

THE CONSTITUTION OF OMS HOLINESS CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ARTICLE I: NAME AND MISSION

We are called: OMS Holiness Church of North America (hereafter referred to as the “Conference”). Our mission is to plant and nurture thriving communities of faith and love that will share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all in the world, with an abiding call to reach people of Japanese ancestry.

ARTICLE II: BELIEFS

A. The Trinity

The Trinity is one God eternally and equally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are of precisely identical nature, attributes and perfection.

1. God the Father

God, the Father Almighty, Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe; His essential nature is Spirit, His essential attribute is absolutely holy, and His essential character is love.

2. God the Son, Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, thereby having a fully divine nature and a fully human nature in one person, and is the only mediator between God and man. To accomplish salvation, He lived a sinless life, completely fulfilling righteousness and offered Himself a substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of the world, satisfying divine justice. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died, and was buried. On the third day, He arose bodily from the dead. He ascended into heaven where in His glorified state He intercedes for believers. He shall come again personally and visibly to judge the world in righteousness and to establish His Kingdom.

3. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. His ministry is to reveal Christ through the Word of God, to fulfill salvation in the regeneration and sanctification of believers, to direct and empower the church in the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

B. The Bible

The Bible, both the Old and the New Testaments, the Word of God, is a divinely inspired revelation; it is without error in its original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in matters pertaining to faith and practice.

C. Man

Man was created in the image of God but he disobeyed God, thereby incurring spiritual death, which is separation from God. Man is saved from the condition of spiritual death only by the grace of God through faith in Christ and His redemptive act and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. His spiritual growth and maturity is initiated by God's Spirit and by a conscious act of dedication on the part of the believer and is effected by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

D. Salvation

Salvation is based solely on the grace and love of God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Man never gains salvation by his merit or deeds. It is only received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior because of His redeeming work on the cross. Through salvation the believer is forgiven of sin, becomes a child of God, is empowered for godly living and service, receives eternal life and an everlasting relationship with God in Heaven, and is saved from God's wrath and Hell.

E. The Church

The Church consists of all who have received salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have been united into one body under Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church. The Church is called to make disciples of every nation and people by the instruction of the Word, by the fellowship of believers, by the practice of ordinances specifically baptism and communion, by loving service and by the sharing of the Gospel.

ARTICLE III: LOCAL CHURCHES

The Conference is composed of and finds its substance and purpose through its local churches. Our churches are each the fellowship of people who have been called by God into a restored and intimate relationship with Himself by His mercy and grace through Jesus, His Son. Having been saved and called into being by the grace of God, we are congregations compelled by the love of Jesus Christ to share the Good News of His grace with all in our world; this is our highest calling; this is our greatest joy. We affirm that all members of our churches are called to, and gifted for, ministry in the Body of Christ, including those whom God has called and gifted to serve our congregations as pastors, whose ministry is to teach the Word and to shepherd and equip those under his care.

ARTICLE IV: REGIONS

Our churches are gathered geographically into regional groups (“Regions”), with the aim that our churches be strengthened in witness and enriched in life through committed prayer and mutual ministry one with another. The Regions all look to the Spirit of God and the Word to lead them in working together to pursue the glory of God, to build one another up, to share the Good News, and to plant new communities of faith.

ARTICLE V: SERVANT LEADERSHIP

A. The General Assembly (“Assembly”) is the gathering of local churches, through their delegates, and pastors from all our Conference churches. The Assembly is the highest governing body in the Conference and commits to serving the heart and will of God for our Conference in matters great and small. The Assembly humbly and joyfully considers development, renewal, and change to our ways of doing things, leading to greater fruitfulness in our varied ministries.

B. The Ordained Ministerial Body (“OMB”) is composed of the ordained pastors of the Conference. As servants of the Lord, our ordained ministers provide spiritual leadership for our local churches and doctrinal leadership for the Conference.

C. The Holiness Shepherd Council (“Council”), in serving the Lord, provides both ongoing spiritual oversight and support to our Conference members, as well as spiritual direction for our Conference.

ARTICLE VI: GOVERNANCE AND AMENDMENTS

A. The Conference is committed to good governance practices for the purpose of maximizing our effectiveness in achieving our Mission. To that end, the Conference, through delegated committees or groups, will regularly review and revise, or recommend to its members for revision, the governance documents and structures of the Conference and the local churches, including the Constitution, bylaws and policies of the Conference, the bylaws of the local churches and policies governing Regions.

B. This Constitution may be amended by:

1. Recommendation by two-thirds of the Council;
2. Approval by two-thirds of the members of the OMB;
3. Approval by two-thirds of all English and Japanese Departments of such amendment by a majority of the active voting members of such departments of the Conference Churches at duly called and held meetings of the active voting members of the Conference Churches; and
4. Ratification by a majority vote (of delegates and eligible members of the OMB) at a duly called and held Assembly.

C. Any such amendment shall be approved and ratified within three years of the recommendation of the Council. Any amendment approved shall become effective upon ratification at an Assembly.