

BYLAWS OF THE ADVENTURE-LIFE REFORMED CHURCH

Article I – Name

The name of the congregation and its corporation is the Adventure-Life Reformed Church, Reformed Church in America.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the congregation is to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the church polity of the Reformed Church in America, of which denomination said congregation is a subordinate organization; to promote Christian fellowship among its members; to nurture its members; to reach out through specific acts of service in the community and in the world; and to bring people to an understanding of the good news in Jesus Christ.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. The congregation is a body of baptized Christians meeting regularly in a particular place of worship. Confessing members of the Adventure-Life Reformed Church are those members who have been received by the board of elders through confession of faith in Jesus Christ, reaffirmation of faith, or presentation of a satisfactory certificate of transfer from another Christian church, and who make faithful use of the means of grace, especially the hearing of the Word and the use of the Lord's Supper.

Section 2. Termination of Membership – Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: (1) death, (2) transfer by letter to another Christian church, (3) request by the member for termination of membership, or (4) termination by action of the board of elders.

Article IV – Congregational Meetings

Section 1. The congregation shall have at least one meeting a year at which elders and deacons shall be elected.

Section 2. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by a majority vote of the consistory.

Section 3. Notice of the annual congregational meeting shall be made on at least two Sundays preceding the date of such meeting. Notice for Special meetings shall be made on at least one Sunday preceding the date of such meeting.

Section 4. All confessing members of the congregation who have attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible to vote in all elections and issues at any meeting of the congregation.

Section 5. A quorum for any meeting shall be the members present at a duly called congregational meeting.

Section 6. Unless otherwise required or agreed by the body, any action to be approved at a congregational meeting shall be passed by a majority of members present.

Section 7. Minutes shall be kept of all congregational meetings and shall be approved by a majority vote of the members present at the next congregational meeting.

Article V – The Consistory

Section 1. The consistory, also known as the leadership team, shall consist of deacons, elders, and all installed ministers.

Section 2. Election of Elders and Deacons

1. Only confessing members who have attained the age of twenty-one years, or at the discretion of the consistory, eighteen years, shall be eligible to be elected.
2. Prior to the congregational meeting at which voting will take place, a list of members who are eligible to be elected shall be distributed to the congregation, who will then be given suitable opportunity to nominate eligible members for the office of elder or deacon.
3. After giving any such nominations due consideration, the consistory shall present to the congregation a list of nominees who will be submitted for approval at the congregational meeting.
4. Names of persons elected shall be published in the bulletin on three Sundays prior to installation of consistory.
5. Installation and/or ordination of newly elected consistory members shall occur within a reasonable time after election and publication.

Section 3. Terms of office

1. Deacons and elders shall serve three-year terms of office, unless a shorter term is approved by the congregation upon election and is accepted by the newly elected member of the consistory. When the term of an elder or deacon ends, he or she is ineligible for election to the consistory for one year.
2. Only one person per household may serve on the consistory at the same time.

- Section 4. Meetings: The consistory shall meet at least four times per year. A quorum of the consistory shall be half the body. Unless otherwise required or agreed by the body, a majority in attendance shall decide any action.
- Section 5. Special meetings: Special meetings may be called by the president or the elder vice-president, as defined below in Article VI, or by three of the consistory members. At least twenty-four hours notice shall be given to each consistory member. At any special meeting, only the business for which the meeting was specially called may be acted upon, unless two-thirds of the consistory members in attendance approve adding new business to the agenda.
- Section 6. Duties of the consistory:
1. Provide direction and organization for the church and oversee the church's ministry. The consistory may appoint standing or special committees/teams, as needed, to assist with the fulfilling of this responsibility. All standing or special committees/teams, or a representative thereof, shall report to the consistory and be responsible thereto.
 2. Fulfill the duties for the consistory prescribed in the Book of Church Order.
 3. Prepare the budget, or authorize an individual or a standing or special committee/team to prepare the budget, and present it to the congregation for approval.
 4. Minutes shall be kept of all consistory meetings.
- Section 7. Power to Borrow Money: In addition to the approvals as required by the Book of Church Order, the consistory shall have the full power and authority to borrow money in the name of the church whenever, in the discretion of the consistory, the exercise of such power is required in the general interest of the church. In such case, the consistory shall authorize the proper officers to make, execute and deliver in the name of the church and on behalf of the church such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as the consistory shall deem necessary and proper. The consistory shall have the power as limited by the Book of Church Order to mortgage the property of the church as security for indebtedness. No action on the part of the congregation shall be required. Any decision to mortgage the property shall require a two-thirds vote of the consistory.
- Section 8. Board of Elders: The board of elders shall elect a lead elder who will be the vice-president of the consistory and preside at all meetings of the elders. If the lead elder is unable to attend a meeting of the elders, the lead elder shall designate another elder or the pastor to preside over the meeting.
1. The board of elders shall meet at least four times per year. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.
 2. The board of elders shall fulfill the duties for the board of elders prescribed in the Book of Church Order.

Section 9. Board of Deacons: The board of deacons shall elect a lead deacon who will preside at all meetings of the deacons. If the lead deacon is unable to attend a meeting of the deacons, the lead deacon shall designate another deacon or the pastor to preside over the meeting.

1. The board of deacons shall meet at least four times per year. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.
2. The board of deacons shall fulfill the duties for the board of deacons prescribed in the Book of Church Order.

Article VI – Officers of the Church

Section 1. President: The lead pastor shall serve as president of the consistory and shall preside at the annual meeting of the congregation.

Section 2. Vice-President: The vice-president shall be the lead elder who has been elected by a majority vote of the board of elders for a one-year term, and is eligible for re-election. The vice-president shall assume the responsibilities and duties of the president in his or her absence.

Section 3. Clerk: The clerk shall be a member of the consistory and shall be elected by majority vote of the consistory for a one year term, and is eligible for re-election. The clerk shall record the minutes of regular and special consistory meetings, and annual and special congregational meetings.

Section 4. Treasurer: The treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of the consistory for a one year term, and is eligible for re-election. The treasurer shall present the consistory with an accurate report of the church's finances. The treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks, and may authorize others to sign checks after receiving the approval of the consistory.

Article VII – Employees of the Church

Section 1. All full and part-time employees shall be responsible to the consistory through the lead pastor for job responsibilities and employment.

Section 2. Compensation for employment shall be determined by the consistory, or an agent thereof, and approved by the consistory (or by vote of the congregation at a regularly scheduled congregational meeting called for the purposed of approving the budget as presented by the consistory).

Article VIII – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this church shall be the calendar year (or another twelve-month period as agreed upon by the congregation or consistory).

Article IX – Amendments to the Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the consistory. Any amendment shall be proposed in its entirety to the consistory at a previous meeting. The congregation shall be informed of any changes to these bylaws prior to the final approval of the amendment.

Article X – Approval of the Bylaws

The undersigned, as the duly elected clerk of the consistory of the Adventure-Life Reformed Church, hereby certifies that these bylaws were approved by a two-thirds vote of the consistory at a meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 20____. After approval, proper notice of the proposed bylaws was given to the congregation.

The undersigned further certifies that these bylaws were approved by a majority vote of the confessing members present at the congregational meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

These bylaws were approved with the intent that they shall amend and replace in their entirety any existing bylaws of the Adventure-Life Reformed Church.

Signed by Clerk: _____

Date: _____