

RHEMA CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES OF CANADA INC
GENERAL CONSTITUTION

Rhema Christian Ministries (hereafter referred to as Rhema) was incorporated by articles of incorporation dated [January 14, 2000](#), issued by the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and is registered as a charitable organization with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

This Constitution was authorized by the Board of Directors of Rhema Christian Ministries and amended in 2023.

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PREAMBLE

Founded and established in 1999 in Toronto, Rhema exists to *Change and Affect Lives*. WHEREAS it is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world people, who shall constitute the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; and

WHEREAS the members of the Church of Jesus Christ were enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for the New Testament church order; and

WHEREAS it is evident that the early church came together in such fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries and who, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, set over the church pastors and teachers; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED we recognize that we are Christian, Spirit-filled believers whose purpose is to *Change and Affect Lives*, to acknowledge and promote scriptural methods for worship, unity, fellowship, and the work of God, and to disapprove unscriptural practices, doctrines, and conduct, as we endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

VISION:

We empower people to live better lives.

MISSION:

We offer products and services that meet people at their point of need.

VALUES:

Integrity - We are accountable for our actions.

Compassion - We care for people and consider people as our greatest asset.

Innovation - We make a better future possible, focusing on continuously evolving/improving.

Teamwork - We work together across diverse cultures and beliefs.

Excellence - We expect and reward outstanding work.

ARTICLE 1 - THE NAME AND SEAL

The name shall be **Rhema Christian Ministries of Canada Inc.** The seal, an impression whereof is stamped in the margin of the original copy of the by-laws, shall be the corporation's seal.

ARTICLE 2 - TERRITORIES

The operation/business of Rhema shall be carried out throughout Canada and all parts of the world from the head office of the corporation in the City of Toronto, in the Regional Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

2.1 REGIONAL MINISTRIES

Regional Ministries are defined as local Canadian assemblies. They shall be composed of born-again Christian believers, associating themselves in a group for worship, spiritual edification, evangelism, and establishing regional offices and places of worship for the work of the ministry. Its members shall share in maintaining scriptural order in agreement with The Statement of Faith of Rhema Christian Ministries and shall be faithful in financial support. Regional Ministries shall be put in order by the executive officers in consultation with the board. Whereas the interrelationship between Rhema and the regional ministry shall be maintained according to the General Constitution and By-Laws of Rhema, the regional ministry **shall be an autonomous entity**; however, the regional ministry may appeal to the head office for help in solving local problems. Finally, regional ministries are expected to cooperate with Rhema's national programs and are expected to align with the global efforts of Rhema Christian Ministries.

ARTICLE 3 - NATURE

Rhema is a fellowship of Christian believers established upon mutual agreements and entered by faith in Jesus Christ and the commitment of its members.

ARTICLE 4 - PURPOSES

4.1 To conduct public worship.

4.2 To establish places for worship.

4.3 To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like faith, approving all scriptural teaching, method, and conduct.

4.4 To organize and conduct religious instruction and/or education.

4.5 To carry on missionary work for the spread of the gospel.

4.6 To carry on charitable and philanthropic work of every kind, locally and globally.

4.7 To publish, sell, and distribute wholesome literature.

4.8 To collect, solicit, and accept funds or other subscriptions for the carrying on of the corporation's work and any other religious or benevolent purposes.

4.9 To exercise any powers usually conferred on duly incorporated benevolent societies by either federal or provincial authorities.

4.10 The right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or personal, as may be needed for the prosecution of the work, and to invest and keep invested such funds as may be placed at its disposition for the furtherance of the objectives of Rhema Christian Ministries, and to dispose of the entire undertaking of the corporation.

ARTICLE 5 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

Rhema's tenets of faith align with evangelical and historical Christianity. The Holy Bible serves as our all-sufficient source of faith and practice. Rhema subscribes to the historic doctrines of the 1st-century church. In common with historical, evangelical Christianity, it emphasizes Christ as Savior and the coming King. It also presents Christ as Healer and adopts the distinctive position that a Spirit-filled life must evidence the Christian walk of faith and practice.

At Rhema, all beliefs begin with God and serve to advance His Kingdom. This concise statement of faith is intended not for divisive debating or to generate endless theological strife but to engender thought and fellowship. Throughout the church's history, various theological positions have varied. Therefore, we seek to promote the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace even through our beliefs:

5.1 God - We believe there is only one true and living God, the source and sustainer of everything. He has revealed Himself threefold as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

5.2 Holy Scripture - We believe the Scriptures, both Old & New Testaments, are the inspired Word of God. Free from all error and complete in their revelation, the Scriptures serve as the final authority for the Christian life and faith.

5.3 Creation - We believe that ~~the~~ universal creation is the work of God, with humanity, male and female, being the crown of creation. Created in the image of God, human beings possess intrinsic value and worth. As such, we believe all human life is sacred and to be treated with the highest level of dignity.

5.4 Angels – We believe angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him. However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God. Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation, the church. Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes; however, in Christ, the believer possesses complete liberty from and authority over the influence of demons. The believer cannot be demonically possessed simply because their body is the temple of God in which Christ dwells as Lord through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

5.5 Jesus Christ - We believe Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. As the Son of God, He is the complete and final revelation of the Invisible God and the only way to God. For those who believe in His name, He is the mediator of eternal life.

5.6 The Holy Spirit - We believe the Holy Spirit is God Himself living within the Spirit of the believer. The Holy Spirit comes to equip and empower believers on their journey to becoming the perfect reflection of Jesus Christ.

5.7 Salvation - We believe salvation is God's redemptive plan for humankind to attain freedom from sin and experience the fullness of peace and prosperity. This plan has been made available to all through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and by the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit, whereby an individual experiences the new birth and receives spiritual and/or eternal life.

5.8 Faith and Repentance - We believe humanity may experience new birth only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit, turning a person to God from a lifestyle of sin.

5.9 Justification - We believe justification is the judicial act of God by which the believer is imputed God's righteousness solely based on their acceptance of Christ as Savior.

5.10 Assurance - We believe assurance of salvation is the privilege of all born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ, resulting in love, gratitude, and obedience toward God.

5.11 Sanctification - We believe sanctification is a dedication to God and separation from evil. In experience, it is both instantaneous and progressive. It is produced in the believer's life by the Holy Spirit's appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life. The Spirit draws believers' attention to Christ, teaching them through the Word and producing the character of Christ within them. Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.

5.12 Baptism in Water - Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and is practiced by immersion. All believers are commanded to repent and be baptized into the name and Lordship of Jesus Christ.

5.13 Baptism in The Holy Spirit - We believe baptism in the Holy Spirit is the supernatural experience in which believers yield their control to the Holy Spirit. Through this, believers come to know Christ more intimately and receive the power to witness and grow spiritually. Believers should earnestly seek baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. The initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. The continued evidence is the fruit or character of the Spirit within the believer's life.

5.14 The Church - We believe the church is a global community of those born again through accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Also referred to as the body of Christ, the church is a spiritual community of those living a life of faith in obedience to the Word of God. God ordains the local church and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God, observe the church's ordinance, are instructed in the faith, and are equipped to evangelize the nations.

5.15 Giving – We believe giving was divinely instituted by God under the old covenant and was compulsory for the people of God. Under the new covenant, we are not bound by laws; however, the principles of right and wrong, as expressed by the law, are fulfilled in the believer's life through grace. Grace should produce as much as, or more than, the law demanded; thus, giving is taught in the New Testament. All Christians should conscientiously and systematically support the local church and its ministry as part of their service to God.

5.16 Marriage and The Family - We believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman, as ordained by God in the Holy Scripture, recognized by the church. As the biblical context for procreating children, we further believe marriage is the foundation of all society. As such, it is a holy and honorable estate not to be severed or adulterated. We also believe that marriage is the visible symbol of the union between Jesus Christ and his church.

It is our conviction that Christians should marry only those who are believers. Individuals who become believers after marriage should remain with their partners in peace and should give witness to the gospel in their homes. Though Scripture provides evidence that the "one-flesh" union can be broken by marital unfaithfulness, Scripture also puts forth reconciliation as the most desirable option for repairing a broken marriage.

5.17 Divorce - In our society, divorce is the termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. We believe divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts." We, therefore, discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marital union wherever possible. Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration. While the church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, the church restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified in Scripture. Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

5.18 Remarriage – According to the tenets of our faith, remarriage is the union between a man and woman, one or both of whom have been previously married. It is regarded as acceptable in Scripture in the event of the death of a former spouse. It is also considered acceptable if there has been a dissolution of the former marriage.

5.19 The Kingdom - We believe the Kingdom of God is the rule of God in heaven and earth through His Son, Jesus Christ. Here on earth, the Kingdom's government begins in the human heart and continues into every area of life. God has called out the Church to express the reality of the Kingdom's presence on earth.

5.20 The End - We believe the visible and bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ will mark the end of the age. At this time, all humanity's judgment will take place, with the righteous being ushered into eternal life and the unrighteous into eternal death.

ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERSHIP

Membership within the Rhema community shall be extended to anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, covenant with the ministry's statement of faith and teachings, successfully completes membership orientation, and commits to faithfully supporting the church's ongoing work. As outlined in this article, failure to adhere to membership standards can lead to expulsion from the Rhema community.

ARTICLE 7 - GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETINGS

General meetings of the members of Rhema shall be held annually by order of the Board of Directors at such time and place as they shall determine. The Board of Directors may order special meetings on agreement by the majority of its members. A minimum of ten percent (10%) of congregational members can call a members' special meeting.

ARTICLE 8 - OFFICERS

8.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The corporation's officers shall consist of the Senior Pastor, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director, and such officers as may be added occasionally.

ARTICLE 9 - ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES

The ministry shall engage in the following ordinances and practices:

9:1 The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water shall be administered to all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, repented of their sins, and evidenced the same through a profession of faith.

9:2 The ordinance of Holy Communion shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the Scriptures.

9:3 The dedication of children.

9:4 The solemnization of marriage between a man and a woman.

9:5 The burial of the dead.

9:6 Prayer for the sick as a means of healing and/or deliverance.

ARTICLE 10 - DEPARTMENTS

The ministry's ongoing work shall consist of various departments, such as Music & Worship Arts, Children's Ministry, Hospitality Services, The Ministerial College, and The Foodbank. These departments exist to fulfill the Rhema mission by offering products and services that meet people at their point of need. The Executive Director shall have the authority to institute other departments as deemed necessary from time to time.

ARTICLE 11 - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any general meeting of the members. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

ARTICLE 12 - DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, all its remaining assets after payment of liabilities shall be distributed to another Christian religious charitable organization with similar objectives and registered as a charitable organization with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

ARTICLE 13 – GENERAL

This Constitution is subject to the By-laws of the Corporation and the laws of Ontario and Canada. In the event that there is a conflict between the provisions herein and the By-laws of the Corporation or the laws of Ontario and/or Canada, the said By-laws and the laws of Ontario and Canada shall prevail.