

**ALPINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Constitution and Bylaws

Bylaw Article I Updated by Special Resolution September 8, 2023

**ALPINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
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ALPINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SOCIETY ACT

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

The name of the Society is the Alpine Baptist Association of British Columbia.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Baptist Association shall be to promote the spread of the gospel and the establishment of new churches within the bounds of the Association for the extension of world missions, benevolences and Christian education, to provide a fellowship of churches bound by common doctrines and practices, and to counsel with churches when called upon in matters of difficulty, in an effort to carry out the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:19-20.

ALPINE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – STATEMENT OF FAITH

We, the Alpine Baptist Association of British Columbia, adopt the following doctrinal statement which is the Second London Baptist Confession of 1689 (LBCF). Member churches will substantially subscribe to the LBCF, meaning that they subscribe to the major or essential doctrines of each chapter of the confession, yet with liberty and charity over minor matters of wording, application, and nuance.

ARTICLE II – PERPETUAL SUCCESSION AND POWERS

The Association shall have perpetual succession and has power to acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, trust agreement, contract or otherwise, real and personal property within and without the province, and may hold, sell, dispose of, exchange, mortgage, lease, let, improve and develop any such property, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing, may acquire in any way or ways real and personal property for the purpose of funding the purposes of the Association and deal with any and all such property as empowered by this Section. **This provision was previously unalterable.**

ARTICLE III – NON-PROFIT

The activities of the Association shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members and any income, profits or other accretions to the Society shall be used in promoting the purposes of the Association. **This provision was previously unalterable.**

ARTICLE IV – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Association, the assets remaining after the payment of all costs, charges and expenses properly incurred in the process of dissolution including the remuneration of a liquidator, and after payment to employees of the Association of any arrears of salaries, or wages, and after the payment of any debts of the Association, then all their remaining assets shall be assigned for distribution to the remaining faithful church or churches in our Association. Otherwise, the remaining assets shall be assigned to Baptist churches of the reformed persuasion, standing on the truth of the Bible alone for faith and practice, to further the work of Reformed Canadian Southern Baptists in Canada.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. This Association shall be composed of messengers elected by Baptist churches cooperating with and contributing to the work of the Association, providing that the church electing same shall subscribe to and be in harmony with this constitution, and have not adopted a statement of faith in conflict with the Statement of Faith of the Association.

SECTION 2. Each cooperating church may send the pastor and two messengers for the first twenty-five members or fraction thereof, and two messengers for each additional twenty-five members or fraction thereof, provided that no church elect more than ten messengers. The above applies to mission churches as well.

SECTION 3. Messengers from new churches desiring to cooperate with this Association, upon presenting a letter of request showing the church to be orderly in practice and orthodox in faith, may be seated as a member by a 75% vote of the Association in its Annual Meeting.

SECTION 4. When a church makes application for membership in the Association by a letter of request, the moderator shall appoint a committee of three, from the Executive Board, who shall inquire into its Articles of Faith, manner and nature of organization and fellowship. Upon a favorable report from the committee, the moderator shall call for a vote of acceptance or rejection, and if a 75% vote is cast in favor of receiving the church, he shall announce the results and the church may become a member of the Association.

SECTION 5. The Executive Board, acting for the Association between its sessions, may in the manner prescribed above, receive applying churches into the Association and they shall be accorded all the privileges of the Association from that date, pending final action of the annual meeting.

SECTION 6. Visiting members of other Baptist churches may be invited to sit in and share the fellowship of the Association, but shall not have the privilege of voting.

SECTION 7. A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

SECTION 8. This Association shall never have or attempt to exercise any ecclesiastical authority over the churches. This Association reserves the right, however, to determine its membership.

SECTION 9. Conditions by which a church and messengers cease to be in good standing are: ceasing to cooperate with the Association or having become corrupt in doctrine or practice as determined by the Executive Board of the Association and according to its Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 10. The Association shall be the final judge of messengers' qualifications and whether a church is a Cooperating Baptist Church. The requirements for a cooperating church include: attendance at meetings and the honoring of any commitments made with regard to giving to the Association.

SECTION 11. Any member church in good and regular standing who desires a letter of dismissal is entitled to receive it upon the church's request. If a member in good standing requests to be released from his covenant obligations to this Association for any reason, which the Association may deem satisfactory, such requests may be granted, and the church's membership terminated.

SECTION 12. The Association may also, after due notice and hearing, terminate the membership of a church. Restoration or removal from membership is as follows: the Executive Board will make every effort, through consultation and prayer, to restore any differences in orthodox faith, practice, or cooperation with the Association. If all efforts fail within one calendar year, a recommendation will be brought to the Annual Meeting of the Association by the Executive Board to withdraw fellowship from the church. A vote of removal must be carried by a 75% vote of the messengers of the Association. Messengers from the removed church will not be seated in general and Annual Meetings and will forfeit rights to vote.

SECTION 13. The procedure for reinstating a member is: the Moderator shall give consultation to the church and its members in a calendar year. If the Executive Board receives a letter from the removed church, requesting readmission as a member, and if a favorable report from the Moderator is given that the church has reinstated orthodox faith and practice and desires to re-establish cooperation and fellowship with the Association, a recommendation shall be given with the letter requesting reinstatement of membership. A vote of 75% must be carried for reinstatement of membership. The seating of messengers and reinstatement of voting rights shall then take place.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers shall be: moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, treasurer, and such other officers as shall be deemed necessary by this Association. These shall be elected annually and shall hold office until removed from office, resignation, or until their successors are elected.

SECTION 2. The duties of the officers, assuming that no committees (committees are referred to in ARTICLE IV, Section 3) have been established are:

***1. **Moderator:** It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the deliberation of the Association and Executive Board, serve on the Associational Council and discharge such other duties as are usually incumbent upon the presiding officer of deliberative bodies. The Moderator shall also be responsible for: assisting pastors and

churches when called upon or as need arises, publishing agendas for Executive Board meetings and sending a copy to each church in the Association prior to the meetings, being an ex-officio member of all Boards and Committees with power to make recommendations and enter into discussion of all matters but without power to vote except as otherwise stipulated. The Association may direct otherwise.

*****2. Vice-Moderator:** The Vice-Moderator shall assume the duties of the Moderator in the Moderator's absence. The Vice-Moderator shall also be responsible for: assisting all officers, committee members and directors of programs in their associational responsibilities and to publish a periodical newsletter to which each church in the Association contributes.

***3. Clerk:** The Clerk shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Association, file and keep in order all papers considered important to the Association. The Clerk shall have custody of the seal and shall sign all official papers therewith.

***4. Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive, disburse and keep a detailed account of all Association funds and make reports to the Executive board and the Association. The Treasurer's books may be audited or inspected by a person or persons appointed by the Executive Board prior to the Annual Meeting. A complete written report shall be give at the Annual Meeting of the Association and periodic reports of income and expenses given at the Board meetings.

ARTICLEVIII – EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1. There shall be an Executive Board composed of: the pastor of each cooperating church and mission and one additional member elected by each cooperating church and mission.

***SECTION 2.** The Executive Board shall transact any and all business of the Association during its recess providing that nothing shall be done by the Board contrary to this constitution or the expressed will of the Association. The Board shall prepare and/or revise a yearly budget for the Association and be responsible for its implementation. Executive Board members of 75% and over of the cooperating churches and missions shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

***SECTION 3.** The Executive Board may exercise borrowing powers in order to carry out the purposes of the Association with the previous approval of the Association. No debenture will be issued without authorization of a special resolution.

***SECTION 4.** No Executive Board Member shall be remunerated for being on the Board but they may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred while engaged in the affairs of the Association.

*SECTION 5. The Executive Board shall have power at any regular or called meeting of the Board to fill all vacancies in the Association Officers and/or to appoint any necessary committees.

*SECTION 6. A member of the Executive Board may be removed from office when he ceases to be in good standing in the membership of the Association as described in the Bylaws. A vote passed at a meeting of the Board by a majority of not less than 75% of the members is required.

*SECTION 7. The Executive Board shall prepare and disburse a program of the Annual Meeting to the Association at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting, together with other information it feels will be helpful and inspiring to the churches of the Association.

*SECTION 8. The Executive Board shall make a report at the Annual Meeting of the Association of all work done within the Association and all of the financial activity, with such recommendations as the Board deems necessary.

ARTICLE IX – COMMITTEES

All committees are subject to ARTICLE III – SECTION 5. (When no committee has been established, its functions shall be assumed by the officers defined in ARTICLE II, Section 4.)

1. **Nominating:** This committee shall nominate all Association Officers except the Moderator and Nominating Committee. The Moderator and the Nominating Committee shall be nominated and elected by the Association in the Annual Meeting.

*2. **Finance:** This committee shall prepare and/or revise a yearly budget for the Association and be responsible for its implementation. It shall have supervision over the budget under the authority of the Executive Board.

3. **Personnel and Property:** This committee shall serve as liaison between the Association and any Association personnel. They shall make recommendations to the Association regarding receipt, purchase, sale and maintenance of property and equipment.

4. **Missions Development:** This committee shall lead the Association to develop the priority mission frontiers in their area, call churches to be on mission and advise on the budgeting and disbursements of the Association's mission funds.

5. **Calendar:** This committee shall develop a calendar of activities by recommendations from each of the churches. The calendar of activities is to give

emphasis in areas that will meet needs in the churches in the Association. This committee shall present the calendar of activities at the Annual Meeting.

****6. Stewardship:** This committee shall assist churches in the development of individual and corporate stewardship.

****7. Youth:** This committee shall promote youth work in the Association.

ARTICLE X – MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The general meetings of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the Executive Board shall decide. Every general meeting of the Association other than an annual general meeting is an extraordinary general meeting. The board shall give not less than 2 weeks written notice of a general meeting of the Association to its members entitled to receive notice of a general meeting but those members may waive or reduce the period of notice for a particular meeting by unanimous consent in writing. Notice of a general meeting of the Association shall specify the place, the day and the hour of the meeting. The first annual general meeting of the Association shall be held not more than fifteen months after the date of incorporation and thereafter an annual general meeting of the Society shall be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than fifteen months after the holding of the last preceding annual general meeting.

SECTION 2. The general meetings shall have at least 50% of the churches represented as voting members on the Executive Board to constitute a quorum. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

SECTION 3. Each member of the Executive Board shall be from cooperating Baptist Churches in good standing with the Association, and is entitled to one vote.

*SECTION 4. The business of the Association shall be conducted according to orderly Christian conduct with motions presented, discussed and voted upon.

ARTICLE XI – CHURCH REPORTS TO BE MADE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of each cooperating church to make an annual report to the Association on forms provided.

*SECTION 2. Should any church fail to report as requested by the Association for 2 consecutive years, the Executive Board shall inquire into its standing and report to the Association at its next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THE BYLAWS

Amendments or additions to the Bylaws shall be by a 75% vote at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The proposed amendment or amendments shall be published to the churches at least 30 days prior to the stated meeting.

ARTICLE XII – AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a 75% vote of the messengers at any annual meeting provided the proposed amendment is published to the churches at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, or provided the amendment is recommended to the annual meeting by the Executive Board in its annual report.