

BYLAWS OF ARAPAHO ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

This body shall be known as ARAPAHO ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH,
located at 2256 Arapaho Road, Garland, Texas 75044.

ARTICLE 1 - GOVERNMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - GOVERNMENT

Arapaho Road Baptist Church (this Church) is an autonomous and democratic Southern Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and retains unto itself the exclusive right to its temporal life. The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this Church and the conditions of such membership. This Church is a democracy; its authority is vested in its members, as set forth herein. The Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but enjoys mutual counsel and corporation with other churches of like faith and order.

Section 2 - MEMBERSHIP

Any person may become a candidate for membership in this Church. All candidates desiring to become members shall be presented to this Church for election to membership at any regular Church service for membership in any of the following ways:

1. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ and for believer's baptism by immersion
2. By transfer of membership from another Baptist church
3. By statement of prior conversion and baptism in a Baptist church when no letter of transfer is obtainable
4. By statement of prior conversion and baptism by immersion and membership in a church which practices believer's baptism
5. By proxy, when the person desiring membership according to the conditions stated above, cannot be present for valid reasons

Section 3 - CLASSES OF MEMBERS

There shall be two classes of members of the Church.

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1. The first class of members shall be referred to as the "active members". The names of the members of this class shall be put on the active membership roll. This class shall consist of all members who are actively involved in the Church and all members admitted hereafter, unless transferred to the inactive membership roll.
2. In order to be determined as "actively involved" in the Church, a member must have attended a Sunday morning Bible study class of the Church or have made a substantiated contribution to the Church, within the last twelve months.
3. The second class of members shall be referred to as the "inactive members". The names of these members shall be put on the inactive membership roll. This class shall consist of those members who once were on the active membership roll, but whose names are transferred to the inactive membership roll when those members are not "actively involved" in the Church.
4. The Membership Committee shall annually, or as the need arises, inspect the active membership roll and identify those members on said roll who have not been "actively involved" in the Church within the last twelve months. Upon identification of those members, the Membership Committee shall transfer those members from the active membership roll to the inactive membership roll. The determination by the Membership Committee to transfer a member from the active membership roll to the inactive membership roll shall be final and conclusive, subject to Article I, Section 3(5).
5. Any member whose name appears on the inactive membership roll may request that his or her name be transferred to the active membership roll by making such request to the Membership Committee after becoming "actively involved" in the Church again. Such transfer to the active membership roll shall be made by the Membership Committee effective forty-five days after the request if the Membership Committee is able to confirm that the member has become "actively involved" in the Church again.

Section 4 - COVENANT MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Church membership is a covenant between a Christian and a body of Christians. As such, it includes both privileges and responsibilities. The Church expects each member to accept

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the responsibilities of serving the Lord and supporting this body in the following ways:

1. Faithful participation in worship services when physically able
2. Faithful participation in Bible study
3. Regular and generous giving to support the Church's ministry, recognizing the tithe (10%) as a guideline for giving
4. Meaningful service to the Lord and to others through the exercise of spiritual gifts and abilities
5. Outreach to un-believers in Christian love and support of Church missions

Church members will enjoy the following privileges:

1. Every member of the Church who is on the active membership roll and over 18 years of age is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the Church in conference, provided the member is present and qualified to vote. Members on the inactive roll are not entitled to vote.
2. Every member of the Church on the active membership roll and over 18 years of age is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the Church. Members of the inactive membership roll are not eligible for such consideration.
3. Every member of the Church may participate in the ordinances of the Church as administered by the Church.

Section 5 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death of the member
2. Transfer to another Baptist church

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3. Erasure upon request of member
4. Erasure upon proof of membership in another church or denomination
5. Exclusion by action of this church

Section 6 - EXCLUSION OF A MEMBER

It is the desire of the church to assist any troubled or problematic member. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment. Should a member become an offense to the Church by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by denying acceptance of fundamental doctrines of the Church, it shall be the responsibility of the Membership Committee to take steps to resolve the offense in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. If the Membership Committee determines exclusion of the member becomes necessary, after due personal notice and hearing in private by the Membership Committee and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance, membership may be withdrawn upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, and upon the vote of three-fourths of the members present at a regular business meeting to approve the Membership Committee recommendation. The basis for the recommendation of the Membership Committee shall not be made officially public, announced in public, or disclosed to the general Church membership or the general public.

Restoration of membership may occur upon the request of the excluded member and determination by the Membership Committee that the excluded member has repented and reformed. A recommendation from the Membership Committee at a called business meeting shall require a three-fourths majority vote of those members present to reinstate membership.

ARTICLE II - CHURCH OFFICERS AND MINISTERIAL STAFF

All who serve as officers or ministerial staff of the Church shall be members of the Church.

The Church shall use the annual performance assessment process described in the Personnel Policies for goal-setting and assessment for the Pastor and ministerial staff.

Section 1 - CHURCH OFFICERS

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The officers of this church shall be the Pastor, the Ministerial staff, the Deacons, the Senior Deacons, a Moderator, a Church Clerk, a Church Treasurer and the Trustees.

(1) PASTOR

The Pastor, as the under shepherd of the Church is responsible to God for leading and equipping the body to function as a New Testament church. The Pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations, and the Church staff to perform their tasks. The Pastor is the leader of pastoral ministries of the Church. As such he works with the Deacons and Church staff to: (1) lead the Church in the achievement of its missions, (2) proclaim the Gospel to believers and unbelievers, and (3) care for the Church's members and other persons in the community.

A Pastor shall be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. The election of the recommended Pastor shall take place by secret ballot at a called business meeting, on a Sunday morning, of which one week's notice has been given. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of those active members present shall be necessary to call a Pastor.

A Pastor Search Team shall seek out a suitable Pastor, and its recommendation shall constitute a nomination. The Committee shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one name at a time. The Pastor Search Team shall be comprised of seven active members to be elected by the Church. No two members of the same household shall serve on the Pastor Search Team. The election process shall be administered by the Personnel Committee.

The Church shall appoint a Pastor Advisory Committee to represent the Church in the Pastor's annual performance assessment process as described in the Personnel Policies.

The Pastor may relinquish the office of Pastor by giving at least two weeks written notice to the Church of the resignation. The Church may also declare the Pastor's employment terminated. It will require an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the active members present to dismiss a Pastor at a Sunday morning called business meeting of which one week's notice has been given by the Personnel Committee and Senior Deacons. Said meeting may be called upon the recommendation of a majority of the Personnel Committee or by

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written petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the church members on the active membership roll. The moderator for this meeting shall be the Chairman of the Deacons or another active member designated by him other than the Pastor. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

During the interim period between pastorates, the Senior Deacons shall be responsible to seek and recommend to the church an interim pastor. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the active members present at a called Sunday morning business meeting shall be necessary to call an interim pastor. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

(2) MINISTERIAL STAFF

The church shall call and employ such staff as the Church shall need to fulfill its mission and ministries as the Church budget allows. The ministerial staff, except for the Pastor shall be recommended to the Church by the Personnel Committee. Election shall be at a called business meeting on Sunday morning by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of those active members present is necessary to issue a call to a new staff member. The supervisors of the individual members of the ministerial staff shall assess individual performance annually using the annual performance assessment process described in the Personnel Policies. The called ministerial staff may be terminated upon recommendation by the Personnel Committee and a vote of three-fourths of the active members present at a called business meeting on a Sunday morning. Vote shall be by secret ballot. The termination shall be immediate.

(3) DEACONS

Deacons of the Church shall be ordained to provide spiritual leadership for and service to the fellowship of the Church. They are to be servants of the Church in accordance with both the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament. Consequently, their call is to work with the pastor and Church staff in leading and equipping the body to fulfill its mission and ministries. The church shall elect the number of active Deacons desired by the Church. Active Deacons shall serve three-year rotating terms with one-third of the active Deacons to be replaced annually. After the expiration of one elected term, an active Deacon shall be ineligible for re-election to the active Deaconate for a period of one year. Every Deacon of the Church is expected to seek out and occupy a chosen place of service in the Church

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program in addition to his Deacon service. All Deacons shall actively support with time and finances, the work of the Lord through various ministries of the Church.

Qualifications of Deacons:

1. Deacons shall be selected who meet the criteria of I Timothy 3:8-13 and who can serve faithfully in keeping with the model given in Acts 6:1-6.
2. These men shall covenant to stand by and encourage one another in this ministry in the spirit of Galatians 6:1-2.

(4) SENIOR DEACONS

Three senior Deacons shall be appointed by the Deaconate to be specifically responsible for ministering to the Pastor and offering wise counsel in church matters when called for by the Pastor. In addition to the appointed senior deacons, the Chairman of the Deacons shall serve as an ex officio senior deacon To be eligible to serve in this ministry, a Senior Deacon must have been ordained and have served as a Deacon at Arapaho Road Baptist Church for a minimum of three years. Senior Deacons shall serve three-year rotating terms with one-third of the Senior Deacons to be replaced annually. After the expiration of one term, a Senior Deacon shall be ineligible for re-appointment as a Senior Deacon for a period of one year.

Duties of Senior Deacons:

1. Pray for the pastor as a brother servant
2. Provide encouragement and spiritual guidance to the Pastor
3. When required by Pastor, staff, committees, ministry teams, organizations or individual church members, be available as a spiritual counsel group as these individuals or groups work together to accomplish the Church's mission
4. When requested by the Pastor (or Deaconate), be available for assisting in harmonious resolution of conflicts or divisions in the Body and giving advice in complicated, delicate or personal matters

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(5) MODERATOR

The Pastor shall serve as Moderator, presiding over Church business meetings, or such other active member as the Pastor shall designate. In the event of a pastoral vacancy, the Chairman of the Deacons or such other active member as he designates shall serve as the interim moderator. The aim of the Moderator must be to bring about unity among people of different views, ideas and convictions. The objectives of the Moderator should be to maintain the spirit of Christian love while presiding, to be fair and courteous to all members, and to help members understand the parliamentary procedures without embarrassment to them. The Moderator shall maintain a neutral position while presiding. If the Moderator wishes to debate a question under consideration, he should ask an assistant to preside.

(6) CHURCH CLERK

The Church shall elect a Clerk as its clerical officer who shall serve a three-year term. The Church Clerk shall not be eligible to serve consecutive three-year terms. The Clerk shall record and preserve all official actions of the Church and record minutes of the Church business meetings.

(7) CHURCH TREASURER

The Church shall elect for a three-year term a Church Treasurer as its financial officer who shall be bonded. The Church Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve consecutive three-year terms. The Treasurer shall be responsible to oversee the receipt, preservation, and payout of all monies (or items of value) given or paid to the church. The Treasurer shall also be responsible to cause to be prepared, for each regular business meeting, an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding period. The Treasurer shall keep and preserve the annual account as part of the permanent records of the Church. The Church Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Stewardship Committee.

(8) TRUSTEES

The Church shall elect three Trustees to act for the church in legal matters. The Trustees shall serve three-year rotating terms with one-third of the Trustees to be replaced annually. After the expiration of one elected term, a Trustee

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shall be ineligible for re-election as a Trustee for a period of one year. They shall hold the Church property in the corporate name of the church. Upon specific vote of the Church at a regular or called business meeting authorizing each action, they shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any Church property, but not otherwise. When the signatures of the Trustees are required, any two shall sign legal documents, involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to Church approved matters.

ARTICLE III - CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1 - GENERAL CHURCH SERVICES

The church shall maintain services on Sundays and at other times as deemed necessary by the Pastor, Ministerial staff, and the Deaconate.

Section 2 - CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

The church shall meet in regular business meetings, as a minimum, once each quarter. If a specially called business meeting to consider important matters is necessary, a one-week notice concerning the nature of the meeting must be given, at a minimum, in the previous Sunday morning worship services.

A quorum shall be defined as "the Church members who attend either the regular business meeting or the specially called business meeting."

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church. However, in all cases, custom and practice of this Church shall control.

The Pastor or Moderator has the right to suspend the Rules at his discretion.

ARTICLE IV - CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - GENERAL

The organization of a church is the means of achieving its stated purpose as stated in the Constitution.

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The Church has the exclusive right to determine the specific organizational structure which will best implement the church's purpose. The Church may change its organizational pattern whenever it so desires.

Section 2 - COMMITTEES AND MINISTRY TEAMS

The purpose of committees and ministry teams is to fulfill the administrative responsibilities of the Church. All who serve as members of the committees and ministry teams shall be active members of the Church. Members shall be selected in accordance with their spiritual gifts and natural abilities. Election of committees and ministry teams shall be as described in Article IV, Sections 2(1) through 2(3). The Pastor and Church staff shall guide the overall work of the committees and ministry teams. The Pastor or a staff member so designated by the Pastor may serve as an ex-officio member of any committee or team.

There shall be three types of committees and ministry teams.

(1) STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing committees have ongoing tasks. The following standing teams shall serve the church according to their stated purpose.

1. Committee on Committees - It shall recommend to the church qualified persons, who are representative of the diversity of the ARBC body, to serve as clerk, treasurer, trustees, and committee and ministry team members. The Committee on Committees shall give consideration to maintain continuity with respect to all committees and ministry teams.
2. Personnel Committee - It shall recommend to the church qualified persons for all employed church staff positions, except for that of Pastor, and shall hire all non-ministerial employees.
3. Stewardship Committee - It shall plan and promote church stewardship and administer church finances according to financial policies. It shall have the responsibility of preparing the Church budget.
4. Membership Committee - It shall determine the classification of members on either the active or inactive membership roll and shall investigate and

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report to the Church on any questions regarding admission, dismissal or exclusion of members. It shall consist of at least seven active members.

5. Pastor Advisory Committee - It shall represent the Church in the Pastor's annual performance assessment process as described in the Personnel Policies. The committee shall compile pastoral performance assessments which will be presented to and discussed with the Pastor by the Senior Deacon who chairs the committee. The committee shall consist of the following members:
 - a. A Senior Deacon (appointed by the Senior Deacons)
 - b. Chairperson of the Personnel Committee
 - c. Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee
 - d. Chairperson of the Committee on Committees
 - e. Chairman of the Deacons
 - f. An active member appointed by the responsible Ministerial Staff member to represent the Adult Bible Fellowships
 - g. An active member appointed by the responsible Ministerial Staff member to represent the Youth Bible Fellowships
 - h. An active member appointed by the responsible Ministerial Staff member to represent the Children's Bible Fellowships
 - i. An active member appointed by the responsible Ministerial Staff member to represent the Worship Leadership ministry
 - j. An active member appointed by the responsible Ministerial Staff member to represent the Missions ministry

Standing committee members (other than the members of the Pastor Advisory Committee) shall serve three-year rotating terms with one-third of the members of each standing committee to be replaced annually. After the expiration of one elected term, a elected member of a standing committee

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shall be ineligible for re-election to the same standing committee for a period of one year. The appointed members of the Pastor Advisory Committee shall serve three-year rotating terms with one-third of the members to be replaced annually. After the expiration of one appointed term, an appointed member of Pastor Advisory Committee shall be ineligible for re-appointment to the Pastor Advisory Committee for a period of one year. An elected or appointed committee member shall not serve on more than one standing committee in any given year.

(2) SPECIAL MINISTRY TEAMS

Special ministry teams are appointed for a specific long-range purpose and are disbanded when that purpose is accomplished. Special ministry teams shall be recommended by the Pastor and elected by the Church.

(3) AD HOC MINISTRY TEAMS

Ad hoc ministry teams are appointed for an immediate and specific need and are disbanded when that purpose is accomplished. Ad hoc teams shall be appointed by the Pastor and church staff.

ARTICLE V - CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1 - BUDGET

The Stewardship Committee shall prepare and submit to the church for approval, one month in advance, an inclusive budget, indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all expenses for one year. The approved budget shall guide the church's expenditures for the budget year. During the budget year, an aggregate re-allocation of the church budget, in whole or in various parts, of five percent or less of the annual budget may be approved by the Stewardship Committee. Budget re-allocations in excess of five percent of the church budget must be approved in advance by the church body. The budget year is defined as starting on January 1 and ending on December 31. Offering envelopes will be provided for members' use.

Section 2 - ACCOUNTING

The Stewardship Committee and the Church Treasurer shall be responsible for providing an adequate system of accounting to handle funds which are received by the church. A financial

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audit is recommended to be conducted every three years with results reported to the church body.

Section 3 - RECEIPTS

The Church may accept any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the purpose of the Church as stated in ARBC's Constitution and Articles of Incorporation. Specific records of "designated gifts" will be kept using generally accepted accounting principles.

Section 4 - USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHURCH ASSETS

No part of the funds of the Church, and no part of any contribution, gift, bequest, will, or devise received by the Church shall inure to the benefit or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized within its power to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in ARBC's Constitution and Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Section 5 - CHURCH DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of ARBC, the Church shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of its assets. It directs that the assets are to be transferred to a charitable, educational, religious or other similar organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501(cx)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as the church shall determine.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

Changes in the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of Arapaho Road Baptist Church, provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting of ARBC and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at an earlier meeting and each member present at the current business meeting. Amendments require a passing vote, by secret ballot of three-fourths of those present who are entitled to vote.

If any part of these Bylaws shall be held invalid or inoperative for any reason, the remaining parts, so far as is possible and reasonable, shall remain valid and operative.

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These revised Bylaws of Arapaho Road Baptist Church were
accepted and approved at a called business meeting on
_____, 2010.

Signature

_____, Clerk