

# Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church

Covenant  
Doctrine  
Constitution  
(revised September 2008)

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*“The mission of Alpine Baptist Church  
is to glorify God and fulfill the Great  
Commission by developing devoted  
followers of Jesus Christ in a loving  
community.”*

## **THE PREAMBLE**

The Bible admonishes us in I Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order." As believers in Christ Jesus who accept the Scripture as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and submit to it as our sole rule of faith and practice, we unite together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government and plan of worship and service the following Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of this church shall be "Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church", and shall be located in Comstock Park, Michigan. It is a corporation not for profit.

### **ARTICLE II PURPOSE**

The purpose of Alpine Baptist Church is to glorify God and fulfill the Great Commission by developing devoted followers of Jesus Christ within a loving community (1 Corinthians 10:31, 13:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20) That mission is to be carried out by means of the New Testament principles of evangelism and worldwide missions (Acts 1:8), edification (Acts 2:42-47), equipping of the saints for service (Ephesians 4:12, I Peter 4:8-11), and corporate worship (Hebrews 13:15).

### **ARTICLE III CHARACTER OF GOVERNMENT**

The government of the church is vested in its membership. The New Testament church cannot surrender its sovereignty and independence to any outside organizations. This church shall be an independent, autonomous church, subject only to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church. It has the right to cooperate and associate with other Biblical groups on a voluntary basis. There shall be no cooperation with any group that permits the presence of apostates or apostasy, or that endorses groups that permit the presence of apostates or apostasy.

Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church declares itself in fellowship with local, state, and national organizations of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC). If at some time these organizations or any of their representatives seek to interfere with the autonomy of the local church, or tend towards liberalism or worldliness, this church shall take appropriate action to sever such fellowship.

## **ARTICLE IV CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and on our profession of that faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and accepting the Word of God as our rule for faith and practice, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We resolve, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort in time of distress; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church and the spreading of the gospel to all nations.

We also resolve to maintain family and personal devotions; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our relatives and friends; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from the non-medicinal use and sale of alcohol and drugs and all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, grieve the Holy Spirit, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ our Savior and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further resolve to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness, distress and material need; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover resolve that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

To these and all other Christian duties we do humbly and cheerfully submit ourselves, promising to perform them not in our own strength, being aware of our weakness, but in the strength of the Lord, whose we are and whom we serve; to whom be glory in the Church through all ages, world without end. Amen.

## **ARTICLE V DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

### **1. The Scriptures**

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally written were inspired (God-breathed), both verbally and plenary (in every part). We believe God, Who is Truth, communicated through Spirit-controlled men so that the Scriptures are without error and therefore authoritative in all they teach and in all matters they touch. We believe the Bible is the supreme revelation of God's will for man and constitutes the only infallible guide for faith and life.

I Corinthians 2:13; II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:16-21

### **2. The Holy Trinity**

We believe that there is one true and living God. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - equal in essence and attributes, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Matthew 28:19, 3:16-17; John 6:27; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 4:6; Hebrews 1:8; I John 5:7

### **3. God the Father**

We believe that God is spirit infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. He is the Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of all the universe, Giver of all life in sovereign authority over all His created beings, the Keeper over the nation Israel and the Father of His chosen in Jesus Christ.

Psalms 139:7-10; Isaiah 46:9; Romans 11:33; Revelation 19:6

### **4. God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the absolute deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He is God, existing from all eternity and co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is the Creator of the universe and by Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:15-19). At His incarnation, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38). He is the only Savior of mankind (Acts 4:12). He is the one Mediator between God and men (I Timothy 2:5). He lived a sinless life on earth and in His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins as a substitute for sinners (II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 2:24). He rose bodily from the dead on the third day (I Corinthians 15:3-4), ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:25), will appear in the air to rapture His saints (I Thessalonians 4:13-18), and seven years later will come again with the saints to set up the throne of David and establish His millennial kingdom (II Thessalonians 2:6-8).

## **5. God the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son in nature and attributes; that He was active in the creation; that in His relationship to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and in testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He indwells, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies, comforts, and helps the believer. He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation, so that there are none who are saved who are not indwelt by Him. However, the filling of the Spirit comes only to those who fully submit themselves to Him, and as many times as they do the same. The Holy Spirit is the giver of gifts to believers. We believe that the Bible disavows the authenticity of the sign gifts such as prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles and healing for today and repudiates the experience-oriented theology and ecumenically-oriented practice of the pentecostal, charismatic, and third wave movements.

Genesis 1:2; John 7:39, 14:16-17, 26, 16:13-14, Acts 1:5, Romans 8:9, 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:11, 13, 13:8-10, 14:19, 27-28, 33-34, 40; Ephesians 1:13, 4:11-12, 5:18

## **6. Satan, the Devil**

We believe that Satan is a person, that he is the unholy god of this age and the prince of all the powers of darkness; he is a deceiver of men and constantly seeks to frustrate the purposes of God. He was conquered by Christ on the cross and is destined to the judgment of an eternal and just torment in the lake of fire.

Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Matthew 25:41; Luke 10:18; II Corinthians 4:4, 11:13-15; Ephesians 2:2, 6:12; Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10

## **7. Creation**

We believe the Genesis account of creation and believe that man was directly created by God in His own likeness and image. We reject and combat both the theories of evolution and theistic evolution. We believe that the six days of creation were literal, twenty-four hour days.

Genesis 1-2; Psalm 8, 19:1; John 1:3; Romans 1:18-20, 8:18-23; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3

## **8. Man**

We believe that man was created by a direct act of God and not from any previously existing form of life; that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race. By voluntary transgression man fell from his sinless state, in consequence of which all men are now sinners by nature and by choice, utterly devoid of the holiness required by God's law, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal judgment and everlasting existence separated from God without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:26-27, 3:1-19; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9-19, 23, 5:12-19

## **9. Salvation by Grace through Faith**

We believe that Christ died for the sins of the whole world and that salvation of sinners is divinely initiated, wholly of grace, and accomplished only through the mediatorial work of the Son of God. It is wholly apart from works and is upon the sole condition of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that saving faith is claiming by personal choice relying exclusively upon Christ's work on the cross to be sufficient payment for sin. We believe that salvation is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the believer who has exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is completely justified and in possession of eternal life which is eternally secure.

John 3:16, 10:27-30, Romans 10:9-13, 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:3-7, 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-6; I Peter 1:5; II Peter 1:3-4

## **10. Heaven and Hell**

We believe that heaven is a literal place prepared for believers in Jesus Christ.

John 14:1-6; Revelation 21-22

We believe that hell (the Lake of Fire) is a literal place prepared for Satan, his angels, and those who die in unbelief.

Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20, 21:8

## **11. The Church**

We believe that the church of Jesus Christ began at Pentecost and will be completed at the rapture. The local church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by a covenant in the faith and fellowship in the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His Word and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word.

Its Scriptural officers are pastors (sometimes called elders or bishops) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

The "church which is His body" is the entire company of believers in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, regardless of denominational affiliation and present position in heaven or on the earth.

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 41-42, 10:44-45, 11:15-16; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; Philippians 1:1; Hebrews 12:23

## **12. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that there are two ordinances for the New Testament church, baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion). These two ordinances must be observed under the authority of the local church.

We believe that baptism is the single immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism plays no part in salvation but is an act of obedience to the command of Christ and a testimony to the world of the believer's faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It illustrates the believer's death to sin and his resurrection to a new life. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41, 8:26-39, Romans 6:3-5).

We believe that the Lord's Supper (Communion) is symbolic of our Lord's body and His shed blood as He suffered on the cross for us. It is to be observed as a memorial to Him and His death until He comes again, and should be preceded by self-examination and confession of sins (Matthew 26:20-30; Corinthians 11:2, 20-34).

## **13. Future Events**

### **a. The Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death in the everlasting happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 14:21-22; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21; Romans 6:17-18; I John 5:19

### **b. The Rapture of the Church**

We believe in the "Blessed Hope", the personal, imminent, pretribulational and premillennial appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ to rapture His redeemed ones of the church.

I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-2; Titus 2:13; I John 3:2

### **c. The Judgment Seat of Christ**

We believe that every saved person of the Church Age will appear before the "Judgment Seat" of Christ to be judged by the Lord in regard to his service and receive rewards according to his works.

Matthew 6:1-4; Romans 14:10; I Corinthians 3:11-15; II Corinthians 5:10

#### **d. The Millennial Kingdom**

We believe that Christ will return to earth after the tribulation with His saints to establish the Millennial Kingdom which literally will be on earth and will be ruled by Christ from the throne of David.

Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30; II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Revelation 20:1-6, 11-14

#### **e. The Eternal State**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire. The souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and new body are reunited to be forever glorified with the Lord. The souls of the unbelievers after death remain in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with spirit, soul and body reunited they shall appear before the Great White Throne Judgment and will be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-26; John 5:28-29; II Corinthians 5:8, 10; Philippians 1:23, Revelation 20:1-6

### **14. Ecclesiastical Separation**

We believe that the believer should be separated from apostasy as exemplified in ecclesiastical organizations which include radicals, liberals and those who sanction theological compromise. This doctrine is based upon God's eternal principle of division between truth and error and His specific command to be separate from unbelievers and disobedient brethren. This truth is to be practiced with an attitude of devotion to God, humility, compassion, and yet with conviction, to create the proper condition and atmosphere for the main objective - the salvation of the lost through the gospel. We believe ecumenical evangelism which involves apostates violates the principles taught in God's Word.

Matthew 10:34-49, 18:15; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:7-13; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 11:4; Galatians 1:8-9; I Timothy 6:3-6; II Timothy 2:16-18; Titus 3:10-11; II John 9-11

### **15. Personal Separation**

We believe that every believer should be separated unto God from the world, and through dependence upon the Holy Spirit, should walk in Christian love and holiness, exhibiting virtues of honesty, integrity, forgiveness and loving-kindness. We further believe that any achievement in these virtues will be evidenced by sincere humility and genuine zeal for the advancement of the cause of Christ. We also believe the Scriptures admonish every believer not to love the world or the things in the world, but rather to flee evil desires, avoid every kind of evil and refrain from questionable practices which destroy one's testimony, offend one's brother and fail to glorify God.

Proverbs 15:33; Romans 14:19-21; I Corinthians 6:18-21, 8:9-13, 10:23, 33; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:32, 5:1-2, 7-10, 15-20; Philippians 4:8; I Thessalonians 4:7; I Peter 5:5-6

## **16. Civil Government**

We believe in the separation of church and state. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society by protecting the righteous and judging the wicked; those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone is Lord of the conscience, and the coming King of kings and Lord of lords.

Daniel 3:13-18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; Romans 3:1-17, 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-3; I Peter 2:13-18; Revelation 19:16

## **17. The Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is to be set aside unto the Lord for worship, fellowship with others of like faith, instruction in the Word of God and rest from the cares of the world as a testimony both public and private. It is a day of rejoicing in the resurrection of our Lord by giving of our time and resources to fulfil the Great Commission.

Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25

## **18. Israel**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, she will be saved as a nation at the second coming of Christ.

Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37; Zechariah 12:10, 13:1-9.

## **19. Marriage and the Home**

We believe that the home was the first institution God provided for man, and that marriage is a sacred relationship and honorable for all. Marriage is a covenant relationship that involves total commitment and sharing between a husband and wife that is to be severed only by death, and that "what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6). We believe that a Christian marriage is an illustration of the union of Christ and His Church.

Genesis 2:18-25; Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:2, 39; Ephesians 5:23, 25, 32; Hebrews 13:4

## **ARTICLE VI CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Reception**

a. Anyone professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, giving evidence of a change of heart from sin and toward God, declaring himself/herself in accord with the principles, practices, and doctrine of this church, and who are not under discipline from another church may become a candidate for membership. No person holding membership in an oath-bound secret society shall be eligible for membership.

b. Candidates may qualify for membership in one of the following ways:

1. Baptism by immersion
2. Personal experience: a testimony to the fact that he or she is born again and baptized by immersion following salvation, and living a life consistent with the teaching of the church.
3. Transfer of Church Letter from a church of like faith and practice.
4. Restoration upon recommendation of the deacons, after the disciplined person has given acceptable evidence of honest repentance and made full confession of wrongdoing.

c. All persons desiring to unite with this church will meet with the Pastor and deacons and will give testimony of conversion and Christian experience, and affirm acceptance of and adherence to the constitution, covenant, and doctrinal statement of Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church. The names of the candidates shall be posted two weeks previous to their meeting with the deacons. Any objections or concerns that members have with regard to those names can be addressed to the pastor and deacons.

d. Approved candidates for membership will be presented to the church by the Pastor and deacons with an appropriate recommendation for reception. At any regularly scheduled service of the church they will be given an opportunity to share their testimony before the congregation. Unbaptized candidates may not be received into membership until after baptism.

e. Candidates will be accepted by unanimous vote of the members present and voting. Any negative vote will be given consideration by the Pastor and deacons. If the reason given is found to be sufficient as to warrant, membership will be withheld; if not, the matter will again be presented to the church and the person(s) will be received into membership by a three fourths majority vote of members present and voting.

## **Section 2: Associate Membership**

We realize that there may arise an occasion when an individual, having membership in a church of like faith and practice, finds it impractical to transfer membership (such as temporary residency or employment or college student), yet desires opportunity for service. Such cases will be reviewed by the Pastor and deacons and appropriate recommendations brought before the church body for ratification in accordance with normal membership requirements. These individuals will have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold elected office, while retaining membership in their home church.

## **Section 3: Responsibilities of Membership**

a. Members should attend regularly the services of the church unless providentially hindered and contribute cheerfully, as God prospers, to the financial support of the church and the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

b. Members should honor those in authority in the church, pray for them, submit to their leadership as the Scriptures command and assist them with wholehearted cooperation.

c. Every member should cultivate his own Christian life and character so that the unity of the brethren might be preserved and a good testimony might be obtained before the unbelieving community. Members should practice the Church Covenant.

d. Members should volunteer to wholeheartedly serve and exercise their spiritual gifts, as invited and directed by the church leadership, in the program of the church.

## **Section 4: Discipline of Members**

a. The Pastor and deacons shall take prompt action towards any member of the church whose words or actions violate the doctrinal statement or policies of the church, seeking first to bring restoration, and if unsuccessful, to recommend to the church his or her prompt dismissal from the church. The procedures given in Matthew 18:15-17 and I Corinthians 5:1-13 shall be followed. The person who is the subject of disciplinary action shall have the right of appeal to the church.

b. If restoration does not occur, then the Pastor and deacons may recommend the member to be excluded from the membership.

## **Section 5: Termination of Membership**

A person may be removed from the membership of the church in four ways:

1. Death (no church action required)
2. Transfer of Church Letter: When uniting with another church of like faith and practice a member may be given a letter of recommendation. The Pastor and deacons may refuse to grant a letter if the member has violated the covenant or is under consideration for discipline.
3. Inactivity: Members who have been absent from the services of the church over a six month period without satisfactory reason for such may be removed from the membership after review. The Pastor and deacons shall attempt to communicate with the member and ascertain the reasons for non-attendance. Names of inactive members shall be brought to the church for removal upon recommendation of the Pastor and deacons. Persons who have been removed shall be notified by the church clerk.
4. Exclusion  
In cases involving a problem of morals or issues which would seriously disturb the peace of the church, the recommendations of the Pastor and deacons shall be approved by 3/4 majority vote of the members present. Failing to approve the recommendation of the Pastor and deacons, the church must hear the case for themselves. The one who is subject to exclusion may appeal his case to the church within 30 days and be heard in his own defense. Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5; II Corinthians 2:6-8; II Thessalonians 3:6-15; Galatians 6:1; Titus 3:10.

## **ARTICLE VII CHURCH OFFICERS**

The elected officers of this church will be the pastor and deacons. Other officers shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons. They shall submit to the leadership standard established by the church.

### **Section 1: Qualifications**

a. Elected officers of this church will be male members at least twenty-one years of age who have not been divorced. They shall be members of the church for one year prior to nomination. In light of I Timothy 3, the home and family relationships must be considered, as well as individual qualifications. Moral conduct should be beyond reproach and free of carnal indulgences, such as the use of intoxicating beverages, tobacco in all its forms, drug abuse, etc. They should be spiritually mature, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, devoted to the Lord Jesus and to the spiritual welfare of this church. They should be faithful in attending services and business meetings of the church and in ministering to the church.

b. Appointed officers shall be members of the church for one year prior to nomination. In light of I Timothy 3, the home and family relationships must be considered, as well as individual qualifications. Moral conduct should be beyond reproach and free of carnal indulgences, such as the use of intoxicating beverages, tobacco in all its forms, drug abuse, etc. They should be spiritually mature, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, devoted to the Lord Jesus and to the spiritual welfare of this church. They should be faithful in attending services and business meetings of the church and in ministering to the church.

c. No person will hold more than two offices at the same time. All new officers will assume office on the first Sunday following the Annual Meeting.

## **RETENTION OF RECORDS**

The records of all officers are considered to be the church property to be maintained in good order. These records are to be given to the succeeding officers as soon as practical for safekeeping in a prudent place.

## **DISMISSAL OF OFFICERS**

Any officer unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office should resign from office. If any officer refuses to subscribe to the doctrinal statement, Covenant or Rules of Order of this church, it will be just cause for his removal from office by the pastor and deacons.

## **Section 2: The Pastor**

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

a. The Pastor shall fulfill the qualifications listed in Article VII, Section 1. The deacons of the church shall serve as the Pulpit Committee. As often as it may become necessary to call a pastor, the Pulpit Committee will without unnecessary delay investigate and invite to the church a minister of good report who accepts the doctrinal position and practices of the church. If he has served in other churches, his ministry there shall be explored. If after hearing him preach the Pulpit Committee desires to consider him as a candidate for the pastorate, he will be invited to come and preach. His candidacy is to be announced to the church two weeks prior to his coming.

b. Prior to his call, the candidate will be required to state his acceptance of and adherence to the doctrinal statement, Covenant, and Rules of Order of this church to the Pulpit Committee. Any differences which he holds concerning these documents should be submitted to the Committee in writing. He must also state in writing any differences which he holds relating to groups and associations with which this church is in fellowship.

## **CALL AND TERMINATION**

a. The candidate for the pastorate will be extended a call at a special meeting held for that purpose. Notice of this meeting will be given on two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

b. The pastor will be elected for an indeterminate term. He will be chosen by an eighty percent vote by ballot of the voting members present including absentee ballots. To avoid confusion, only one candidate for the pastorate will be considered at one time. A provision for absentee ballots shall be made.

c. The pastor will give the church not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days notice of his intention to discontinue as pastor. The church will normally give the pastor not less than sixty days notice of dismissal. Dismissal of the pastor will be by vote of the church at a special meeting called for that purpose which will have been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A majority vote of the qualified church members present and voting will be required for dismissal. If the pastor is dismissed for a cause he may be released immediately with two months' salary.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

a. The pastor is to be considered the administrator of the church and have spiritual oversight with a servant's attitude toward the church which practices congregational government. He is to preach the Gospel, feed the flock, equip the membership for the work of the ministry and minister to those who are in sickness, distress, and trial; he is to have in his charge the stated services of public worship; he will administer the ordinances.

b. The pastor will moderate all business meetings of the church and deacons or in his absence will appoint a deacon to moderate. When the pastor is unavailable to appoint a moderator, the chairman of the deacon board will act as moderator.

c. The pastor will be a member of all ministry teams and committees of the church with the right of choice to attend all meetings. He will secure speakers and programs for the church in cooperation with the deacons.

## **COMPENSATION**

The pastor's compensation will be reviewed by the deacons annually and a recommendation submitted as a part of the budget prior to the Annual Church Business Meeting.

## **VACATION & ABSENCE**

The pastor is to have an annual vacation; the time and extent to be agreed upon by the pastor and deacons. Absence from the services of the church will be by mutual consent of the pastor and deacons.

### **Section 3: Associate Pastors**

a. An Assistant Pastor, Minister of Christian Education, Minister of Youth, Minister of Music, or other ministers may be called by a two-thirds majority ballot vote of the voting members present at a regular or special business meeting. Recommendation for additional staff members must come to the church by the Pastor and deacons. The Pastor and Deacons may initiate such action.

b. The duties of these ministers shall be determined by the Pastor and deacons. They shall be directly responsible to the Pastor. The duration of these ministers' services shall be indefinite. They may be terminated at any time by voluntary written resignation or church action.

c. The associate pastor will give the church not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days notice of his intention to discontinue. The church normally will give the associate pastor not less than sixty days notice of dismissal. Dismissal of the associate pastor will be by vote of the church at a special meeting called for that purpose which will have been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A majority vote of the qualified church members present and voting will be required for dismissal. If the associate pastor is dismissed for a cause he may be released immediately with two months' salary.

### **Section 4: Deacons**

#### **THE DIACONATE**

The number of deacons should be not less than ten; however, it shall never exceed the number of "Spirit-filled" men available who meet the qualifications listed in Acts 6, I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 (see Article VII, Section 1). Deacons shall submit to the leadership standard established by the church. No paid employee nor supported missionary of the church shall serve as a deacon.

#### **ELECTION AND TERMINATION**

a. The church voting membership will elect the deacons from the ballot submitted by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting. Their terms of office will be two years, at which time the deacon may or may not allow his name to be placed into nomination for an additional two year term. Deacons may serve an unlimited number of terms without sabbatical but must be nominated and elected by the congregation for each term served.

b. A deacon may be dismissed from office by vote of the church at a special meeting called for that purpose which will have been read from the pulpit on two successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A majority vote of the qualified members present and voting shall be required for dismissal (see Article VII, section 1, "Dismissal of Officers").

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. They shall elect their own chairman at the February deacon meeting. The chairman shall act as moderator of the deacon meetings or business meetings of the church in the absence of the pastor or in matters pertaining to the pastor.
- b. They shall assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church by prayer, encouraging and supporting him, and acting as his counsellors. They shall assist him in the selecting of additional pastoral staff members.
- c. They shall be responsible for the Benevolent Fund offering and distribution.
- d. They shall care for the necessary preparations for baptism and communion services.
- e. They shall assist the pastor in matters of church discipline.
- f. They shall assist the pastor in examination of those applying for church membership and bringing recommendations of new members to the church.
- g. They shall serve as the Pulpit Committee when the church is without a pastor.
- h. They shall determine the salaries and benefits of the pastoral staff and employees for church approval.
- i. They shall serve as the Nominating Committee. They shall recommend Ministry Team and Committee appointments. They shall exhort and admonish members to fulfill Covenant and Leadership Standard commitments.
- j. They shall conduct monthly meetings for the purpose of prayer, consideration of the welfare of the church and for discussion of any business. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Pastor or any deacon.
- k. They shall assist the pastor in ministering to the membership through a deacon care ministry, to exercise special and prudent care over the membership, seeking out and ministering to those who need assistance.
- l. They shall serve, insofar as possible, as chairmen of appointed ministry teams and committees, thus providing representation for every area of the church's ministry in the meetings of the deacons in order that decisions can be made in these sessions which will safeguard the total mission of the church and its programs. The pastor, in cooperation with the deacons, will appoint the ministry team and committee chairmen, seeking to assign an area of leadership to each in accordance with spiritual gifts and natural abilities.

m. They shall serve as trustees of the church, representing this corporation as its agent. They will not have authority to sell, lease, give away, or dispose of in any manner church property to exceed \$1500 in value, nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debts to exceed the above amount, except as the church will order by corporate act.

n. They shall be responsible to prepare and submit a proposed annual budget to the church. This proposed budget shall be presented to the church and voted upon by the membership at the Annual Meeting. They may, if desirable, present revised budgets at any time throughout the year. The authorization of any expense over \$1500 not included in the approved budget will require church action.

o. They shall appoint representatives to annual Association meetings, camps, schools and other agencies supported by the church.

p. They shall be responsible for collecting and counting offerings, recording and presenting the same to the treasurer and financial secretary.

### **Section 5: Nomination and Election of Deacons**

a. Twelve weeks prior the Annual Meeting, the membership will submit in writing potential nominees for deacons. Any names submitted less than eight weeks prior to the Annual Meeting will not be considered.

b. Each potential candidate will receive a written questionnaire by the Nominating Committee to fill out and return. The questions will allow the candidate to evaluate himself in fulfilling the qualifications necessary to serve as a deacon.

c. Each potential candidate will be personally interviewed by the Nominating Committee as to his (1) assent to be a candidate, (2) affirmation of the Church Covenant, Doctrinal Statement, and Constitution and (3) acceptance of the qualifications and responsibilities for deacon as denoted in Article VII, Sections 1 and 3.

d. The pastor and deacons will serve as the Nominating Committee. It will be their responsibility to present to the church names that have been submitted and approved for the election of deacons at the Annual Meeting and any subsequent times during the year when a vacancy may occur.

e. The names of the persons nominated for deacon shall be posted four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

f. All members, except Associate Members, at least 18 years of age, will be eligible to vote for candidates. Names appearing on the ballot will be the only names considered. There will be no nominations from the floor. Election will be by majority vote of absentee ballots and members present by a written, secret ballot. Tellers will be appointed by the moderator of the meeting to distribute and count the ballots.

g. Absentee ballots will be accepted for the reason of work, sickness, or being

out of town. The ballots must be turned in to the chairman of the deacons by the Sunday preceding the Annual Meeting.

## **Section 6: Appointed Officers**

Appointed officers may be deacons. They shall submit to the leadership standard established by the church.

### **a. Treasurer**

1) The treasurer of the church will be appointed annually by the deacons. He will serve as a member of the Finance Committee. A weekly record of income and disbursements, specifying distribution into various funds, will be maintained.

2) The treasurer will perform his duties in accordance with the financial policies of the church, sound accounting principles and any written instructions from the deacons or Auditing Committee.

3) All financial transactions are to be kept in permanent records. Written quarterly and annual reports will be submitted to the church. Written monthly reports will be submitted to the deacons.

4) The treasurer will ensure deposit of all church receipts in the bank with receipts being recorded on the weekly reports and books of record.

5) When there are unusual or financially stressful circumstances, all liabilities submitted for payment will first be approved by the pastor and deacons, except budgeted support commitments.

### **b. Financial Secretary**

1) The financial secretary will be appointed annually by the pastor and deacons following the Annual Meeting of the church.

2) The financial secretary shall keep an accurate record of all giving through the individual envelope system, cooperating with the Finance Committee in guarding the records of individual giving as a sacred trust. A report of annual church contributions for each participant will be provided each January.

### **c. Church Clerk**

1) The church clerk will be a deacon appointed annually by the deacons. He shall keep a record of minutes of deacons meetings and all church business meetings.

2) He shall keep a record of receptions and terminations of membership, including baptisms. He will be responsible for notification of other churches relative to church membership. He may not release the membership roll of this church to any group or individual for other than official church business.

**d. Superintendent of Sunday Bible Study Hour (Sunday School)**

- 1) The superintendent of the Sunday Bible Study Hour will be appointed annually by the pastor and deacons following the Annual Meeting of the church.
- 2) He is to have general supervision over the Sunday Bible school, teachers, and staff. He will appoint all teachers and staff, subject to the approval of the Christian Education Ministry Team and deacons.
- 3) He will serve on the Christian Education Ministry Team.
- 4) He will carry out the program established by the Christian Education Ministry Team and is to report annually to the church or as requested by the deacons or the church.

**Section 7: Committees and Ministry Teams**

The pastor and deacons will appoint all committees and Ministry Teams of the church. They shall be members of the church who are willing to faithfully fulfill the duties assigned by the pastor and deacons. Committees and Ministry Teams will have the authority to carry out the established policies of the church but will not establish new policies. However, they are to be encouraged to make recommendations to the pastor and deacons. Further, members of the church are to be encouraged to propose meaningful suggestions to the pastor, deacons, ministry team and committee members.

**a. Pulpit Committee**

- 1) The deacons will constitute the Pulpit Committee when a pastoral vacancy occurs. This committee is to function in accordance with Article VII, Section 2.
- 2) In the event of a pastoral vacancy, the deacons will schedule speakers to fill the pulpit. These speakers shall agree with the church's doctrine and convictions.

**b. Christian Education Ministry Team**

- 1) The Christian Education Ministry Team shall be made up of a deacon, the Bible Study Hour Superintendent, Awana Commander, and other appointed members representative of the educational ministries of the church. A pastoral staff person or deacon shall act as chairman.
- 2) This ministry team will submit all curriculum and program recommendations to the pastor and deacons prior to announcement or enactment. It is to appoint or approve all teachers and staff of the educational programs, subject to ratification by the pastor and deacons.

**c. Properties Committee**

1) The Properties Committee shall be made up of one or more deacons and other appointed members knowledgeable of business affairs, property maintenance, etc.

2) The committee's responsibilities shall include the cleaning and maintaining of the church properties, opening and preparing buildings and rooms for meetings, controlling room temperatures and lights, securing buildings and moveable properties after services and supervising all personnel involved in these duties.

3) The portion of the Church Annual Budget related to church properties will be proposed by the properties committee to the deacons for consideration in the preparation of the annual budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The purchase of any equipment or other properties will be researched by the committee with proposals to be submitted to the deacons.

**d. Outreach Ministry Team**

1) The Outreach Ministry Team shall be made up of one or more deacons, leaders of visitation ministries, missions emphasis groups, and other members who manifest a genuine burden to win the lost to Christ.

2) The Outreach Ministry Team shall supervise and coordinate outreach ministries of the church. These duties are to include all missionary programs, support of social agencies, and schools, prospect visitation and coordination of follow-up visitation, evangelism and promotion of the church and its programs.

3) Leaders of all groups in outreach ministries will be appointed or approved by the Outreach Ministry Team, subject to ratification by the pastor and deacons. This ministry team shall recommend missionary candidates for support, missionary speakers and conferences, evangelistic emphases and promotional concepts to the pastor and deacons for consideration. All programs of outreach ministries must be approved by the pastor and deacons prior to announcement or enactment.

4) The portion of the Church annual budget related to outreach ministries will be proposed by the Outreach Ministry Team to the deacons for consideration in the preparation of the Church annual budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

5) The Bus Ministry Team shall act as a subcommittee to the Outreach Ministry Team. Its members shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons and shall have the responsibility of the maintenance of church vehicles and visitation and follow-up of children and families whom are reached by the bus ministry.

**e. Worship Ministry Team**

1) The Worship Ministry Team shall consist of a deacon, any pastoral staff member who ministers in a music related ministry, and other members evidencing spiritual gifts and abilities related to worship and music.

2) The Worship Ministry Team shall assist the pastor, as requested, in the planning of the church services. They shall supervise the music ministry of the church by establishing a music policy approved by the pastor and deacons, scheduling special music, appointing instrumentalists and song leaders for all services. They shall also recommend to the pastor and deacons for approval qualified individuals to direct the choirs.

3) The Sound System Ministry Team shall act as a subcommittee to the Worship Ministry Team. They shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons to supervise and control the public address system. They shall assist all persons or groups in the proper use and control of microphones and in setting up film projectors, slide presentations, overhead projectors and their screens. They shall recommend to the pastor and deacons the use and purchases of the public address system equipment.

**f. Service Ministry Team**

1) The Service Ministry Team shall be made up of a deacon and other appointed members who evidence spiritual gifts of service (hospitality, mercy, etc.) or who represent different service-oriented ministries in the church (ushers, flowers, hospitality, greeters, etc.).

2) The Service Ministry Team shall provide nursery supervision for all church services. They may recommend to the pastor and deacons a nursery supervisor who will be responsible to work with the committee in scheduling workers for the nursery.

3) The Service Ministry Team shall recommend to the pastor and deacons a head usher. They shall supervise the ushering and greeting of those who attend the services.

4) The Service Ministry Team shall solicit and coordinate needed hospitality providing meals for church families or friends who are suffering and luncheons for funeral services.

5) The Service Ministry Team shall plan, promote and coordinate fellowship activities in conjunction with other organizations of the church.

6) The Flower Ministry Team shall act as a subcommittee to the Service Ministry Team. They shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons to see that flowers or other remembrances are sent to the sick and hospitalized, and to the funerals of all members of the church.

7) The Kitchen Ministry Team shall act as a subcommittee to the Service Ministry Team. They shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons. They shall supervise the use of the kitchen facilities and work with the Service Ministry Team in planning and organizing fellowships where food and beverage is required.

**g. Finance Committee**

1) The Finance Committee shall be made up of a deacon, the church treasurer, and other members of the church who have skills in the area of stewardship and accounting.

2) The Finance Committee shall assist the treasurer in coordinating the church budget. They will administrate the church budget procedures with committees and the deacons in presenting a budget to the church at its annual meeting.

**h. Auditing Committee**

1) Two members shall be appointed annually by the pastor and deacons to audit the financial records and procedures of the church. A written report of audit is to be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

2) At the request of the deacon board, the Auditing Committee shall audit the books of the treasurer at any designated time and give a report to the pastor and deacons.

3) The church may vote to authorize the audit by a professional auditing firm rather than by the Auditing Committee.

**i. Other Ministry Teams, Committees and Subcommittees**

1) Other ministry teams or committees may be established and appointed by the pastor and deacons when deemed necessary by them. Job descriptions from the pastor and deacons will outline their duties and guidelines. This will include temporary committees such as a Building Committee in the event of a building program authorized by the church.

2) Subcommittees may be appointed by ministry teams or committees to assist them in their duties. These appointments will be made subject to the approval of the pastor and deacons. The subcommittee is to function under the supervision of the appointing ministry teams or committees.

## **ARTICLE VIII Organizations**

### **Section 1: Formation**

There may be ministry organizations formed as necessary to carry out the church's mission and goals of discipleship. Organizations in addition to these in Article VIII must be approved by the church. Each organization will function under the supervision of the appropriate committee (Article VII, Section 6) and the pastor and deacons. All activities are to promote the policies and practices of the church.

### **Section 2: Leadership and Curriculum**

All leaders and workers of organizations must be members of the church and submit to the leadership standard established by the church. Selections of leadership and curriculum will be made or approved by the appropriate committee, subject to ratification by the pastor and deacons.

### **Section 3: Bible Study Hour (Sunday Bible School)**

- a. The purpose of the Bible Study Hour is to evangelize souls and instruct them in the Scripture in areas of doctrine, Christian living, Bible study, and spiritual maturity.
- b. Teachers and workers are to be members of the church, approved by the Christian Education Ministry Team, pastor and deacons, and appointed annually.
- c. The superintendent will organize and administrate the Bible Study Hour ministry under the supervision of the Christian Education Ministry Team.

### **Section 4: Children and Youth Ministries**

- a. The purpose of children and youth ministries is to provide fellowship and spiritual & leadership training, giving priority to instruction in the Word of God. Youth Jr. High age and above who are involved in ministry in the church shall be members of the church.
- b. Those who organize and administrate the children and youth ministries of the church will be under the supervision of the Christian Education Ministry Team.

### **Section 5: Missionary Emphasis Groups**

- a. The mission of this church is to fulfill the Great Commission and glorify God. This church will encourage both men and women to become involved in missionary emphasis groups which cultivate interest in missions through information about Biblical missions and the missionaries supported by the church.
- b. These groups and their leaders will function under the supervision of the Outreach Ministry Team and promote the Missions policies of the church.

## **Section 6: Music Ministries**

a. The mission of the church is to fulfill the Great Commission and glorify God in all we do. The music ministry of the church should equip the members to sing and play instruments to the glory of God. The selection, style, and performance of the music should be pleasing to the Lord, scripturally correct and evident of the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19, Colossians 3:16-17). All who are capable at every age level shall be trained and encouraged to participate.

b. The music ministries of the church will be under the supervision of the Worship Ministry Team.

## **Section 7: Auxiliary Organizations**

No organization shall be formed before its sponsors have submitted their plans to the pastor and deacons for approval. Officers of all organizations, including organized classes and teachers, shall be members of the church.

## **ARTICLE IX: GOVERNMENT**

Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church shall function by means of congregational church government. The government is vested in the membership. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and co-operation common among Baptist churches.

### **Section 1: Associations**

This church declares itself in fellowship with the local, state, and national organizations of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC). At such time as these organizations or any of their representatives seek to interfere with the autonomy of the local church, or tend towards liberalism or worldliness, it shall take action to sever itself from fellowship.

### **Section 2: Meetings**

The church shall meet regularly for worship, edification, prayer, fellowship and observance of the Lord's Supper.

#### **a. Public Worship Services**

1) Public worship services should be held normally on morning and evening on Sunday. These services will usually be congregational in format with singing, music, and preaching of the Word of God. Any program or speaker from outside the church must be approved by the pastor and deacons. All preachers must confess clearly the fundamentals of the faith (Jude 3).

2) There should be a meeting for prayer and praise once each week.

3) Communion (the Lord's Supper) shall be served to the assembled church at least once a month, normally on the Lord's Day, at the discretion of the pastor and deacons.

**b. Business Meetings**

1) The Annual Meeting of the church shall be held between January 15 – 30 and announced two Sundays prior. If the meeting is canceled due to weather or emergency, an alternate date will be determined at the discretion of the pastor & deacons. The agenda will include reports from the pastors, ministry teams, committees and organizations of the church, election of deacons, annual financial report from the treasurer, proposed budget, and other reports or appropriate business. A quorum shall be required. A constituted quorum is composed of the following:

Up to 35 voting members - quorum is the majority

35 to 75 voting members - quorum is 15

75-150 voting members - quorum is 30

150-225 voting members - quorum is 45

225-300 voting members - quorum is 60

300-400 voting members - quorum is 80

400-500 voting members - quorum is 100

2) Quarterly Meetings of the church will be held between April 15-30, July 15-30 and October 15-30 and announced two Sundays prior. If the meeting is canceled due to weather or emergency, an alternate date will be determined at the discretion of the pastor & deacons. The agenda will include appropriate reports from pastors, ministry teams, committees and organizations, quarterly financial report from the treasurer, and other appropriate business.

3) Special business meetings may be called at any time by the pastor or deacons, providing public notice be given in advance at two regular services on different dates preceding the date appointed. An exception may be allowed in cases of extreme urgency. A special business meeting may be called by seven heads of families who are members of the church, requesting such of the chairman of the deacons, providing the specific purpose or purposes are clearly stated in a written notice. No other business shall be transacted in such meeting.

4) The Church Covenant shall be read at each quarterly and annual meeting. The procedures of business meetings shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, but are not to take precedent over any Rules of Order established by the church.

5) Receiving or terminating members and the selection of messengers may be transacted when necessary at any stated meeting of the church without previous notice.

6) Voting members shall be at least eighteen years old.

7) The pastor and deacons will meet at least once a month for prayer, committee reports, monthly financial report by the treasurer, and other appropriate business of the church.

### **Section 3: Change of Constitution**

This constitution may be amended, altered or revised at any regularly scheduled meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority vote of qualified members present and voting, provided that such proposed changes have been submitted in writing two weeks prior to the meeting and that the scheduled meeting is announced publicly two weeks in advance.

### **Section 4: Licensing and Ordination**

a. Any male member who in the judgment of the church gives evidence by his living and aptness to teach that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, with a goal of proceeding toward ordination, will be eligible for a license to preach. He will have preached in the hearing of the church, and having been examined by the deacons may upon their recommendation be licensed to preach the Gospel by the church provided two thirds of the qualified members present and voting at any business meeting shall agree.

b. If after recommendation of the deacons, the church decides by two thirds majority of the qualified members present and voting at any business meeting that one of its men possesses the Scriptural qualifications for ordination to the Gospel ministry, it shall call a council of ministers and brothers from churches of like faith to examine the qualifications of the candidate and upon the recommendation of that called council, the church will act to grant or withhold ordination recognition. Ordination will be withdrawn when a man ordained by the church has walked disorderly in violation of the Scriptural qualifications for the office of pastor as stated in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

### **Section 5: Financial Gifts**

The financial obligations of this church shall be met only through free-will offerings. The use of offering envelopes by members is encouraged to aid the financial secretary in his/her responsibility. All gifts become the property of Alpine Immanuel Baptist Church.

### **Section 6: Dissolution**

a. The church shall have the right to own, buy, or sell tangible properties, both real and personal, in its own name and through properly elected officers, when authorized by vote of the church.

b. No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individuals from the assets, holdings or other transactions in which this corporation may become involved.

c. In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or

other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other nonprofit church or parachurch corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the doctrinal statement adopted by this church, and in conformity with the requirements of the state and of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code.

## **Section 7: Constitutional Interpretation**

When questions arise with regard to the interpretation of this Constitution, the decision of the deacons will be considered as the final authority.

### **APPENDIX A**

#### **Alcohol and Nonmoral Issues**

There are certain issues that the Bible does not directly address but allows the Christian some liberty in exercising. However, there are New Testament principles that can be applied to help determine the Christian's conduct. The use of alcohol as a beverage is one of those issues. The Bible expressly forbids drunkenness and describes it as a sin that is to be confronted, confessed, and forsaken (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 13:13; I Corinthians 5:11, 6:9-11, 11:21-34; I Peter 4:3).

There is no place in the Bible where wine is prohibited. But there are some biblical principles that can be applied in forming convictions about drinking alcoholic beverages.

#### **1. The Principle of Comparison**

The wine used in Bible times was either non-alcoholic (mixed from a syrup or paste) or sub-alcoholic compared to today's standards. The phrase, "not given to wine" in I Timothy 3:3 literally means "one who sits long at his wine", implying that wine was so low in alcoholic content that it would take a long time to become drunk.

#### **2. The Principle of Necessity (I Corinthians 10:23)**

Drinking wine today is a preference and not a necessity. In Palestine in Bible times there was very little to drink apart from wine.

#### **3. The Principle of Excellency (Philippians 1:10, II Corinthians 7:1, Romans 12:1, I Peter 2:9)**

God calls every Christian to be set apart unto Him and consecrated by the Holy Spirit to present our bodies a living sacrifice. As God called priests and kings in the Old Testament to be free from the influence of wine, he calls New Testament saints to the highest level of commitment as kings and priests.

#### **4. The Principle of Control (I Corinthians 6:12)**

Christians are called to avoid anything that has the potential to cause them to fall into sin and become enslaved (addicted).

#### **5. The Principle of Destruction (Ephesians 5:18; Proverbs 4:17, 21:17, 23:21; Genesis 9:20-21; Deuteronomy 21:20)**

Drunkenness in the Bible is linked to poverty, rebellion, violence, and immorality. It is not wise for the Christian to engage himself in anything as potentially destructive as alcohol.

#### **6. The Principle of Responsibility**

Christians are responsible to insure that their conduct does not cause a weaker brother to

stumble into sin (Romans 14:13-21, I Corinthians 8:9). They are also to insure that their testimony to the unbeliever is not hindered by any activity and that all things may be done to glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31-33).

### **7. The Principle of Conscience (Romans 14:23)**

The Christian is never to do anything that will violate His conscience.

Based upon these seven principles, we believe that the Christian living in America today with all the social, emotional, moral, and family problems related to alcohol should totally abstain from the use of alcohol as a beverage.

## **MUSIC POLICY Alpine Baptist Church**

1. Christian music should manifest the fulfilling of the Holy Spirit by being directed to the Lord from the heart. The selection, style and performance of music should be pleasing to God and not appealing to the flesh. The music style should be consistent with the message of the song as well as the spirit of Christianity.

**Ephesians 5:18b-19 (NIV)** – "...to be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

2. The message of the song should be consistent with biblical doctrine.

**Colossians 3:16-17 (NIV)** – "Let the word of Christ dwell in you...as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

3. There should be consideration of other believers in the selection of the music and its style so that it is edifying and does not offend others. The same principle applies to dress which should be modest in appearance and appropriate for the service (dresses or skirts for ladies, dress shirt and slacks for men).

**Romans 14:13 (NIV)** – "Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way."

**Romans 14:21 (NIV)** – "It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall."

**Romans 15:2 (NIV)** – "Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."

4. Every effort should be made so that what is offered to the Lord as a sacrifice of praise is the result of a conscious effort to do one's best for the glory of God.

**Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV)** – "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not

forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

5. Music selection must be made well in advance and approved by the Minister of Music (Dennis Muston) by the Wednesday before the scheduled Sunday service.