Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

of

Seventh-day Adventists

STRATEGIC PLAN

POLICIES, GUIDELINES & APPLICATIONS

For

Establishing

♦ CHURCHES

Office of Secretariat
Revised: August 11, 2015

Organized Church

When a Company grows, as evidenced by the qualifications listed in the "Organizing of Churches - Guidelines," it may submit an application for approval to be organized as a Church. The fully autonomous Church has its own relationship to the sisterhood of churches and both ministers and functions within the parameters of conference policy and protocol including those stated in this document. The organized Church is subject to the benefits, responsibilities and privileges afforded all churches that are recognized and whose organization is voted by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Executive Committee.

ORGANIZING OF CHURCHES – GUIDELINES

An organized Church is a member Church in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, a sisterhood of churches.

The overlying principle governing all organized churches in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is that all policies of the Conference apply to all churches. As part of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist denomination, all churches in the Conference will adhere to its teachings, standards, and practices. The following specific policies must be kept in mind when a company wishes to become an organized church:

1 **Objective**. The approval and organization of a Company to regular Church status represents a significant and important event, not only to the congregation, but to the entire conference constituency. Conferral of Church status by the Executive Committee is a vote of approval and confidence that a church has not only met established objective criteria financially and in membership, but also in its present and future mission. It is therefore required that as a part of the approval and recommendation of the Administrative Committee to the Executive Committee, that Company leadership will meet with the Administrative Committee for the purpose of dialog and review of God's leading in the establishment of a new church. That appointment will be made through the office of the Executive Secretary.

2 **Authorization.** Only the Conference Executive Committee may grant authorization to organize a Church.   This voted authorization is made upon recommendation of the Administrative Committee which is a part of the process.

3 **Application**. An application form, available from the office of the Conference Executive Secretary, must be completed by the board of the Company and reviewed by the Conference Ministerial Director. It is then reviewed by the Executive Secretary and presented for review and approval by the Administrative Committee before being recommend for approval to the Conference Executive Committee.

4 **Conference Directory**. All organized Churches will be listed in the directory.

5 **Pastoral Assistance**. The assignment of pastoral coverage for a Church is the responsibility of the Conference. The Conference assigns pastors with appropriate regard to the conference budget as well as other factors which determine district pastoral alignment.

6 **Membership**. The congregation seeking authorization to organize into a Church must have at least *35 baptized attending members. The names and addresses of the membership must be submitted to the Office of the Executive Secretary for review at the time the application for church organization is submitted.*

7 **Tithes and Offerings**. All tithes and offerings of a Church are to be remitted, as per policy, each month, to the Conference.

8   **Financial Responsibility**. Before authorization to organize into a Church is granted, the Company must demonstrate ability to function on a sound financial basis as proven by its tithe record and its ability to pay bills and financial obligations in a consistent and timely manner. Prior to application for Church organization, a Company must demonstrate a return of *total receipted tithe for the 12 month period immediately preceding Church organization application of at least $35,000.*.

9   **Time Frame.** A Company must be organized for a least two years before it may apply to become a Church.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Application
to Establish a
CHURCH

Today's Date: _____

1. Name of Company

   _____

2. Date of action requesting to become an organized Church _____
   (Enclose copy of voted action)

3. Proposed Name of new Church (We recommend using your geographic location as part of your name and "Seventh-day Adventist" be included. Name is subject to approval by Administrative Committee and the Executive Committee.)

   _____

4. Have you read the "Policy for the Organizing of a Church" in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and have all points been met, including consultation with the Conference Ministerial Department?

   Yes _____   No _____

5. Are you aware of the requirement for Company leadership to meet with the conference Administrative Committee for an interview and dialog and is the leadership prepared to make that appointment with the Conference Executive Secretary?

   Yes _____   No _____

6. State the number of baptized members presently committed to attending and supporting the new Church.

   _____ (minimum of 35 members)

7. What is your total annual receipted tithe for the past twelve (12) month period?

   _____ (minimum of $35,000)

10. State your evangelistic/outreach plans and potential (including demographics)

   _____

   _____

   _____

11.   Show the number of baptisms for the last three years:

Year   Baptisms

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

12.   Submit your plans for a church building. Do you own land for the purpose of building a church, and if so, state where located and its market value.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____   _____
Signature of District Pastor   Date Signed

_____   _____
Signature of Company Leader   Date Signed

_____   _____
Signature of Conference Ministerial Director   Date Signed

RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH ACCOMPANYING LIST OF MEMBERS TO THE CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Executive Committee Action _____

Date of Executive Committee Action _____

Conference Executive Secretary _____