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*Focused on Jesus, we witness to the world!*

## GROUP REQUIREMENTS

### Do Not Alter This Form - Use Only To Apply For Group Status

A church plant is formed by a sponsoring church after maintaining Branch Sabbath School status for a period of one year and is considered a Branch Sabbath School. The following structure and sequence assures that Groups are well established and that all criteria are met in sequence. The intent is to lead the Group to the next step of Company, and finally to a healthy organized Church. Each status shall be maintained for a period of one year prior to making application for next status.

#### The Group is under the umbrella of a sponsoring church:

1. **Formation:** After maintaining Branch Sabbath School status for a period of one year, keeping all obligations current, application may be made for Group Status.
  - A. The Mother church votes to form and sponsor the Group, then recommends the formation of the Group to conference administration.
  - B. The formation of a new Ethnic affiliate group will be through the joint recommendations of the Local Conference Administration and the ethnic coordinator.
  - C. Conference Administration presents this recommendation to the Conference Executive Committee for Approval.
2. **Membership:** A group shall be established with a minimum of 30 Baptized members whose membership shall remain in the sponsoring church.
3. **Leadership:** Affiliate groups do not qualify for a pastor; therefore a member from the sponsoring church may serve as group leader.
4. **Officers:** The approved affiliate group will submit nominations of its officers to be ratified by the sponsoring church.
5. **Tithe & Offerings:**
  - A. The Group:
    - (1) Is not authorized to open a bank account.
    - (2) Regularly submits their tithes and offerings to the Sponsoring Church.
  - B. The Sponsoring Church:
    - (1) Records the tithes and offerings
    - (2) Issues receipts
    - (3) Pays the Group's bills
    - (4) Includes the Group's tithes and offerings in the Mother Church's Conference remittance
6. **Term:** A group will be limited to two years, subject to review of the Executive Committee for any extension of this two year period.
7. **Independence:** A Group who desires to become independent of the sponsoring church, will meet all requirements and obligations for a period of one year prior to making application to become a company.



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### APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH A GROUP

**A group is under the umbrella of the sponsoring church**

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Group Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Has all requirements for establishing an affiliate group been met \_\_\_\_\_

Number of baptized members anticipated to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Date approved by Executive Committee to operate as a Branch Sabbath School \_\_\_\_\_

Miles from nearest SDA Church \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Miles from sponsoring SDA Church \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for establishing an affiliate group in this specific area \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attach the following documents:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring church board minutes approving this group

\_\_\_\_\_ Name and address of baptized members anticipated to attend

\_\_\_\_\_ Evangelistic/outreach plans and potential

Authorization Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring Church Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader

\*\*\*\*\*RETURN APPLICATION TO CONFERENCE SECRETARY'S OFFICE\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Executive committee Vote

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conference Executive Secretary