



Company Status Application

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How to Understand and Fill Out Application

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

What is Company Status?

Company status means that Groups will be allowed to become independent of the Sponsoring Church to which they are connected if it will allow them to most effectively fulfill the mission for which they were originally formed.

Steps for Company Status

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

- Step 2 Read “Getting Started” and “Master Plan” on Page 4 and 5.

- Step 3 With the help of the Conference Executive Secretary/Ethnic Coordinator, fill-out the forms on pages 6-10 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 Companies

Overview

Groups will be allowed to attain the Company Status and become independent of the Sponsoring Church through a vote of the Conference Executive Committee, if they have shown enough growth and viability to financially and administratively support themselves.

Guidelines

- **Size**: Must have a verified membership of at least 40.
- **Composition**: Must have an adequate mixture of both established and new members.
- **Tithe**: Must have an annual tithe income of at least \$35,000.00.
- **Process**: Must complete and submit *Company Status Application* by the Sponsoring Church and Group leadership.
- **Progress**: The status of a Company will be reviewed by Administration if it does not attain the Church status within four years.

Policies

- **Formation**: Groups will be permitted to advance to Company 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 establishing the Company. They will advance to Company status after completion of a minimum of five (5) years relationship with a sponsoring church.
- **Stewardship**: The proposed Company must show sufficient financial resources over and above tithe income to meet commitments, including local church funding, accounts payable and loans.
- **Review**: The Company's viability will be reviewed periodically by Conference Administration to ascertain if they should continue to function as a Company working toward Church status or if it becomes apparent that the Company no longer meets the above criteria, it may be reduced to Group status and find a Sponsoring Church close to their location.

Final Authorization

- Conference Executive Committee Vote

Getting Started

A new work, like a new-born child, is not expected to be an adult from its inception. 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 companies.

Potential for Growth in Membership

The membership of a new Company must be large enough to demonstrate the viability of growth for this expanded work. If the proposed Company 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 group in the area needs to be undertaken.

Vision and Verifiable Ministry

A newly formed Company must have the vision of eventually becoming an organized Church. Steps in this direction need to be carefully planned and include:

- **Purchase of Property.** The Company leadership, in consultation with the Conference Administration, should begin looking for a permanent property site.
- **Church Building.** Fund raising for church purchase or construction should be considered part of the program from the time the Company is established.
- **Growth in Ministry.** The proposed Company must demonstrate the ability to operate a successful church program that includes and supports a local Adventist school, and other Arizona Conference initiatives, including demonstrating a peaceful co-existence with the Sponsoring Church.

Four-Year Master Plan

A Company should develop a four-year master plan that includes at least the following elements:

Year One:

- Stabilize the membership.
- Evangelize the community.
- Raise funds for church home.

Year Two:

- Evangelize the community.
- Raise funds for church home.

Year Three:

- Evangelize the community.
- Raise funds for church home.
- Draw plans for church building or look for suitable building.
- Meet with Conference leadership to draw up a financial plan and permission to proceed.

Year Four:

- Evangelize the community.
- Raise funds for church home.
- Church construction or building purchase underway.

Goals of the Company in order to become an organized Church:

- **Size:** Reach a verified membership of at least 75.
- **Tithe:** Reach an annual tithe income of at least \$60,000.00.

A Company that has not attained Church status after four years may be reduced to Group status if it does not meet the established criteria.

Application for Company Status

Basic Information

Name of the Proposed Company _____

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

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

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

What is the email address for the Company? _____

What is the website address for the Company? _____

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

What is the mailing address for the Company? _____

What kind of facility is it?

Church School House Other: _____

How long has the Group 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	Baptism
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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 Company should be to develop a ministry for a particular target audience, or to consolidate new work in an un-entered area, and by so doing fulfill the mission of the Church."*

Share your Mission Statement which describes why your Company 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 _____ Sponsoring Church hereby request permission for the Group known as _____ to attain Company Status in the Arizona Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists which will be called _____

in the city of _____.

Date of Sponsoring Church Board vote to become a Company (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 Sponsoring Church _____ _____ ____/____/____
 Signature Name Date

 Phone Number Email

Head Elder Sponsoring Church _____ _____ ____/____/____
 Signature Name Date

 Phone Number Email

Head Elder, Company _____ _____ ____/____/____
 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 _____ Company which has met all the requirements set forth by voted Conference policy.

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

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

Geographical Area: _____ Ethnic Department: _____