



Church Status Application

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How to Understand and Fill Out Application

This application contains the policies and guidelines your Company needs to understand if it wishes to request **Church Status** within the Arizona Conference Corporation. It also contains step-by-step working forms you will need to complete as part of this request.

What is Church Status?

Church status means that a Company becomes a fully organized Church, with all the pertinent rights, privileges, and responsibilities. The request is first approved by the Conference Executive Committee and then accepted by the vote of a duly called Conference Constituency Meeting. It is at this point the Church becomes a member of the sisterhood of churches of the Arizona Conference Corporation.

Steps for Church Status

- Step 1 Read the “Basic Guidelines and Policies” on Page 3.

- Step 2 Read “Getting Started” on Page 4.

- Step 3 With the help of the Conference Executive Secretary/Ethnic Coordinator, fill-out the forms on pages 5-9 and submit the request to your Conference Executive Secretary.

- Step 4 The Administrative Committee will review the request and make a recommendation to the Conference Executive Committee.

- Step 5 The Conference Executive Committee will study the full report and its vote will be a final action.

Basic Guidelines and Policies Governing the Organization of Churches

Overview

A Company will be allowed to attain Church status through a vote of the Conference Executive Committee if it has shown enough growth and viability to financially and administratively support itself. A Company becomes a fully organized Church when it is accepted by the vote of a duly called Conference Constituency Meeting. The Church then becomes a member of the sisterhood of churches with all the pertinent rights, privileges and responsibilities which accompany that status.

Guidelines

- **Size**: Must have a verified membership of at least 75.
- **Maturation**: Must have attained the Company status for at least one year before applying for Church status.
- **Tithe**: Must have a yearly tithe income of at least \$60,000.00.
- **Process**: Must complete and submit *Church Status Application* by the Company leadership.
- **Finances**: Must be current in all its financial obligations to the Arizona Conference Corporation.

Policies

- **Formation**: Companies will be permitted to advance to Church status, even if they are primarily made up of members from already existing churches, only when they can show there are valid and verifiable reasons for advancing to Church status.
- **Stewardship**: Must show sufficient financial resources over and above tithe income to meet commitments, including local church funding, accounts payable and loans.
- **Review**: The Church's viability will be reviewed periodically by Conference Administration to ascertain if it should continue to function as an organized church or if it becomes apparent that the Church no longer meets the above criteria, it may be evaluated as to its future status and may be reduced to a Company status.

Final Authorization

- Conference Executive Committee Vote recommends to the Conference Constituency Meeting.

Getting Started

The planting and nurturing of a new church requires that an intentional and well-thought out plan be outlined. Each situation is unique, but it is always necessary to use good judgment and meet certain objective criteria before proceeding. The following guidelines will be used by the Administrative Committee and the Conference Executive Committee to evaluate and authorize the establishment of new churches.

Potential for Growth in Membership

The membership of a new church must be large enough to demonstrate the viability of the growth for this expanded work. If the proposed Church will meet near already established churches, there must be given specific reasons why it is needed, such as:

- Territory for evangelism is not effectively being reached by the existing churches.
- Ministry to a significant people in the area needs to be undertaken.

Vision and Verifiable Ministry

The Church must take seriously its long-term viability by demonstrating in concrete terms the following:

- **Purchase of Property.** The Church leaders, in consultation with the Conference Administration, should have a definite long-range plan for the purchasing of a permanent property site.
- **Church Building.** Fund raising for Church purchase or construction should already be established and firmly in place.
- **Growth in Ministry.** The proposed Church must demonstrate the ability to operate a successful program that includes and supports a local Adventist school and other Arizona Conference initiatives, including demonstrating a peaceful coexistence with other churches within the Conference.

Application for Church Status

Basic Information

Name of the Proposed Church _____

What is the main language intended to be used by the Church with its congregation? _____

What is the Church's Ethnic Region for eAdventist purposes? _____

What is the telephone and facsimile number for the Church? _____

What is the email address for the Church? _____

What is the website address for the Church? _____

What is the street address where the Church is meeting? _____

What is the mailing address for the Church? _____

What kind of facility is it?

Church School House Other: _____

How long has the Church been meeting? _____

What Sabbath Schools, Worship Services and Programs are being held? _____

Statistical Information

Average Weekly Attendance:

Adult, SDA members	_____
Adult, non-SDA individuals	_____
Youth/Children	_____
Total	_____

Tithe totals for the last three years:

Year	Tithe
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total baptisms for the last three years:

Year	Baptisms
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Membership totals for the last three years:

Year	Membership
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Community and Outreach Information

Share your evangelistic outreach plans. Will this be a yearly cycle? (Attach details on separate sheet if necessary)

Mission/Vision Statement

Policy states: *“The primary mission of a Church should be to develop a ministry for a particular target audience, or to consolidate new work in an un-entered area, and thus fulfill the mission of the Church.”*

Share your Mission Statement which describes why your Church exists and the people you wish to reach:

Share your Vision Statement which describes how you are going to accomplish your Mission:

Signature Page

We, the members of the _____ Company

hereby request permission to attain Church Status in the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists which will be called _____

in the city of _____

Date of Company Board vote to become a church (include board minutes): ____/____/____

We agree to follow all the specific policies and guidelines as outlined in this application and any general policies of the Conference which governs Groups, Companies and Churches.

**Pastor
Proposed Church**

Signature Name Date ____/____/____

Phone Number Email

**Head Elder
Proposed Church**

Signature Name Date ____/____/____

Phone Number Email

Ministerial Director

Signature Name Date ____/____/____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

The Executive Committee of the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists hereby authorizes the organization of the _____ Church which has met all the requirements set forth by voted Conference policy.

Conference Executive Secretary _____
Signature Name Date ____/____/____

Executive Committee Action No.: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Constituency Meeting Action No.: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Geographical Area: _____ Ethnic Department: _____