Administrators under the authority of the Pastor, will be responsible for the day to day operation of the schools. All literature used in the Church and its related ministries must be approved by the Pastor or one appointed by him for that purpose and shall be in complete agreement with the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto.

Section 2: Arlington Baptist School

A. Deacon Board

The School Administration in consultation with the Pastor will be responsible for setting of policy, oversight of educational materials, awarding of diplomas and certificates, adoption of the school calendar, and developing the annual school budget.¹¹

B. School Board Membership

The Deacon Board will replace the School Board. The Deacon Board will approve the annual school budget and the use of school property. The Pastor and Deacon Board will have final authority over all matters pertaining to the Arlington Baptist School.¹²

Section 3: Arlington Bible College and Bible Institute

The College and Institute will be under the authority of the Pastor in consultation with the Board of Deacons. The primary purpose of these institutions is to prepare students for some aspect of Christian ministry through a sound and diversified program of Biblically based studies.

ARTICLE VII: ORDINATION

Section 1: Qualifications

Any member of this Church who gives testimony of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry, meeting the Biblical qualifications set forth in 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 and TITUS 1:6-9, may be ordained, licensed and/or commissioned as a minister of the Gospel. A certificate of ordination or license enables him to perform ministry functions such as: conducting worship services, preaching sermons, administering the ordinances, weddings, funerals, and other ministerial services as pertain to an ordained licensed minister of the Gospel.

¹¹ Paragraph Amended, November 2005, by Congregational Approval

¹² Paragraph Amended, November 2005, by Congregational Approval

Section 2: Procedure

Following a conference with the Pastor after which the Pastor approves the candidate for ordination, the Pastor shall call a council to examine and accept the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination to the gospel ministry the council shall recommend the candidate be ordained on behalf of the Church. The Pastor shall arrange the ordination service.

ARTICLE VIII: TAX EXEMPT PROVISIONS

Section 1: Private Inurement

No part of the net earnings of the Church or its related ministries shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and any amendments thereto.

Section 2: Political Involvement

No activities of the Church shall be for the perpetuating of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Church shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 3: Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Deacons shall, after paying and making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations established and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Deacons shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the Church's Statement of Faith.

Section 4: Nondiscrimination

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin. This racial nondiscriminatory policy and statement shall be included in all school advertisements, brochures, and catalogs dealing with student admission, programs, and scholarships.

ARTICLE IX: DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

Arlington Baptist Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various designated and benevolent funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions

made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive administrative and accounting control and discretion of the Pastor and Deacons. The Pastor and the Deacons may consider suggested designations, but in no event are they bound in any way to honor such designations since they are accepted only on the condition that they are mere suggestions or recommendations. Donors wishing to make contributions to the designated or benevolence fund subject to these conditions may be able to deduct their contributions if they itemize their deductions. Checks should be made payable to the Church with a notation that the funds are to be placed in the Church's designated or benevolence fund. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and Bylaws and any amendments thereto.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

The foregoing Revised Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at a duly-called meeting of the Church, at which a quorum is present, with a two-thirds vote of the majority of voting members present, voting, and qualified, that is, conducting themselves in compliance with Article II, Section 3, after having been submitted in writing and distributed to the membership two (2) Sundays before the vote is to be taken.

ARTICLE XI: ADOPTION

The foregoing Revised Constitution and Bylaws was adopted at a duly-called meeting of the Church, at which a quorum was present, with a two-thirds vote of the majority of voting members present, voting, and qualified, that is, conducting themselves in compliance with Article II, Section 3, after having been submitted in writing and distributed to the membership two (2) Sundays before the vote was taken, and supersedes any other Constitution and Bylaws of the Arlington Baptist Church, Inc.