

Northern California Conference

Church Formation Guidelines/Procedures

Presented to the Conference Executive Committee on December 15, 1999

Objective

The following guidelines clarify conference expectations of a Company that applies to become organized as a Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Northern California Conference. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the expectations of Companies applying to become Churches within the Conference.

Criteria for Church Organization in the Northern California Conference

An organized company's application to be organized as a Church will be considered by the Conference Administration and the Conference Executive Committee when the following criteria have been met:

1. A Company must vote in business session to recommend to the Conference Administration and the Conference Executive Committee that it be organized as a Church. This recommendation is submitted in writing to the Conference Secretary's office with a copy of the business-session minutes.
2. An Information sheet/application is sent to the Company to be completed and submitted. Following visits with the Company's board, Conference Administration determines the viability of transition to church status based on the following criteria:

A Company will be considered for organization as a Church when a minimum average of 75 baptized members are attending regularly. Beginning membership will be all current members of company plus those added on date of church organization.

A Company will be considered for organization as a Church when its annual tithe reaches \$75 thousand.

The Company must be a member of a school constituency, paying full subsidy, before being organized as a Church. Its monthly school subsidy must not be in delinquent status.

3. A company organized into a Church will receive a pastor on a part-time, stipend, or district basis when 90 baptized members are attending regularly.
4. To achieve Church status, a Company must purchase a church building or purchase property and begin to raise funds to erect a church building.
5. The Company requesting Church status must demonstrate its commitment to evangelism as evidenced by organized outreach efforts and baptismal growth.
6. Following Conference administrative recommendation, the request for church organization is brought to the Conference Executive Committee for approval.
7. If the response of the Conference Executive Committee is positive, a date is set for the formal act of church organization with final ratification at next scheduled Constituency Session. The Conference Secretary will coordinate the church organization program.