

Washington Conference Church Planting Guidelines

Requirements for obtaining COMPANY STATUS in Washington Conference

A vote of the group members to request the Washington Conference Executive Committee to authorize company organization should be communicated to conference administration through the assigned pastor of the group.

It is the Washington Conference Executive Committee that authorizes the organization of the new company. This event is a time of celebration and is to be conducted by an ordained minister and usually one or more of the conference officers.

The following factors will be considered when company status is requested:

1. Membership

Any group requesting company status should have at least 30 baptized members.

2. Attendance

The group should have an average of at least 30 people in attendance for the last three months.

3. Leadership

Good solid lay leadership is an important factor in growing a church. It is important to demonstrate that the group has sufficient leadership to provide for the growth for the future. All leadership must be committed to the mission and message of the Adventist Church.

4. Growth

The purpose of church planting is to help fulfill the Gospel Commission of Jesus to make disciples. Before a group's request to become a company will be considered, they must demonstrate that there has been growth since their inception. In addition, the group should have specific growth & evangelism plans for the next 12 months.

5. Finances

Financial stability is important to any healthy growing church. Tithing is the Biblical and spiritual responsibility of every member and should be fostered and practiced by all new groups. Before a company status will be considered, a Spanish group must have at least \$17,500 in projected annual tithe and all other groups have at least \$25,000 in projected annual tithe.

Local offerings are also important to the growth of a church. It should be demonstrated that the group has sufficient finances to cover the expenses of local ministries including additional resources for evangelism.

Once company status is voted:

1. A bank account should be established in consultation with the Conference Treasury Department.
2. The Washington Conference Executive Committee remains the governing body of all church plants. All leaders (elder, treasurer, clerk, etc) for the church plant must be approved by this committee.
3. Date should be set to complete the Natural Church Development survey. The conference will cover the cost of the first survey.

Washington Conference Church Planting Guidelines

Requirements for obtaining CHURCH STATUS in Washington Conference

A vote of the company members to request the Washington Conference Executive Committee to authorize church organization should be communicated to conference administration through the assigned pastor of the company.

It is the Washington Conference Executive Committee that authorizes the organization of the new church. This event is a time of celebration and is to be conducted by an ordained minister and usually one or more of the conference officers.

The following factors are considered when church status is requested:

1. Membership

Any company requesting church status should have at least 50 baptized members. At least 7 of these should have been baptized or joined by profession of faith (5 or more must be non-biological) since the group was organized and 5 or more must be non-biological persons

2. Attendance

The group should have an average of at least 50 people in attendance for the last three months.

3. Leadership

The company should demonstrate sufficient leadership to support the future growth of the church. All leadership must be committed to the mission and message of the Adventist Church. The leadership team must have participated in the Church Growth Practicum I.

4. Growth

The purpose of church planting is to help fulfill the Gospel Commission of Jesus to make disciples. Before a group's request to become a church will be considered, they must demonstrate that there has been consistent growth since their inception. In addition, the group should have specific growth and evangelism plans for the next 12 months.

5. Finances

Financial stability is vital to any healthy growing church. Tithing is the Biblical and spiritual responsibility of every member and should be fostered and practiced by all new churches. Before a church status will be considered, a Spanish group must have at least \$35,000 in projected annual tithe and all other groups have at least \$75,000 in projected annual tithe.

Local offerings are also important to the growth of a church. It should be demonstrated that the group has sufficient finances to cover the expenses of local ministries including additional resources for evangelism.

6. Building

Since stability is vital to growing a church, a strategy and timeline should be established for fundraising and the eventual acquisition of a church facility.

7. Church Health

Before church status will be granted, the completion of the Natural Church Development survey with a minimum average score of 50.

8. Adventist Education

Since Christian education is a deeply held core value of Adventism, the company should vote a commitment to support Adventist education.

- a. Option #1 - A monthly subsidy for member's children to attend an area Adventist church school.
- b. Option #2 - A constituent or supporting relationship with an Adventist church school.

9. Review

When a company has met of the requirements of church status as outlined in the document, they should notify the conference church planting director so a review can be preformed.