

Restoration Fellowship International

Articles of Association



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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER FOR RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

I. PURPOSE OF RFI

The renewed interest throughout the body of Christ to rediscover and restore its Biblical heritage, especially the first century roots and foundations in Christ, the apostles and the earliest believers for faith, fellowship and practice has prompted Restoration Fellowship International (RFI) to establish a trans-denominational association of ministries and congregations to assist in bringing people together for meaningful fellowship, dialogue and cooperation without the restrictions of traditional denominational structure.

In essence, RFI provides an umbrella, or forum, for ministers and congregations to be plugged in and networked together for mutual promotion, support and celebration without surrendering creativity, latitude and autonomy within ministries and congregations. We believe this model is closer to the first century New Testament order for Christian community than many of our modern ecclesiastical orders.

It is the practice of RFI to maintain a network of ministries, individuals and congregations who share a common interest in promoting the advancement of the body of Christ and the revelation of Jesus Christ in the earth. This is achieved through mutual respect and celebration of the myriads of ministries and callings within the body of Christ.

It is also the practice of RFI, not only to serve each other, but also to hold each other mutually accountable to the moral and ethical teachings of Christ, both in belief and daily lifestyle. The Judeo-Christian ethic is more than a belief system it is a way of life.

The central emphasis of RFI is found in its name "restoration." We believe that this is the watchword for our generation. Jude admonishes us to "earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

Our Vision Statement is three-dimensional. We seek to assist the body of Christ in:

1. Restoring the individual through the Gospel of Christ and to growth in Christ.
2. Restoring and building godly homes and marriages through the Biblical model.
3. Restoring, practicing and celebrating, in New Testament order, the Judeo-Christian Faith of the Bible, through praise, worship and service.

II. GOVERNMENTAL ORDER & DIRECTORS OF RFI

A. The leadership of RFI includes —

- Executive Director/President
- Executive Assistant Director/Vice President
- Board of Directors & Board of Advisors
- Secretary
- Treasurer

B. Order of Operation —

- The appointment or election of directors and officers is by nomination and a majority vote of no less than one-half of the Directors present. Directors and officers are either reconfirmed or changed on a biennial service basis.
- The Board of Directors & Advisors meet in business sessions semi-annually and annually. (Interim meetings are optional at the discretion of the Executive Director and upon the availability of the Board of Directors.)
- A quorum of one half of the Directors must be present at all meetings in order for new business, or the updating of the operations of RFI, to be officially acted on.
- The rule or process of decision making shall be by majority agreement whenever unanimous consensus is not possible, at both the Board meeting and general meeting levels. Unanimous consensus is always the biblical goal of all meetings and endeavors.
- RFI annually establishes national, international, regional and local conferences, yeshivas and events for the fellowship, promotion and enhancement of RFI, and for all of its associating ministries and congregations who may wish to participate.
- An annual financial statement and/or audit report will be submitted by the offices of RFI to all its associates, upon request.

C. Programs and Enhancement Opportunities —

- Periodic programs or events for the enhancement of ministers and ministries will be offered through RFI.
- RFI also serves as an informational resource for continuing educational opportunities available to ministers and churches within the body of Christ. RFI supports and recommends Biblical Life College & Seminary and The Timothy Program International for directed study and degree opportunities.

III. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE BETWEEN RFI AND ASSOCIATING MINISTRY:

Restoration Fellowship International and _____ share a mutual interest in the promotion and development of _____, with a view in mind of promoting the _____.

_____ wishes to operate in conjunction with Restoration Fellowship International, with offices in Cleveland, Tennessee, within the limitations of this agreement.

IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH AND CENTRAL THEOLOGY

Restoration Fellowship International and _____ agree on the following doctrines of central theology:

1. The existence of one God (Yahweh or Jehovah) — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

2. The inherent deity, eternal pre-existence, miraculous conception, virgin birth, total humanity, sinless life, atoning death, glorious resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua).
3. The infallible authority of the whole Bible as the inspired Word of God for faith and instruction in righteousness.
4. The establishment of doctrine for faith, practice, government and discipline on the New Testament.
5. The Gospel of the Kingdom as the Gospel of the Bible preached from both the Old and New Testaments.
6. Justification by faith alone in the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only means of personal righteousness.
7. Water baptism as an outward sign of inward grace. (The ceremonial formula or means of baptism — emersion, sprinkling or effusion — is based upon the convictions of each associating ministry or congregation).
8. In celebration of Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper). (The ceremonial formula and means of communion celebration — either closed or open communion — is based upon the convictions of the associating ministry or congregation.)
9. The inherent brotherhood of the Christian community through the grace covenant of Jesus Christ.
10. The prophetic restoration of the church, the body of Christ, throughout the world in preparation for the second advent of Jesus Christ her Lord.
11. The prophetic restoration and salvation of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel in the last times.
12. The pre-millennial second coming of Jesus Christ to establish the kingdom of God.
13. The resurrection of the dead to give immortality to both the dead and the living saints at Christ's appearing.

V. PRIVILEGES AND SERVICES

Restoration Fellowship International agrees to provide the following privileges and services to _____.

1. Formal recognition under the 501(c)(3) designation and umbrella of the RFI association, upon proper application and approval.

2. Licensing and/or ordination of all associating ministers. (Licenses are renewable biennially). The association acknowledges all of the New Testament gifts of ministry, and functionary offices of service in the body of Christ.
3. Opportunities to share ministry news and information through the official media sites, links and services of the association.
4. Representation by RFI Directors at special events as requested by the associating ministry or congregation.
5. Access to participate in the annual convocations and events of RFI for meaningful fellowship, enhancement opportunities, and for networking an promotional purposes.
6. Advice and/or assistance with congregational or ministerial matters when requested by associates.
7. Access to the Presbytery services of RFI for spiritual advice, Godly counsel and for restoration ministry, upon request from associating minister, ministry or congregation.
8. Access to the semi-annual and annual Board of Directors & Advisors Meetings for input, upon request from associates.
9. Opportunity to participate annually in home and foreign mission's projects and in other events promoted through RFI. Participation in and monetary contributions are based upon the willful choice and viewed merit of said projects or events by each minister, ministry and/or congregational associates.

VI. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASSOCIATING MINISTRY

Associating minister, ministry or congregation agrees to submit the following to Restoration Fellowship International —

1. The biennial association fee/offering for all associating congregations and/or ministries coming under RFI's 501(c)(3) fiscal umbrella. The biennial association fee is \$400 per congregation or associating ministry. (Any adjusted amounts or exemptions are determined by the Executive Director and Board of Directors on a case by case basis.)
2. A biennial ministerial licensing fee of \$100 per minister. (Any adjusted amounts or exemptions are determined by the Executive Director and Board of Directors on a case by case basis.)
3. Proof of incorporation by each associating congregation or ministry within their respective state or nation, including a copy of the charter which has been filed with the Secretary of State (where applicable).
4. Proof of an Internal Revenue Service tax identification number or special status (where applicable).

- 5. Agreement to comply with the tax exemption provisions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(C)(3) (where applicable). United States associating congregations and ministries (who do not have their own IRS designation), have the opportunity to come under the umbrella of RFI's 501(C)(3) designation (as defined above).
- 6. Each congregation or ministry who serves under the RFI fiscal umbrella agrees to submit an annual financial report or statement to the RFI offices as required by the IRS and the RFI association.

VII. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF RFI

Restoration Fellowship International agrees to the following —

- 1. To maintain a proper financial system of operation as prescribed and monitored by the IRS and the RFI Board of Directors & Advisors.
- 2. To provide all associating ministries and congregational an annual financial report of the fiscal operations of RFI, upon request.

VIII. GOVERNMENTAL RIGHTS OF ASSOCIATING MINISTRY

_____, shall be autonomous, both in leadership ministries and in ownership of real and personal properties. RFI shall provide advice in times of transition in leadership or in matters of disciplinary counsel or mediation, when and if requested by _____.

IX. ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT

Coordination of Association Agreements –

All interaction of this agreement of association between _____ and RFI, shall be coordinated under the auspices of the office of Restoration Fellowship International in Cleveland, Tennessee and the above stated associating ministry or congregation.

X. TERMINATION OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

These Articles of Association may be terminated by either party with a thirty-day advance written notice of intention to terminate to either party.

XI. SPECIAL AGREEMENTS, EXEMPTIONS AND/OR ADDITIONS

XII. COVENANT OF MUTUAL SUPPORT

We, Restoration Fellowship International, and _____
 _____, do hereby covenant together to be mutually supportive of each
 other and to labor together within the terms of this agreement on this _____ day
 of _____, 20_____.

XIII. SUPPORTING INFORMATION/REFERENCES

Name of Associating Ministry: _____

Director/Pastor: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

REFERENCES: (Three Professional References are Required with All Applications).

1. Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

2. Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

3. Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Restoration Fellowship International

Associating Ministry or Congregation

RFI Executive Director

Signature from Associating Ministry

Member of RFI Board of Directors

Witness Signature for Associating Ministry

Date

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF BRADLEY

Representatives of Restoration Fellowship International who are personally known to me have in my presence executed these Articles of Association.

Date of Articles of Association: _____

Association Fee Received

Association #: _____

Notary Public

My commission expires on November 9, 2024.