

AIC Constitution and Bylaws

The Amman International Church (AIC) is a local expression of the Body of Christ, which is the group of all who have, in faith, been saved from the penalty and power of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the unique Expression and Son of God; and who strive to know, honor, and worship God through the enabling of the Holy Spirit.

The primary objectives of the Amman International Church are:

- ✓ To worship and praise God
- ✓ To extend God's kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel
- ✓ To nurture and equip those who have received Jesus Christ to better know the scriptures and faithfully serve our Lord
- ✓ To provide opportunities for this corporate body of believers to fellowship together

Amman International Church is governed directly by the Lord Jesus Christ, through the principles revealed in His Word, and led by its body of elders. The membership is composed of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and who desire to identify with AIC and subscribe to the fundamental truths expressed in our Statement of Faith. We believe that God sovereignly brings men and women to AIC with the unique spiritual gifts needed for encouragement, building up, administration, and shepherding of the congregation. The congregation gathers regularly for worship, instruction from the Word of God, confession and prayer, and the celebration of the ordinances of the breaking of bread and believer's baptism.

Given the diversity of Christian theology and practices represented at Amman International Church, the following principles, which synthesize the basic, irrefutable doctrines of the Church, will form the Statement of Faith of AIC.

Governing Documents for Amman International Church

The system of church government adopted by AIC is that found in 1 Timothy 3 and 4, as well as Acts 6, where the congregation is led and served by elders and supported by deacons. The elders nominate and receive nominations for additional/new elders and deacons. After interviewing and evaluating the nominees, the approved candidates are presented to the congregation at least two weeks prior to an affirmation vote. Candidates must be affirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the congregation present during a regular service and serve for a term of two years.

Preamble

Desiring to do things decently and in order, we do hereby set forth in this document the constitution which will govern our congregational, spiritual, and material affairs.

Article 1 – Name

The name of the congregation shall be the Amman International Church of Amman, Jordan.

Article 2 – Statement of Faith

The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, and is the sole and final source of all that we believe to that end. For purposes of AIC's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our board of elders is AIC's final interpretive authority on applying the Bible concerning the governing of this body.

Doctrinal Statement

We believe:

- 1. The Bible** → We believe every word in the Old and New Testaments is inspired by God and without error in the original manuscripts. We believe the Bible is complete and cannot be added to or subtracted from, that it is the divine and final authority for the Christian faith and life, and that it is sufficient to inform regarding the means for salvation and equip believers for every good work. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (Matthew 5:17-18; Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19)
- 2. God** → We believe there is but one true and living God, creator of all things, infinitely perfect, unchangeable and eternally existing in three co-equal divine persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:1,14; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
- 3. God the Father** → We believe that God the Father is an infinite, personal and eternal Spirit who is perfect in holiness, goodness, wisdom and love. As the First Person of the Trinity, He orders and accomplishes all things according to His own purpose and will. He is the all-powerful, everywhere present ruler of the universe, sovereign in His grace, redemption, and providence. As the creator, he is Father to all humanity, but is the spiritual Father only to those who have believed in and received His Son, Jesus Christ. (1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 18:30; 103:19; 135:5-6; John 1:12; 4:24; Romans 8:14-16; 11:36; Ephesians 1:11; 4:6)
- 4. Jesus Christ** → We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, one person in two natures, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, willingly suffered and died for our sins, rose bodily from the grave, and ascended to Heaven to sit at the Father's right hand. He is now our High Priest and advocate. (John 1:1,14,18; 5:18; 10:30; 14:6; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:1-9; 5:8; 1 John 5:20)
- 5. Holy Spirit** → We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead, who glorifies Jesus Christ in all that He does. He convicts of sin, regenerates those who trust in Christ, baptizes us into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation, indwells all

believers, seals us in Christ until the Day of Redemption, and supernaturally gifts all believers in Christ, empowering them to live a holy and effective life of service for Christ. (John 14:16-17; 16:7-15; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)

- 6. Man** → We believe that man (men and women) was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam all mankind fell into sin, with the result that all are sinners by nature and by choice, hopelessly sinful and unable to save themselves apart from the grace of God. Only by regeneration by the Holy Spirit through faith in the person and work of Christ can one receive salvation. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Titus 3:5-7)

God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and these distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman has been established by God, and that it is sacred as a picture of Christ's relationship with his church. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33)

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139)

- 7. Salvation** → We believe that salvation is received by grace through repentance and faith in the finished work of Christ alone, and not by any human merit or works. All who place their trust in the substitutionary death and resurrection of Christ are born of the Spirit and become the children of God. (John 3:1-7,16; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 13:38-39; 16:31; Romans 4:4-5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 14; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Peter 3:9)
- 8. Church** → We believe that all those who have personally trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are united and baptized into the church. It is the body and bride of Christ that exists in two aspects, the universal church (consisting of all true believers in the world) and the local church (consisting of all true believers gathered in a specific location). The New Testament teaches that it is to be led by a plurality of qualified elders who are to feed, lead, protect and equip the saints. The goal of this equipping is to carry out the church's mission of worshiping and obeying its Head, Jesus Christ, while building up itself in love and sound doctrine as it fulfills the great commission in making disciples both here and around the world. The elders are to be supported in leadership by a plurality of godly deacons. (Matthew 16:18; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9)

- 9. Ordinances** → We believe that the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be observed by the church as commanded in scripture. Although these ordinances have no saving value, they are both important steps of obedience to our Lord's direct commands. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:12,36-38; 9:18; 10:47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- 10. Christ's Coming** → We believe in the personal and imminent return of Christ, and that this is the "Blessed Hope" to which the Church looks forward. We also believe that Jesus will come again to earth someday in great power and glory to establish His eternal Kingdom. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:16-18; 5:2-10; Revelation 19:11; 21:10-11;)
- 11. Eternal State** → We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, when believers will be raised to everlasting blessing with the Lord, and that unbelievers will be raised to face judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:1-8)

Article 3 – Membership

1. Any individual desiring to make AIC his/her home church while in Jordan will be considered a member as long as they meet the following criteria:
 - a. Has accepted by faith the gift of salvation from sin through Jesus Christ, and strives to obey, know and follow Him
 - b. Is in full agreement with the Statement of Faith, as described in article 2
 - c. Agrees to promote unity in this local body of Christ by abiding by the church's policies and teaching doctrine consistent with this statement of faith
 - d. Agrees to support AIC through prayer, fellowship, corporate worship, service and financial support
 - e. Is at least 18 years of age and participates in the activities of the church
2. Members are subject to the oversight of the elders. Members whose conduct becomes disorderly, inconsistent with accepted policies and/or doctrines of the church, so as to cause division/disunity or bring reproach upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, may be disciplined by the church. If this becomes necessary, the elders will follow the steps outlined in Matthew 18:15-18, with the hope of eventual restoration. (1 Corinthians 6:1-4; Galatians 6:1)
3. Individuals will no longer be considered as members after a lack of attendance for a six-month period. Exceptions would include temporary home assignments, work assignments to another country, or the need to be absent in order to take care of family away from Amman, etc.
4. Children under the age of 18 years old will be under the umbrella of their parent's membership and will be held accountable through their parents. Upon their 18th

birthday, they will be considered to be members of the Amman International Church should they so desire.

5. Only members can serve in any leadership role after validation by the elders.

Article 4 – Church Business Meetings

1. An annual church business meeting shall be held in the month of October each year to receive a report from the pastor, elders, deacons, and treasurer, as well as to consider the state and well-being of the church.
2. Quarterly church business meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by a consensus of the elders.
3. Special church business meetings for any purposes may be called by the elders by announcement two weeks prior to such a meeting.
4. Any decision requiring the affirmation of the church membership requires a two-thirds majority of members present at that church business meeting.

Article 5 – Elders

1. A Board of Elders, consisting of not fewer than two, shall be appointed by other elders and affirmed by the membership, to oversee the affairs of the church. All elders serve at the same level of authority, although there may be one who serves as the main teaching elder or pastor. (Titus 1:5-9)
2. Men who are members of AIC in good standing and whose character is consistent with the qualities expressed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are eligible for nomination to the office of elder. Any person nominated shall become an elder by a unanimous vote of the elders, and by a two thirds majority affirmation vote by the congregation. For this affirmation, names of the nominated men will be submitted to the congregation at least two weeks prior to a church business meeting, which will be conducted immediately after a regular service. Elders will serve for a period of two years. At the end of the term, the elder may be re-nominated and re-instated. Removal of any elder shall be by a unanimous vote of the other elders who are then in office.
3. The elders are responsible to ensure that no conflict of interest exists or arises between their responsibilities with AIC and their other work responsibilities.
4. No officers or elders of this organization, except the pastor/teaching elder and any hired part-time or full-time staff, shall be paid any regular stipend or salary for their services in such a capacity unless approved by a majority vote of the elders and by a two-thirds affirmation vote of the active members.

5. Any elder may resign his office at any time. Such a resignation is to be made in writing, and it shall take effect at the time of its acceptance by the Board of Elders.
6. Regular meetings of the elders shall be established on a monthly basis. The date of such meetings may be established by the elders' own choosing. In addition to the monthly meetings, the elders may meet at any time or any place to transact business without publishing notice of the meeting to the congregation.
7. At all such meetings of the elders, a two-thirds majority of all the elders on the board must be present before the transaction of church business is considered legal and acceptable to the congregation except for those decisions requiring a unanimous vote from the elders.
8. The right of calling, accepting or dismissing a pastor/teaching elder shall be vested in the elders. For either the calling or the dismissal of a pastor, a unanimous vote of the other elders shall be required. The role and function of the pastor/teaching elder is described in the job description provided to him.
9. The elders will give the vision, oversight and direction of the church and all church ministries according to the need of the membership.
10. The elders must approve the annual budget for presentation and affirmation at the annual church business meeting. Any subsequent changes to the annual budget also require the approval of the elders.
11. The elders will identify among themselves one who is responsible for calling their meetings, setting the agenda and recording their meetings and decisions.
12. The elders will meet with the deacons at least once every year.

Article 6 – Deacons

1. A Board of Deacons (of no fewer than three) shall be nominated from the church membership. Members in good standing (men and women) are eligible for nomination. Nominees for deacon shall meet the scriptural qualifications of Acts 6:1-4 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. After being interviewed by the elders, the approved candidates will be presented to the church members for affirmation. For this affirmation, names of the nominated individuals will be submitted to the congregation at least two weeks prior to a church business meeting, which will be held immediately after a regular service. They shall oversee the physical needs of the congregation. The deacons derive their authority from, and are responsible to, the elders.

2. The term of service shall be two years. At the end of the term, the deacon may be re-nominated. Removal of any deacon shall be by a unanimous vote of the elders who are then in office.
3. During the first regularly scheduled deacons' meeting after the annual church business meeting, the deacons shall appoint from their number a lead deacon and someone to manage the finances of the church under the oversight of the elders. The lead deacon is responsible to ensure that deacons meet regularly and that deacons follow through on the activities and responsibilities assigned to them. The specific tasks for the deacon identified to be responsible for the finances will be provided to him/her by the elders.
4. Any deacon may resign his office at any time. Such resignation is to be made in writing, and it shall take effect at the time of its acceptance by the elders.
5. Annual reports shall be made at the annual church business meeting in October, or if requested, at any other church business meetings.

Article 7 – Ordinances of the Church

We believe there are only two ordinances of the church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

1. We believe that a person should be baptized as soon as possible after he or she receives Christ as Lord and Savior as Christ commanded in the Great Commission and in following the practice of the early church. We believe that there is no saving grace in baptism, but that it is a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21)
2. We believe that the Lord's Supper symbolizes our Lord's death. While there is no saving efficacy attached to the partaking of it, we are obeying the command of Christ to do it in remembrance of Him. We believe in an open communion and all believers are invited to participate. (Matthew 26:27-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

Article 9 – Church Affiliation

AIC shall be independent of all denominational control and never affiliate with an organization or association which shall, in any way, seek to direct or control any of its functions. This church shall never join or co-operate with any modernistic, theologically liberal or apostate groups. This church desires to hold fellowship with such churches or groups of churches as are in agreement with our doctrinal position.

Article 10 – Amendment

Any changes to this constitution and bylaws will require a unanimous approval of the elders. Following approval by the elders, the proposed changes will be made generally available to the church's membership at least two weeks prior to a business meeting to be held immediately after a regular service. The changes must be affirmed by at least two-thirds of the church membership present at that meeting.

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