

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

*Rhema*  
FAMILY CHURCHES



## RHEMA FAMILY CHURCHES

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received:.....

Board Member Taking Responsibility:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone:.....

Cell:.....

E-mail:.....

Comments:.....

.....

Two colour  
passport size  
photos

**Do not send  
application without  
photos**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION:**

1. Fill out this application CAREFULLY, PRINT in ink. Return the completed form to the board member to whom you relate.
  2. Try to limit your remarks to the space provided, but answer ALL questions clearly and fully.
  3. Where applicable, TICK in appropriate blocks (  ).
  4. If question does not apply, write "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the space provided.
- THE FOLLOWING MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION FORM:



1. Two CURRENT passport size photographs head and shoulders ONLY.
2. A copy of your church constitution.

The enclosed Board Pastor's Recommendation Form is CONFIDENTIAL and must be completed and returned to the RHEMA FAMILY CHURCH ADMIN OFFICE.

**A. PERSONAL DATA**

1. Surname:..... Title (Dr., Rev., Past., etc).....

First Name:..... Middle Name:.....

2. Postal Address:.....

..... Postal Code:.....

3. Residential Address:.....

..... Postal Code:.....

4. Phone: (Code).....(Home).....(Work).....(Fax).....

(Cell).....(E-mail).....

5. Birth place: Town:..... Country:.....

6. Birth Date:..... Age:.....

7. Nationality:..... Identity Number:.....

8. Home Language:.....

9. Gender:  Male  Female

10. Marital Status:

Single  Married  Divorced  Engaged  Widow  Widower  
 Separated  Remarried

**B. PERSONAL DATA OF SPOUSE**

1. Full Name:.....

Birth Place: Town.....Country.....

Birth Date:.....Age:.....

Nationality:.....Identity Number:.....

Occupation:.....

2. Date of Marriage:.....Place of Marriage:.....

3. Other Details:.....

4. Number of Children:.....Ages:...../...../...../.....

Names:...../...../...../.....

**C. MINISTERIAL DETAILS**

1. Name of Church:.....

Name:.....

Postal Address:.....Postal Code:.....

Church Address:.....

Church e-mail:.....

What is the average attendance of your congregation per Sunday Service?.....

What is the membership at present (Children included)?.....

2. How long have you held this position?.....

**D. TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE**

1. Do you hold or have you held ministerial credentials with any organisation/denomination?  YES  NO

Name and address of organisation:.....

2. Have you ever applied for credentials and been refused?  YES  NO

If "Yes", which organisation/denomination?.....

3. Are you a marriage officer?  YES  NO

If "Yes", with which organisation do you hold a marriage licence?.....

Appointment Number.....Date obtained.....

4. Does your local church leadership agree to be a Rhema Family Church?  YES  NO

## **E. STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COMMITMENT TO RHEMA FAMILY CHURCHES**

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, in their original writing, as fully inspired by God and accept them as the supreme and final authority for faith and life.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and is true God and true man.

We believe that God created man in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of sin which is death physically and spiritually; that all human beings inherit a sinful nature which issues ( in the case of those who reach moral responsibility) in actual transgressions involving personal guilt.

With regards to sexual behaviour, we believe in heterosexual relationships between a natural man and a natural woman within the confines of lawful matrimony. Adherence to this stated principle of sexual behaviour is an inherent requirement of membership of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus, His ascension into Heaven, and His present Life as our High Priest and Advocate.

We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that all who repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, empowering and equipping believers for service, with the accompanying super-natural gifts of the Holy Spirit; and in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We believe in the divinely ordained ministries of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher.

With regards to submission to authority, we believe in the principle of being in authority, because you are under authority. As such, it is understood that the Rhema Family Churches Organisation membership shall be subject to submission to authority in matters pertaining to doctrine and personal behaviour.

We believe in the resurrection of both the just and unjust, the eternal blessedness of the redeemed, and the eternal banishment of those who have rejected the offer of salvation.

We believe that the one true Church is the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit; that the local church on Earth should take its character from this concept of the Church spiritual and therefore, that the new birth and personal confession of Christ are essentials of church membership.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ appointed two ordinances - Baptism in water and the Lord's Supper to be observed as acts of obedience and as perpetual witnesses to the cardinal facts of the Christian faith, Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water as a confession of identification with Christ in burial and resurrection and that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the emblems symbolic of the Saviour's broken body and shed blood, in remembrance of His sacrificial death, until He comes.

We believe that divine healing was provided for in the Old and New Testament and is an integral part of the Gospel.

We believe that the bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing as the time of the new birth and continuing until the consummation of salvation.

The Organisation is open to further revelation, which the Holy Spirit may illuminate from the Scriptures.

## **F. COMMITMENT TO RHEMA FAMILY CHURCHES**

**RELATIONSHIP** - It is the responsibility of every member church to build a relationship with a RFC Governing Board member.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Vision - Socially Significant, Prophetically Relevant, Evangelistically Potent and Spiritually Vibrant.

Commitment - A heart commitment, respect and submission to the President and to the Governing Board member they relate to.

Meeting on a regular basis to develop this relationship. Also to expose the local church leadership to the RFC conferences and Leadership.

Financial Support - To be committed to the financial responsibilities required for membership.

### **CODE OF MINISTERIAL ETHICS**

The following standards are set forth in an effort to create professional understanding, as well as to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of our vocation as ministers of Jesus Christ.

As a minister called to serve God and His people, I commit myself to the following norms of the ethical conduct, for which I am accountable to God, to my ministerial colleagues and to the Rhema Family Churches Organisation in which I serve.

### **MY PERSON**

I will endeavor to pray daily, to read, study and meditate upon God's Word; and to maintain a healthy and vibrant devotional life of worship unto God.

I will plan time to be with my family, realising my special relationship to them as the first recipients of my vocation.

I will seek to keep my body physically fit through proper eating habits and planned exercise, renewing myself through the observance of a weekly day of rest and an annual vacation.

I will keep myself emotionally fit, keeping in touch with my feelings and growing in healthy control of them.

I will strive to grow through comprehensive reading, research and through participation in professional educational opportunities.

I will be a servant of God seeking to maintain a life of purity, integrity, and truthfulness.

I will dress in a becoming manner.

### **MY VOCATION**

I will seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and commitment as a servant of God. I will at all times keep the nobility of my calling uppermost in my mind.

I will hold high in outward acts the established reputation of the Christian ministry.

I will at all times uphold and promote the Statement of Faith of Rhema Family Churches in which I serve. I will submit to the leadership of Rhema Family Churches in disciplinary matters.

I will give full service to the congregation / recipients of my ministry and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry towards them. I will not get involved with any such responsibilities or activities without the permission of my oversight. I will encourage my spouse and family to serve God, set an example to the believers in all things and always be a support in the ministry.

I will consider a confidential statement made to me as a sacred trust not to be divulged without the consent of the person making it.

I will responsibly exercise the freedom of the pulpit, speaking the truth of God's Word with conviction in love; and will acknowledge any extensive use of material prepared by someone else.

I will endeavour to speak goodwill of the other Christian ministers, churches or ministries at all times. I will, in case of accepting an invitation to occupy the pulpit of a church / ministry with doctrinal tenets other than my own, be careful to avoid any controversial statement at variance with the tenets of said church/ministry.

I will not interfere directly or indirectly with the pastoral work of another Christian minister, church or ministry.

### **MY MINISTRY**

I will always strive to embody servant-leadership in all my relationships as I seek to fulfill my responsibilities as a minister. I will strive to pattern my life and ministry after Christ's example.

I will hold all people as equal in my heart, refraining from any behaviour that may be construed as being racist, sexist or any other form of discrimination.

I will seek to regard all recipients of my ministry with equal love and concern. I undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all recipients of my ministry and refrain from any behaviour that will be divisive.

I will avoid any form of preferential treatment, nepotism and the building of my "own kingdom".

I will exercise confidence in the lay leadership, assisting in their training and mobilizing their creativity.

I will seek to lead the congregation/recipients of my ministry in a positive direction in order to achieve the goals set by the leadership.

I will remain open to constructive criticism and to suggestions intended to strengthen our common ministry.

I will deal fairly with the Rhema Family Churches, which I am presently serving and will serve at only one church at a time.

I will not abuse or misappropriate any resources of Rhema Family Churches, including its name, logo, assets, facilities, time and people.

I will at all times submit the nature, function and practice of my ministry to the leadership of the Rhema Family Churches Governing Board.

## MY COLLEAGUES

I will, in the case of departure from the Rhema Family Churches Organisation, sever my pastoral / ministerial relations with the congregation / recipients of such ministry, recognising that all pastoral/ministerial functions should henceforth rightfully be conducted by a successor.

I will not initiate another church/ministry within the area of Rhema Family Churches without the blessing of the leadership of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation.

I will seek to maintain loyal, supportive and caring relations with my ministerial colleagues.

I will pursue honest relationships with my fellow-ministers that will be characterised by frankness and understanding.

I will serve, believe in and support the leadership of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation in which I serve. I will do this as far as they conform to the Word of God and should they not, I will respectfully communicate this to them.

I will at all times refrain from negative and destructive criticism of the leadership of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation in which I serve.

I will co-operate with the leadership of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation in which I serve, and offer responsible criticism in order that our common service in the kingdom of God might be more effective.

I will use my influence to affirm and edify the fellowship of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation with the rest of the body of Christ.

## MY FINANCES

I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession and will assist the congregation/recipients of my ministry to understand that a minister should not expect or require personal fees for pastoral/ministerial services to them.

I will not make use of my ministerial position to get unethical personal advantage or financial gain for myself.

I will not measure the service I render in the office that I stand in by its monetary equivalent.

I will be honest with the stewardship of money, paying bills promptly, asking no personal favours or discounts on the basis of my professional status.

I will bring my tithes to the "storehouse", as well as give offerings, in order to be a good steward and an example to the believers.

## MY SEXUALITY

I will demonstrate sexual integrity in ministry by understanding, respecting and observing the boundaries of sexual misconduct as expressed in the Scriptures.

I will nurture my physical, emotional and spiritual health, maintain enriching friendships and build strong relationships with my spouse and family.

I will develop relationships with God, my spouse and close friends who encourage accountability and protect against temptation.

I will recognise the special power afforded me in my ministerial office by never abusing that power in ways that would violate the personhood of another human being. I will assume responsibility for maintaining proper boundaries in relationships between myself and staff members, congregation members or recipients of my ministry by acknowledging that they could be in a vulnerable position.

I will avoid all forms of sexual exploitation and/or harassment in my professional and social relationships, even if others invite such behaviour or involvement. I will not seek or accept sexual favours.

I will exercise good judgement in professional and private conduct by avoiding situations that could create the appearance of improper relationships or sexual misconduct.

I will submit to the policies and procedures of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation when an allegation of sexual misconduct has been made, recognizing the importance of justice and due process procedures.

I, the undersigned, freely and voluntarily subscribe to the basic principles set out in this entire document and understand consent to the fact that should I violate such principles, I may be required by the Governing Board of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation to either accept their counsel and discipline or forfeit my membership of the Rhema Family Churches Organisation.

I accept the above.

.....  
**SIGNATURE**

.....  
**DATE**

**G. FINANCIAL**

1. Have you had any civil or criminal proceedings against you?  YES  NO

If "Yes", explain.....

2. Are there currently any judgements against you?  YES  NO

If "Yes", explain, listing names, addresses and telephone numbers of creditors .....

.....

3. Have you declared bankruptcy in the last five years?  YES  NO

If "Yes", explain BRIEFLY the origin, cause, dates and present status .....

.....

4. Is your present financial situation hindering you from fulfilling your calling?  YES  NO

If "Yes", explain.....

**H. DECLARATION**

1. Explain briefly why you want to be committed to the Rhema Family Churches Organisation.

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.....  
.....  
.....

2. If you are given RFC membership, will you faithfully fulfill your commitment to RFC?  YES  NO

3. " I hereby state that all the information contained in this membership application is correct and true."  YES  NO

.....  
**Signature of Applicant**

.....  
**Date**

**I. COMMITMENT**

(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP)

Notwithstanding the fact that our Church is completely autonomous and is governed by our own constitution, we would hereby commit ourselves to a relationship in a legal contract to the RFC Governing Board, submitting ourselves to scriptural discipline as per RFC constitution 7.2. We understand that this relationship will allow us to access information, assistance, counselling, etc., and that the RFC Governing Board can offer guidance, direction and arbitration should any serious problem occur within our Church/ Ministry. Should a decision be reached to leave the RFC, it will be done by mutual agreement and leave without any ties, and relinquish all rights to the name.

This commitment was affirmed at a meeting of the Local Church Leadership held on.....  
and signed by the Pastor of the Church Leadership.

.....  
**Pastor's Signature**

.....  
**Date**

.....  
**Church Leadership Signature (1)**

.....  
**Date**

.....  
**Church Leadership Signature (2)**

.....  
**Date**

