

# **LONG ISLAND ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH BYLAWS**

"Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 1:3

## **ARTICLE 1 NAME AND PURPOSE**

### **SECTION 1.01—NAME**

This congregation of believers shall be known as Long Island Abundant Life Church. The church is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the Religious Corporations Law of the state of New York.

### **SECTION 1.02—PURPOSE**

We, the members of the Body of Christ, desiring that the Word of the Lord have free course and be glorified, do set forth as the object of this church the edification of Christians through the teaching of God's Word, the salvation of souls, the world-wide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of Godly worship, and the defense of "the faith once delivered unto the saints" until He comes.

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986.

## **ARTICLE 2 STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **SECTION 2.01—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the statement of faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members, staff and volunteers. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith. All activities permitted or performed in any facilities owned, rented or leased by this church, or engaged in by any member of the church staff (volunteer or paid), and all decisions of the administration of this church shall not conflict with the statement of faith. In all conflicts regarding interpretation of the statement of faith, the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, on behalf of the church, have the final authority.

### **SECTION 2.02—STATEMENT OF FAITH**

#### **A. Beliefs on Doctrine**

1. The sixty-six canonical books of the Bible as originally written were inspired of God, hence free from error. They constitute the only infallible guide in faith and practice.

2. There is one God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, infinite in being and perfection. He exists eternally in three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are of one substance and equal in power and glory.
3. Man, created in the image of God, through disobedience fell into a state of sin and spiritual death, and brought upon the entire race the sentence of eternal death. From this condition man can be saved only by the grace of God, through faith, on the basis of the work of Christ, and by the agency of the Holy Spirit.
4. The eternally pre-existent Son became incarnate without human father, by being born of the Virgin Mary. Thus, in the Lord Jesus Christ, divine and human natures were united in one Person, both natures being whole, perfect and distinct. To effect salvation, He lived a sinless life and died on the cross as the sinner's substitute, shedding His blood for the remission of sins. On the third day, He rose from the dead in the body which had been laid in the tomb. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He performs the ministry of intercession. He shall come again, personally and visibly, to complete His saving work and to consummate the eternal plan of God.
5. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Triune God. He applies to man the work of Christ. By justification and adoption man is given a right standing before God; by regeneration, sanctification and glorification man's nature is renewed.
6. The believer, having turned to God in penitent faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, is accountable to God for living a life separated from sin and characterized by the fruit of the spreading of the Gospel.
7. At the end of the age the bodies of the dead shall be raised. The righteous shall enter into full possession of eternal bliss in the presence of God, and the wicked shall be condemned to eternal death.

## B. Additional Religious Beliefs

### 1. Marriage and Sexuality

- a. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one, legitimate meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, covenantal union, as delineated by Scripture. Marriage ceremonies performed in any facility owned, leased or rented by this church will be only those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man with one woman as their genders were determined at birth. Whenever there is a conflict between the church's position and any new legal standard for marriage, the church's statement of faith, doctrines and biblical positions will govern. (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:22-23; Mark 10:6-9; I Cor. 7:1-9)
- b. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage as defined in (a) above. We believe that any other type of sexual activity, identity or expression that lies outside of this definition of marriage, including those that are becoming more accepted in the culture and the courts, are contradictory to God's natural design and purpose for sexual activity. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5; Lev. 18:1-30;

Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

- c. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two-distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God and the rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Genesis 1:26-27)
2. Love. We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal graciously, humbly, gently, and patiently with those who oppose us. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; I Peter 3:8-9; 1 John 3:17-18)
3. Lawsuits within the Church. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits within the church. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)
4. Protection of Children. We believe that children are from the Lord and must be absolutely protected within the church from any form of abuse or molestation. The church has zero tolerance for any person, whether paid staff, volunteer, member, or visitor, who abuses or molests a child. (Ps. 127:3-5; Matt. 18:6; Matt. 19:14; Mark 10:14)

## **ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 3.01—QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Those seeking membership must, through their actions, words, lifestyle and affiliations, evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Candidates for membership will be required to attend a pre-membership class led by a pastor or appointee, in which they will review the statement of faith, the bylaws of this church, general church practices and policies, and expectations of members. At the conclusion of the class, candidates will be interviewed by the senior pastor, a pastor and/or board prior to being recommended for membership, to ensure they fully subscribe to the statement of faith contained herein and agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders. After such recommendation, membership will be granted upon the recommendation of the senior pastor, the pastors and a majority vote of the board, and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- By baptism at this local church following a profession of faith as a believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized subsequent to a profession of faith; or
- By testimony of faith, having been baptized in another Bible-believing church of like faith and

practice.

### **SECTION 3.02—PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Only members of at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church may only exercise voting privileges in those areas that are defined and limited by these bylaws. Members may not vote to initiate any church action; rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the senior pastor, the pastors and the board.
- B. This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the senior pastor as the under-shepherd with the counsel of the pastors and the board. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The pastors and the board shall give counsel and assistance to the senior pastor as requested by him.
- C. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The senior pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the senior pastor, (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board), be treated as a trespasser.
- D. A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church and committee meetings, provided he shall have made a written request upon the church and the church has received the written request at least five business days before the requested inspection date. Board meeting minutes or sections thereof and discipline committee meetings, as well as other information involving privacy interests such as, but not limited to, donor records, lists of names and addresses of church members, individual benevolence, individual salaries, health information, background checks, and social security numbers, are exempt from this provision and are not subject to inspection or copy without a court order.

### **SECTION 3.03—AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. This provision may be waived at the discretion of the senior pastor, the pastors and the board upon the showing of good cause, for such persons as college students, military personnel, shut-ins and missionaries, for example.
- B. The membership of any individual shall automatically terminate without notice if the member adopts opinions—verbally, in print, or in any other manner or medium—that are in direct contravention to the church's statement of faith. Since agreement with the church's statement of

faith is a requirement for membership in this church, the member's non-conforming statements will be treated as the member's resignation by the senior pastor, the pastors and the board.

- C. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member unites in membership with another church.
- D. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if a member files a lawsuit in violation of section 2.02(B)(6).
- E. The membership of an individual will automatically terminate upon his or her death.
- F. For any memberships terminated in accordance with the above provisions, with the exception of memberships terminated under (E) above, the church may send a letter informing the prior member of the termination, but this is not required.

### **SECTION 3.04—TRANSFER OR RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members not under the disciplinary process of section 3.05 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the senior pastor and the pastors.

### **SECTION 3.05—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER**

- A. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders the spiritual growth and testimony of an individual in the local church or the body as a whole, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- B. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- C. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (A) and (B) have been taken, the two members aware of the offense shall, in keeping with Matthew 18, bring the issue before the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, who are representatives of the church body.
- D. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board shall attempt to meet with the offending member. If reconciliation is not reached, the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, as representatives of the church body, shall, upon a majority vote of those present at a meeting of the board, terminate the individual's membership without further notice to the individual(s). Unless the matter involves an issue of safety or security to the members of the church at large, the specifics of the matter shall not be addressed in a public forum or with the general church membership.
- E. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board members shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline. If the senior pastor, a pastor or a board member is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not be permitted to vote on his own membership termination.
- F. For any memberships terminated in accordance with this provision, the senior pastor may cause a letter to be written informing the prior member of the termination, although he is not required to

do so.

- G. The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

### **SECTION 3.06—AFFILIATED CO-LABORER**

Those desiring fellowship, accountability and opportunities for service with this assembly on a temporary basis but who maintain membership in a like body of believers outside this locality may be granted affiliated co-laborer status with this church. The affiliated co-laborer may be eligible to serve in certain capacities determined by the senior pastor, the pastors and the board and may attend member fellowship events. This affiliation does not, however, grant membership or the rights of membership to the individual(s) so granted. Affiliated co-laborers shall not be entitled to hold any office, vote in, or have any say in any church matter, and shall not be counted for quorum purposes. A person wishing to become an affiliated co-laborer with this assembly must make a request to the senior pastor or his designee who will determine if affiliated co-laborer status should be granted to the individual. If the senior pastor or his designee so determines, the person may be granted co-laborer status upon a majority vote of the board.

## **ARTICLE 4 CORPORATE OFFICERS AND DEACONS**

### **SECTION 4.01—DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the senior pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the chairman of the board shall serve as vice president of the corporation; the church corporate secretary shall serve as secretary of the corporation; and the church corporate treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the corporation.

### **SECTION 4.02—CHURCH CORPORATE OFFICERS**

The church corporate officers are the senior pastor, chairman of the board, corporate secretary, corporate treasurer, and any other officers the board deems necessary. The board chooses among itself and appoints the chairman, corporate secretary and corporate treasurer by a simple majority vote.

### **SECTION 4.03—ELIGIBILITY FOR DEACONS**

- A. The church shall not install or retain a deacon who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the statement of faith set forth in Article 2. All church deacons, upon request of the senior pastor, shall affirm in writing their agreement with the statement of faith.
- B. All deacons must be approved initially and thereafter by the senior pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- C. Only church members who have been members for a minimum of three years and are at least 21 years old are eligible for election or appointment as deacon. Affiliated co-laborers with this ministry are not eligible for such election or appointment.

### **SECTION 4.04—ELECTION OF DEACONS**

The annual election of deacons by the church membership shall occur during the first Sunday of the month of October, at the annual church business meeting. Deacons of the church must be elected by a majority of the eligible membership present at a regular or special church business meeting. The senior pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other deacons, subject to a confirmation vote by a majority of the eligible church membership, present and voting at any regular or special church business meeting. Members may submit nominations for deacons to the senior pastor, the pastors and the board. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board shall then serve as the nominating committee for all general elections of deacons.

#### **SECTION 4.05—TERMS OF SERVICE FOR PASTORS AND DEACONS**

- A. The relationship between the senior pastor, the pastors and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between a pastor and the church may be considered at any regular or special church business meeting by following the procedures outlined in Article 6, provided notice of the meeting shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to the meeting. A majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to remove a pastor from office. Disciplinary removal of a pastor from office automatically terminates his membership.
- B. The term of service for all deacons in the church shall be three years, at the expiration of which the deacons may be re-elected for one additional three-year term, at the expiration of which the deacons may be appointed for one additional year, for a maximum consecutive total of seven years.
- C. A deacon vacancy occurring in the board may be temporarily filled by appointment by the board until the next annual meeting, at which time it will be filled for the unexpired term by the regular procedure.
- D. All deacons shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed, unless removed for disciplinary reasons.
- E. Members of the board (except pastors, for whom a membership vote is required in such cases) may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the board.

#### **SECTION 4.06—CALLING A PASTOR**

When calling a new senior pastor or other pastors or upon the resignation, death or dismissal of a senior pastor or other pastors, the church shall seek a candidate who subscribes to the statement of faith and bylaw provisions of the church and whose life aligns with the qualifications of a pastor as described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The church shall abide by the following guidelines for calling a pastor:

- A. The board shall select a pastoral search committee to consist of the senior pastor, or, in his absence, another pastor, two board members (one from the Chinese congregation, and one from the English congregation) and two other fellowship or ministry coworkers elected by a majority vote of the board. The pastoral search committee shall interview potential candidates and will only consider men who completely subscribe to the statement of faith and who have read these bylaws.

- B. The interview process for selecting a pastoral candidate shall include, at a minimum, the following: a background check, a credit check, a reference check, and the filling out of a detailed application that explains the potential candidate's philosophy of ministry as well as his positions on issues of doctrinal significance.
- C. The Pastoral Search Committee will then select one potential candidate and invite him to preach at least one Sunday service.
- D. Thereafter, upon a majority vote of the pastoral search committee, the pastoral search committee will recommend the candidate to the board, who will then interview the candidate with the pastoral search committee. Thereafter, and upon a majority vote of the board to proceed with the candidate, the candidate must preach at least one more regularly scheduled services and be available for a question/answer time with church members. Thereafter, upon a majority vote of the board, the board will formally announce the candidate to the church, prior to the candidate being voted upon by the church membership.
- E. Notice from the pulpit must be given 2 consecutive Sundays prior to a formal candidate's preaching services, and 2 consecutive Sundays prior to the church membership vote.
- F. The candidate must be elected as pastor by a two-third (2/3) vote of members present and qualified to vote. This vote shall be taken by written, secret ballot. The board will only present for consideration to the membership one candidate at a time, and an up or down vote must be cast prior to consideration of other potential candidates.

## **ARTICLE 5 DUTIES AND POWERS OF PASTORS AND DEACONS**

### **SECTION 5.01—THE PASTORS**

- A. All pastors shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God. They shall administer the ordinances of the church. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board, on behalf of the church, shall institute committees and departments and appoint the members of the various committees and departments. The senior pastor and the pastors shall inform all newly appointed members of the functions and responsibilities of their respective offices. They shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and shall perform such other duties as generally appertain to the position of pastor. The senior pastor and the pastors shall be free to choose the means and methods by which they exercise the ministry God has given them.
- B. The senior pastor shall supervise the teaching ministries of the church and watch over the spiritual interests of the membership. In all conflicts regarding interpretation of Scripture, the senior pastor has the final authority. The senior pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation. .
- C. 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 any other purposes shall be under the leadership of the senior pastor and the pastors, who, with the advice and counsel of the board, shall be able to determine the appropriateness of all property use, as well as persons permitted to use the church property.



- D. The senior pastor and the pastors shall be responsible to fill the pulpit for each regularly scheduled church service as well as any special services. In the event of their absence, they (or the chairman of the board in the case of a vacancy in the office of pastors or where the pastors are temporarily unable to perform their duties) shall be responsible to invite speakers from within the membership or outside the church to preach in a manner consistent with the beliefs articulated in the statement of faith.
- E. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board shall be responsible to establish mandatory safety and security procedures for all ministries and programs. There will be a zero-tolerance policy with regard to abuse of minors; and any reasonable suspicions of child abuse alleged to be perpetrated by staff, volunteers, members or non-members will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement or child abuse prevention authorities. The senior pastor or his designee will be responsible to provide yearly child abuse prevention training for all staff and volunteers.

## **SECTION 5.02—THE BOARD**

- A. The board shall consist of no less than six deacons and no more than nine deacons. Their qualifications shall be as prescribed in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9).
- B. The board shall assist the senior pastor and the pastors in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the church services, and in performing all other work of the church. The board is responsible for making preparations to observe church ordinances and shall consider applications for church membership and affiliated co-laborers. The board shall disburse the love fund in cooperation with the senior pastor and the pastors and shall assist them in all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The board shall assist the senior pastor and the pastors in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries. They shall provide the pulpit supply. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the senior pastor or a pastor, or should the board decide to hire an additional pastor, the board may appoint a pastoral search committee.
- C. Following the annual church business meeting, the board shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman and a corporate secretary for the board.
- D. The senior pastor and the corporate officers shall constitute the board of directors of the corporation. In addition to the various powers specifically granted the board under these bylaws, the board has authority to exercise the following powers, upon authorization by a majority vote of the eligible members at a duly-called business meeting:
  - 1. To purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
  - 2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
  - 3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
- E. All powers of the board, (whether deacons or other appointed group) shall be compatible with the

laws of the state of New York.

- F. The board shall, in conjunction with the senior pastor and the pastors, conduct an annual ministry liability and safety review of the following policies and/or topics: child protection, including but not limited to worker screening procedures, child abuse reporting procedures, and worker training on child abuse prevention; building safety; security measures; insurance; financial accountability ; transportation; sexual harassment; policies listed in IRS Form 990, including a conflict of interest policy, a whistleblower policy, a document retention and destruction policy, and a church financial investment policy (if applicable).
- G. Each board member shall review the bylaws annually and shall bring suggested changes to a meeting of the board that has been designated for the purpose of reviewing the bylaws.

### **SECTION 5.03—CHURCH CORPORATE SECRETARY**

The church corporate secretary, along with any assistant or co-officer or church clerk, shall:

- A. Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws, minutes of meetings, the membership roll, baptisms, and records of any special events which are of historical interest to the church; and shall deliver such documents to his or her successor upon leaving office.
- B. Maintain and file minutes of all church business and board meetings, including the time and place of holding, the notice given, the names of those present unless a church-wide meeting, and an accurate record of all church business approved at each meeting. A copy of these minutes shall be kept as a permanent record of the church and shall be made available at all reasonable times to proper person on terms provided by law and pursuant to these bylaws.
- C. Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law; see that reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed.
- D. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. In case of the absence or disability of the corporate secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the senior pastor or by the chairman of the board.
- E. Serve as the secretary of the corporation and be a member in good standing.

### **SECTION 5.04—CORPORATE TREASURER**

The church corporate treasurer, along with any assistant or co-officer, shall:

- A. Count, or cause to be counted, along with two other persons so appointed, and record in a permanent record all the monies received in offerings for the church. This shall be done following each service or day of services of the church.
- B. Convey in a timely manner all funds received to the person designated by the board for verification and deposit in the bank, including moneys received from outside sources.
- C. Maintain a permanent weekly record of individual giving for all donations, offerings, contributions and gifts, and guard the confidentiality of these records. Issue an official receipt to each contributor

at the end of the fiscal year.

- D. Keep in the church office an accurate and permanent record of all financial transactions of church funds. Make reports of itemized disbursements and the financial condition of the church as requested by the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, and for annual, quarterly or otherwise special or regular business meetings; and deliver such records to his or her successor upon leaving office.
- E. Serve as treasurer of the corporation and be a member in good standing.

#### **SECTION 5.05—DUTIES OF ALL CORPORATE OFFICERS AND DEACONS**

- A. All corporate officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual church business meeting and shall surrender all records in their possession to the church corporate secretary at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.
- B. Any deacon who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws for a period of three months may be removed from his office, at the discretion of the senior pastor, with the counsel of the pastors and the board, and another may be appointed by the board to serve the un-expired term.

### **ARTICLE 6 CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

#### **SECTION 6.01—ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**

- A. The annual church business meeting, for the election of deacons and the transaction of other business, shall be held on the first Sunday of October. A quorum shall consist of the eligible members present. Public notice of the meeting and the proposed motions shall be given from the pulpit and in the bulletin for two successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting.
- B. The chairman of the board or his designee shall serve as moderator of church business meetings. In the event of a conflict of interest, the board may substitute a moderator.
- C. The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling.
- D. For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers (or children, if circumstances so warrant) to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, he may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises and treat the person as a trespasser.
- E. The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

#### **SECTION 6.02—CHURCH SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

The senior pastor (or the board if the office of senior pastor is vacant or if the senior pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special church business meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or for the discipline or removal of a pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of Sections 4.05 and 4.06. A quorum shall consist of the eligible members present.

### **SECTION 6.03—VOTING AT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Voting at any church business meeting is limited to eligible members in good standing with the church who are physically present at the meeting. Absentee voting is not permitted, and any member who is undergoing church discipline at the time of a vote is not permitted to vote. A majority vote will constitute the requisite number of votes for passage of motions, whether by the board voting at a board meeting or by the members voting in a church business meeting, except for calling a pastor and for amending these bylaws, in which cases a two-third majority is required.

### **SECTION 6.04—MOTIONS AT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Members who desire that a certain motion be made or subject matter be discussed during an annual, regular, or special business meeting must file a written recommendation with the senior pastor and the board two weeks prior to the set meeting, who will then consider the proposal and proceed according to their conscience and what they understand to be in the best interests of the church.. No motions will be made from the floor.

### **SECTION 6.05—MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

- A. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the board shall be held monthly, unless voted otherwise by the board due to exceptional circumstances, at such time and place as the board shall determine.
- B. Special Meetings. The senior pastor, pastors or any two (2) board members may call a special meeting of the board at any time, and nothing contained in this article shall be construed as limiting, fixing, or affecting the time or date when a meeting called by action of the board may be held.
- C. Notice of Meetings
  - 1. Requirement of Notice: Notice shall not be required for regularly-scheduled meetings of the board unless there has been a change to the time, date, or location of such regularly-scheduled meetings, in which case notice shall be given in accordance with this section of the bylaws. Notice shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this section for all special meetings of the board.
  - 2. Method of Notice: Notice shall be sent to each board member for special meetings by means of the corporate secretary's chosen method of communication, whether by postal mail, phone, or email at each board member's address or phone number as it appears in the records of the church or as supplied by the board member to the corporate secretary for the purpose of notice. Notice shall be given by or at the direction of the chairman or the senior pastor. In the event the senior pastor or chairman resident refuses to give notice, any board member may give notice of any meeting. The corporate secretary is responsible to verify that notice is duly provided.

3. Content of Notice: Notice of any special meeting shall state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
  4. Time of Notice: Notice of any special meeting shall be delivered by the person charged with giving notice, not less than two (2) days before the date of the meeting.
  5. Waiver of Notice: A board member may waive notice of a meeting of the board by written statement, and attendance by the board member at the meeting without protest shall be deemed waiver of notice.
- D. Quorum. A quorum for meetings shall consist of a two-third (2/3) majority of the board. If a quorum is not attained, then those present shall adjourn the meeting to a new date duly noticed to all board members for not more than ten (10) days thereafter, and at that later-noticed meeting a quorum shall consist of those board members then present.
- E. Roles. At every meeting of the board, the chairman, or in his absence, the deacon designated by the chairman or in the absence of a designation, the person (who shall be one of the deacons, if any is present) chosen by a majority of the board members present shall act as chairman and/or moderator, and shall conduct the meeting in an orderly manner, as determined by the chairman. The corporate secretary of the board shall act as secretary of all meetings and shall take accurate minutes of board meetings and promptly deliver such minutes to the senior pastor, the pastors and the board. In the absence of the corporate secretary, the chairman may appoint another person to act as secretary of the meetings.
- F. Participation in Meetings. Any one or more board member may participate in a meeting of the board by means of a conference telephone, web-based conference, or similar communications equipment or device, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Participating by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting for purposes of determining if a quorum is present.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES**

#### **SECTION 7.01—PURPOSE**

The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To help fulfill this responsibility of imparting biblical truth and furthering the Great Commission, this church shall establish and maintain an educational program (either a Sunday School and/or a weekday educational program) for the purposes of proclaiming the Gospel and teaching Bible doctrine, godly worship, and biblical Christian living. To this end, the church shall engage in educational ministries.

#### **SECTION 7.02—CHURCH PARTICIPATION**

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, on behalf of the church, may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if they deem it in the best interest of the church.

### **SECTION 7.03—CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL**

The Chinese Language School is a ministry of the church intended to help teach the Chinese Language as an outreach to the community and as a way to proclaim the Gospel to families. The senior pastor, the pastors and the board appoint a committee to run the school. One pastor and one deacon will be members of that committee.

### **SECTION 7.04—AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENT OF FAITH**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church and shall be taught and presented in full agreement with the statement of faith of the church and the inerrant Word of God. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs who fails to adhere to or who expresses disagreement with the statement of faith or who adopts or lives a lifestyle inconsistent with the beliefs and practices of the statement of faith of the church, whether in or out of the classroom.

## **ARTICLE 8 COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 8.01—COMMITTEES**

The senior pastor, the pastors and the board, on behalf of the church, may designate or form any committees and may appoint members and/or chairpersons of said committees as considered by the senior pastor, the pastors and the board to be in the best interests of the church. These committees may be standing or temporary (special) committees.

### **SECTION 8.02—ACTIONS OF COMMITTEES**

Committees, whether standing or special, have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. Their primary function is to research and recommend. Committees shall make available upon request all records and materials to the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, who shall have the right to overrule any plans or decisions made by the committee. Each committee shall have a secretary that keeps minutes of each meeting and shall timely submit the minutes to the senior pastor, the pastors and the church corporate secretary to be filed with church records. If deemed appropriate by the senior pastor, the pastors and the board, the committee secretary, in conjunction with the chairman, shall submit an annual report to the church of the decisions and plans of the committee.

## **ARTICLE 9 DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS**

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. If the church receives a designated contribution for these funds or for any other designated purpose, the church will attempt to honor the designation; however, all designated contributions shall be deemed advisory rather than legally mandatory in nature and shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the senior pastor, the pastors and the board. 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 Section 1.02.

## **ARTICLE 10 BINDING ARBITRATION**

### **SECTION 10.01—SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION**

Members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any legal matters within the church, which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bring any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

### **SECTION 10.02—ARBITRATION PROCEDURES**

The procedures for arbitration shall be as adopted by the board. If the board has not adopted procedures, the church will use arbitration procedures provided by the National Center for Life and Liberty. This arbitration provision is ecclesiastical and faith-based in nature and is intended to operate under the rules and guidelines of this local church. It is not intended to operate under any state or federal guidelines for arbitration.

## **ARTICLE 11 TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 11.01—PRIVATE INUREMENT**

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, deacons, corporate 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 Section 1.02 hereof.

### **SECTION 11.02—POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT**

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. To the extent prohibited by law, the church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

### **SECTION 11.03—DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the church, the board shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as the board shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to tax-exempt organizations that agree with the church's statement of faith.

### **SECTION 11.04—NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The church shall not discriminate against members, applicants for membership, or students on the basis of race, color, or national and ethnic origin. Furthermore, while Long Island Abundant Life Church does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national and ethnic origin in its employment policies, as a religious institution it reserves the right to deny employment in accordance with its religious beliefs or to deny or terminate the employment of persons whose lifestyle, words, actions or otherwise do not align with the church's statement of faith, standard of conduct or other policies of this organization.

**SECTION 11.05—LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the church shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

**ARTICLE 12  
AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the eligible members present and voting at any regular church business meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been announced from the pulpit for at least two consecutive Sundays, and at least fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken. Proposed amendments or changes must be made available to voting members for review at least one week prior to the meeting at which the vote to amend the bylaws will be taken. Amendments become effective immediately upon adoption.

These bylaws were adopted by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of Long Island Abundant Life Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Corporate Secretary



DATE	BYLAWS STATUS	BY	COMMENTS
May 6, 2018	Draft 1 (v.1)	Yuan L. Pastor H. Christine H.	Based on NCLL sample For submission to Legal Health Team, for discussion
May 16, 2018	Draft 1 (v. 2)	Christine H.	With input from the Legal Health Team on May 6, 2018, as submitted to the board.
July 19, 2018	v. 3	Christine H., Pastor H., Pastor W., Yuan L. for the board	Copy from Yuan as approved by the board, and finalized by CH and Pastors H and W to finalize remaining unanswered questions and fill in gaps (e.g., include the Chinese School Ministry, 7.03, per the NCLL answers, add maximum and minimum number of board members, 4.05B, and specify the temporary filling of board vacancies, 4.05C).
July 19, 2018	v. 4	Christine H.	Identical to v. 3, with Track Changes and Comments removed. Copy to submit to the NCLL 7/20/2018.
July 21st, 2018	v. 5	Pastor & Christine H. to reflect the NCLL's Atty. Weller's comments re: v4	In appropriate cases, replaced Officers with corporate officers Officers with deacons Secretary with corporate secretary Treasurer with corporate treasurer To distinguish between the corporate officers (in relation to legal relations outside the church) and the board of deacons Further specified current board practices, e.g., the chairman of the board being the moderator rather than the senior pastor, potential board members required to have been church members for at least three years, New Testament qualifications of the deacons, and requirement of including proposed motions in the bulletin 2 weeks prior to a called membership meeting In appropriate cases, replaced senior pastor with senior pastor and the pastors Rearranged sections 5.01 A & B to distinguish the role and responsibilities specific to the senior pastor
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	v. 6	Pastor & Christine H, reflecting comments of Pastor W.	3.01 removed "by immersion". 3.01 replaced "pastoral staff" by "a pastor", twice. Rephrased the first sentence of Section 4.06 to allow for new pastors. Copy resubmitted to the NCLL 8/1/2018.
August 4, 2018	v. 7	Pastor & Christine H, reflecting NCLL's 2 <sup>nd</sup> proof, comments by	4.05 B deleted re-appointed and re-elected or re- 4.06 C spelled out PSC and deleted extra "se". 4.03 C added min. 21 years old condition for deacons.

		Pastor W.	
August 14, 2018	v. 8	Pastor & Christine H, reflecting comments of Pastor W.	Section 3.03A: added examples at the end of paragraph. Section 5.05B: added “the pastors” in “with the counsel of the pastors and the board”.
August 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018	v.9	Pastor & Christine H, reflecting comments of Pastor W.	Fixed minor typos/grammar. Section 4.04: specified 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of October. Last two sentences, added “the pastors”. Section 4.05E: added bracket comment concerning pastors. Added “SECTION” before paragraphs in Articles 1 and 2, to match the rest of the bylaws. Added “Long Island Abundant Life Church” in Sections 11.04 and 12.