



Constitution and By-laws

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CONSTITUTION OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Article I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, hereinafter called the Fellowship.

Article II

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship shall be an organization of Christian believers whose purpose shall be to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in the community and surrounding area by proclamation and expression of love. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life" (John 3:36). We shall establish a place or places where people shall worship as a body of believers and freely come for spiritual and physical help to strengthen their relationship with Christ.

Article III

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by God's Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will: worship God, lead people to Jesus, establish believers in their faith journey, encourage one another through Christ-centered relationships, and equip believers to share their faith and to serve in our congregation, community, and beyond, for God's glory.

Revised by the congregation August 17, 2008. Changes approved by board on September 2, 2008

Article IV

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 — Bible. We believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament in their original writings to be inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). (See also II Peter 1:21 and John 1:1).

Section 2 — Trinity. We believe there is one God existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4). "God ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

Section 3 — Deity of Christ. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His supreme and complete sacrifice, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (See John 10:30; Hebrews 1:6; John 1:1, 14; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:20-23; Hebrews 4:15).

Section 4— Sin. We believe all men are born with a sin nature, i.e., rebellion against God. "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). (See also I John 1:8, 10).

Section 5 - Retribution. We believe the result of sin is spiritual and physical death (Romans 6:23), but after this the judgment to eternal life or eternal damnation. (See also Hebrews 9:27 and Romans 14:10).

Section 6. — Redemption. We believe man can be redeemed from sin only through the precious blood Jesus Christ shed on Calvary. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7). "...Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:18-19). (See also Colossians 1:20, Hebrews 9:22; 10:12-14).

Section 7 — Salvation. We believe the only way to remedy God's penalty of death for the sinful nature of man is through the salvation freely offered by God, not through the efforts of man (i.e. church membership, baptism, communion, philosophy, good works, etc.) "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)

We believe that salvation comes to a man as an active, personal response is made to God's gift of love through Christ. This response would include the following elements:

- (1) A belief in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord; and the only way of salvation (John 3:16; John 3:30; John 14:6; Acts 4:12).
- (2) A sincere repentance for past disobedience to God (Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15).
- (3) A receiving of Christ into his life by a conscious, sincere invitation (John 1:12; Rom. 10:13).
- (4) Choosing to submit his will to God's authority (Acts 5:29-32; I John 2:3-6).

We believe the results of this personal response are many, but would include the following benefits:

- (1) Deliverance from the penalty of sin, death and Hell. (John 5:24; Acts 10:43).
- (2) A changed life (I Corinthians 5:17)
- (3) An abundant life (John 10:10)
- (4) Eternal life with God (John 3:15)
- (5) Admittance to the Family of God (John 1:12,13)
- (6) Assurance of Salvation (I John 5:11-13)
- (7) The Holy Spirit living in our hearts (I Cor. 2:12, 13; I Cor. 3:16)

Section 8 — The death and resurrection of Christ. We believe Christ died on the cross, was buried in a tomb and rose again on the third day as recorded in Matthew 27 and 28; Mark 15 and 16; Like 23 and 24; John 19 and 20. The resurrection was witnessed by the disciples and later five hundred witnesses. (See also Acts 1:1-11; I Corinthians 15:1-8).

Section 9 — Creation. We believe God created all things as recorded in Genesis 1 and 2, through Christ (Colossians 1:15-17), and all things exist and consist by His power. He is far above His creation, yet is at

the same time very intimate with His creation. The supreme example of love for His creation was the sending of His son to redeem man back to Himself from our fallen and rebellious state (Romans 5:12-19). "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God send not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

Section 10 — Second coming of Christ. We believe Christ is coming again personally to receive His own unto Himself where we will be forever with the Lord (John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-58; I Thessalonians 4:17-18). "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). The time of Christ's return is unknown as stated in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Also, we believe the time of Christ's return is near at hand as stated in James 5:8, "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." The emphasis of this Fellowship concerning the second coming of Christ is one of personal readiness rather than trying to determine orders of events, times, and places that have or will be taking place.

Section 11 — Separated life. We believe the Holy Spirit empowers those who have trusted their lives to Jesus Christ to live a life separated from the world. Growing in Christ is drawing on the Holy Spirit for power over sin and freedom from the bondage of sin. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). (See also I Peter 1:15-16 and II Timothy 2:21-26).

Section 12 — Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We believe the Holy Spirit gives gifts to believers for the purposes of edification of the Body of Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel to the world. The gifts listed in I Corinthians 12, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11-12 are primary gifts with diversities unlimited. The gifts shall be used only under guidelines of Scripture and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. No gift is greater than the gift of love (I Corinthians 13). No gift shall be used to make on distinct or unique in the Body of Christ. There are three sources of gifts: Holy Spirit - true gifts, the flesh — counterfeit gifts, and Satan — false gifts. True gifts will bring forth good fruit as found in Galatians 5:22, "...Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance..." (See also I John 4:1-3).

Section 13 — Water baptism. We believe in water baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is for believers, which are individuals who have personally trusted their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and is a testimony of a consecrated life to God. It symbolizes the death of the old man (sinful nature), and the raising of our new man in Christ. (See Colossians 2:11-12, Matthew 13:15, Romans 6:3-6, and I Peter 3:21.)**

Section 14 ~ Communion. We believe in the Lord's Supper and that it shall be shared with all believers. It shall be done in remembrance of the body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ gave as full payment for our sins. (See I Corinthians 11:23-32 and Luke 22:17-20).**

****Baptism and Communion will not save.**

Section 15 — Marriage. We believe marriage to be a calling by God between a man and a woman. Not all will marry. God seals and solemnizes marriage (Genesis 2:20-24). We believe the structure of the home as stated in Ephesians 5:21-25 is the foundation of the Body of Christ and society. *Rev. 10/11*

Section 16 — Human Sexuality. We believe that God has commanded that intimate sexual activity be confined within the marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that God created humanity male and female. (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4) *Rev. 10/11*

Article V

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Any part of this Constitution may be amended, altered, changed, added to, or repealed by a 75% affirmative vote of all Active Members entitled to vote at any annual or special meeting of the members if notice of the proposed change is announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The only reason for any changes in Article II, Statement of Faith, would be that the present statements be found in disagreement with the Scriptures. Upon adoption of any changes, the orderly numbering, lettering, capitalization, and spelling of the Constitution shall be cared for by the Board of Directors.

BY-LAWS OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Article I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 — Purpose of membership. In hopes of preventing subversive or false doctrine from being taught and decisions from being made by those not dedicated to the purpose of this Fellowship as stated in the Constitution, the following sections have been accepted by this Fellowship.

Section 2 — Requirements for membership. Any person may be accepted into the membership of this Fellowship by the Board of Directors after meeting the following requirements:

- a) Present evidence of his conversion into the Kingdom of God as one of His children with the promise of eternal life. A sincere application of all the following would indicate the above:
 - (1) profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his/her own Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9).
 - (2) ability to explain how one becomes a child of God and describe to the best of his/her knowledge how and when this took place in his/her own life. (I Peter 3:15).
 - (3) desire to live a Christ like life and do the will of God (Matthew 7:21; John 14:15,21,23).
- b) Be in agreement with the Fellowship's Constitution and By-Laws.
- c) Make known his/her request for membership to the Pastor or any other elder or deacon. The Board of Directors shall review and act upon the request at its next regular meeting.

Section 3 — Charter Members. The following Active Members founded the Abundant Life Christian Fellowship:

Thomas & Bonnie Bullach	Becky Nelson
Penny Thompson	Jim & Brenda Kurzen
Doug Nofsinger	Marsha Hansel
Thom Griffith	Gary & Shelley Christner
Edward & Sharon Hodgson	Barbara Bullach
Dean & Chloe Senften	Roger & Pat Kurzen
Dennis & Kathy Groff	Lori Kurzen
Ron & Patti Kurzen	Renee Hurd
William & Linda Gokee	Al Crawford
Brian & Ann Ammon	Howard Houston
Suzanne Shaffer	Bob Milliken
David Wills	Jim Bullach
Susan Wills	Ken Kurzen
Dan Gradijan	Michelle Christner

Section 4 — New Members. With the exception of the Charter Members, all persons accepted into membership with less than six months of active attendance as stated in Section 5 shall have the status of New Members. (Refer to Article I - Section 2. — Requirements for Membership.) *Rev. 6/84*

Section 5 — Active Members. New Members and Inactive Members who have been faithful in attending 75% of the Sunday morning services or 75% of the Sunday evening services during the past six months shall be considered for Active Membership by the Board of Directors. *Rev. 6/84*

Section 6 — Inactive Members. Any Active Member who fails to attend at least 75% of the Sunday morning services or 75% of the Sunday evening services during a six-month period (excluding vacations, illness and any other cause seeming reasonable to the Board of Directors) shall become an Inactive Member. Such situations shall be reviewed and acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Section 7 — Voluntary withdrawal from membership. Any member may withdraw from membership of this Fellowship at any time by his/her own action and shall be removed from the membership roll when written notice of such action has been given to the head elder.

Section 8 — Discipline. In the event that a person or party associated with the Fellowship is found at fault in bringing dishonor to or destroying the effectiveness of the Fellowship's ministry by (1) teaching false or subversive doctrine or (2) practicing standards not in accord with the Scriptures, proper steps, as stated in the Scriptures, shall be taken to restore that person or party (Matthew 18:15-17; I Timothy 5:19-20; Galatians 6:1).

- a. If the person or party refuses to listen and repent after the proper efforts have been made, the matter shall be brought before the elders who will make a careful investigation of the matter. If the charge is justified, and those at fault have still not repented, then their names shall be removed from the membership and they shall be prevented from participating at any activity of the Fellowship until there is evidence of true repentance and, if necessary, restitution.
- b. This action shall be done in as loving a manner as possible. Our hope is that the separated person or party will return and be reconciled. The responsibility of the Fellowship is to love and pray for them even after their removal.
- c. The head elder shall guide all those involved in taking the proper steps to reconciliation. The appropriate offenses shall be confessed only before those who were offended. Those who were offended must be encouraged to forgive.

Article II

PRIVILEGES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1 — Business meetings. All New Members, Inactive Members, and Active Members may attend the regular monthly business meetings and all regular meetings of the members. Any member may

bring a matter or matters before the Board of Directors or members at such meetings by contacting any elder or deacon prior to the meeting so that the member may be put on the agenda.

Section 2 — Voting

- a. Those entitled to vote. Unless an article or amendment provides otherwise, only an Active Member of this Fellowship, at least 16 years of age shall be entitled to one vote upon each subject properly submitted at every meeting of the members.
- b. Quorum of members. Presence in person of a majority of the Active Members of this Fellowship shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of members.
- c. Inspectors. If at any meeting of members an Active Member requests the appointment of inspectors, a majority of the voters may appoint up to three inspectors who need not be Active Members. The inspectors shall receive and count the votes and determine the results. Their certificate of any vote shall be prime facie evidence thereof.
- d. Voting privilege. If the privilege of any person to vote is challenged, the Board of Directors shall determine the privilege of a person to vote.
- e. The Board of Directions may choose any form of balloting or voting, giving care to have a fair and honest outcome.
- f. If absentee voting is allowed, the Board of Directors must provide the absentee voters:
 1. Sufficient information to vote wisely
 2. Paper and/or electronic ballots that allow secret balloting
 3. The deadline for receiving the ballots

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Section 3 — Positions of responsibility. Only Active Members shall hold a position of responsibility such as elder, deacon, watchman, teacher, or any other office. However, the other members may be called upon to assist in many areas, provided the Board of Directors has approved it.

Section 4 — Financial projects. Financial projects deemed beyond the discretion of the Board of Directors will be brought before the Active Membership for a vote of approval. All other projects shall be decided upon by the Board of Directors with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Article III

MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 1 - Place of meetings. All meetings of the members of this Fellowship shall be held at the present central location unless the Board of Directors determines another place that is accessible to all members interested in attending.

Section 2 - Annual Report of members. An annual written report will be provided to members. The written annual report will serve to inform the members of the preceding year's fiscal and ministry highlights. The

content of this report will be presented to the members by each team leader on four(4) Sundays by the end of November. An open forum Board meeting will then be scheduled to allow members to ask any questions, or express any thoughts, regarding said report, policies, or issues. *Rev. 12/18*

Section 3 — Notice of annual meeting of members. At least ten (10) days prior to the date fixed by Section 2 of this article for the holding of the annual meeting of members, notice of time, place, and purpose of such meeting shall be posted, announced at the weekly meeting, or mailed to each member entitled to vote at such meeting.

Section 4 — Special meetings of members. A special meeting of the members may be called at any time by the head elder or by as majority of the Board of Directors. *Rev. 12/18*

Section 5 — Notice of special meetings of members. All Active Members shall be notified at least three (3) days prior to the holding of any special meeting. Notice of the time, place, and purposes of such meetings may be accomplished by any of the following methods:

- 1) Verbal notice at weekly meetings
- 2) Written notice in bulletin or hand-out
- 3) Person-to-Person or telephone contact
- 4) Mailed notice
- 5) E-mailed or other electronic communications method commonly used *Rev. 12/18*

Business not mentioned in the notice shall not be transacted at such meeting.

Article IV

STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Section 1 — Board of Directors. The responsibility of discerning God's will in the overseeing and managing of all business, property, and affairs of the Fellowship shall be invested in the Board of Directors.

Section 2 - Binary structure of Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be composed of elders and deacons. The term "directors" refers to both elders and deacons.

Section 3 — Function of the elders. The elders shall be devoted mainly to overseeing and managing the spiritual affairs of the Fellowship. The Board of Directors may delegate its authority over such matters to the elders.

Section 4 — Function of the deacons. The deacons shall be devoted mainly to overseeing and managing the property, finances, and physical needs of the members and persons in need outside the Fellowship. The Board of Directors may delegate its authority over such matters to the deacons.

Section 5 — The number of elders and deacons. The number of elders and deacons shall be determined by the needs of the Fellowship as discerned by the existing Board of Directors. If the need arises for additional elders

or deacons, the Board of Directors shall establish that position, using the normal procedure for electing directors as stated in Article VII. Also if the Board of Directors discerns a need for a decrease in number, then the next expired term shall be left vacant. The minimum number of elders, including the head elder, shall be three and the minimum number of deacons shall be three.

Section 6 — Pastoral Staff. All members of the pastoral staff shall serve on the Board of Directors as Elders. The pastor shall be the Head Elder (See Article VI. Pastor.) These not elected positions shall have voting rights on all issues except issues concerning employment and salaries of pastoral staff. *(Section amended 1-17-99.)*

Section 7 — Head deacon. The office of head deacon shall be filled by a vote of discernment of the deacons at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting of the members. If that person does not accept, another vote shall be taken. The responsibilities of the head deacon are:

- 1) to preside over the meetings of the deacons
- 2) to oversee all the responsibilities of the deacons.

The term for head deacon shall be one year with no limit to consecutive terms.

Section 8 — Secondary elder. The office of secondary elder shall be filled by a vote of discernment of the elders at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting of the members. If that person does not accept, another vote shall be taken.

The responsibilities of the secondary elder are the same as the head elder in the absence of the head elder. The term for secondary elder shall be one year with no limit to consecutive terms.

Section 9 — Secondary deacon. The office of secondary deacon shall be filled by a vote of discernment of the deacons at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting of the members. If that person does not accept, another vote shall be taken.

The responsibilities of the secondary deacon are the same as head deacon in the absence of the head deacon. The term for secondary deacon is one year with no limit to consecutive terms.

Section 10 — Resignation of elected offices. The head deacon, secondary elder, or secondary deacon shall resign from his position when he discerns this position is no longer God's will for him. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors.

Article V

AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 — Power to make regulations. The Board of Directors shall have power to make and alter any regulation including altering the number of directors, provided that, the Board of Directors shall not make or alter any regulation fixing the qualification, classification, or term of office of any member of the then existing board.

Section 2 — Power to elect officers.

- a. The elders shall select a secondary elder from the elders.
- b. The deacons shall select a head deacon and a secondary deacon from the deacons.
- c. The Board of Directors shall select a secretary and a treasurer. The secretary and the treasurer need not be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 — Power to appoint other officers and agents. The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint other officers and agents as deemed necessary for carrying out the purpose of the Fellowship.

Section 4 — Removal of officers and agents. Any person shall be excused or removed from his office or position of responsibility for failing to meet the qualifications as described for his position in these By-Laws or the Holy Scriptures. This shall be handled very discreetly by the Board of Directors, taking care not to violate any Scriptural principles. (See Matthew 18:15-17 and I Corinthians 5).

Section 5 — Power to ordain. The Board of Directors shall have the power to call and ordain persons as ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provided they fulfill the qualifications as stated in Article VI Section 3, and give testimony as to their calling.

Section 6 — Power to fill vacancies. The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill any vacancy in any office occurring for any reason whatsoever.

Section 7 — Delegation of powers to other directors. For any reason deemed necessary, whether occasioned by absence or otherwise, the Board of directors may delegate all or any powers and duties of any officer to any other officer or director. No officer or director shall execute, acknowledge, or verify any instrument in more than one capacity.

Section 8 — Power to appoint executive committee. The Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint, by resolution, an executive committee composed of two or more directors who, to the extent provided by the resolution, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors between meetings.

Section 9 — Power to require bonds. The Board of Directors may require any officer or agent to file with the Fellowship a satisfactory bond conditioned for faithful performance of his duties.

Section 10 — Compensation. If compensation for any position or agent is needed, it shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

Section 11 — Action by unanimous written consent. If and when the Board of Directors shall severally or collectively consent in writing to any action to be taken by the Fellowship, such action shall be as valid as though it had been authorized at a board meeting.

Section 12 — Power to create a Pastoral Staff. The Board of Directors shall have the power to create and designate roles and positions to be part of the Pastoral Staff. Such roles shall be brought before the Active

Membership for a vote of approval before being filled. Those holding these roles shall have the privileges as denoted in Article IV, Section 6. *Rev. 10/17*

Article VI MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 — Place of meetings. All meetings of the board of Directors of this Fellowship shall be held at the present central location unless the Board of Directors determines another place that is accessible to all members interested in attending.

Section 2 — Organizational meetings of the Board. Immediately following the annual elections, the new Board of Directors shall meet and set time and place for its organizational meeting in order to determine officers and begin transacting the business of the Fellowship. *Rev. 10/11*

Section 3 — Regular meetings of the Board. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held not less than once in each month at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall from time to time determine. No notice of regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be required.

Section 4 — Special meetings of the Board. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the head elder at any time by verbal or written contact of each board member concerning the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Section 5 — Quorum of directors. A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII PASTOR

Section 1 — Qualifications. The qualifications for the pastor shall be the same as those for elder or overseer as found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He must be of good reputation in the body of Christ and outside the body of Christ. He must be courteous, hospitable, and a good teacher. He must not be controversial, but gentle. — He must be the husband of one wife. He must be one who manages his own household well and is able to control and command the respect of his children. He also must be a mature Christian, not a new convert, so that he may be able to handle the responsibilities and pressures of the position. He must be bold but still have a servant's heart with the humility and love of Christ radiating from his own spirit-filled life.

Section 2 — Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the pastor shall be faithfulness in praying for the people of the Fellowship and those in the community. He shall be responsible for teaching and preaching the Word of God by example and proclamation, not altering the written Word in any way. He shall oversee the equipping of the members of the Fellowship for the work of service, to build up the body of Christ. He shall have

authority to call upon qualified Active Members or other persons of the body of Christ (i.e. guest speakers outside the Fellowship), to teach or preach the Word of God if he discerns it to be God's will. He also shall delegate any other responsibility to another Active Member gifted by the Holy Spirit to fulfill such responsibility if he discerns it to be God's will. This would include calling upon those with physical or spiritual needs.

Section 3 — Relationship to the Board of Directors. The pastor shall be the head elder and preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors. The pastor can, at his discretion and with agreement from the Board of Directors, delegate presiding over Board of Directors meetings to another member of the Board of Directors. The elders and deacons shall assist and support the pastor to enhance the fulfilling of all needs of the Fellowship. The pastor shall council with the elders and deacons and seek God's will together. *Rev. 10/11*

Section 4 — Relationship to the Watchmen. The pastor shall also seek the council of the watchmen who shall assist in discerning the needs of the Fellowship.

Section 5 — Resignation. The pastor shall resign from his position when he discerns his position is no longer God's will for him. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors two months prior to the completion of his services.

Section 6 — Removal. The pastor shall be excused from his position for failing to meet the qualifications as stated for that position. It is the responsibility of the Elders and Deacons, excluding the Pastor, to discern God's will concerning the Pastor's continuation in his position.

Section 7 — Filling vacancy.

- a) In the event that the position of pastor is vacant or there is foreknowledge of the position becoming vacant, the Board of Directors shall appoint an ad hoc Pastoral Committee to earnestly seek God's will in selecting the person to fill that position.
- b) The Pastoral Committee shall consist of three to five persons with the qualification of an elder, but need not be an elder.
- c) The Pastoral Committee shall recommend a candidate to the Board of Directors for consideration.
- d) If the Board of Directors is in agreement with the selection, then a call to pastor this Fellowship for a trial period not exceeding six months shall be extended to the candidate.
- e) This initial period shall give the candidate and the Active Members opportunity to discern God's will concerning a more permanent calling.
- f) At the end of the initial period, if the candidate desires to continue, the Active Members shall vote on the matter.
- g) The Board of Directors shall determine from the vote whether or not to extend the call to pastor the Fellowship.

- h) If the Board is not in agreement with the Pastoral Committee's selection (refer to part c.) or the candidate does not gain enough support from the Active Member's vote, then the Pastoral Committee shall seek another candidate.

Amended by the congregation on Sunday, November 23, 2008

Article VIII ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1 — Qualifications of elders. The qualifications for an elder are found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He must be of good reputation in the Fellowship and community. He must exercise self-control and discretion, and have a disciplined life. He must be courteous, hospitable, and a good teacher. He must not be controversial, but gentle. He must be the husband of one wife. He must be one who manages his own household well and is able to control and command the respect of his children. He also must be a mature Christian, not a new convert, so that he may be able to handle the responsibilities and pressures of the position.

Section 2 — Responsibilities of elders. The responsibilities of an elder are as follows: 1) to pray for the pastor and other members of the Fellowship 2) to watch for and determine spiritual needs of the Fellowship and its individual members 3) to make positive suggestions to the Board of Directors based on Scriptural principles from God's Word.

Section 3 — Qualifications for deacons. The qualifications for a deacon are found in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3. He must be of good reputation in the Fellowship and community. He must exercise self-control and discretion, and have a disciplined life. He must hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. He must not be controversial, but gentle. He must be the husband of one wife. He must be one who manages his own household well and is able to control and command the respect of his children. He also must be a mature Christian, not a new convert, so that he may be able to handle the responsibilities and pressures of this position.

Section 4 — Responsibilities of the deacons. The responsibilities of a deacon are as follows: (1) to pray for the pastor and the other members of the Fellowship (2) to watch for and determine physical needs of the members of the Fellowship and persons in the community (3) to care for and maintain the Fellowship's property (4) to distribute funds to individual needs of persons in the Fellowship, the community, and to mission projects (5) to make positive suggestions to the Board of Directors based on Scriptural principles from God's Word.

Section 5 - Selection of elders and deacons. The filling of open elder and deacon positions will be determined through a process of nominations and votes of discernment from the active membership of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship as follows:

In October, the congregation will be informed on the upcoming Board of Director vacancies, asked to review the qualifications for Elder & Deacon positions (Article VIII, Sections 1-4) and instructed to begin praying

about who they might want to nominate as candidates for these vacancies. Written nominations from the active membership will then be taken by the current Board of Directors. The membership will be given at least two weeks to prepare and submit these nominations.

The Board of Directors, or subset thereof, shall take all submitted nominations and prepare a nomination ballot. Each candidate nominated shall be reviewed according to the qualifications for each position and shall be contacted to verify their willingness to serve and commit to the responsibilities of the positions. All qualified and willing nominated candidates will then be presented to the Active Membership for a vote of confidence with at least 1 week of notice. The Board of Directors will then strive to prepare a ballot with at least one additional nominated, qualified and willing candidate as there are open positions for both Elder and Deacon and no more than two candidates per open position. These ballots will be filled from the list of nominated candidates starting with the candidate that received the most votes of confidence proceeding to the candidate with the least votes, in order, until the ballot is filled or the candidate list is exhausted.

A complete ballot of all open Elder positions shall then be presented to the Active Membership for a vote of discernment with at least one week of notice. Candidates receiving the most votes will be selected to fill the open positions. A candidate must be selected on more than 50% of the ballots cast in order to be appointed.

Should a position remain unfilled, a second ballot will be prepared for each unfilled position from the remaining candidates not appointed on the first vote. A second vote will then be held immediately, following the same process.

Should a position remain open following this second vote, the position shall be left unfilled until the next year's election process. In such case, the board shall be authorized to operate until the next general election without constraint of the minimum number of Elders or Deacons as specified in Article IV, Section 5.

Upon completion of the process for open Elder positions, the same process shall be repeated to fill open Deacon positions.

The entire voting process shall be complete by the last day in December. *Rev. 10/11*

Section 6 — Terms of elders and deacons. The term for an elder or deacon shall begin on January 1 of the year following the election and shall last two years. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive terms.
Rev.10/11

Section 7 — Classification of directors. At the first annual meeting of the members, the members of the Board of Directors shall be divided into two classes as follows: half of the elders and half of the deacons shall hold office for a term of one year; the other half of the elders and deacons shall hold office for a term of two years. Thereafter, any director that is elected or re-elected to succeed an expired term shall have a two year term.

Section 8 — Resignation. An elder or deacon shall resign from his position when he discerns this position is no longer God's will for him. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors.

Section 9 — Removal. An elder or deacon shall be excused or removed from his position for failing to meet the qualifications for his position as described in I Timothy 3, Titus 1, and Acts 6. This action shall be handled very discreetly by the Board of Directors, excluding the above elder or deacon, taking care not to violate any Scriptural principles. (See also Matthew 18:15-17 and I Corinthians 5.)

Section 10 — Vacancies. Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by appointments made by the remaining directors. Each person so appointed to fill a vacancy shall remain a director until his successor has been elected by the members. This election shall be made at their next annual meeting or at any special meeting duly called for that purpose and held prior to the annual meeting.

Article IX

APPOINTED POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1 — Secretary.

- a) **Qualifications.** The position of secretary shall be filled by an Active Member of the Fellowship. He/she must have a good reputation in the Fellowship and the community. He/she must be able to handle all the responsibilities of secretary. He/she must also be a mature Christian, not a new convert.
- b) **Responsibilities.** The secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall preserve in the books of the Fellowship true minutes of the proceedings of such meetings. He/she shall safely keep in his/her custody the seal of the Fellowship and have authority to affix the same to all instruments where its use is required. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to him/her by the Board of Directors.
- c) **Term.** The term for secretary shall be one year. There is no limitation on the number of consecutive terms.
- d) **Appointment.** The position of secretary shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors. **Resignation.** The secretary shall resign from his/her position when he/she discerns the position is no longer God's will for him/her. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors and all records and books shall be turned over to the Board of Directors.
- e) **Removal.** The secretary shall be excused or removed from office for failing to meet his/her qualifications. At that time, all records and books shall be turned over to the Board of Directors.

Section 2 — Treasurer.

- a) Qualifications. The position of treasurer shall be filled by an Active Member of the Fellowship. He/she must have a good reputation in the Fellowship and community. He/she must be a mature Christian, not a new convert, and be able to handle all the responsibilities of his/her position.
- b) Responsibilities. The treasurer shall have custody of all funds and securities, and shall keep in books belonging to the Fellowship full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. He/she shall deposit all moneys, securities, and other valuable effects in the name of the Fellowship in such depositories as may be designated for that purpose by the deacons. He/she shall disburse the funds of the Fellowship as may be ordered by the deacons, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. He/she shall also render to the Board of Directors at the regular meetings, and whenever requested by them, an account of all his/her transactions as treasurer and the financial condition of the Fellowship. If required by the Board of Directors, he/she shall keep in force a bond in form, amount, and surety or sureties satisfactory to the Board of Directors.
- c) Term. The term of treasurer shall be one year. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms.
- d) Appointment. The position of treasurer shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors.
- e) Resignation. The treasurer shall resign from his/her position whenever he/she discerns the position is no longer God's will for him/her. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors. All books, papers, vouchers, moneys, and Fellowship property of whatever kind in his/her possession shall be turned over to the Board of Directors.
- f) Removal. The treasurer shall be excused or removed from his/her position for failing to meet the qualifications for treasurer. At that time, all books, papers, vouchers, moneys, and Fellowship property of whatever kind in his/her control shall be turned over to the Board of Directors.

Section 3 — Watchmen.

- a) Qualifications. The position of watchman shall be filled by any Active Member who demonstrates a Christ-centered lifestyle. He/she must be of good reputation in the Fellowship and community. He/she must exercise self-control and discretion, and have a disciplined life. He/she must be a mature Christian, not a new convert, so he/she shall be able to handle the responsibilities of a watchman.
- b) Responsibilities. The responsibilities of a watchman are as follows:
 - 1) to pray for the pastor and other members of the body
 - 2) to watch for and determine the needs of the body and persons in the community
 - 3) to counsel and give input to the Board of Directors
 - 4) to vote over matters of the Board of Directors, if asked to do so by the Board.
- c) Term. There shall be no definite term for a watchman. Appointment. Watchmen shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and the existing watchmen.

- d) Resignation. A watchman shall resign from his/her position when he/she discerns this position is no longer God's will for him/her. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors.
- e) Removal. A watchman shall be excused or removed from his/her position by the Board of Directors for failing to meet the qualifications of a watchman.

Section 4 — Director of Sunday School.

- a) Qualifications. The position of Director of Sunday School shall be filled by a person who meets the qualifications of a teacher and has had previous teaching experience in a Christian education setting. He/she must be of good reputation in the Fellowship and the community. He/she must exercise self-control and discretion, and have a disciplined life. He/she must also be a mature Christian, not a new convert, so he/she shall be able to handle the responsibilities of this position.
- b) Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Director of Sunday School shall be as follows:
 - 1) to pray for the teachers and students
 - 2) to organize and manage the teachers and materials of the Sunday School
 - 3) to order the needed materials for the Sunday School
 - 4) to be submissive to the leadership of the Board of Directors
 - 5) to continue active membership in the Fellowship.
- c) Term. The term of the Director of Sunday School shall be one year. There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms a Sunday School Director may serve. Appointment. The position of Director of Sunday School shall be filled by appointment of the Board based on suggestions by the elders.
- d) Resignation. The Director of Sunday School shall resign from his/her position when he/she discerns this position is no longer God's will for him/her. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board. Removal. The Director of Sunday School shall be excused or removed from his/her position for failing to meet the qualifications described for this position.

Section 5. — Teachers.

- a) Qualifications. The position of teacher shall be filled by an Active Member. He/she must be of good reputation in the Fellowship and the community. He/she must exercise self-control and discretion, and have a disciplined life. He/she must also be a mature Christian, not a new convert, so he/she shall be able to handle the responsibilities of a teacher. (Rev. 6/84)
- b) Responsibilities. The responsibilities of a teacher are as follows:
 - 1) to pray for the individual class members and the Director of the Sunday School
 - 2) to accurately share facts and practical principles from God's Word
 - 3) to exercise love and discipline in the classroom
 - 4) to be submissive to the leadership of the Director of the Sunday School
 - 5) to continue active membership in the Fellowship.
- c) Term. There shall be no definite term for a teacher.

- d) Appointment. The position of teacher shall be filled by appointment of the elders, based on suggestions from the Director of Sunday School.
- e) Resignation. A teacher shall resign from his/her position when he/she discerns this position is no longer God's will for him/her. A letter of resignation shall be given to the Board of Directors.
- f) Removal. A teacher shall be excused or removed from his/her position for failing to meet the qualifications listed above.

Section 6 — All other positions of responsibility. The qualifications for any other position of responsibility shall be the same as those stated for a teacher, unless the Board of Directors determines otherwise.

Article X
AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

Any part of these By-Laws may be amended, altered, changed, added to, or repealed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Active Members present at any annual or special meeting of the members, if notice of the proposed change is announced at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting. Upon adoption of any changes, the orderly numbering, lettering, capitalization, and spelling of the By-Laws shall be cared for by the Board of Directors.