

Carolina Conference

Church Application

Pastor's Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Number of Baptized Members: _____

Average Attendance for 3 Previous Months: _____

Current Membership: _____

Current Projected Annual Tithe: _____

Date of Application: _____

New Church Requirements

1. To progress to "Church" status a Company must have at least 55 baptized members with an average attendance of at least 60 for the previous 3 months.
 - There must be a minimum of 10 newly baptized members since attaining Company status.
2. New Churches must develop a 3-year plan for church growth (Include outreach events, stewardship plan, and etc.)
 - Please attach your 3-Year Church Growth Plan
3. New Churches must continue to work with the Conference appointed pastor and a duly elected first/head elder. Volunteer Lay Pastors are not utilized at the church level, but VLPs may be used at the discretion of the pastor for new church plants.

4. The Company must have committed Seventh-day Adventist lay leadership ready to serve in a minimum of 4 key offices: Elder, Deacon, Treasurer, and Clerk.
 - These offices should be filled during each nominating committee process.

5. The Company must have at least \$60,000 in projected annual tithe and meet the following parameters:
 1. Must have a balanced budget.
 2. Must have a record of faithful remittance of tithe and offerings to the Carolina Conference, through the sponsoring church.
 3. The Church agrees to maintain a line item in their budget for a building fund which will receive a monthly allocation from the combined budget. The Carolina Conference **must** be consulted with and authorize all such purchases or building projects.
 4. All Churches are asked to designate a minimum of 30% of their combined budget to outreach (i.e., public evangelism, Bible studies, and other events focused on reaching non-Adventists).
 - Current % allocated in the Combined Budget _____%

6. The Company must have completed a Natural Church Development (NCD) survey with a minimum average score of 65.
 - The Conference will cover the cost of this first survey once the church health team begins to meet.
 - The Company will report the proposed changes it has to address in the lowest areas of church health.

7. The Company must vote to support Adventist education in their annual budget with at least one of the options below:
 - Option #1 – A monthly subsidy for members' children to attend an Adventist church school.

- Option #2 – A constituent relationship with an Adventist church school. Once the subsidy reaches an acceptable level, voting representation on the school board is to be expected to be granted.
- Option #3 –To fund to a new Adventist church school within the area of the congregation.

8. The Church shall have plans in place to plant a new church within 5 years if their respective territory is viable to sustain a new church plant.

9. The Church must follow all policies outlined in the *Church Manual*.

10. In order to be established as a Church, the pastor and a delegation of board members must meet with the Carolina Conference Church Planting Committee once this application is received and reviewed. The Church Planting Department will arrange this meeting. The Conference Executive Committee must give final approval for the new Church which will be voted into the sisterhood of churches at the next quinquennial session.

11. Organized Churches should make it a priority to attend annual a) conference church planting rallies, b) lay-leader/pastor training events, and c) other training events (i.e. elders' or deacons' retreat) to enhance their experience.

12. Does the Company believe, support, and teach the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church?

Yes No

13. Does the Company have any practices that go beyond SDA doctrines and practices?

Yes No

14. Does your Company meet all of the aforementioned guidelines?

Yes No

Signature – Pastor

Signature – First/Head Elder

**Please email completed application to Lorraine Gonzalez: lgonzalez@carolinasda.org*