



Bylaws of the Aloha Vietnamese Baptist Church

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ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Aloha Vietnamese Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as the "Aloha Church").

ARTICLE II - IDENTITY STATEMENT

The Aloha Church is a voluntary fellowship of believers whose theology is biblically evangelical; whose character is multiethnic; whose spirit is positive and affirmative; whose purpose is to fulfill the Great Commission through evangelism, discipleship; and whose people celebrate openness and freedom in the context of Christ's Lordship.

ARTICLE III - AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

1. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We

believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

6. Regeneration

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. Christian Conduct

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church-baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death.

We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

11. Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

12. The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE AND MISSION STATEMENT

Section A. – Purpose

The purpose of the Aloha Church is to glorify God by making disciples of all peoples as stated in Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I

have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age" (NIV). The purpose of the Aloha Church is also to develop church members to Christlike maturity, as stated in Matthew 22:37-49: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart ..., Love your neighbor as yourself" (NIV).

Section B. - Mission

The mission of the Aloha Church is to glorify God by helping members fulfill Christ's mission for His church in all the communities God calls them to serve.

Section C. - Polity

The government of (Aloha Church) is vested solely in the members who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. This document supersedes any and all previous directives established as an administrative means of governing (Aloha Church).

ARTICLE V - ADMISSION AND DELETION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section A. - Requirements for Membership

Members are eligible for membership in the Aloha Church, upon the following conditions:

- The member shall subscribe without reservation to the Affirmation of Faith found in Article III of these bylaws;
- The member shall practice only believer's baptism by immersion;
- The member shall affirm the Aloha Church's mission and purpose statements as found in Article IV of these bylaws, and shall affirm the mission statement of the district with which it is affiliated;

- The member shall participate through prayer, financial and personal involvement in the mission and ministries of the Aloha Church and its particular district conference.

Section B. - Admission into Aloha Church Membership

Persons shall be received into the membership and covenant fellowship of Aloha Baptist Church after that person has:

- Made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and has followed the Lord in the ordinance of "believer's baptism" by immersion, either at this church or a church of like faith and practice,
- Produced a letter of membership in good standing from Aloha Baptist Church,
- Gives testimony of conversion experience and baptism in a church of like faith and practice.

Section C. - Deletion From Aloha Church Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: (1) upon the member's death, (2) upon the member's decision to unite with another church of the Christian faith, or (3) by mutual agreement between the member and the church to dissolve the covenant obligations.

ARTICLE VI - RELATIONSHIP WITH DISTRICT CONFERENCES

Section A. - Cooperation

This church shall be an autonomous Baptist church in voluntary cooperation with the local Baptist association; the Columbia Baptist Conference, and the Baptist General Conference.

ARTICLE VII – CHURCH OFFICERS

Section A. – Aloha Church Officers

All officers shall be members of this church for at least one year. They shall serve as a church council to provide direction for the organization as defined in Article. The qualifications of the officers shall be based on I Timothy, 3. The officers shall be the pastor(s), deacons, and others as the church may require from time to time, with such assistants as may be required, whose number, manner of election, terms of office, duties of office and compensation (if any) shall be determined by the church. The pastor, and the president of the board of deacons may temporarily appoint an officer to serve in event of vacancy until the church elects a new officer.

- A. Pastors – Pastors shall be elected by the church upon recommendation of a pastor search committee previously authorized by the church. The election of the pastor shall require an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the members present at a business meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot. The pastor shall serve at the will of the church or until the relationship is terminated by the pastor or by three-fourths vote of the church members present at a called business meeting. The pastor shall be responsible for the regular and appointed times of worship services, and attention to the general spiritual welfare of the membership. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the church with voting privileges. In case of absence or inability of the pastor, the officers will provide for preaching and worship leadership. In any period when the church is without a pastor, unless the church shall otherwise dictate, the officers will arrange for the pastoral ministry and provide counsel with reference to securing a pastor.
- B. Deacons –Deacons shall be elected by the congregation. They shall assist the pastor in the administration of ordinances. They shall counsel the pastor and cooperate with him in the discharge of his duties. They shall exercise guidance and leadership in spiritual matters of the congregation. There shall be 8 elected deacons of the congregation. There shall be a two year rotation of service. The deacons shall meet at least quarterly.

- C. Treasurer – A member of the board of deacons elected by the church, shall receive and disburse funds upon the authority of the church budget or upon special order of the church. It shall be the responsibility of the treasurer to submit to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding reporting period.
- D. Trustees – This committee shall consist three members; the elected senior pastor, the annually elected president, and the annually elected treasurer. The trustees shall hold in trust all church property. They shall affix their signatures to church papers and legal documents as required. They shall be responsible for obtaining insurance on the church property. This committee shall recommend purchases of (and receipt of donated) furnishing and equipment as necessary, but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer and property without specific authorization by vote of the church members. The trustees shall have authority to approve the loan of church equipment and use of the church facilities. The trustees shall have general charge of the administration and upkeep of the grounds and buildings.

Section B. - Composition of Board of Deacons

The board of deacons shall be comprised of 8 persons, who shall be selected into the following roles:

1. The President
2. The Secretary
3. The Treasurer
4. Christian Education
5. Worship
6. Social Service
7. Church Activities
8. Property management

The members of the board of deacons shall be selected and confirmed as described in the provisions of Article IX of these bylaws.

Section C. – Congregational Authority

The function, responsibilities, and/or privileges of church leaders may be altered as deemed necessary by the church. Other leadership positions may be added or deleted as deemed necessary by the church.

ARTICLE VIII – CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Section A. – Employees

As its needs may require, the church shall create paid positions for church staff to provide for efficient operation of its program. Unless otherwise specified, they will be under the general direction and supervision of the senior pastor.

Section B. – Committees

Committees shall be established or disbanded by authority of the church as deemed necessary to carry out the work of the church as outlined in Article IV, Section A (Purpose).

Section C. – Meetings

- A. Worship/Educational meetings shall be held as necessary to fulfill the purpose of (name of church) in Article IV, Section A (Purpose).
- B. Regular business meetings will be held at least one time each quarter as determined by the pastor and the president. Purposes of Business meeting must be announced during every regularly scheduled meeting of the church. An annual church meeting shall be held within the last quarter for the election of officers, approval of budget and other orders of business. All business meetings

shall be conducted in an orderly manner, in accordance with Aloha Church Constitution and Bylaws and Rules of Order. During the business meeting, actions of the church will be adopted upon a simple majority vote of the members present, except where otherwise specified in this document.

C. Voting members shall be 18 years of age.

Section D. - Operational Year

The operational year for the church will be January 1-December 31. The newly elected officers shall take office January 1st of the following year.

ARTICLE IX - SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF BOARD DEACONS

Section A. - Eligibility to Serve on Boards

Any person who is an active member in good standing of a member of the Church shall be eligible to serve the Church as a member of the board of deacons.

Section B. - Term of Office

Members of the board of deacons shall be confirmed at annual assemblies of the Church to serve for two-year terms. Upon re-nomination by the Church, a board member may be reconfirmed for a second term.

Section C. - Vacancies

Vacancies on the board of overseers that occur between annual assemblies shall be filled by the member's alternate. In the event that an alternate is unable to serve, the vacancy shall be filled at the next annual assembly of the Church.

ARTICLE X - CARE AND INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

Section A. - General Provisions

The utmost care shall be exercised in the handling and depositing of funds. Books of account shall be maintained, which books shall at all times be open for inspection by the board of deacons or its authorized representatives, or to authorized representatives of the Church.

Section B. - Contracts

The board of deacons may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section C. - Checks, Drafts, etc.

All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the board of deacons. In the absence of such determination by the board of deacons, such instruments shall be signed by the treasure and countersigned by the pastor or the president of the Church.

Section D. - Audit of Accounts

Accounts of the Church shall be audited annually by accountants appointed or approved by the Church, and the acceptance of the financial statements of the Church by the annual assembly of the Church shall be upon the basis of such audit reports.

ARTICLE XI - DEFINITIONS

As used in these bylaws where appropriate, the masculine includes the feminine, the singular includes the plural, and vice versa.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

Changes in this constitution and by-laws may be made at any business meeting of the church, provided each amendment shall be have been presented in writing at two previous business meetings. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws shall be by three-fourths of members present on a third reading.