River Valley Regional Food Bank
Church Qualifier Form

The Internal Revenue Service uses 14 characteristics to determine whether an organization qualifies as a church. In accordance with this provision, the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance adopted a policy requiring a program operating under an organization which functions as an independent, unincorporated church to meet at least nine (9) of the following characteristics. Each item checked must be proven with copies of printed material from your church, and these materials must be included with your application. Examples of items that your church might use as evidence to satisfy legal requirements are given below. Check each characteristic that applies to your church.

_____ 1. A distinct legal existence  
Example: Articles of Incorporation filed with the State

_____ 2. A recognized creed and form of worship  
Example: Cover page and two pages of creed, copy of church bulletin

_____ 3. A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government  
Example: Organization chart of parent organization as well as local church, indicating names and addresses of officials

_____ 4. A formal code of doctrine and discipline  
Example: Copy of cover and first three pages of document

_____ 5. A membership not associated with any other church or denomination  
Example: Statement of mission, objectives and goals of the church signed by the pastor and three others

_____ 6. A distinct religious history  
Example: If member of recognized association, a copy of the church bulletin; if not associated with other churches, a brief written history

_____ 7. A complete organization of ordained ministers ministering to their congregations  
Example: Church bulletin or other published document listing ministers

_____ 8. Ordained ministers elected after completing prescribed courses of study  
Example: Appropriate documentation indicating ordination and courses of study

_____ 9. A literature of its own  
Example: Copy of selected cover pages of appropriate literature

_____ 10. Established places of worship  
Example: Copy of church bulletin

_____ 11. Regular congregations  
Example: Copy of church bulletin

_____ 12. Regular religious services  
Example: Copy of church bulletin

_____ 13. Sunday schools for religious instruction of the young  
Example: Copy of church bulletin indicating times for Sunday School

_____ 14. Schools for the preparation of ministers  
Example: List of names and addresses of schools