

# K SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

## **K 05 Criteria for Defining Supporting Ministries**

**K 05 05 Criteria for Defining Supporting Ministries**—The Seventh-day Adventist Church defines as Supporting Ministries, organisations that comply with the following criteria:

1. The leaders and representatives of supporting ministries shall be loyal members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good standing.

2. The theological positions of the supporting ministries and the emphasis placed upon them shall be in harmony with the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In supporting these beliefs, the context of both the biblical text and writings of Ellen G White will be faithfully used. Theological positions not addressed in the fundamental beliefs shall not be promoted.

3. The leaders and representatives of supporting ministries shall support and co-operate with the goals and purposes of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in their words, actions, and publications. Their work shall positively supplement that of the Church in carrying out the gospel commission.

4. Supporting ministries and their personnel shall clearly and explicitly state in their legal documents and in their dealings with third parties that they support the spiritual mission of the Church but are independent supporting ministries not controlled by or legally affiliated with the Church.

5. Supporting ministries shall not accept tithe from Seventh-day Adventist Church members but shall encourage their supporters to be faithful in returning tithe and appropriate offerings through the authorised channels of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

6. Supporting ministries providing services outside their own division territory shall consult with, and secure approval from, the division administration concerned regarding the nature, extent and duration of services rendered within that division.

7. Supporting ministries, which accept contributions, shall, in countries where it is required, be registered with the appropriate tax bodies as non-profit organisations and shall provide copies of their annual audited financial statements upon the request of the Division.

8. Requests for official church business travel for supporting ministries' personnel holding denominational licences or credentials, shall be processed in harmony with the provisions of BA 65 15. Failure to comply with this policy may jeopardise the continuation of such licences or credentials.

9. All inter-division travel by lay persons on official church business shall be processed in harmony with the provisions of BA 65 20.

**K 05 10 Process for Listing Supporting Ministries**—Organisations that comply with the criteria of K 05 05, may apply for listing as a supporting ministry organisation to the secretary of the Division where the organisation's head office is located.

The organisation seeking listing shall:

1. Have been in operation for at least one year.
2. Have at least two full-time employees.
3. Be led by a Seventh-day Adventist who does not receive salary from any Seventh-day Adventist denominational organisation for the leadership of this organisation.
4. Is controlled by a board with a membership majority of lay Seventh-day Adventists.
5. Complete application requirements supplied by the Division.
6. Supply copies of the following documents, together with the completed application form, to the secretary of the Division:
  - a. Mission statement.
  - b. Articles of Incorporation (or constitution if unincorporated) and bylaws (or equivalent documents in jurisdictions using different terminology or having different requirements) clearly stating the organisation's purposes and objectives, and legal status (for example, not-for-profit, charitable, or religious corporation). If such documents refer to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they must clearly indicate the organisation is an independent organisation that supports the spiritual mission of the Church and is not controlled or legally affiliated with the Church.
  - c. References from individuals, church boards, or administrative entities attesting that the organisation complies with the K 05 05 definition of Supporting Ministries.
  - d. Statistics—number of employees/volunteers.
  - e. Report of activities.
  - f. Reason for seeking listing.
  - g. Other information as required by K 05 05 or by the Division reviewing the request for listing as a supporting ministry organisation.

When the application process is complete, the Division secretary shall submit the request to the Division Executive Committee for consideration and then notify the General Conference Secretariat when the supporting ministry organisation is added to the Division's list of supporting ministry organisations. The Division shall be responsible for the maintenance and accuracy of its list of supporting ministries. The roster maintained by the General Conference Secretariat is for the convenience of the divisions and does not connote control, endorsement, or responsibility for any supporting ministry listed. The General Conference Secretariat shall refer any question about any listing to the Division for consideration and response.

Where an Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries-type organisation is established, the Division may choose to accept the Adventist-Laymen's Services and Industries-type application process. In such cases, the Division shall send its recognised list of organisations to the General Conference Secretariat for listing on the roster.

The Division will confirm quinquennially that its list of supporting ministries meet all K 05 05 and other requirements of the Division.