



Church Qualifier Form

The IRS uses 14 Characteristics to determine whether an organization qualifies as a church. In accordance with this provision, The Cleveland Foodbank requires an organization that functions as an independent, unincorporated church to certify that at least 10 of the following characteristics are evidenced by their program. In addition, please submit a letter on letterhead stating that your church has not applied for 501(c)3 status and been denied, or has not had its 501(c)3 status revoked, and state how long your church has been in existence. **Please supply supporting documentation where applicable.**

- _____ 1. Distinct legal existence
- _____ 2. Recognized creed and form of worship
- _____ 3. Definite and distinct ecclesiastical government
- _____ 4. Formal code of doctrine and discipline
- _____ 5. Distinct religious history
- _____ 6. Membership not associated with any other church or denomination
- _____ 7. Organization of ordained ministers
- _____ 8. Ordained ministers selected after completing prescribed courses of study
- _____ 9. Literature of its own
- _____ 10. Established places of worship
- _____ 11. Regular congregations
- _____ 12. Regular religious services
- _____ 13. Sunday schools for the religious instruction of the young
- _____ 14. Schools for the preparation of its members

As duly authorized officers of _____(church name), we certify that this organization meets the requirements for identification as a church. Two representatives of the named organization must sign and date.

Signature Date Title

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