

PRESIDENT & CEO

Religious Conference Management Association | Remote





RCMA

Where Faith Meets

The Religious Conference Management Association is a professional, nonprofit, multifaith organization consisting of individuals who are responsible for planning and/or managing meetings, tutorials, conferences, conventions, and assemblies for their religious organizations.

Founded in 1972, RCMA has built a solid reputation for enhancing the professionalism of its members as well as its suppliers. For over 50 years, RCMA has dedicated itself to improving the experience of religious meeting attendees throughout the world.

RCMA helps create an atmosphere where both planners and suppliers join together to learn from each other's experiences, thereby expanding their professional expertise. We strive to make personal interaction both practical and convenient.

Religious Meeting Professionals

It doesn't matter if you are responsible for one meeting or fifty; you perform a key function for your religious organization. It's a proven fact that in order to effectively execute one's planning and management responsibilities, an individual must continue to sharpen skills and increase knowledge. The Religious Conference Management Association is designed specifically to help you achieve the highest levels of professionalism and make you a more effective leader within your respected organization.

Suppliers

RCMA provides you the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with key religious meeting professionals....people who require the type of facilities and services that your organization has to offer. Don't miss out! This is your opportunity to network with other RCMA members and greatly expand your contacts within the field of religion.

Students

RCMA welcomes anyone that is currently enrolled in a class, course or program of study related to the hospitality industry. (i.e., hospitality, hotel/motel management, event management, etc.) to join and learn alongside industry professionals.

What makes RCMA different?

RCMA is the only multi-faith, not-for-profit, international association comprised exclusively of religious meeting planners that continues to set the standard for those providing services within this specialized field.

RCMA is an organization that raises the bar when it comes to religious meeting planning. Through the years this has enabled us to attract the meeting planner members representing denominations and religious organizations. Plus, the association embraces key representatives of leading hotels, convention bureaus, conference centers, airlines and service companies.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Religious Conference Management Association (RCMA) seeks a dynamic and visionary President & CEO to lead the organization into its next era of growth and impact. RCMA unites a diverse global community of faith-based meeting planners, hospitality suppliers, and industry partners, and the President & CEO will serve as the organization's chief ambassador, strategist, and relationship-builder.

The successful candidate will be an accomplished executive with a deep appreciation for the faith-based community and a proven record of leadership within non-profit, association, hospitality, or meetings/event sectors. This individual will bring a collaborative style and the ability to work effectively with a dedicated board of directors, a talented team, and a membership representing a rich diversity of traditions and backgrounds.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide strategic leadership to RCMA, working closely with the Board of Directors to define and implement organizational vision, mission, and long-term goals that position RCMA as the leading resource and advocate for faith-based meeting professionals throughout the world.
- Serve as the public face and chief advocate for RCMA, strengthening the organization's visibility, reputation, and influence among faith-based meeting planners, hospitality partners, and the broader meetings and events industry.
- Build and maintain robust relationships with current and prospective members, sponsors, destination partners, and key stakeholders; nurture a welcoming, inclusive, and engaged membership community that reflects RCMA's values and diversity.
- Lead and mentor a high-performing staff team, fostering a collaborative and growth-oriented culture, providing clear direction, support, and professional development opportunities to deliver exceptional value to members and stakeholders.
- Oversee the planning, execution, and continuous improvement of RCMA's signature events, including conventions, educational programs, and networking forums; ensure that all offerings remain innovative, impactful, and aligned with the evolving needs of members and partners.
- Develop and implement annual business plans, operational objectives, and budgets; exercise sound financial stewardship to ensure RCMA's long-term sustainability and growth, in partnership with the Board and Finance Committee.
- Identify and pursue new revenue streams, partnerships, and strategic alliances to support RCMA's mission, including fundraising, sponsorships, and innovative programming.
- Ensure that RCMA's organizational policies, procedures, and practices remain current, effective, and compliant with applicable laws and ethical standards.
- Monitor and respond proactively to trends and changes affecting faith-based conferences, religious expression, and the meetings industry; serve as a thought leader and advocate on issues impacting members and the field.
- Report regularly to the Board on progress toward strategic and operational goals, providing transparent, data-driven analysis and recommendations for improvement.
- Represent RCMA at industry events and forums, serving as a spokesperson and thought leader to increase organizational relevance and advocacy impact.
- Foster a culture of innovation, learning, and excellence within RCMA, encouraging staff and members to contribute new ideas and solutions for advancing the organization's mission and success.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree is required; an advanced degree such as a master's or higher is strongly preferred. A faith-based certification or other professional certification (such as CFMP, CMP, CAE, or similar) is also a plus.
- 10-15 years of executive-level demonstrated leadership in faith-based, non-profit, membership organizations or a for-profit hospitality organization, with an understanding of the unique needs of both planners and suppliers in the religious conference market.
- Executive-level management experience (CEO or senior leader) with responsibility for P&L, strategic planning, board relations, and guiding small but high-performing teams.
- Hospitality and events industry expertise, ideally with experience on both the planner and supplier sides, and familiarity with elevating conventions or trade shows.
- Experience with financial stewardship, fundraising, and development initiatives to strengthen resources for growth.
- Well-established network within the religious meetings community and credibility with industry partners and destination management organizations.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Visionary & Strategic: Forward-thinking leader who can set a bold course for RCMA's future and elevate the value of its programs, particularly the EMERGE convention.
- Authentic & Mission-Driven: A servant-leader who demonstrates high integrity, spiritual maturity, and genuine care for people and mission.
- Relationship-Focused: Personable, approachable, empathetic, and a natural connector who fosters strong relationships with staff, members, suppliers, and partners.
- Inclusive & Collaborative: Embraces diversity of faith traditions and backgrounds, inspires trust, and empowers staff and volunteers.
- Dynamic Communicator: Transparent, articulate, and inspiring ambassador who listens well, engages stakeholders, and confidently represents RCMA in the public arena.

TOP PRIORITIES (for the first 12-24 months)

- Clarify and Communicate Mission & Vision: Assess RCMA's current direction, refine its mission, and clearly articulate a compelling vision for the future.
- Develop a Strategic Plan: Collaborate with the board and staff to establish a thoughtful, actionable multi-year plan to drive growth, innovation, and impact.
- Develop strategies to market RCMA more effectively. Develop and implement a data-driven marketing strategy that leverages research, analytics, and technology to increase visibility and attract new members and partners.
- Strengthen Membership & Partnerships: Deepen engagement with current members and partners, expand the planner base, and build new industry partnerships while broadening volunteer and staff diversity.
- Evaluate current member-facing events for ROI to determine their overall value and effectiveness, and make informed recommendations on how to enhance, grow, or reposition RCMA's event portfolio for greater impact and sustainability.
- Elevate the EMERGE Convention & Brand: Enhance the reach, relevance, and value of RCMA's flagship convention and expand the brand promise to attract new audiences.
- Build Trust & Inclusion Through Listening: Conduct a listening tour with staff, board, members, and suppliers to foster stability, transparency, inclusion, and credibility.



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If interested in learning more about this great opportunity, please send your resume to our SearchWide Global Executive, Kellie Henderson.

SearchWide Global is a full-service executive search firm primarily for companies in the travel, tourism and convention, and hotel and lodging industries. We specialize in C-Level, Director and Management level executive searches for companies ranging in size from Fortune 500 corporations to mid-sized public and private companies.