

# **Immanuel Baptist Church**

## **Wiesbaden, Germany**

### **Constitution and By-Laws**

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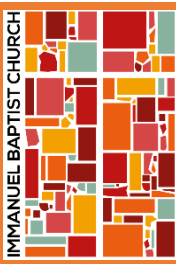


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# Who We Are



Immanuel Baptist Church of Wiesbaden, Germany (IBC-Wiesbaden) establishes this constitution to express the principles of our faith in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our God is a God of order, and this document ensures IBC-Wiesbaden is governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of the Bible. Although we believe the local church to be autonomous and governed by its members, we also recognize the importance of association and cooperation with other like-minded churches and organizations. In our case that is most clearly indicated by our membership in the International Baptist Convention and the Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Germany.

As an international multi-cultural church, we provide worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship opportunities for English-speaking followers of Christ and for those exploring a personal faith in Christ. Our desire is to be faithful to the teaching of scripture, sensitive to the moving of the Spirit and to excel in showing God's love and grace for every person. As a "Body of Believers in Christ" our church will be known as the Immanuel Baptist Church of Wiesbaden, Germany im Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Deutschland, K.d.ö.R.

We welcome all to worship with us regardless of where you are in your faith journey. We accept, to membership, all who have come to a personal, genuine faith in Jesus Christ, recognizing some may have differing views from our leadership in matters of faith that are non-essential to salvation. We expect members to seek to preserve the unity of the church by holding these differing convictions without being divisive and seeking to honor the leaders of the church.



# What We Believe

## Trinity



We believe that God is one being, existing eternally as a unity of three distinct persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully, equally, eternally God, possessing the very same nature and attributes. In God's great work of salvation each member of the Trinity accomplishes distinct aspect of God's eternal plan to save sinners, who are spiritually dead, through faith in Jesus Christ. ([John 1:1-5](#))

## God, the Father



We believe there is only one living and true God. He is the eternal, infinite, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise Creator and supreme ruler of heaven and earth. He is loving, righteous, just, and merciful. In perfect love, He is concerned in our affairs and hears and answers prayer. Because He loves us, He sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to save all from sin and death. He is worthy of our worship, love, and trust. ([John 3:16-18](#))

## Jesus Christ



We believe that Jesus Christ is God's one and only Son, who is fully God and fully man. He was with God the Father in the beginning of all creation and is eternal. That He was born of a virgin birth and was sinless. Because He was sinless, He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, which He took on Himself on the cross. We believe that He died in our place for our sin, that He rose again, and that He ascended into heaven. We believe His promise that He will return with power and glory. Through our faith in Him, He completed everything necessary for us to be saved from our sins and return to our Heavenly Father. ([John 14:6](#))



## Holy Spirit



The third person of the Trinity and also fully God, the Spirit was sent by the Father to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ. He is the comforter, brings scripture to our minds, teaches, and strengthens us until the return of Jesus in all His glory. He moves sinners to act and believe in Jesus. He is continually with a believer in Jesus as a constant companion. The Holy Spirit enables a believer in Jesus to lovely and boldly share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ([John 14:26](#))

## The Bible



We believe the Bible is the absolute inspired Word of God, which consists of the 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament written by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is complete, final, and the absolute authority and standard against which all Christian belief and all behavior is measured. It is given to us so that we might know and enjoy God and walk in His ways. It shows us the path to life and makes clear the path of sin and death. ([2 Timothy 3:15-17](#))

## Salvation



Every human being is born with a bent to rebellion against God. The Bible calls this bent “sin” and the result of our rebellion is that we are spiritually “dead” and separated from God. We are powerless of earning our salvation and require God’s love and mercy. Through this great love, God sent Jesus Christ, as the perfect sacrifice for our rebellion. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, we can experience new birth and eternal life. There are no works which can possibly earn our redemption. It is a gift of grace through faith in Christ. He alone is our hope, our Savior, and our Lord. In Him alone can salvation be found. ([Romans 6:23](#))

## Ordinances



We believe Jesus established two ordinances for believers:

***Believer's Baptism*** – An act of obedience and a joyful public expression of faith, which is a visual testimony of our new life and personal commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ. That baptism is by immersion “in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” as a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; the end of our old way of life and the beginning of our new life in Christ. ([Colossians 2:12](#))

***The Lord's Supper (communion)*** – Taking the Lord's Supper together is to remind believers of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us, regarding His death, burial, resurrection, and future return. Unlike baptism, which is a one-time act of obedience, the command to celebrate Lord's Supper together is to be kept regularly and continually by His church. ([Luke 22:14-20](#))

## Sharing the Gospel



In response to the Great Commission, and as an international sending church, we accept the responsibility of sharing the Gospel and making disciples of Jesus Christ, to all nations and all people. We believe Christ is our model in sharing the Gospel in both word and deed. We believe that every person who comes to faith in Christ is called to be both a disciple and a disciple-maker. This calling challenges us to be bold in sharing the Good News of salvation in Jesus alone and to live in a way which reflects His incredible love and grace. As we live and serve in community with others, we must communicate who and why we serve. ([Matthew 28:16-20](#))

## The Family



Marriage and the family were instituted by God with our first parents, Adam and Eve. That marriage is between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. ([Genesis 2:24](#))

## Local Church



We believe the local church is an independent assembly of disciples of Jesus, called to share the Word of God (Bible), follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and be a launching pad for ministry which impacts our city, our country, and our world. Immanuel Baptist Church is an internationally diverse “Mosaic of Believers” that embraces our cultural differences. We believe those difference make us stronger and help us better understand God as we learn from one another.

We believe that all churches, in every country, are entitled to freedom of religious expression and be free from governmental control, while we respect man’s laws that do not conflict with the commands of God.

We seek the opportunities to work together with other like-minded Christian churches and organizations to accomplish God’s work locally, nationally, and internationally. ([1 Corinthians 12](#))

## Church Membership



Church membership is only for those who have personally experienced God’s saving grace and accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord and have followed Christ in baptism by immersion. As part of our covenant relationship as members of the Body of Christ, we seek to grow in our own faith, to encourage other believers to grow closer to God, to raise our families in Christ and to serve His church at IBC-Wiesbaden. ([Hebrews 10:19-25](#))

