

Northern California Conference

Company Formation Guidelines/Procedures

Voted by the Conference Executive Committee on December 15, 1999

Objective

The following guidelines clarify conference expectations of a group applying to become organized as a Seventh-day Adventist Company in the Northern California Conference. While the Conference always encourages the expansion of the Church and the sense of mission that usually accompanies these efforts, it is important to insure that these groups have adequate financial and human resources to maintain that sense of mission.

Companies should be sufficiently geographically isolated from other congregations so that area services are not readily duplicated unless for language or cultural reasons. In addition, there should be enough population in the surrounding community to support the newly formed group's mission efforts.

Criteria for Company Organization in the Northern California Conference

While exceptions to the following criteria may be considered by the Conference administration and/or the Conference Executive Committee, the following standards and procedures will generally be applied:

1. A sponsoring church board votes the organization of a company as a recommendation to the Conference administration and the Conference Executive Committee.
2. A completed application, secured from the Conference Secretary's office, is then submitted to the Conference administration.
3. A member of the Conference administration (and ethnic coordinator where applicable) will meet with the members requesting company status to determine the viability of the group utilizing these target standards:

A proposed company will demonstrate a cooperative attitude with sponsoring church.

The Company must commit to becoming a subsidy-paying member of a school constituency within a three-year phase-in period.

A proposed company should have as a minimum an average of fifty (50) baptized members attending weekly services over a one-year period.

4. Completed charter member forms (available from the Conference Secretary's office) with signatures of all prospective members should be submitted to the Conference,
5. Individual membership is contingent upon recommendation of the sponsoring church. Membership transfers are voted by the Conference Executive Committee after the Company is organized.

6. When company status is approved by the Conference Executive Committee, the Company should submit officer nominations (the leader and treasurer are subject to conference approval) for the *Conference Directory*.
7. Prior to the organization all collected moneys will be submitted to the conference through the sponsoring church. Non-tithe funds collected by the Company shall be utilized for financing the Company's needs.
8. The pastor of the sponsoring church or Conference Administrator (and ethnic coordinator where applicable) will serve as advisors until the new company is assigned a pastor. The pastor appointed by the Conference Executive Committee, may be a part-time pastor, a stipend pastor, or a district pastor.
9. An organized company will be encouraged to present plans for evangelism and church growth with a view towards becoming a church at some time in its future.
10. Following Conference administrative recommendation, the request for Company organization is brought to the Conference Executive Committee for approval.
11. 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 the next scheduled Constituency Session. The Conference Secretary will coordinate the company-organization program.