

LONG ISLAND ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH  
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

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

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.

ARTICLE I - Name

This church shall be known as the Long Island Abundant Life Church.

ARTICLE II - Belief

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.

#### ARTICLE III – Support

The entire program of this Church shall be supported by the free-will offerings of those who are led by the Holy Spirit to contribute to the same.

#### ARTICLE IV - Membership

- Section 1: Admission of Members - Any regenerated Christian regardless of race or nationality may be elected as a member upon being proposed for membership by two members, and upon receiving a majority vote of the members present at a Deacon Board meeting.
- Section 2: Dismissal of Members - Membership will be terminated by death, letter of dismissal or letter of commendation.
- Section 3: Non-resident Members - Members who have moved from the area temporarily may retain their active voting membership status by communication with the pastor or clerk at least once a year indicating their desire to maintain membership. (Members who are students attending an institution outside the local area shall be classified as non-resident members.)
- Section 4: Privileges of Members - All members of the Church, 18 years of age and older, who are on the active membership list, shall constitute the voting body of the Church. Only members on the active list at least 21 years of age shall be eligible to hold office in the Church.
- Section 5: Obligations of Members - It shall be the duty of each member to observe all the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws as herein provided. It shall be the duty of each member to keep the Church informed of his address.
- Section 6: Discipline of Members - The Church may discipline any member by censure, by removal from office or by withdrawal of membership for breach or neglect of the provisions of the Church Constitution and By-Laws or for any conduct prejudicial to the interest of the Church and the cause of Christ.

No member of the Church shall be disciplined by the Church until a citation shall have been delivered to the member personally or by registered letter to the last known address of the member, requiring that the member appear, at a stated time, to answer the charges before the pastor and the Board of

Deacons. A member shall be given a reasonable time to appear and a reasonable opportunity to answer and to disprove the charges. Upon failure to appear, the pastor and the Board of Deacons may take action as though the correctness of the charges had been admitted.

If the pastor and the deacons find that the charges are substantiated, their recommendation of censure, removal from office or withdrawal of membership shall be presented to the Church body for action.

Section 7: Business Meetings

1. Annual Meeting - The annual meeting of the Church shall be held on the first Sunday in October each year at the Church. Announcements of the said meeting shall be made known to all members two weeks prior to the meeting. At the annual meeting, there shall be annual reports, elections of officers and all business that may properly come before the meeting.
2. Special Meeting - A special meeting may be called by the Board of Deacons. Announcement of the said meeting shall be made known to all members two weeks prior to the meeting, except in case of emergencies.
3. Quorum - The quorum for all meetings of the Church shall consist of a majority of the membership of the Church.

ARTICLE V - Organization

Section 1: Officers - The officers of the Church shall be: a pastor, not less than six nor more than nine deacons (the number shall be determined by the Board of Deacons), not less than three nor more than fifteen trustees (the number to be determined by the Board of Trustees), a clerk, a treasurer, a financial secretary, and a Bible School superintendent. The pastor, deacons and trustees shall be elected by the Church. The clerk, treasurer, financial secretary, and the Bible School superintendent shall be elected by the Board of Deacons.

Section 2: Qualifications - To hold office in the Church a person must be an active member.

Section 3: Pastor - The pastor shall be a born-again Christian, who without mental reservation, shall subscribe to the Preamble and Belief as set forth in Article II of this Constitution.

His salary shall be fixed by vote of the deacons.

He shall be in charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the preaching of the Word and have in his care, with the deacons, the stated

services of public worship. He shall administer the ordinances and shall preside at all worship services. He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

Should assistant pastors, Christian education directors or Church secretaries be required, they should be recommended by the pastor and the Board of Deacons to the congregation for their approval by majority vote. Their duties shall be outlined and assigned by the pastor and the Board of Deacons.

Section 4: The Deacons - The Board shall consist of at least six and not more than nine who are 21 years of age or older, each of whom shall serve three years. The qualification shall be such as prescribed in the New Testament (I Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9).

This term shall be so arranged that the terms of one third of the members of the Board shall expire each year. Members of the Board of Deacons may be elected to succeed themselves.

When a vacancy does occur, it shall be temporarily filled by appointment by the Board of Deacons until the next annual meeting, at which time it will be filled for the unexpired term by the regular procedure.

The regular expiration date of office shall occur on the annual meeting of each third year.

All deacons properly elected shall be installed by the pastor at the next public service following their election, or as soon there after as possible.

The duties of the Board of Deacons shall be:

1. To assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church, to be his counselors, to exercise special and prudent watch-care over the Church and related activities and to welcome new members into the congregation.
2. To assist the pastor in the administration of the Lord's Supper.
3. To visit the sick and distressed members of the congregation and when necessary, relieve their needs by appropriation from the fellowship fund, of which they have charge, or by other means.
4. To review applications for membership.
5. To give careful and prayerful consideration to any charges that are brought against a member and to investigate thoroughly all cases and hear testimony from all parties involved before bringing the report to the Church for action.

6. In the absence of the pastor, to see that a leader is provided for all Church services and provide for the introduction of guest speakers at these services. In the event of the pastor's resignation or death, the deacons shall be responsible for the administration of all Church activities normally performed by the pastor.
7. With the concurrence of the pastor, the deacons shall exercise jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the Church services to insure the type of worship service that will glorify our Lord and comply with the Word of God.
8. They shall see that the regular stated services are held in accordance with article II.
9. The Board of Deacons shall meet at least once a month to tend to Church business. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the chairperson of the Board, or by the pastor, or by at least three members of the Board. In case of emergency, such meeting may be held without written notice.
10. The quorum of the Board of Deacons shall be two-thirds of its members.

Section 5: Trustees - Members of the Board of Deacons can also serve as members of the Board of Trustees.

The Church, by its voting members, shall give directions, not inconsistent with law, as to the manner in which any of the temporal affairs of the Church corporation shall be followed by the trustees. The trustees shall have no power without the consent of the Church to incur debts beyond what is necessary for the care of the property of the Church.

This Board shall consist of at least three and not more than fifteen active members, each of whom shall serve three years. This term of office shall be so arranged as to expire in annual rotation. It shall be so arranged that the term of one-third of the members of the Board shall expire each year. Any trustee may be elected to succeed himself. The Board shall be balloting at the first Board meeting following the annual meeting electing its own chairman and vice-chairman and secretary. The Board of Trustees shall meet the same high standards required for deacons as outlined under Article V, Section 4, and be required to sign annually the same statement as the pastor, as designated in Article V, Section 3.

The chairman shall have the responsibility of the general supervision of the temporal affairs of the Church subject to the trustees and authority given by the Church. He shall preside at all meetings of the trustees, shall sign all deeds and conveyances of real property and shall perform all other duties

pertaining to his office.

The Vice-chairman shall act in the capacity of the chairman when the chairman is unable.

The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees.

The duties of the Board of Trustees shall be:

1. To have the care, custody and oversight of the property and equipment of the Church. This includes the hiring and supervising of a custodian. The salary of said custodian is to be set by the Church as with all other salaries.
2. To represent the Church in all legal matters and have the custody of all papers and documents relating to the same, such as leases, deeds, and agreements other than those related to the pastoral office.
3. To account for all monies received for the current expenses of the Church and authorize all payments made by the treasurer.
4. This board shall not sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber real estate or other property of the Church except by consent of the Church.
5. This Board shall not without authority from the Church build or otherwise involve the Church in expense aside from the ordinary expenditure incurred by the proper care, repair and preservation of its property.
6. Vacancies - If any trustee declines to act, resigns or dies, or having been a member, ceases to be a member, his office shall be vacant, and such vacancy may be filled by the remaining trustees until the next annual meeting, at which meeting the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term.
7. Limitations of Authority - No member of the trustees shall obligate the Church or corporation or commit it to any policy, program, purchase, sale, or responsibility without the approval of the Church; but the chairman and the secretary may, in emergency, accept property tentatively on the condition that said acceptance is subject to confirmation by the Church membership and that said acceptance is cancelled if such confirmation is not formally given at the next Church meeting after the tentative acceptance.
8. Meetings of Trustees - Meetings of trustees shall be called by giving at least twenty-four hours notice thereof personally or by mail to all the

trustees; and such notice may be given by two of the trustees; by the unanimous consent of the trustees, a meeting may be held without previous notice thereof. A majority of the whole number of trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting lawfully convened.

ARTICLE VI - Restrictions to Amendments

The Preamble and Statement of Belief (Article II) of the Constitution of the Long Island Abundant Life Church cannot be changed or amended.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

The Constitution of the Long Island Abundant Life Church, except the Preamble and Article II, may be amended with the approval of two-thirds of the voting members present at the Church business meeting and those voting members who vote by mail.

ARTICLE VIII - Dissolution

If, on the winding-up or dissolution of the corporation, there remains after payment of all its debts and liabilities, any property or assets whatsoever, the sum shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the corporation, but shall be given or transferred to the trustees, who shall distribute the sum among those known to be furthering the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on this earth and known to be in fellowship with assemblies of Christians that accept the Holy Scripture as their infallible guide, that are gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ alone, and that recognize His sole authority as Head of the Church to give gifts to men and as Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest.

AMENDMENTS OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
April 3, 1983

- I. The following paragraphs are added to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Long Island Abundant Life Church to describe more specifically the purposes of the Church:
  - A. This Church is organized exclusively for one or more of the following purposes: religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or educational purposes, or to foster national or international amateur sports competition (but only if no part of its activities involve the provision of athletic facilities or equipment), or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals as specified in section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted under a church exemption from the Federal Income tax under section 510 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.
  - B. No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director officer of the church or any private individual (except reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the church) and no member, trustee, officer of the church or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the church assets on dissolution of the church.
  - C. No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by the Internal Revenue Service Code section 501h), or otherwise participating in or intervening in (including the distribution or publication of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- II. The following paragraph is added to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Long Island Abundant Life Church to restrict more specifically the use of the assets of the Church :

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the Church shall, after necessary expenses, thereof be distributed to such organizations as shall qualify under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, or, to another organization to be used in such manner as in the judgment of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York will best accomplish the general purpose for which the Church was formed.
- III. The above amendments were passed by the church business meeting held on April 3, 1983, as described in the Constitution and the By-Laws of the Long Island Abundant Life Church.