

# OCI Membership Criteria

## Our Purpose

OCI is a family of lay ministries supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As the need and invitation arise, OCI assists its members with counsel, matches workers with needs, trains new leaders, acts as a liaison with church leadership, evaluates and helps solve problems, and more. OCI acts as the U.S. contact and home base for expatriate workers at mission outposts for ministries in more than 30 countries. OCI is also a member of Adventist-laymen Services and Industries (ASI).

As an organization desiring to spread the Gospel, our aim is to work in harmony with the Bible, the writings of Ellen G. White, and the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Those organizations desiring to join OCI will need to be in agreement with this and the following criteria.

## Participation before Membership

An organization requesting membership in OCI may submit an application with the recommendation of two board members or two leaders in an OCI member organization, or with two individuals who have had significant interaction with OCI. An organization requesting membership in OCI must be in operation for at least one year.

## Financial Stewardship

OCI members refuse to solicit or to accept tithe from Seventh-day Adventist church members.

OCI members are to avoid debt. Debt, if incurred, should be repaid as a first priority. Failure to honor financial commitments would jeopardize the status of your OCI membership.

## Structural Requirements

New members agree to have on their board of directors at least one OCI board member or an OCI institutional leader or an individual who has had significant involvement in OCI.

Members agree to operate their organization under a board of directors of at least five (5) members. The majority of the board members are not to be related to each other.

The title of the properties of the member institutions of OCI are to be held by a non-profit corporation, or its equivalent, rather than privately owned.

## Documentation Required

Applicants for membership must provide copies of corporate documents, including:

- Charter and By-laws (including the mission statement)
- Proof of tax exemption if applicable
- Operating policies (including policies regarding minimum moral and lifestyle standards)

- Current financial statement
- Names and addresses of officers and board members, including the dates of each term

Once the completed application is received with the required supporting documents, they will be reviewed by the OCI Executive Committee, and will be brought with their recommendations to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

In situations where the above items are not applicable, a letter clarifying the circumstances may be accepted in lieu of these documents.

## **Membership and Administration Fees**

To help facilitate OCI's continued growth, each member is expected to pay an annual membership fee and an administration fee.\* The fees are as follows:

- Ministries with less than 25 employees—\$100 annually
- Ministries with 25 or more employees—\$200 annually
- Administration fee—1.5% of donations processed

The membership fee will go toward the work of the OCI field vice presidents, enabling them to better serve their regions. The purpose of the fee is to provide a way for each ministry to be actively involved in the worldwide family of OCI.

The administration fee helps defray the cost of providing financial services to member ministries.

*\*A non-refundable application fee of \$75 is required with the submission of this application. The membership fee is due the first January 1 following membership approval by the OCI Board.*

## **Loss of Membership**

Members who fail to comply with the conditions of membership may be removed or suspended from OCI by a decision of the executive committee or board.



How long have you been incorporated as a non-profit organization?

How many members are on your board?

How many employees are in your organization?

Less than 25 employees     25 or more employees

In what way do you see your organization participating in the annual activities of OCI?  
(OCI Retreat, ASI conventions, OCI mission trips, etc.)

What is your relationship to the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Please list two leaders working with or closely associated with OCI who would be a reference for your organization.

Please include the following with your application:

- ✓ A copy of your by-laws and charter
- ✓ A list of your board members and addresses
- ✓ Your most recent financial statement
- ✓ Any printed matter concerning your organization (i.e. policy manual, handbook)
- ✓ Signed Health Guidelines document.
- ✓ A check for the non-refundable application fee of \$75.

When completed, please return to:

Outpost Centers International  
5132 Layton Lane  
Apison, TN 37302  
fax: 423.236.5650

**OUTPOST CENTERS INTERNATIONAL IS:**

A family of lay ministries supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As the need and invitation arise, OCI assists its members with counsel, matching workers with needs, training new leaders, liaison with church leadership, problem evaluation and solving, and more. OCI is also a member of Adventist-laymen Services and Industries (ASI).

**PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT**

*As an authorized representative of the applicant ministry, I have read and understood the standards and criteria of OCI membership and agree to honor them.*

SIGNATURE  
X

DATE

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# OCI Health & Wellness Ministry Guidelines

OCI supports the mission and the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church and seeks to promote its work through medical missionary evangelism—executed with integrity, excellence, transparency, caring, and respect.

OCI recognizes that through inspiration and science, God—the Creator and Savior—has provided a wealth of counsel regarding health and health evangelism. However, the world is in the midst of a great controversy between Christ and Satan, which has affected all aspects of human life, including health practices and the treatment of illness.

With this in mind, OCI seeks to promote adherence to God’s principles of health and healing among its affiliated ministries, recognizing and rejoicing that as an international organization, a great diversity of thought and details in practice exist regarding health and the treatment of disease. OCI upholds medical practices that are rational and soundly based on the principles of physiology and basic health sciences, while avoiding those practices rooted in non-Christian philosophies and beliefs.

OCI believes in promoting a healthful lifestyle for the purpose of preventing and reversing the chronic diseases of modern society. This is aided by current medical knowledge and the use of physiological and scientific natural remedies. Healthful practices such as pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, and trust in divine power are among God’s approved remedies. The intelligent use of herbs and clinically indicated pharmacological medications, and the skillful practice of surgery are among the means that God has put at our disposal to promote and restore health.

Considering all of the above, OCI member ministries agree to practice the following guiding principles when providing health and wellness services.

## Guiding Principles

1. Health and wellness ministries should be run by faithful Seventh-day Adventist members.
2. The foundation of all prevention, diagnosis, and treatments should be based on the following criteria:
  - a. Biblical principles and their expansion in the Spirit of Prophecy should be taken as the primary basis of healthcare decisions.
  - b. Secondly, a sound understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and other basic health sciences should help to guide all health and wellness services.
  - c. Thirdly, evidence-based methods of disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and maintenance of health should be utilized as far as possible.
  - d. Fourthly, medical care should be in harmony with the local health regulations—as long as it does not conflict with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. OCI believes that it is not ethical for its members to use titles like physician, doctor, or nurse if they do not have the appropriate certification and training.

**Adopted**  
August 12, 2012

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1. Modalities that do not fit into the above categories may be further broken down into two levels:
  - a. **Practices that are not acceptable under any circumstances**  
These include, but are not limited to: Energy alignments and forces, acupuncture, hypnotherapy, iridology, reflexology, magnetism, yoga, tai chi, reiki, homeopathy, cranial sacral therapy, exclusively eating raw foods for a prolonged period of time, pendulum diagnostics, live blood analysis and other similar blood analysis, colonics as repetitive/primary therapy, urine therapy, Bach's flowers, etc.
  - b. **Practices that may be used sparingly or with caution**  
These include untested herbal treatments, unproven diets, and current treatment modalities still undergoing research.
2. Protocol for pursuing experimental tests include:
  - a. Inform patients/clients that the suggested treatment modality is still experimental or it's efficacy has not been proven and obtain written consent from the patient or client before implementing it.
  - b. Educate patients / clients in regard to the reasons why such treatment modality is being offered (results from research, anecdotal experiences, etc). Such modalities should not be contrary to the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and known physiological and health sciences' principles.
  - c. Keep detailed records and develop a database to evaluate results.

*See more detailed information and footnotes on the OCI website under "Membership."*

### **Ministry Agreement**

As an OCI member ministry, we support and are in harmony with the health and wellness principles listed above.

**Ministry Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_