



## For Faith Based Entities Only – IRS Church Qualifier Form

All applicants applying as a church must complete this form and attest to its accuracy. This document must be signed by the highest officer affirming that the organization is, in fact, a church and essentially meets the spirit of the 14 criteria employed by the IRS in defining a church. By signing this document your organization guarantees the existence of documentation available to meet the outlined criteria and agrees to make said documents available upon request to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance.

**Please attest that the following criteria are met by your organization to qualify as a church, 10 criteria are required, the first 6 are mandatory.**

MANDATORY IRS CRITERIA	EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE TO MEET THIS CRITERIA	DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST Y/N
A distinct legal existence	Articles of Incorporation filed with the state and/or Letter from IRS showing Employer ID number	YES/NO
A recognized creed and form of worship	Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, Church Bulletin	YES/NO
A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government	Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, or Organization Chart with titles and positions	YES/NO
Established places of worship	Church bulletin, Newsletter	YES/NO
Regular congregations	Church bulletin, Newsletter	YES/NO
Regular religious services	Church bulletin, Newsletter	YES/NO
SELECTED IRS CRITERIA (choose 4)	EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE TO MEET THIS CRITERIA	DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST Y/N
A formal code of doctrine and discipline	Articles of Incorporation, By Laws	YES/NO
A membership not associated with any other church or denomination	Statement of mission, objectives and goals of the church signed by the pastor and three others	YES/NO
A distinct religious history	A brief written history	YES/NO
A complete organization of ordained ministers ministering to their congregations	Church bulletin or other published document listing the ministers or copy of ordination certificates.	YES/NO
Ordained ministers elected after completing prescribed courses of study	Copy of Ordination and degree/diploma	YES/NO
A literature of its own	Newsletter or Sunday morning program	YES/NO
Sunday schools for religious instruction of the young	Church bulletin, Newsletter	YES/NO
Schools for the preparation of its ministers	Copy of degree/diploma with school name or list of school names	YES/NO

As a duly authorized officer of \_\_\_\_\_ (church name), I certify that this organization meets the requirements indicated for identification as a church and has not applied to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status and been denied or has not had its 501(c)(3) status revoked by the IRS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title