

Articles of Association

Restoration Fellowship International
A Transdenominational Association of Ministers, Ministries and Churches



Restoration Fellowship International
Post Office Box 5822
Cleveland, Tennessee 37320-5822 U.S.A.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

I. Purpose of RFI

The renewed interest throughout the body of Christ to rediscover and restore its Biblical heritage, especially its 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 non-denominational association of ministries and churches to assist in bringing people together for meaningful fellowship, dialogue and cooperation without the restrictions of a denominational structure.

In essence, RFI provides an umbrella, or forum, for ministers and congregations to be *plugged in* or networked together for mutual promotion, support and celebration without surrendering creativity, latitude and autonomy within ministries and congregations. We believe this is closer to the first century New Testament models of fellowship 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 myriad 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 lifestyle.

The central emphasis of RFI is found in its name *“restoration.”* We believe 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 Judaeo-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 confirmation, 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 is to meet in business sessions semi-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 official.
- 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.
- RFI will establish an annual conference 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 RFI to all associates.

B. Programs and Enhancement Opportunities –

- Periodic programs or events for the enhancement of ministers and ministries will be offered through RFI.
- RFI will serve 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 the view in mind of promoting this work, _____ wishes to operate in conjunction with Restoration Fellowship International, Cleveland, Tennessee, within the limitations of this agreement.

III. Statement of Purpose Between RFI and Associating Ministry

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 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 for _____

1. Formal recognition under the umbrella of the association.
2. Licensing and/or ordination of associate 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. An official newsletter of the association through which ministers and congregations will have access to share news and promote local or regional events.
4. Representation by RFI Directors at special events as requested by _____.
5. Access to participate in annual convocations and events of RFI for meaningful fellowship, enhancement opportunities, and for networking and promotional purposes.
6. Advice and/or assistance with congregational or ministerial matters when requested by _____.
7. Access to the Presbytery of RFI for spiritual advice, upon request by _____.

8. Access to the semi-annual Board of Directors meetings for input, upon request from _____.
9. Opportunities to participate annually in home and foreign missions projects and other events promoted through RFI. Participation will be based upon the choice and viewed merit of said projects or events by _____ congregation.

VI. Fiscal Responsibilities of Associating Ministry

Associating ministry agrees to submit the following to Restoration Fellowship International –

1. Biennial association fee/offering for all associating congregations and/or ministries. The biennial association fee is \$400 per congregation and/or associating ministries. *(Adjusted amounts or exemptions are determined by Board of Directors.)*
2. A biennial ministerial licensing fee of \$100 per minister. *(Adjusted amounts or exemptions are determined by Board of Directors.)*
3. Proof of incorporation of _____ within its respective state or nation, including a copy of the charter which _____ filed with the Secretary of State *(where applicable)*.
4. Proof of _____ Internal Revenue Service tax identification number *(where applicable)*.
5. Agreement to comply with the tax exemption provisions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(C)(3) *(where applicable)*. In the United States, associating congregations and/or ministries who do not have their own designation, can be covered under the umbrella of RFI's 501(C)(3) designation.

VII. Fiscal Responsibilities of RFI

Restoration Fellowship International agrees to the following –

1. To maintain a financial system of operation as prescribed and monitored by the RFI Board of Directors.
2. To provide all associating ministries and congregational an annual financial report of the fiscal operations of RFI.

VIII. Governmental Structure

_____ 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 advice or mediation as requested by _____.

X. 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_____.

RESTORATION FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

RFI Executive Director

Member of RFI Board of Directors

ASSOCIATING MINISTRY

Signature from Associating Ministry

Witness Signature for Associating Ministry