

Church Qualifier Form New Hampshire Food Bank

Membership with the New Hampshire Food Bank (NHFB) requires 501(c)3 tax exemption status. Independent churches without 501(c)3 classification are not eligible. However, the NHFB may, at its own discretion, elect to make an exception and accept the agency application from a program of an independent church.

If your church-based program has a 501(c)3, you do not need to complete this form.

The 14 characteristics below are used by the Internal Revenue Service to determine whether an organization qualifies as a legitimate church. Other factors will be considered, in addition to these characteristics, in determining whether an exception will be granted, and each case is judged on its own merits. In general, a minimum of 8 to 10 characteristics are required before consideration will be given to granting an exception.

Please answer below whether your church has or does not have each of these below characteristics. Supporting documentation of each “Yes” will be necessary to complete this form.

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.) A distinct legal existence | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2.) A recognized creed and forms of worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3.) A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4.) A formal code of doctrine and discipline | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 5.) A membership not associated with any other church or denomination | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 6.) A distinct religious history | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 7.) An organization of ordained ministers, ministering to their congregation | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 8.) Ministers ordained, commissioned, licensed, or elected after completing a prescribed course of study | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 9.) Literature of its own | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 10.) Established place(s) of worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 11.) Regular congregation(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 12.) Regular religious services | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 13.) Organized religious instruction of the young | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 14.) School(s) for the preparation of ministers/members | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

By signing below, as a duly authorized officer of the above-named church, we certify that this organization has all of the criteria marked “yes” in the list above and complies with the spirit of the 14 criteria employed by the IRS in defining a church.

Print Name _____ Signature _____

Title _____ Date _____